



Country Factsheet: Guinea-Bissau

This country factsheet offers a summary of Guinea-Bissau's plastic related policy frameworks and key data considering plastics in the economy, waste, and leakage, drawing on findings from the AFRIPAC project and publicly accessible data sources. Detailed reports can be found on the AFRIPAC Data Hub¹.

National Overview

Demographic Details:		
Area (2019)	36,125 km ²	UN Data ²
Total population (2024)	2,100,000	
Population density (2024)	58 per km ²	
Urban Population (2018)	43 %	
Population projection (2050)	3,400,000	
GDP (2024)	US\$ 1,574,000,000	

Plastics Trade Data

HS codes are often too broad for detailed monitoring as many plastic products are not clearly identified, and trade data can be incomplete or inconsistent due to fragmented reporting. Despite these challenges, HS-based statistics still provide a reliable high-level view of plastic trade flows and use, helping to inform and support regulatory design.

Overall, trade data shows Guinea-Bissau almost exclusively imports plastics, with very low export volumes reported. Although a small, product-led market, imports spiked in 2021 with a significant increase in primary forms imported.

Data	Trends	Source
General trade trends in West Africa		
General import and export trends in West Africa (2005–2022)	<p>Import volume increased by 459%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Primary forms: ↑ 556%.Intermediate forms: ↑ 1,890%.Final manufactured goods: ↑ 1,946%.Plastic waste: ↑ 67% (peaked in 2014). <p>Exports volume increased by 265%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Growth mainly in intermediate and final manufactured products.Plastic waste exports grew from 0 to 40,000 tonnes (2005–2022).	UNCTAD ³

Data	Trends	Source
General trade trends in Guinea-Bissau		
Imports of primary and product forms of plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imports grew from 4,238 to 6,233 tonnes/year (2017–2020). Strong rise to 22,590 tonnes in 2021. Most imports were products, with the exception of 2021, when the volumes of primary forms were much higher. Plastic waste imports only reported in 2021 (15 tonnes). Primary forms between 2017–2021 by volume were mostly: other (45%), PP (32%), LDPE (15%), and HDPE (6%). Product form between 2017–2021 by volume were mostly: polyester (25%), PP (19%), LDPE (16%), HDPE (12%), PVC (9%), PET (7%), and PS (5%). 	UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting tool ⁴
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between 2014–2018 imports by volume were 15% plastics in primary form, 85% products, and 0.0003% waste. Between 2014–2018 imports by value were 35% plastics in primary form, 65% products, and 0.2% waste. 	UN Comtrade ⁵
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Import of total plastics estimated between 2–4,000 tonnes/year between 2014–2018. 	UNCTAD ³
Exports of primary and product forms of plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Export volumes remained relatively stable between 2017–2021 at 2–3 tonnes/year, although 104 tonnes were reported in 2018. Most exports were products, with primary forms only exported in 2018 and 2020. Primary forms exported by volume in 2018 and 2021 were mostly: other (51%) and PP (49%). Product forms exported by volume between 2017–2021 were mostly: polyester (35%), PP (19%), Other (11%), LDPE (10%), HDPE (8%), and synthetic rubber (7%). There were no exports of plastic waste reported between 2018–2021. 	UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting tool ⁴
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As exports are reported per thousand tonnes in the UNCTAD database, there is no reported data between 2005–2022. 	UNCTAD ³
Imports by application (top use cases 2017–2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastics in drinks bottles was on average the item with the highest import volume, followed by plastics in clothes, with volumes almost doubling between 2017 and 2021. Household, hygienic, and toilet articles saw a 28-fold increase over the same time period, reaching 1,110 tonnes in 2021, Other top uses include tubes, pipes, and hoses, and sanitary towels. 	UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting tool ⁴
Problematic & avoidable plastics (PAP) 2014–2018	<p>This section provides a brief overview of trade data on plastics that are being discussed as part of the draft Plastics Treaty negotiations, specifically a proposal submitted by Georgia, Peru, Rwanda, Switzerland, and Thailand⁶.</p> <p>Highest import volumes and values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HS Code 392329: Plastics; sacks and bags (including cones), for the conveyance or packing of goods, of plastics other than ethylene polymers). HS Code 392390: Plastics, articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On average, around 12% of imports by volume were PAPs between 2014–2018. No reported exports of PAPs under Chapter 39. 	UN Comtrade ⁵

Note: UNCTAD functionally categorises plastic trade (primary to final forms, including waste) offering a strategic, lifecycle-oriented view, though less precise than UN COMTRADE data and the UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting tool as it overlooks many final plastic products, including filled packaging and embedded plastics. It is important to note that both UNCTAD and UNEP-IUCN data includes synthetic textiles and rubber into plastic categories and excludes electrical products.

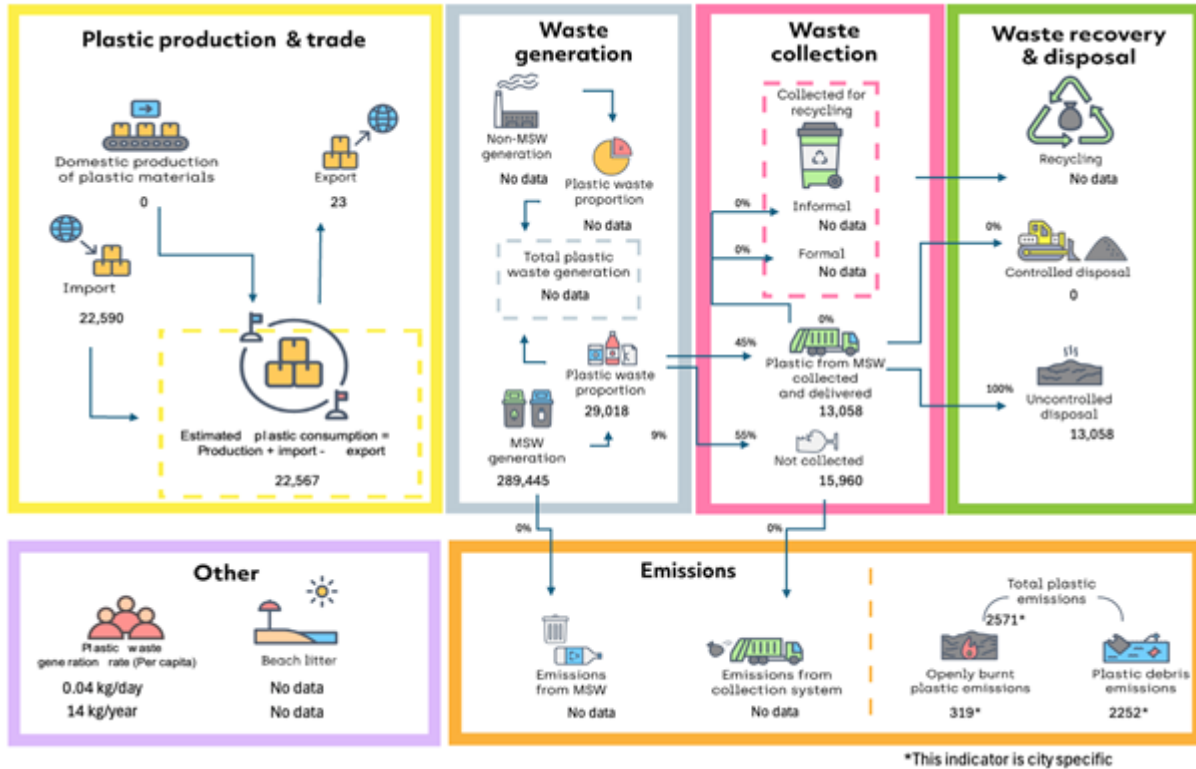
Waste Management and Emissions Data

The table compiles some of the most recent waste management and plastic leakage figures from reported data and models. Simplified material flow analysis (MFA) diagrams compare reported data with 2020 model estimates⁷, using key lifecycle indicators and contemporaneous trade data from the UNCTAD (experimental) database³ and the UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting tool⁴ to provide broader context.

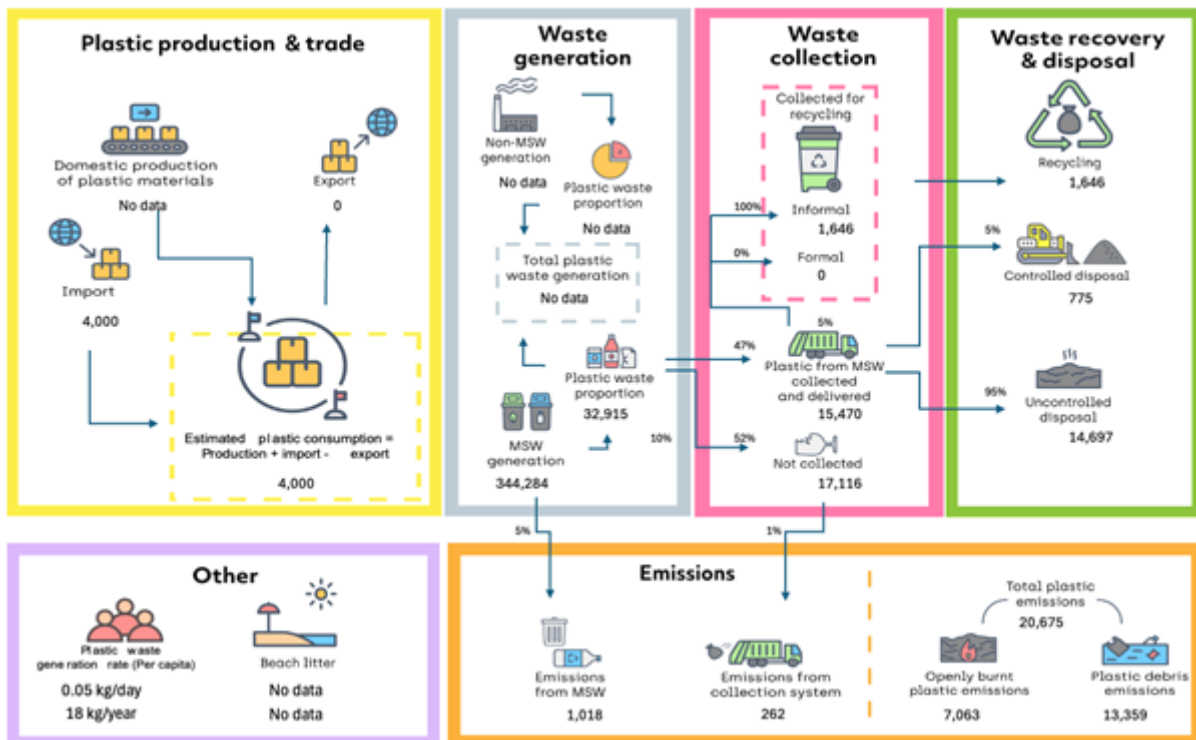
Data	Value	Unit	Source
Waste management data			
Per capita municipal solid waste (MSW) generation (no date)	0.45	kg/person/day	World Bank (2023) ⁸
Per capita MSW generation in Bissau city (2024)	0.77		Moukoro and Fandé (2024) ⁹
Total MSW generation (no date)	289,445	tonnes/year	World Bank (2023) ⁸
Total MSW generation in Bissau city (2024)	129,575		Moukoro and Fandé (2024) ⁹
Total MSW generated by households in Bissau city (2024)	70	%	
Total MSW collected Bissau city (2024)	66		
Total MSW collected Bissau city (2024)	85,520	tonnes/year	
Total MSW managed in controlled facilities in Bissau city (2024) [SDG Indicator 11.6.1]	0	%	
Plastic composition of waste (2024) [SDG Indicator 11.6.1]	7		
Per capita plastic waste generation (2020)	0.05	kg/person/day	Jambeck et al. (2015) ¹⁰
Total municipal plastic waste generation (no date)	29,018	tonnes/year	World Bank (2023) ⁸
Emissions data			
Total plastic leaked to environment in Bissau city (2024)	2,571	tonnes/year	Moukoro and Fandé (2024) ⁹
Plastic leaked to environment (to water bodies) in Bissau city (2024)	1,009		
Plastic leaked into the environment (retained in land) in Bissau city (2024)	1,089		
Plastic leaked into the environment (openly burnt) in Bissau city (2024)	319		
Plastic leaked into the environment (trapped in drains) in Bissau city (2024)	154		

Simple Material Flow Analysis combining trade data with a) data based on sources between 2020–2024 and b) modelled data for 2020

a)



b)



Values are in metric tonnes per year unless stated otherwise. Modelled data excludes e-waste, textiles, and rubber.

Relevant Governance, Policy and Legislation

Theme	Policy and Legislation
National coordination bodies	<p>Decree No. 51/2021¹¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Environment Institute (INA) <p>Decree No. 52/2021¹²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent Environmental Assessment Authority (AAAC) <p>Decree No. 10/2017¹³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Inspectorate for the Environment <p>Decree No. 13/2011¹⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guinea-Bissau Ports Administration (APBG) Ministry of Commerce Ministry of Customs Bissau City Council Institute of Biodiversity and Protect Areas (IBAP) Non-government organisation (NGO) Homem Novo
Plastic production and trade	<p>Law on Plastic Bags (Decree No. 16/2013)¹⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bans the manufacture, import, and sale of plastic bags with the chemical composition based on polyethylene, propylene, and polypropylene. Imposes penalties for non-compliance. Lacks holistic plastic regulation across the full life cycle. <p>Environmental Inspection Regulation (Decree No. 10/2017)¹³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors compliance with environmental laws, including plastic bag ban enforcement.
Plastic waste management	<p>Basic Law on the Environment (Law No. 1/2011)¹⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle to guarantee a human and ecologically balanced environment and to ensure the continued use of natural resources, both qualitatively and quantitatively. Sets foundational principles like prevention, precaution, polluter pays, correction at source, sustainability, unity of management action, international cooperation, responsibility, access to education and training, community management, and traditional knowledge. Prohibits the import of hazardous waste or rubbish into the area under national jurisdiction, including toxic and infectious wastes. No national strategy for waste management and waste is generally taken to an open-air incinerator. A sanitation and waste management manual is being developed. <p>Environmental Assessment Law (Law No. 10/2010)¹⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to guarantee an ecologically balanced, economically viable and socially acceptable environment by applying environmental impact assessments (EIA), the environmental and social management plan, the compensation and resettlement plan, public participation, and sustainable development. Applies environmental licensing for projects with environmental and social impact, managed by the AAAC. No project subject to EIA should be licensed or authorised before the competent authority has issued a favourable compliance statement or certificate. The AAAC is responsible for checking whether the environmental measures in approved licences are being followed. It also monitors if any changes in environmental or social conditions affect those licences. Through this role, the AAAC indirectly contributes to waste management in Guinea-Bissau <p>Environmental Inspection Regulation (Decree No. 10/2017)¹³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitors compliance with environmental laws and is therefore important in the administrative organisation of the environment.

Theme	Policy and Legislation
Non-plastic specific policies	<p>Administration of the Ports (Decree No. 13/2011)¹⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APGB oversees the management and use of public ports and nearby land and water areas to ensure efficient operation. • In cases of pollution, APGB consults environmental authorities to help protect the environment. <p>General Fisheries Law (Law No. 10/2011)¹⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines rules for fisheries management and development, in line with international commitments such as UNCLOS. • On pollution (including by waste) it states that the discharge or spillage into the marine environment of toxic, harmful or noxious substances from any source likely to cause alterations to the natural characteristics of the marine environment is prohibited, as well as all immersion operations. • Encourages states to incentivise the abandonment of certain fishing gear, supporting sustainable practises. <p>Artisanal Fishing Regulations (Decree-Law No. 24/2011)¹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulates inland and marine artisanal fishing activities. • Includes a list of authorised gear types and requires gear to be signposted. • Prohibits pollution in the marine environment from toxic substances fishing gear that hinders mesh size and marine species. <p>Protected Areas Frameworks (Law No. 5-A/2011)²⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects ecosystems and biodiversity, overlapping with marine plastic concerns. • Regulates the conditions for the creation and operation of protected areas in Guinea-Bissau, classifying around 24% of its territory as protected areas. • Additionally, Guinea-Bissau has a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.
Regional conventions	<p>Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa²¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits the import of hazardous waste into Africa and promotes sound management of hazardous waste within African countries. • Guinea-Bissau signed in 1991 but has not yet ratified the Convention. • Although there is no specific legislation implementing the Convention, the Basic Environmental Law (Article 27) is aligned as it prohibits the import of hazardous waste or rubbish into the area under national jurisdiction. <p>Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Maritime Environment and the Coastal Zone of the West African Region²²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 2012, it is part of a network of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, aiming to prevent, reduce, and combat pollution in the marine environment and inland waters, while ensuring the environmentally sound management of natural resources using the most appropriate means available within a State's capabilities. • Established obligations to prevent, reduce, and combat pollution from ships, aircraft, land-based sources, airborne sources, and activities related to exploitation of the seabed. • Guinea-Bissau does not have any legislation that domesticates the Convention, although the concerns are dispersed in various domestic laws including the Environmental Assessment Law, the General Fisheries Law, the Protected Areas Framework Law, the Land Law, and the Petroleum Law. <p>Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Environmental Policy (2008) and Regulation (C/REG.17/12/23)²³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOWAS includes 15 countries and was established in 1975 and ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 1976. Revisions were made in 1993. • Provides a regional environmental governance framework and Environmental Action Plan (2020–2026) for ECOWAS Member States to support implementation of regional and international commitments. • Establishes conditions for the prohibition and authorisation of plastic bags (<60µm), packaging, single-use or disposable products and waste.

Theme	Policy and Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes structures and mechanisms for cooperation in the control of the production and marketing of plastic containers and other articles, plastic product harmonisation, and the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. Facilitates the creation of a circular economy through market, economy, and policy instruments (taxes on imports of plastic products, conditions for authorization by the competent authorities for placing biodegradable or special-purpose plastic articles or packaging on the market, eco-design standards, financial incentives, DRS for plastic bottles, mandatory take-back programs for used plastic products for marketers and distributors, mandatory marking of plastic products, EPR systems that cover the costs of processing and cleaning up waste from plastic products, establishment of national entity for plastic waste logistics, mandatory curb side recycling targets under EPR). Restrictions on landfilling of plastic waste, ban on open burning and incineration of plastics, and penalties for illegal dumping. Guinea-Bissau's current legislation on plastic bags (Decree No. 16/2013) falls short of the ECOWAS Regulation and should be revised. <p>Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa (2008)²⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed by Guinea-Bissau in 2008, the declaration commits governments to address public health challenges linked to environmental factors through intersectoral collaboration, capacity building, surveillance, and policy integration. <p>Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa (2008)²⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed by Guinea-Bissau in 2008, the declaration calls for an integrated, multisectoral approach to health, recognizing that social, economic, environmental, and governance factors are deeply linked to health outcomes. Highlights climate change and environmental sustainability as key health determinants, reinforcing the need to link environmental action (e.g., plastic pollution control) with health strategies.
International conventions	<p>The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)²⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While not a treaty requiring ratification, over 175 countries (including Guinea-Bissau) have signed this declaration, which outlines 27 principles that have subsequently been incorporated into international agreements and national laws. Key principles include: Human centred development, promoting sustainable production and consumption, with integration of environmental protection into development policies; States have the right to exploit their resources, but also the responsibility to prevent damage to the environment, including beyond their national jurisdiction; The precautionary and polluter pays principles, and the need for environmental impact assessments; States should cooperate to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, with environmental standards harmonised internationally; Recognises various national capacities in addressing environmental damage; Citizens and the use of traditional knowledge should be involved in environmental decision making; Development should meet the needs of both present and future generations; International and national laws should be further developed to address environmental damage and liability. <p>Basel Convention on Transboundary Waste²⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal. It also covers 'other wastes' requiring special attention including household waste, incinerator ash, and plastic waste. Guinea-Bissau ratified the Convention in 2005 but there is no detailed domestic legislation that implements the Conventions obligations. An amendment in 1995, which entered into force in 2019, formally prohibits the export of hazardous waste for final disposal and recycling from Annex VII countries (European Union, OECD, and Liechtenstein) to developing countries, which has not been ratified by Guinea-Bissau. In 1999 an Additional Protocol established a comprehensive regime of liability, adequate and prompt compensation for damage resulting from transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including illicit traffic in such wastes. In 2021 amendments on plastic waste became effective for all Parties that had not submitted a notification of non-acceptance:

Theme	Policy and Legislation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex II (Y48) – <i>Plastic waste requiring special consideration</i>: This includes mixed, contaminated, or difficult-to-recycle plastics. • Annex VIII (A3210) – <i>Hazardous plastic waste</i>: Plastics that are hazardous due to contamination with chemicals or other toxic components. • Annex IX (B3011) – <i>Non-hazardous plastic waste that can be traded more freely</i>: This includes clean, sorted, and recyclable plastic waste intended for environmentally sound recycling. • Plastic wastes that fall under Annex II or VIII now require Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure expansion. • In 2022, new technical directives and guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste, including plastic waste, were adopted. <p>Rotterdam Convention on Hazardous Chemicals²⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 2008, the Convention promotes shared responsibilities in relation to the trade of hazardous chemicals and pesticides through a PIC procedure. • Guinea-Bissau does not have specific regulations that domesticate the Convention within its national legal framework. <p>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)²⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 2008, aiming to eliminate or restrict the production and use of POPs. • The Convention lists a number of plastic additives to eliminate. • Guinea-Bissau does not yet have internal legislation that domesticates the Convention, but have drafted some instruments of political and strategic nature for its implementation: • National implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Guinea-Bissau (2017); • National Strategy and Action Plan for Communication on the Ecologically Rational Management of Biomedical Waste in Guinea-Bissau (2019); • Biomedical Waste Management Procedure Manual (2019); • Polychlorinated biphenyl inventory report (2016); • Update of the national dioxin and furan inventory (PCDD-PCDF) in Guinea-Bissau; • Study on Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) in Electrical and Electronic Equipment and the Transport Sector in Guinea-Bissau (2015). <p>Minamata Convention on Mercury³⁰</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 2018, the Convention protects human health and the environment from emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds, aiming to ban use and reduce emissions. • Baseline Assessment of the Statistical and Physical Data on the Management of Biomedical Waste and Mercury (2017). <p>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)³¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 1986, it establishes a comprehensive legal framework governing all activities on oceans and seas, including marine environmental protection, resource management, and measures to prevent, reduce, and control marine pollution. • UNCLOS directs the responsibility for regulation the protection of the marine environment to Member States, but appears to be one of the most viable ways of materialising the control of conduct that pollutes the marine environment. <p>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) (1973)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guinea-Bissau ratified MARPOL Annex V in 2016, which strictly prohibits the discharge of plastics into the sea and mandates responsible shipboard waste management, including storage, segregation, and disposal at designated port reception facilities. • The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) have also established a general Action Plan to address marine litter from ships <p>Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) (2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) ensures the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, covering marine genetic resources, area-based management tools, environmental impact assessments, and capacity building. • The BBNJ was ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 2025.

Theme	Policy and Legislation
	<p>The London Convention (1972)³² and London Protocol (1996)³³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits the incineration and dumping of certain types of wastes and substances contained in the list set out. Not ratified by Guinea Bissau. <p>International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)³⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures maritime safety but indirectly supports marine environmental protection by requiring safe waste handling practices aboard ships, including plastics. Not ratified by Guinea-Bissau. <p>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)³⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratified by Guinea-Bissau in 1995, the Convention promotes the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2021) emphasises the importance of reducing pollution, with a specific focus on plastic pollution. Guinea-Bissau also ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2010, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing in 2014, and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in 2018. <p>The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)³⁶</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All United Nations Member States adopted the 17 SDGs as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015. Aiming to transform societies and economies to become more sustainable, balancing economic growth, social development, and environmental protection. Includes suggested indicators for monitoring each goal. Emphasizes the importance of reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised populations. Requires partnerships and collaborations between governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals. The most relevant goals for plastic policies include SDG 1: No poverty, SDG 3: Good health and well-being, SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production, SDG 13: Climate action, SDG 14: Life below water, SDG 15: Life on land, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals. <p>Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)³⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UNFCCC was ratified in 1995 and the Paris Agreement in 2018 by Guinea-Bissau, which aims to limit global warming to below 1.5°C through nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Paris Agreement makes no reference to fossil fuels or their petrochemical derivatives. Even if fully implemented, State's NDCs remain inadequate to limit warming to 1.5°C. Although Guinea-Bissau does not yet have relevant national legislation, it has drafted its NDCs, which identifies forestry, land-use, energy, and waste sectors as the key sources of GHG emissions. The NDC report highlights that waste produced will rise from 295 kg/capita/year in 2020 to 310 kg/capita/year in 2030, with waste management trends continuing where around 45% of waste goes to landfill and the rest is openly burnt. Under these conditions CO₂ emissions will increase 4.4%. <p>World Trade Organization (WTO) Policies and Practices³⁸</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guinea-Bissau has been a member of the WTO since 1995, which establishes global trade rules, including agreements that affect goods and services, and addresses trade-related aspects of environmental measures, promoting sustainable development.

Key Gaps and Recommendations

Category	Identified Gaps	Recommendations
Legislative and regulatory framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comprehensive legal instrument addressing plastic pollution through a full life cycle approach. Existing law only covers plastic bags. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and disseminate comprehensive standards on solid waste, including plastic waste and its full life cycle. Expanding beyond plastic bags to consider all polluting plastics.
Institutional framework and intersectoral coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear roles and responsibilities among institutions involved in plastic pollution monitoring and control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen institutional coordination among key agencies like the Environmental Inspectorate, Bissau City Council, Customs, and Trade Inspectorate.
Implementation tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited public awareness of plastic pollution's effects on health and the environment. Lack of environmental education in schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote consumer awareness campaigns in different markets, fairs, and sectors across the country. Integrate environmental education into the school curriculum through the Ministry of Education.
Financing and economic incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient infrastructure and funding for waste treatment. Open-air dumping and burning remains common practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish funding mechanisms and create appropriate waste sorting and treatment facilities (e.g., compost and recycling facilities, sanitary landfill or incinerator). Phase out open-air dumping.
Human and technical capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities, particularly Bissau City Council, lack the basic capacity and resources to manage waste effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in technical capacity and resources at local government level to support effective waste management.

References

Trade & MFA references

- ¹ AFRIPAC Data Hub
- ² UN Data: <https://data.un.org/en/index.html>.
- ³ UNCTAD: Functionally categorises plastic trade (primary to final forms, including waste) offering a strategic, lifecycle-oriented view, though less precise than UN COMTRADE data and the UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting tool as it overlooks many final plastic products, including filled packaging and embedded plastics. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/>.
- ⁴ UNEP-IUCN Hotspotting: Provides polymer and application-specific insights using adjusted trade data to highlight lifecycle-hotspots and guide policy action. <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/national-guidance-plastic-pollution-hotspotting-and-shaping-action>.
- ⁵ UN COMTRADE: The primary official data source, very detailed, but doesn't isolate embedded plastics or provide lifecycle insights. <https://comtradeplus.un.org/>.
- ⁶ Georgia, Peru, Rwanda, Switzerland and Thailand (2024). Conference room paper on an initial list of problematic and avoidable plastic products considered for elimination. https://resolutions.unep.org/incres/uploads/initial_plastic_products_list_georgia_peru_rwanda_switzerland_thailand.pdf
- ⁷ Cottom, J. W., Cook, E., & Velis, C. A. (2024). A local-to-global emissions inventory of macroplastic pollution. *Nature*, 633(8028), 101-108. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07758-6>
- ⁸ World Bank (2023). WACA Plastics eBook. Chapter 17, Guinea-Bissau. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/030d3993c5c347dea245a8a22036ef80>
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National policy references

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- ¹² Guinea-Bissau (2021, August 20). Competent Environmental Assessment Authority approved by Decree No. 52/2021. Published in the 4th Supplement to Official Bulletin No. 33.
- ¹³ Guinea-Bissau (2017, June 28). Environmental Inspection Regulation approved by Decree No. 10/2017. Published in Official Gazette No. 26.
- ¹⁴ Guinea-Bissau (2011, October 11). Administration of the Ports of Guinea-Bissau created by Decree No. 13/2011. Published in Supplement to Official Bulletin No. 41.
- ¹⁵ Guinea-Bissau (2013, July 11). Law Prohibiting the Manufacture, Import and Sale of Plastic Bags approved by Decree No.16/2013.
- ¹⁶ Guinea-Bissau (2011, March 2). Basic Environmental Law approved by Law No. 1/2011. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau no. 09.
- ¹⁷ Guinea-Bissau (2010, December 24). Environmental Assessment Law approved by Law No. 10/2010. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau No. 38.

- ¹⁸ Guinea-Bissau (2011, June 7). General Fisheries Law approved by Law No. 10/2011. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau no. 23.
- ¹⁹ Guinea-Bissau (2011, June 7). Artisanal Fishing Regulations approved by Decree-Law No. 24/2011. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau no. 23.
- ²⁰ Guinea-Bissau (2011, March 1). Protected Areas Framework Law approved by Law No. 5-A/2011. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau no. 09.

Regional and international policy references

- ²¹ Organization of African Unity. (1991, January 30). Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.
- ²² UNEP. (1981, March 23). Convention for Co-operation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (Abidjan Convention).
- ²³ ECOWAS. (2023, December). Regulation C/REG.17/12/23 on plastic product regulation and plastic waste management.
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