

Circular solutions to tackle plastic pollution

JICA JCCI International Seminar 2025

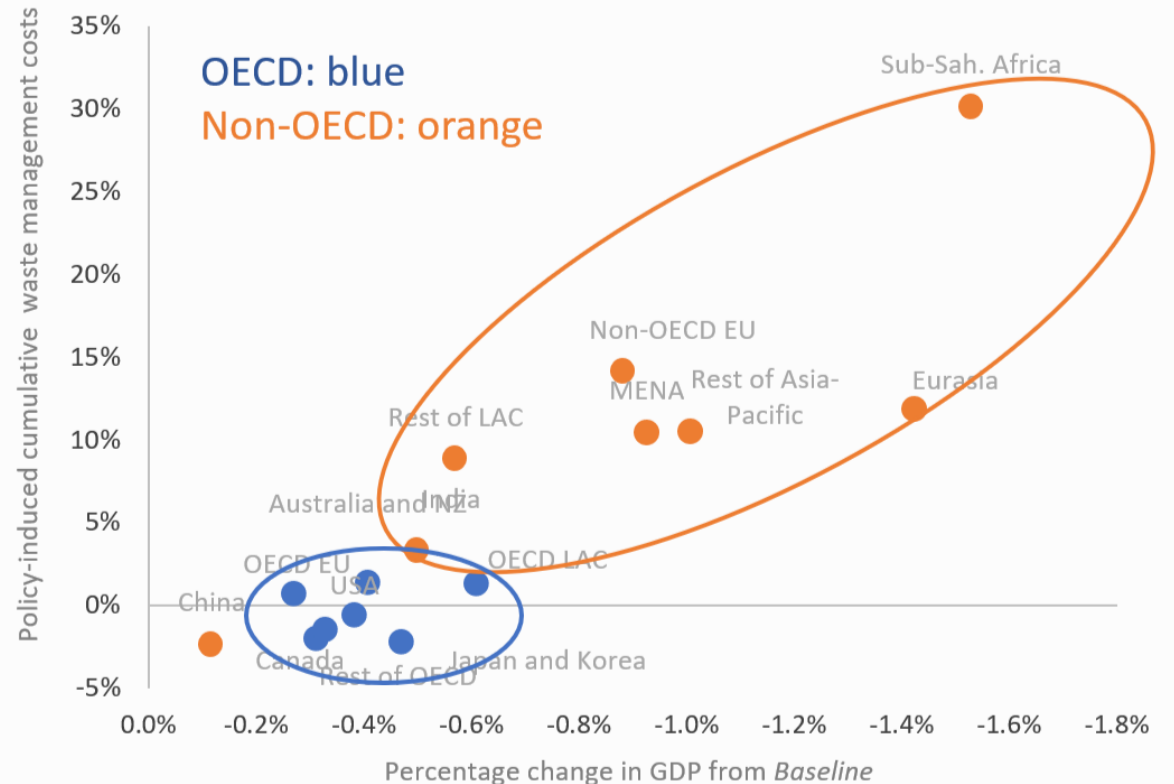
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Plastic pollution crisis

Global challenge, regional disparities

- Countries unevenly prepared to tackle plastic pollution
- Recycling and waste management alone will not solve the problem
- Even advanced economies may struggle to reduce plastic waste in face of increasing production

Policy costs and changes in GDP in a global ambition scenario to eliminate plastic leakage



OECD, 2024. oecd.org/en/publications/policy-scenarios-for-eliminating-plastic-pollution-by-2040_76400890-en.html

Plastic pollution crisis

It doesn't exist in a vacuum

Climate crisis

- Fastest-growing source of industrial GHG in the world
- Emissions expected to increase 2.5 X

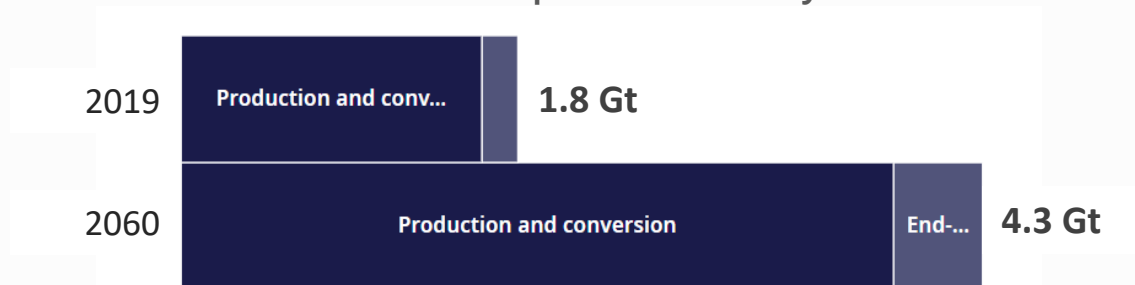
Biodiversity crisis

- Almost every species group in the ocean in contact with plastic pollution, 88% adversely affected
- Plastic leakage predicted to grow 50% by 2040

and human health and well-being

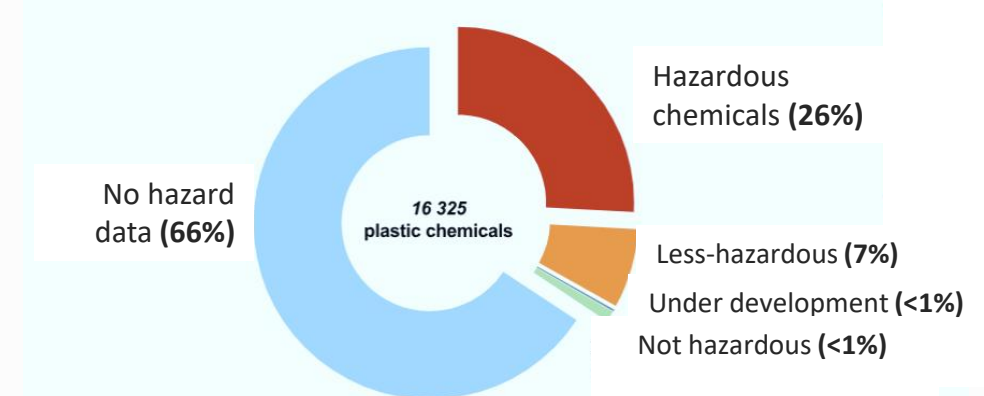
- +16.000 chemicals associated with plastics
- Over 25% with hazardous concerns, and 66% with no adequate hazard assessment

GHG emissions from plastics lifecycle



OECD Global Plastics Outlook Database

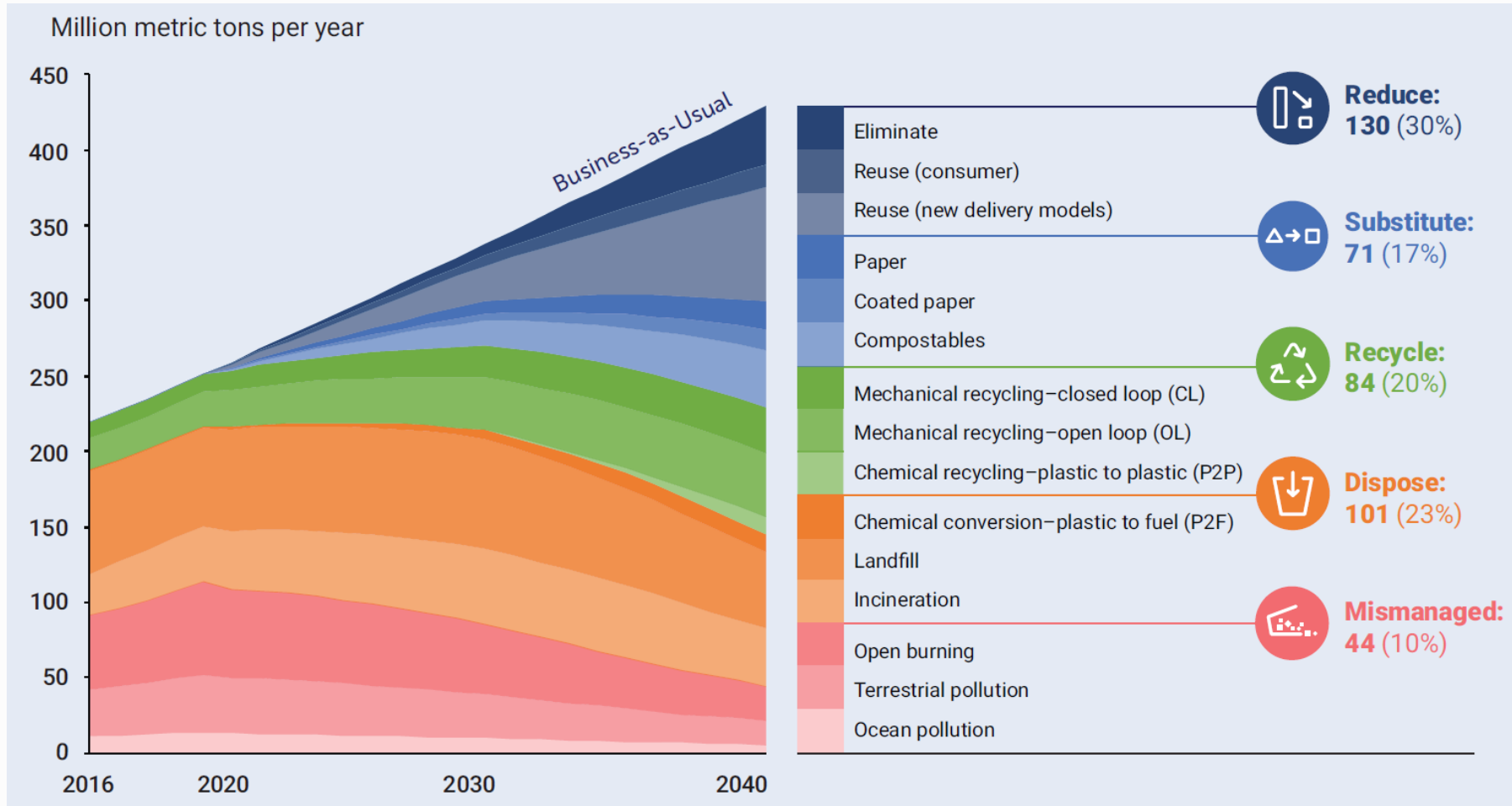
Overview of chemicals hazardous classification



PlastChem (Wagner, Martin, et al. 2024)

Solutions UNEP want to propose

Market shifts for a more resource-efficient system



Upstream sectors with the best opportunities to reduce plastic pollution on the long-term

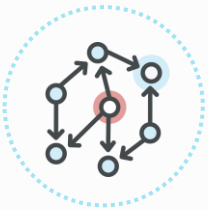
Systems change scenario from 2016 to 2040
(The Pew Charitable Trusts and Systemiq, 2020)

UNEP Plastics Initiative



Aim

Trigger **systems change** to accelerate the **safe and just transition** towards a circular economy of plastics, thereby reducing plastic pollution and its impacts in the long run



How

Programmatic approach at global, regional and national level

Entire **plastic life cycle**, high-impact sectors, and cross-cutting issues

It galvanizes UNEP and partners' work on plastics in a coherent and systemic way, with common ambition and shared approach, and in **close collaboration with partners**

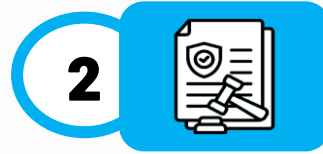
UNEP Plastics Initiative

Six intervention areas



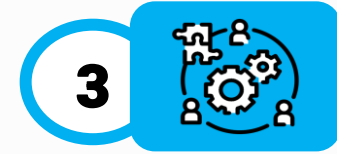
INDUSTRY

Inspiring & supporting
industry action



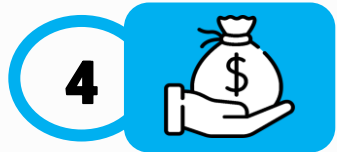
REGULATION & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Enabling national &
local regulatory frameworks



PLANNING

Enabling coordinated &
concerted actions



FINANCE

Supporting
finance action



COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC ADVOCACY

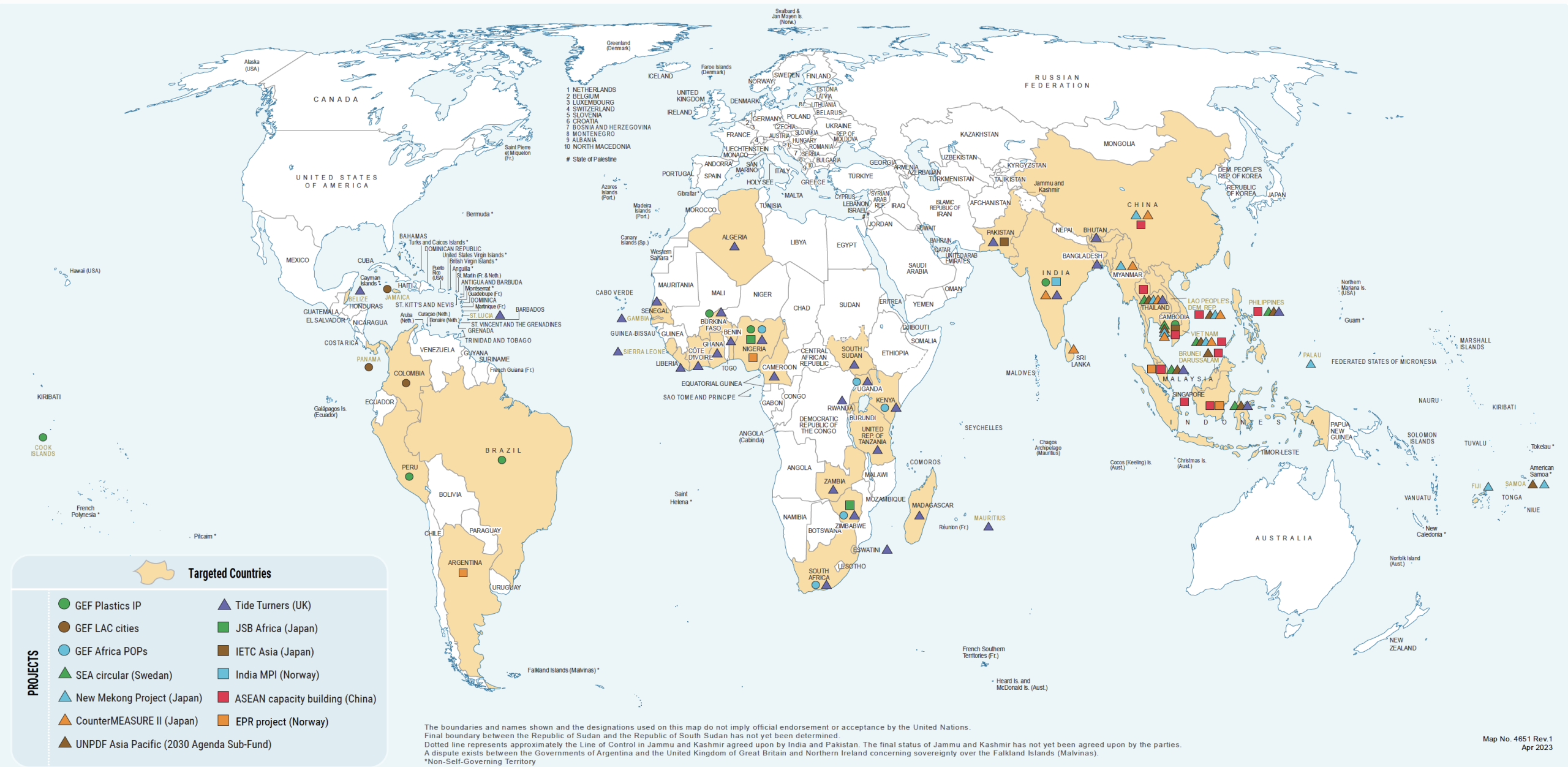
Activating behaviour change &
social action



KNOWLEDGE MAN. & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting capacity development &
informed decisions

Global presence: UNEP Plastics Projects



Global presence: GEF 8 Plastics Integrated Programme –Plastic Reboot



GLOBAL PROJECT

Global Project optimizes the delivery of a cohesive program across **15 countries**



GEF FINANCING SIZE

TOTAL

**\$108
Million**

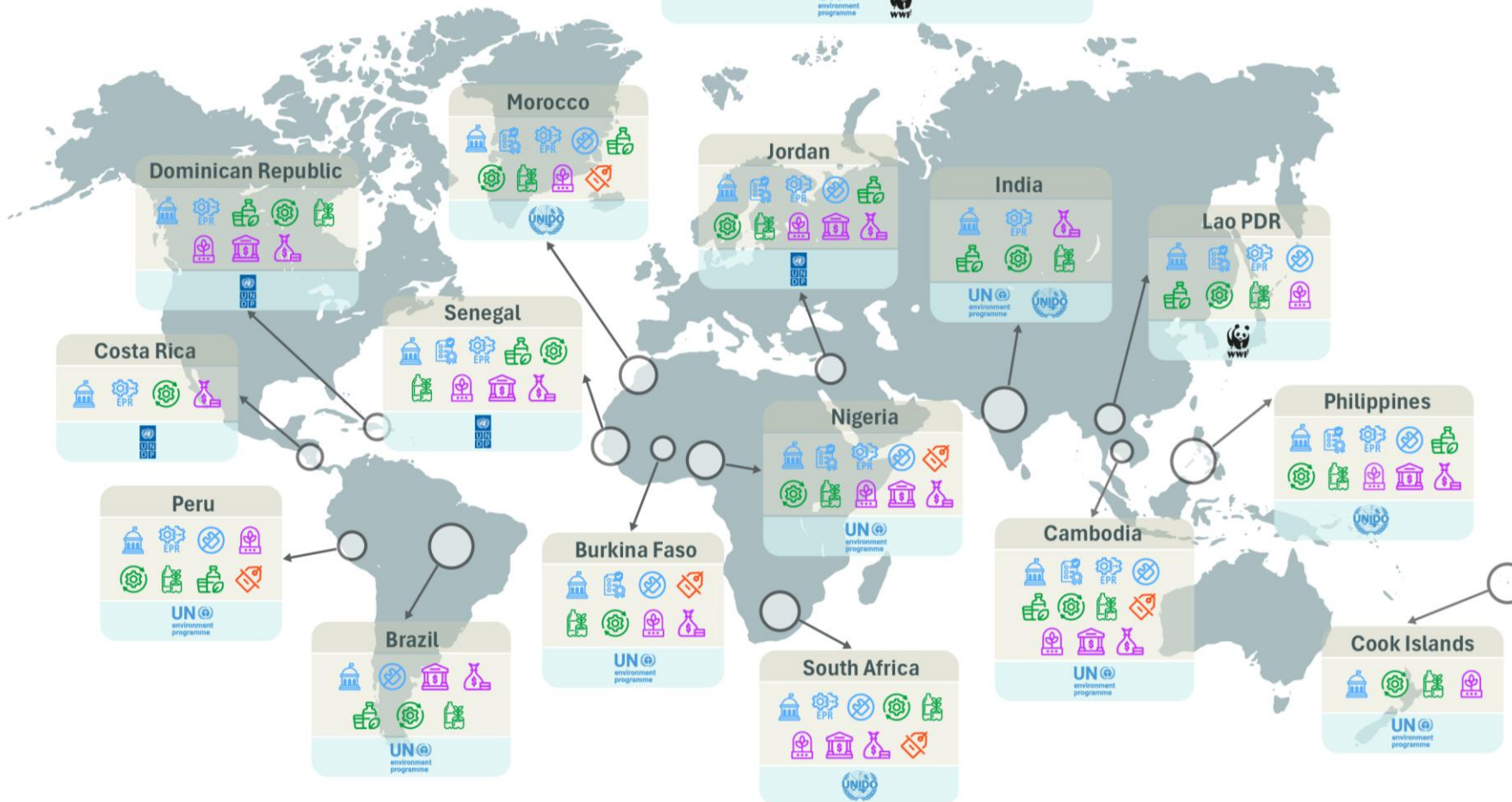
CHILD PROJECTS

- 1 - 3 Million USD
- 3 - 5 Million USD
- 5 - 10 Million USD

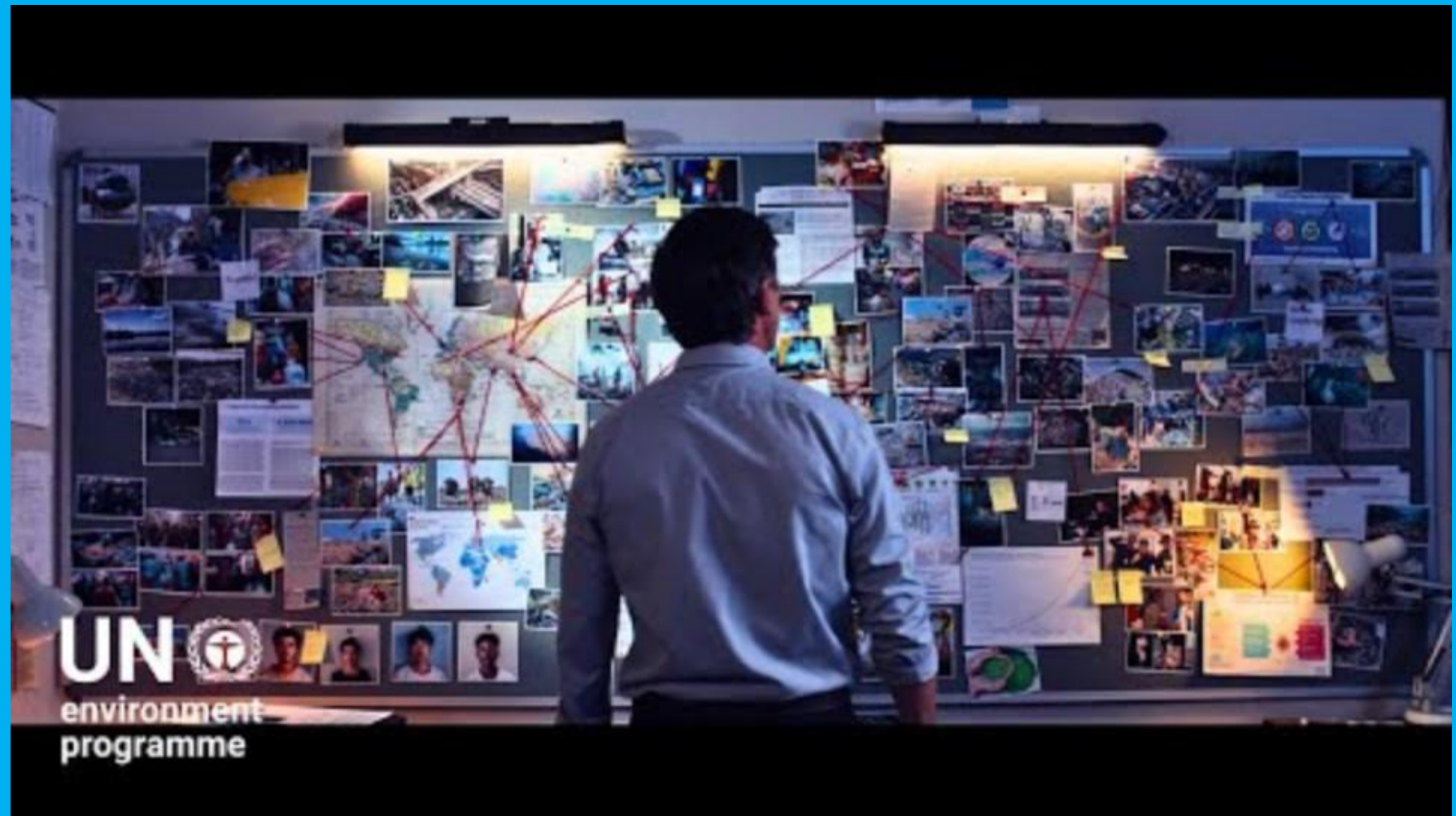
GEF PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

- Enabling a Regulatory & Policy Environment**
 - National Framework for Circular Economy
 - Codes & Standards
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Systems (DRS)
 - Problematic Plastics (Ban, Phase-out, Reduce)
- Food & Beverage Private Sector Engagement**
 - Alternatives (Comparison & Selection)
 - Circular Design (Materials, products, business models)
 - Reuse & Refill Systems
- Mobilizing Finance**
 - Incubators & Entrepreneurship
 - Fiscal Policies
 - Private Investment & Additional Funding Vehicles
- Behavior & Social Change**
 - Buying Behavior and Labeling
- Cross-cutting interventions**

All Child Projects will work on **cross-cutting interventions** including gender-responsive policies, capacity development, awareness raising, program-level coordination, and monitoring and evaluation.



Convenience may come at
a steep price....



Thanks

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