



Practical Solutions for Addressing Plastic Pollution in Sri Lanka's Tourism Sector

17 June 2025
13:30-16:00 Sri Lanka Time

Logistics

- **Date and time:** 17 June 2025, 13:30-16:00 IST/Sri Lanka time (10:00-12:30 CEST)
- **Location:** Online, please join via this link:
<https://iges-ip.zoom.us/j/81734342336?pwd=e3DuzGMrbCCJAbpQ2eApaM4asdprRA.1>
Meeting ID: 817 3434 2336
Passcode: 182253
- **Organizers:** Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Sri Lanka, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions, the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI), the Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES) and the civil society organization Help-O.
- **Contacts:** Jeewanthi Ranasinghe (jeewanadee@gmail.com); Svitlana Mikhalyeva (svitlana.mikhalyeva@un.org); Jost Dittkrist (jost.dittkrist@un.org); Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage (premakumara@iges.or.jp)
- **Language:** English

Context

Plastic pollution is a major global environmental challenge, with the tourism sector playing a significant role in both plastic consumption and the generation of plastic waste. Sri Lanka, as a key tourism destination, has taken steps to address this issue through regulatory measures, industry-led initiatives, and pilot projects.

The webinar builds on a pilot project targeting the tourism sector, implemented in the context of a larger project implemented by the MoE in close collaboration with the BRS Secretariat, IGES and Help-O, and financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). As part of this pilot project, three hotels in Galle City developed and started implementing action plans to reduce the generation of plastic waste as well as to improve the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. Trainings/workshops were undertaken and microfiber filter installed to capture microplastics in laundry. Moreover, a 'Guide to Manage Plastic Waste at Small and Medium Hotels in Sri Lanka' was developed, placing particular emphasis on the use of locally available alternatives, compiled in cooperation with the National Crafts Council.

The Global Tourism Plastics Initiative is a global action and commitment framework, led by UNEP in collaboration with UN Tourism and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, that supports tourism businesses in reducing plastic pollution and transitioning towards a circular economy for plastics. During the webinar the GTPI will present solutions and case studies for elimination of single use plastics from operations of tourism businesses and introduction of reusable solutions.

Objective

The webinar aims to:

- Build on previous efforts by diving deeper into practical solutions for plastic reduction and ESM of plastic waste in Sri Lanka's tourism sector.
- Equip tourism businesses with knowledge and tools to eliminate problematic single-use plastics (SUPs) and replace them with viable, reusable alternatives, including locally sourced.



- Provide concrete guidance on self-assessment tools, locally available alternatives, and how businesses can engage with GTPI to scale up action.
- Provide opportunities for exchanging experiences, lessons learned and solutions.

Agenda

Moderator: Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage, IGES

<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
13:30-13:45	Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R.H.M.P. Abeykoon, Additional Secretary, Environment Policy & Planning, Ministry of Environment (MoE) • Jost Dittkrist, Programme Management Officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat) • Svitlana Mikhalyeva, Coordinator, One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme 10YFP Secretariat, UNEP
13:45-14:00	Introduction to the Global Tourism Plastics Initiative (GTPI) and circular economy of plastics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of GTPI and its role in driving action • Explanation of the hierarchy of circular solutions for plastics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svitlana Mikhalyeva, Coordinator, One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme 10YFP Secretariat, UNEP
14:00-14:45	Tools and solutions for tourism businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of GTPI resources and guidance for reducing plastic waste • Self-assessment/self-audit tool for hotels • Replacing single-use plastics (SUPs) with reusable alternatives • How to join the GTPI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Hendrickx, CEO, Travel Without Plastic
14:45-15:20	Plastic reduction strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Sri Lanka tourism sector pilot • Guide to Manage Plastic Waste at Small and Medium Hotels in Sri Lanka • Eliminating unnecessary/problematic SUPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jost Dittkrist, Programme Management Officer, BRS Secretariat • Matthew Hengesbaugh, Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES) • Mr. Hemantha Kumara, Jetwin Lighthouse Hotel, Galle
15:20-15:35	Reusable alternatives available in Sri Lanka <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally available reusable solutions • Challenges and opportunities for adoption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saminda Kahangama, Assistant Director (Development), National Craft Council
15:35-15:50	Q&A and discussion	All participants
15:50-16:00	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of key takeaways • Next steps for implementation and engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svitlana Mikhalyeva, UNEP • Jost Dittkrist, BRS Secretariat • Matthew Hengesbaugh, IGES • MoE