

## Bioclimate Rules on the Use of Plastic

Indonesia is one of a number of countries that produce huge amounts of plastic waste every year. According to Ministry of Environment and Forestry data, as of 2015, the average person in Indonesia produces 0.7 kilograms of waste per day. With a population of over 250 million, this amounts to more than 175,000 tons of waste daily. This waste is mostly dumped into landfills.<sup>1</sup>

According to a landmark study from the University of Georgia, Indonesia ranked as the world's second largest source of plastic waste dumped into the sea, after China. The study's findings further indicated that people living along the coast in Indonesia generated around 3.2 million tons of mismanaged plastic waste in 2010, approximately 10 percent of the world total.<sup>2</sup>

In 2010, 8 million tons of plastic waste ended up in the ocean, mainly from coastal countries. The figure below shows the 10 top countries generating the greatest amount of ocean-bound trash.<sup>3</sup>

### Top 10 sources of ocean's plastic waste



Source: J.L. Wang, National Geographic

A combination of poor waste management, uncontrolled population growth, people consuming more, and poor public education are the main reasons for this garbage crisis. Furthermore, a lack of adequate trash disposal sites forces large numbers of people to burn their trash and suffer the negative effects of air pollution.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/10/09/indonesia-state-waste-emergency.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/asia-pacific/indonesia/83831-indonesia-2nd-biggest-source-plastic-waste-seas>

<sup>3</sup> <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/02/150212-ocean-debris-plastic-garbage-patches-science/>

In order to promote the concept of recycling, BIOCLIME tries to avoid plastic use where possible and has set up a number of rules.

### Rules the use of plastics during field trips

To set a good example, during field trips the following rules apply to all BIOCLIME staff, counterparts, and consultants:

**1. Do not provide plastic lunch boxes!**

✓ **Instead use banana leaves or re-usable containers**



**2. Do not provide small water bottles!**

✓ **Instead use one big container and refill the provided tumblers<sup>4</sup>**

**3. Provide one big trash bag and collect all waste produced!**

**4. Use washable bags (cotton bags instead of small plastic bags)!**



**5. Try to avoid any kind of plastic waste!**

**6. Try to raise community awareness regarding waste management!**

In order to establish greater awareness of the challenges posed by waste and plastic, Bioclimate also has set rules when collaborating with partners and consultants; for instance, during workshops or meetings. All hotels used for meetings are asked beforehand to provide only refillable glasses and not the more common plastic bottles. Furthermore, if snack boxes are provided, there should be no plastic ones.

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<sup>4</sup> The healthiest and most environmentally friendly choice would be to use glass bottles, but this is unfeasible and associated with high risks during field trips.