



A LECTURE
ON
PLASTIC-FREE OCEAN

DELIVERED BY

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DEFINITIONS

- ❖ Ocean is from an Ancient Greek word called *Okeanós*
- ❖ It is a body of saline water that composes much of a planet's hydrosphere
- ❖ The word *sea* is often used interchangeably with "ocean" in American English but, strictly speaking, a sea is a body of saline water partly or fully enclosed by land

Salient Points

- ❖ Saline water covers approximately 360,000,000 km²
- ❖ The ocean contains 97% of Earth's water, and oceanographers have stated that less than 5% of the World Ocean has been explored.
- ❖ The deepest point in the ocean is the **Mariana Trench**, located in the Pacific Ocean near the **Northern Mariana Islands** with its maximum depth been estimated to be 10,971 meters (i.e. 35,994 ft)

Ocean...Facts to Note

Oceans are the ***largest water bodies*** on the earth having more than 230,000 marine species.

They are not enclosed by land

There are five oceans (in decreasing order on the basis of their area)- ***Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern (Antarctic) and Arctic oceans.***



Sea...Facts to Note

- ✓ Sea is a division of an ocean or a large body of salt water partially enclosed by land.
- ✓ Seas are smaller than oceans and may or may not be connected to an ocean.
- ✓ Seas are usually located near land and are used to connect the land with ocean.
- ✓ Major seas are- **Mediterranean Sea, South China sea, Caribbean sea, Baltic, Berring, Black, Coral, North and Red seas.**

Oceans and Sea – The Basic

Differences

- **Seas** are any body of salt water, partially or completely enclosed by land

While


- **Oceans** are large continuous areas of salt water surrounding the continents. They are unobstructed by any lands or continents.

What are Plastics?

- They are derived from materials found in nature, such as **natural gas, oil, coal, minerals and plants.**
- Plastics are simply chains of like-molecules linked together. These chains are called polymers.



THE BIG QUESTION



Do you know that rubber
from a rubber tree is
actually a plastic?

Plastic pollution in oceans and on land

- ✓ Since most oceans are downstream from nearly every terrestrial location, they serve as receiving bodies for much of the plastic waste generated on land.
- ✓ Between 4.8 million and 12.7 million tonnes of debris end up in the world's oceans every year.
- ✓ Plastic pollution was first noticed in the ocean by scientists carrying out plankton studies in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and oceans and beaches still receive most of the attention of those studying and working to abate plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution in Nigeria – Way Forward

- The Minister of State for Environment, Ibrahim Jibril at the 2018 Earth Day marked on April 22 with the theme “**End Plastic Pollution**” urged Nigerians to take proactive measures that will end plastic pollution and protect the planet as plastic pollution is poisoning our oceans and land, injuring marine life, and affecting our health
- According to him (Mr Ibrahim Jibril), government is currently exploring the possibility of banning plastic bags with availability of alternatives.

Plastic pollution in Nigeria – Way Forward

- He further added that the Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with critical stakeholders had developed a national strategy for the phase-out of non-biodegradable plastics. According to him, the Ministry is presently developing a national policy on Plastic Waste Management.

Plastic pollution in Nigeria – Way Forward



Figure 1: A Typical Dumpsite in Nigeria

Ways to Reduce Plastic Waste

To protect our waterways, we must try to keep as much plastic as possible out of the waste stream. Small ways this can be done are as follows:

1. Wean yourself off disposable plastics

Ninety percent of the plastic items in our daily lives are single-use and then chucked

2. Reduce(or Stop) your buying of bottled or sachet water

Carry your own bottle water from home

3. Cook more

Carry your food in your food flasks

Ways to Reduce Plastic Waste (cont'd)

To protect our waterways, we must try to keep as much plastic as possible out of the waste stream. Small ways this can be done are as follows:

4. Recycle

Less than 14 percent of plastic packaging is recycled

5. Support the law of the land

Support legislation that would make plastic-bag use less desirable

6. Put pressure on manufacturers

Though we can make a difference through our own habits, corporations obviously have a much bigger footprint.

Ways to Reduce Plastic Waste (Cont'd)

7. Buy in bulk

Cultivate the habit of buying your products in bulk

8. Boycott microbeads

Those little plastic scrubbers found in so many beauty products - facial scrubs, toothpaste, body washes - might look harmless

9. Bring your own garment bag to the dry cleaner

Invest in a zippered fabric bag and request that your cleaned items be returned in it instead of sheathed in plastic

10. Purchase Item Secondhand

New toys and electronic gadgets, especially, come with all kinds of plastic packaging

Conclusion

To reduce plastic pollution generally and most especially in water bodies in order to have a plastic free ocean indeed, then

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Will you?

Figure 2: A Typical Dumpsite in Nigerian Town



**THANK YOU
FOR
LISTENING**

