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# 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.**

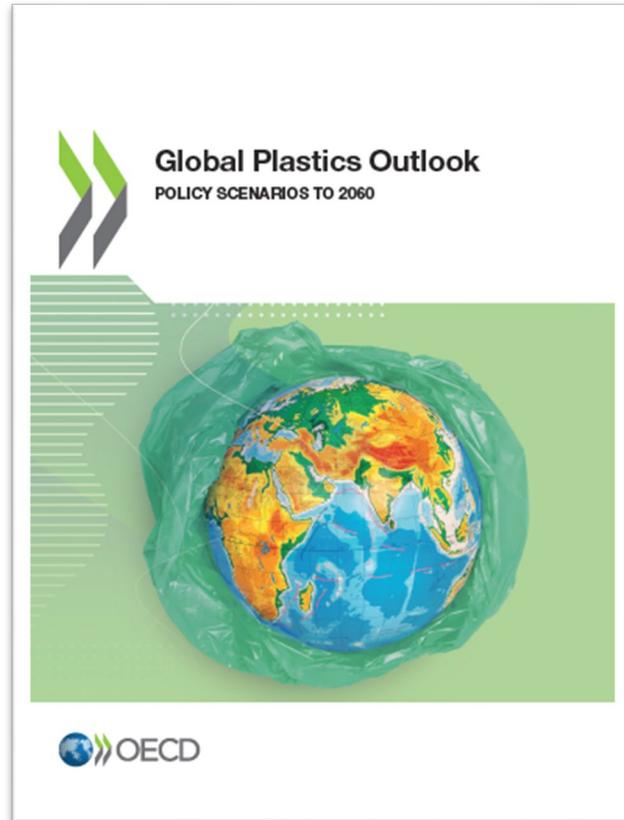
Novel empirical analysis of **plastics innovation.**

**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**

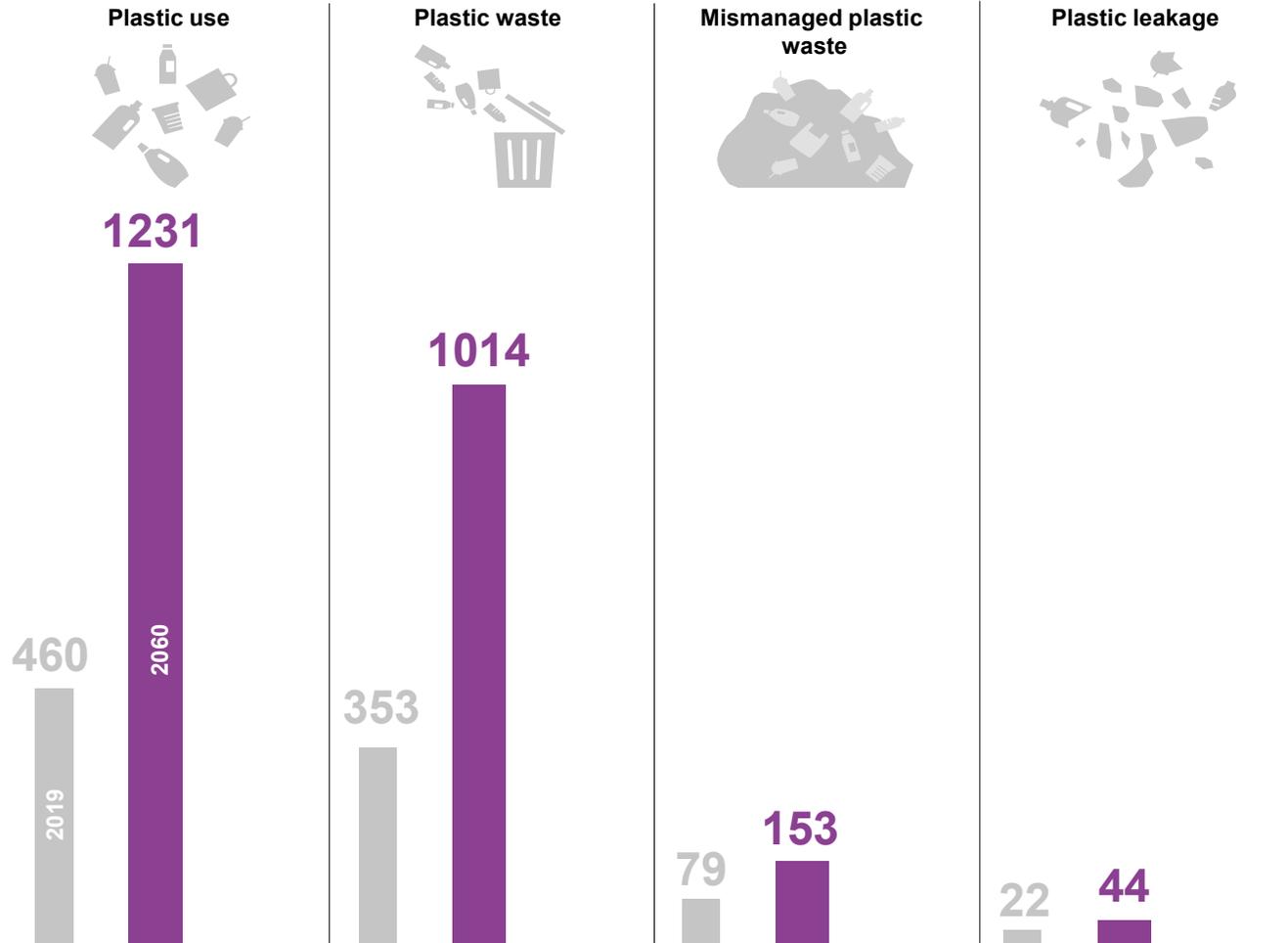
**Costs** of policy packages at regional level



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



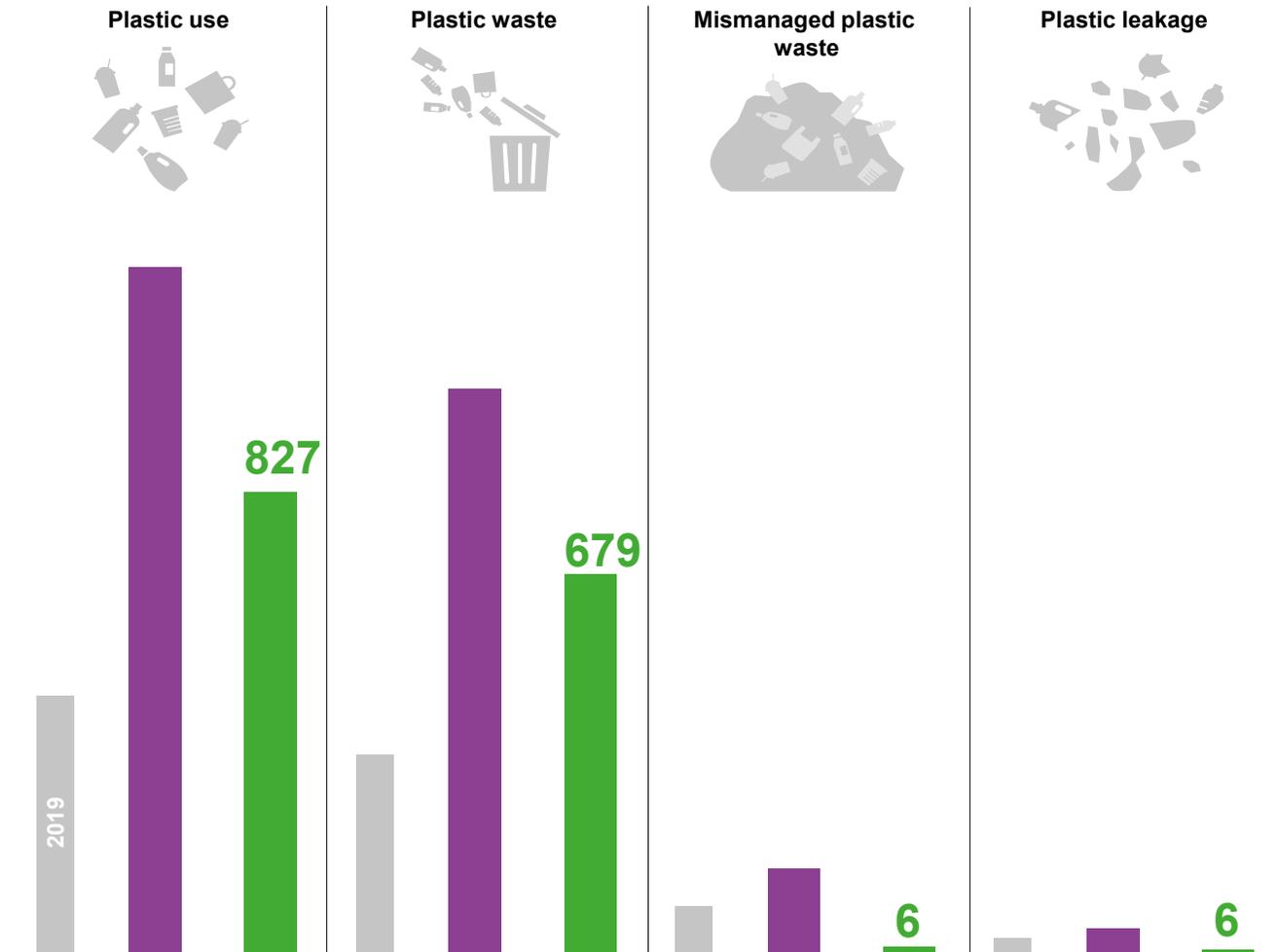
## By 2060:





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

**By 2060:**



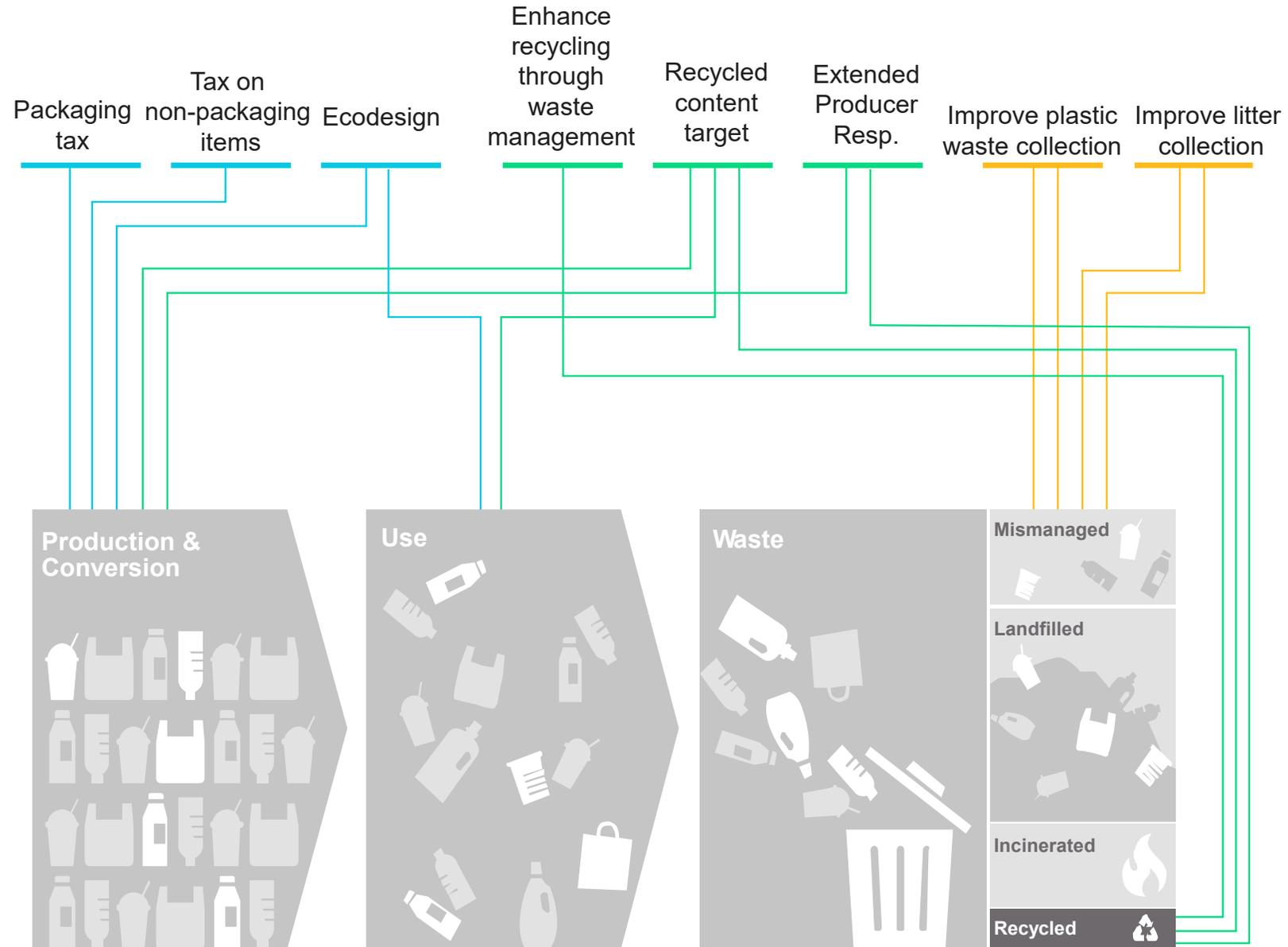
**Global Ambition**

# Both policy packages target the entire plastics lifecycle

**Restrain plastics demand and enhance circularity**

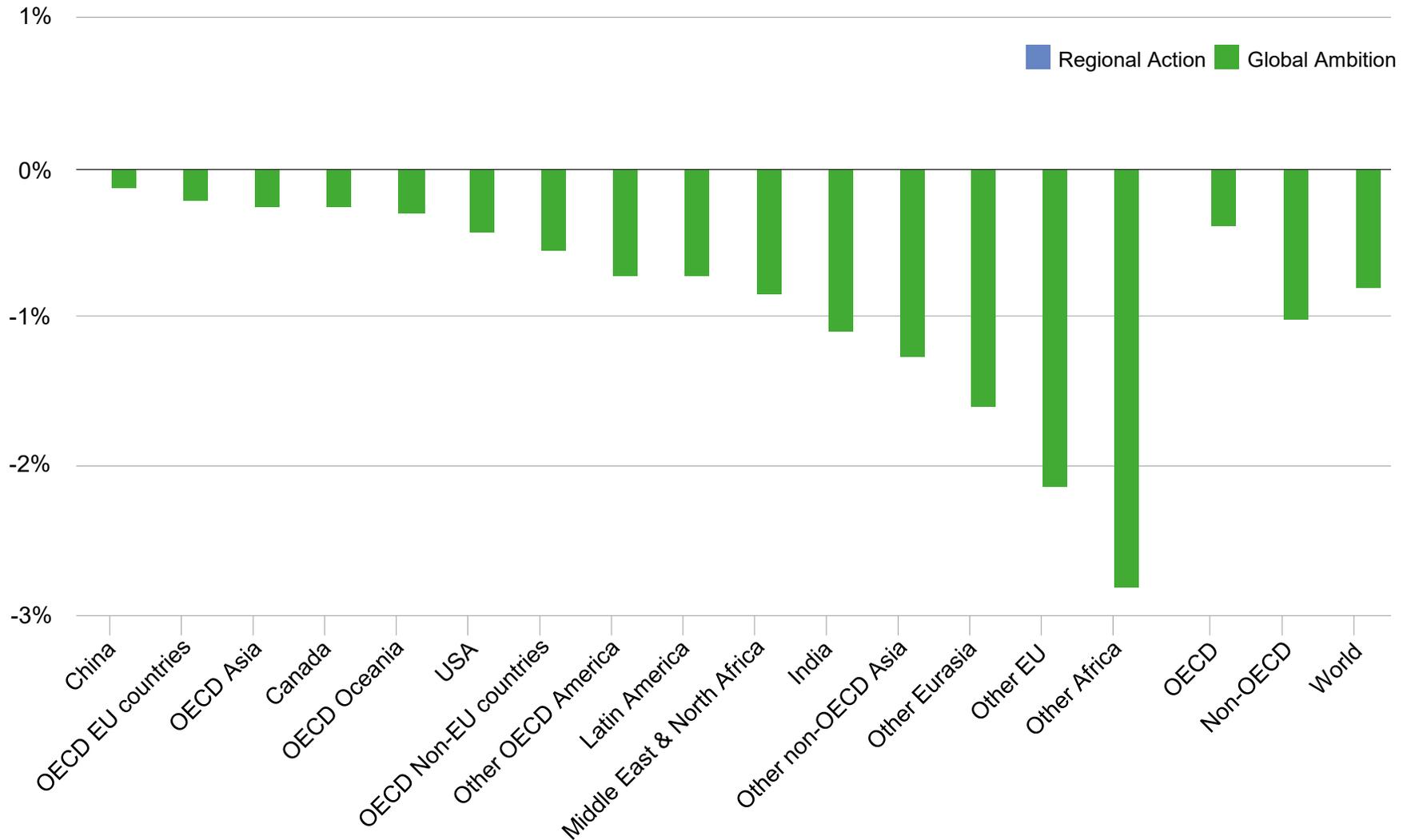
**Enhance recycling**

**Close leakage pathways**





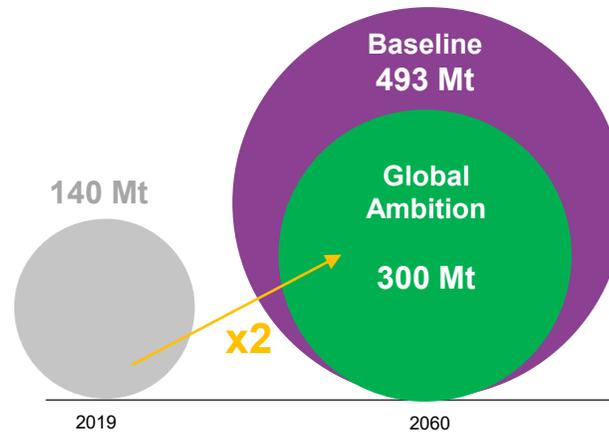
# Costs are less than 1% of global GDP but with significant regional differences



Baseline

Global Ambition

Stocks in rivers and oceans





## Some final takeaways

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- 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.