



Working towards a
**Debris-Free
Ocean**



Ocean
of Possibilities

Saint Lucia's Single-Use Plastic Regulations

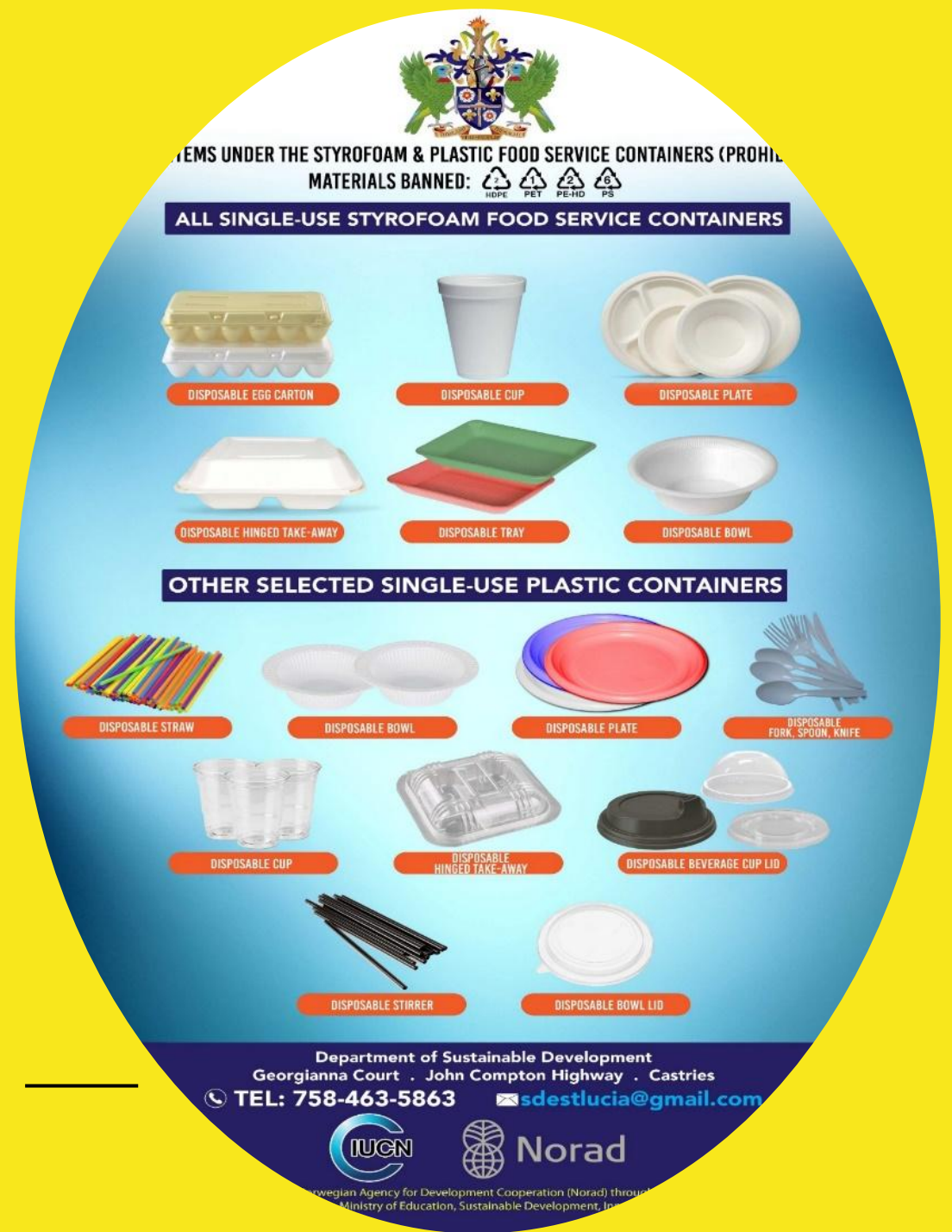
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March, 2025

Presentation Overview

1. Background
2. Challenges
3. Successes
4. Lessons Learned and Next Steps
5. Further Initiatives



BACKGROUND



In 2019, the Government of Saint Lucia enacted the

Styrofoam and Plastic Food Service Containers (Prohibition) Act

No. 22 of 2019

This act bans the importation, manufacturing, sale, use, and distribution of all styrofoam and certain plastic disposable food service containers.

A phased approach was taken for the enforcement of this Act.

PHASES OF THE PLASTIC PROHIBITION ACT

The Act was meant to cover 3 phases:

1. Ban the importation of all disposable Styrofoam food service containers in 2019
2. Ban the sale, use and distribution of disposable Styrofoam food service containers, AND ban the importation of certain plastic disposable food service containers in 2020
3. Ban the sale, use and distribution of certain plastic disposable food service containers in 2021



The phased approach was intended to allow stakeholders to use up the stocks of Styrofoam and plastic products within 12 months of the importation ban, before the extended ban on sale, use and distribution was enforced.

It must also be noted that the identification of **suitable alternatives** was a prerequisite for determining which items should be included on the schedule of banned items.

CHALLENGES IN ENFORCEMENT

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the retailers experienced challenges in using up their stocks as sales were severely restricted, which prompted the Government amend the Act, extending the second and 3rd phases by 1 year.



Through stakeholder engagement, a further Amendment was made in 2021 to remove “disposable trays” from the Schedule of banned plastic items, as it was significantly impacting the meat processors who were not able to access suitable alternatives.

SUCCESSSES



Concessions- Through Cabinet Conclusion 870 of 2020, concessions were granted to waive the import duties on the biodegradable, compostable, and plant-based alternatives to the banned items

Partnership with Key Agencies and Training- There is close collaboration between the Customs Department, the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards, and the Department of Sustainable Development, and training of new officers takes place to ensure effective enforcement of the Act

In-country Observations- Over the years since the enforcement of the legislation, there has been a notable observed decrease in the amount of disposable styrofoam and plastic products being littered

Innovation in Development of Alternatives- Local production of alternatives is coming on stream, with cornstarch cups being sold, and during a recent science fair, students made cups and plates out of banana leaves. *Youth are inspired to think about circularity!*















LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS

Stakeholder Engagement– Ensure that stakeholders are heard and their concerns are adequately addressed throughout the process

Flexibility– Understand that national circumstances may change and ensure timely response to these changes

Public Awareness– A robust public awareness programme is necessary to ensure success of the legislation’s enforcement



 1 PETE	 2 HDPE	 03 PVC	 4 LDPE	 5 PP	 6 PS	 7 OTHER
 01 PET	 02 PE-HD	 3 V	 04 PE-LD	 05 PP	 06 PS	 07 O
1 PETE or PET	2 HDPE or PE-HD	3 PVC or V	4 LDPE or PE-LD	5 PP	6 PS	7 OTHER or O
Polyethylene terephthalate	High-density polyethylene	Polyvinyl chloride	Low-density Polyethylene Linear low-density polyethylene	Polypropylene	Polystyrene	Other Plastics

Comprehensive Approach– Take into account the possibility of loopholes and address them as much as possible

Clear Penalties– Ensure that there is a clear and viable system for enforcement of penalties

Institutional Strengthening– Put in place legislation and programmes which will build on the legislation and contribute to wider social impact

INTERCONNECTED INITIATIVES FOCUSING ON PLASTIC REDUCTION

- Marine Litter Management Action Plan (ML-MAP)
- Microplastics Seminar
- National Clean Up Guide
- Recycle OECS
- Management of Beverage Containers Bill
- National Plastic Coordinating Committee
- Common Seas Report
- Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap



WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE

WORKSHOP ON PLASTIC BASELINE MODELING AND POLICY ASSESSMENT

Date: 25 February, 2025
Time: 8:30am - 4:00pm
Venue: Bay Gardens Hotel, Bougainvillea Conference Room

JOIN US FOR REVIEW AND PRESENTATIONS ON:

- The final plastic baseline model developed by Common Seas, developed through data-collection and stakeholder engagement
- The draft policy assessment prepared by Common Seas, toward enhancing national instruments related to plastic waste management
- Progress on recent plastic waste management programmes and initiatives

For more information, contact the Department of Sustainable Development at sdestlucia@gmail.com and 468-5847 / 733-9519

THANK YOU



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