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Berlin 6 September 2022



The Global Plastics Outlook: Economic drivers, environmental impacts and policy options



First **comprehensive mapping of the lifecycle of plastics globally**

High-level of granularity: primary and secondary production, 14 polymer categories, various applications.

Detailed insights on **leakage to land, water and air.**

Novel analysis of effects of **COVID-19 pandemic.**

Novel empirical analysis of **plastics innovation.**

Domestic plastics policy landscape covering 50 countries.

First **quantification of global costs to halt leakage.**



The second report – Policy Scenarios to 2060



Scenarios for plastics use, waste and leakage

Policy packages towards eliminating leakage

Synergies between plastics and **climate policies**

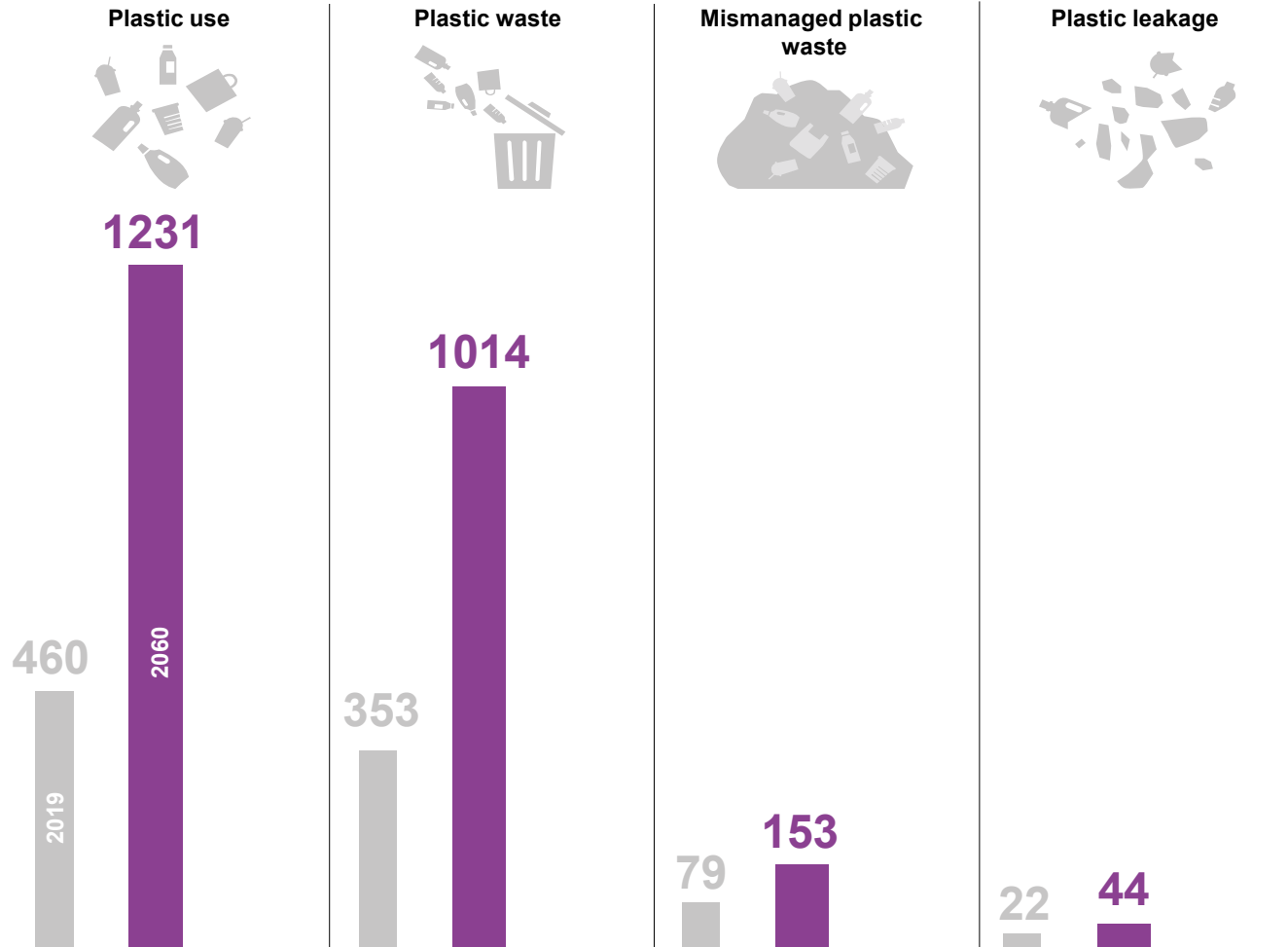
Costs of policy packages at regional level



Global Plastics Outlook: Business as usual to 2060 is not possible



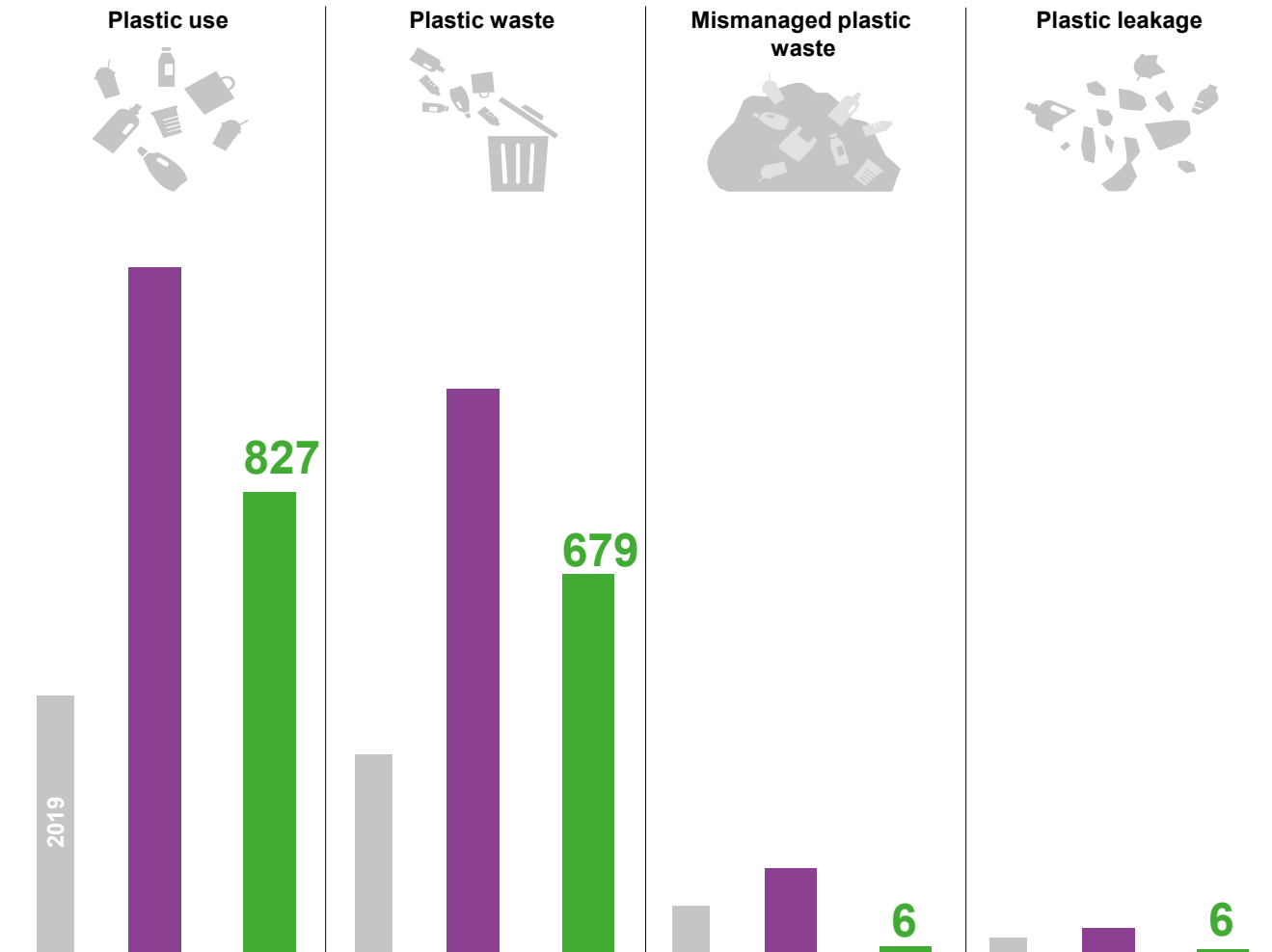
By 2060:





Combining policies that target different lifecycle stages can drastically reduce plastics leakage

By 2060:



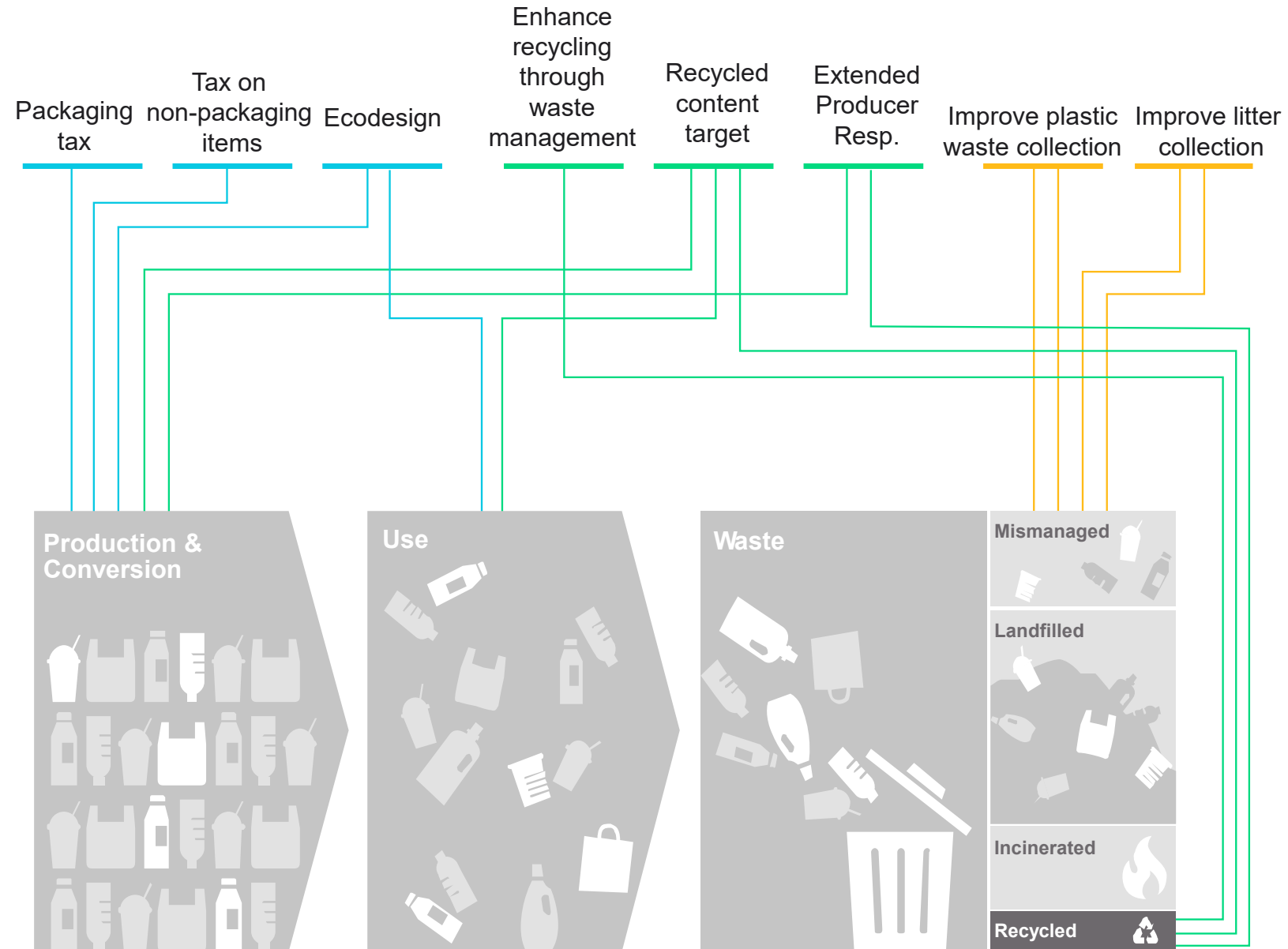
Global Ambition

Both policy packages target the entire plastics lifecycle

Restrain plastics demand and enhance circularity

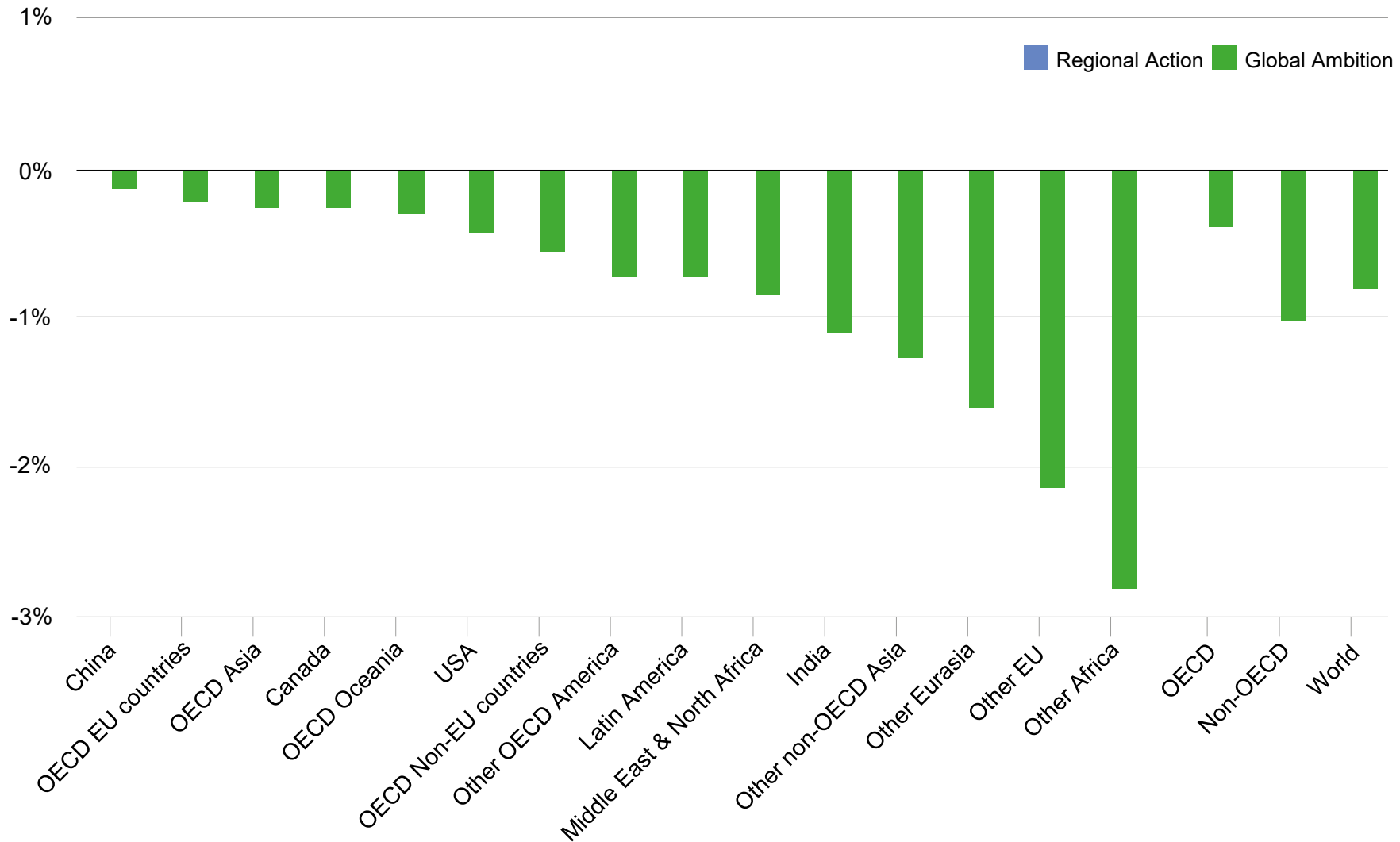
Enhance recycling

Close leakage pathways





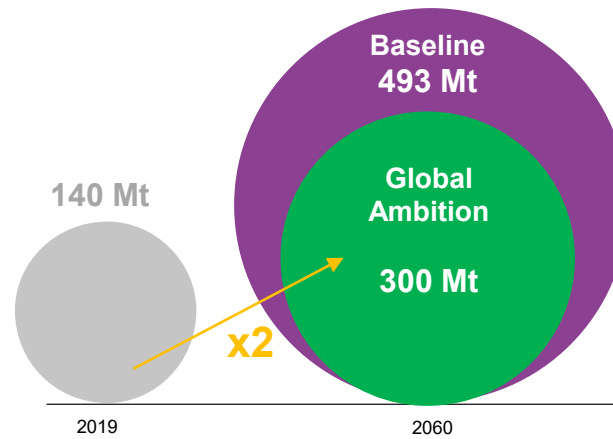
Costs are less than 1% of global GDP but with significant regional differences



Baseline

Global Ambition

Stocks in rivers and oceans





Some final takeaways

- Eliminating leakage requires global action on all aspects of the plastics life-cycle to restrain demand, enhance circularity and close leakage pathways.
- Plastic flows to the environment can be drastically reduced, at modest costs overall
- However costs as a share of GDP will be higher for many developing countries.
- Even if leakage is eliminated, stocks of accumulated plastics in rivers and oceans will still double. Flanking efforts are needed to tackle clean-up as well.
- We need more granularity in policy discussions on “plastics” looking at applications, polymers, stages of the life-cycle
- At the same time we need to broaden the locus of “plastic pollution” – not just marine litter, but also rivers, pollution on land, air quality and ghg emissions.