

# Plastic Pollution - A menace to marine life

## Starts and ends with humans...

Discarded plastics ends in ocean through rivers and lakes.



Plastics photodegrade to small pieces (microplastic) due to continuous wave action and wind action.



### INGESTION

Fishes, birds and other creatures ingest plastics as food. Chemicals and toxins (bisphenol A and Di ethyl hexa phthalate DEHP) from plastics are leached out to atmosphere, water and are absorbed by marine biota leading to mortality.



### ◆ GHOST FISHING / ENTANGLEMENT

Fishing gears lost at sea leads to entanglement of animals and constricts their movement leading to serious injury or death.

### ◆ HABITAT DAMAGE

Eco sensitive habitats like seagrass beds and coral reefs are very much affected by marine debris. Their entry leads to smothering of seabeds and deposition on coral reefs and seagrass beds.

### ◆ INTRODUCTION OF ALIEN SPECIES

Floating marine debris can carry invasive species from one location to another, causing serious harm to fragile eco-systems and indigenous biota.



Human consumption of these fishes with all the pollutants and toxins.

(Wei *et al.*, 2011)

When the last tree is cut, when the last fish is caught, when the last river is polluted; when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realize, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money.

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