

# Single-Use Plastic: Taking Practical Action in the Hotel Industry



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**Travel Without Plastic** in collaboration  
with The CHTA





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# Today's Focus:

- 1.The scale of single-use plastic in tourism
- 2.The financial and environmental impact
- 3.Pitfalls and Considerations
- 4.Practical actions for hotel managers
- 5.Q&A

References for any research mentioned during the presentation will be available in the slide deck



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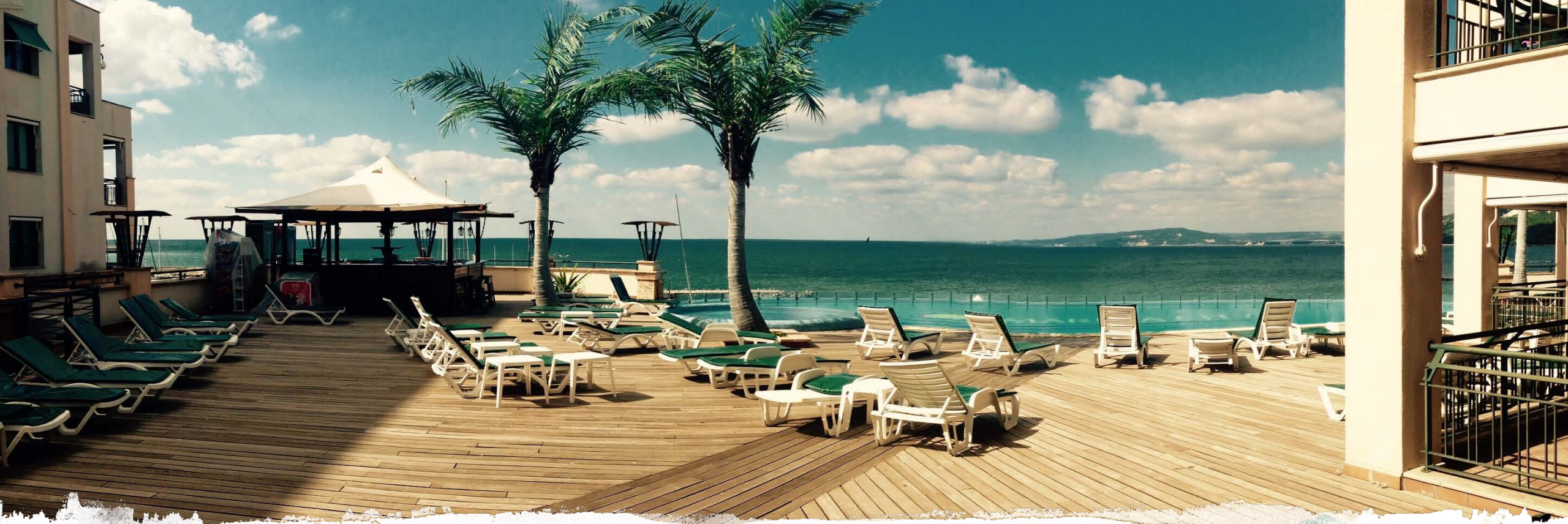
300 million tonnes of plastic  
is produced every year



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- Group of 10 hotels
- All-Inclusive and half board
- 85 – 90% occupancy over 12 months
- 6.6 million single-use items
- 1 million of which add no value
- Saving \$12,500 per year



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15% of single-use plastics were completely  
unnecessary





## MOST POPULAR EFFORTS TO REDUCING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS



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TRADE ASSOCIATION

**#beyondplastic**



**ADVENTURE TRAVEL**  
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**#beyondplastic**

Sometimes the challenges are very difficult to overcome

## REASONS

### **Health, Safety, Hygiene**

Minimise injuries at pool side and/or on the beach, minimise incidences of cross contamination, concerns around safe tap water

### **Habit**

Bathroom amenities, cups wrapped in plastic, plastic wraps informing that the toilet is clean

### **Convenience**

Take-Away options - less space required in dining areas, easy to clear away, no requirements for dishwashing or storage, keeps buffets clean and tidy

### **Staff**

No need to pay additional staff to clear, wash, stack and prepare reusable items

### **Alternatives**

Cost, availability, usability, infrastructure





## Pitfalls and Considerations

- Infrastructure for bio-plastics
- Unforeseen impacts of alternatives (environmentally and ethically)
- Not everything is as green as it seems
- Bio-degradable alternatives have a limited shelf life
- Tour Operators may consider that some alternatives clash with current H&S expectations
- Ask wholesalers and suppliers for help in sourcing alternatives
- Speak to suppliers about reducing unnecessary packaging
- Support your own economy and reduce carbon associated with transport



# The Future of the Caribbean is Single-use Plastic-Free

Be Prepared for  
Legislation & Trends

- Straws, utensils, bags and foam containers are amongst the most popular items banned by a range of Caribbean islands including Dominica, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, Haiti, St. Vincent and The Grenadines, a move publicly supported by the UN Environment
- EU to ban single-use plastic plates, straws, cutlery, polystyrene fast-food containers, ear-buds, coffee cups by 2021





# Preparing for legislation, and trends, what are your options?

## Eliminate

Unnecessary plastics that add no value to the customer experience and cost money that your business doesn't need to spend

## Choose Reusable

Select from a range of reusable alternatives, including plastics, bamboo, silicon, stainless steel, aluminium, fabric – always considering the full natural capital cost of those replacements

## Sustainable Single-Use

Consider organic based alternatives that do break down naturally and are not harmful to environments



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# 3 Phase Approach to Reducing Plastic



Know your Baseline



Engage Staff and Guests



Implement and Evaluate



# How can you reduce or eliminate plastic from your operations?

## Phase 1 – Knowing your baseline

- Be clear on how much single-use plastic your business purchases and how much it costs
- Identify any completely unnecessary items and commit to eliminating them
- Identify any pending legislation that may require you to prioritise particular items
- Identify a further top 3, 5 or 10 single-use plastic items that you believe can make the biggest impact (environmentally and financially)



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# How can you reduce or eliminate plastic from your operations?

## Phase 2 – Engaging Others

- Invite department heads to a meeting table and share with them the statistics from your cost/consumption exercise
- Discuss the potential impacts that any changes would have upon workload, customer satisfaction, current processes, disposal etc
- Agree a procedure for implementing changes
- Agree a set of customer communications
- Make enquiries with suppliers/wholesalers to gain support for your objectives



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# How can you reduce or eliminate plastic from your operations?

## Phase 3 (Implementation & Evaluation)

- Trial a range of new products for usability, customer feedback and staff feedback before making a final decision
- Monitor and record the impacts
- Keep abreast of any new, impending legislation
- Keep up to date with innovative alternatives as they come into the market place.



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Q & A





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# References

[Plastics Europe](#)

[ATTA Research](#)

[EU Single-Use Plastic Ban 2021](#)

[Other Plastic Bans](#)

[Booking.com 2019 Trends](#)

[Free Introduction to reducing/eliminating bathroom amenities](#)

[UN Environment supports plastic bans in the Caribbean](#)



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