

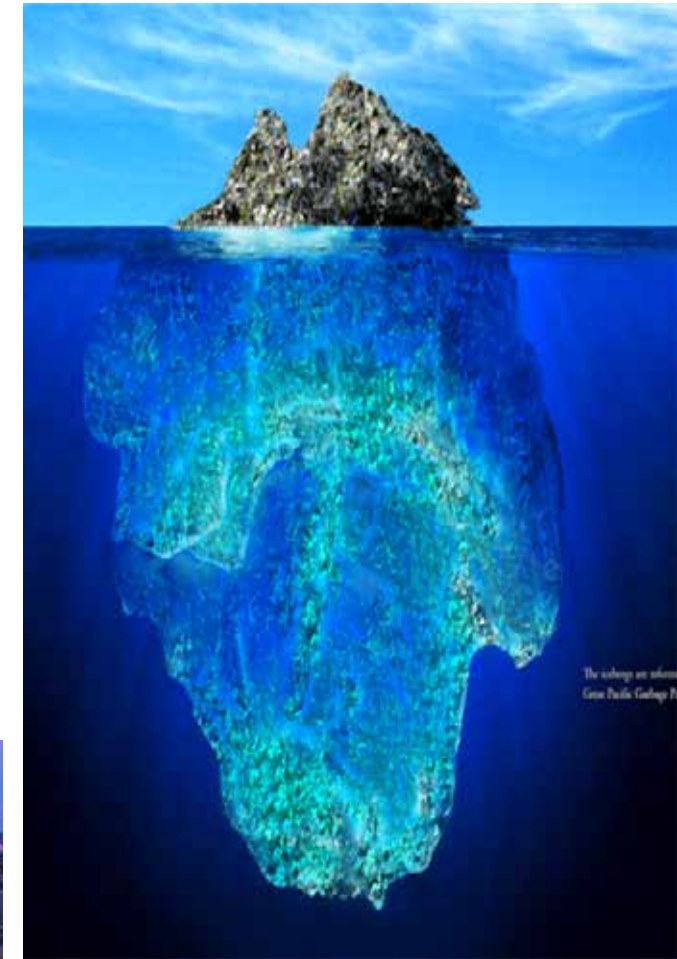
*Global Economic and Trade Policies to  
Reduce Plastic Litter and Marine Pollution.*

*From Plastic Dependency through  
Transition and Transformation.*

*By Diana Barrowclough*

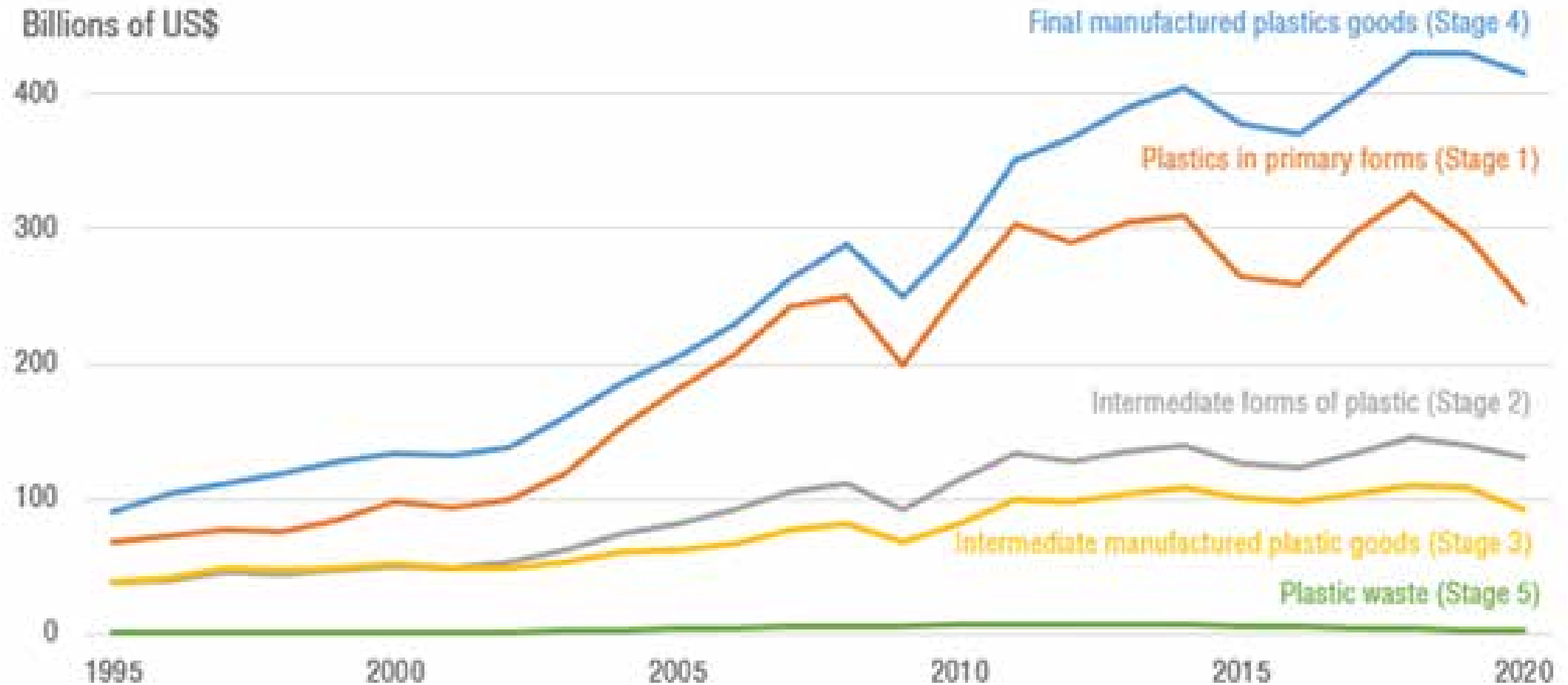
*Globalization and Development Strategies UNCTAD*

*8 –April 2022*

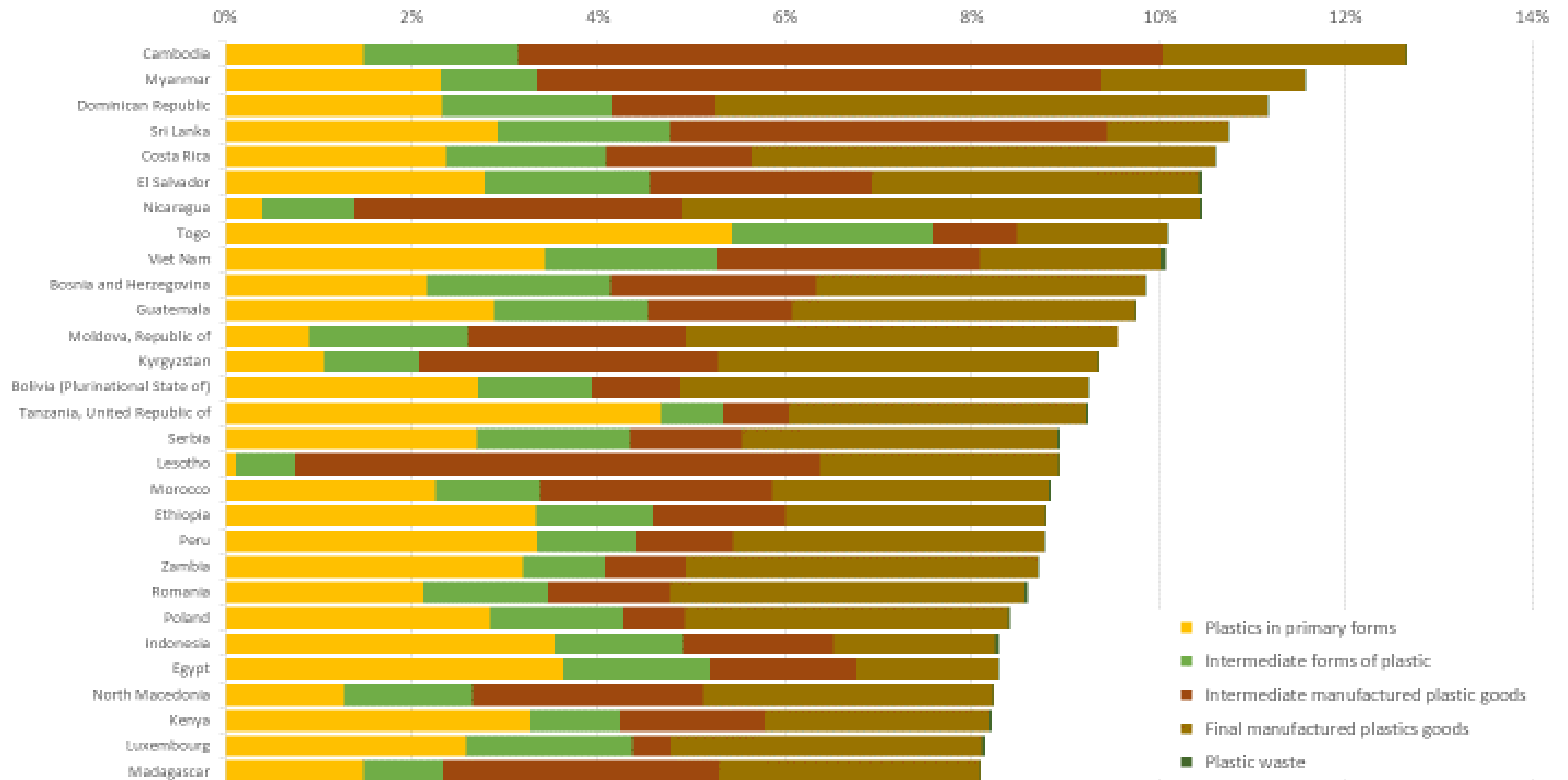




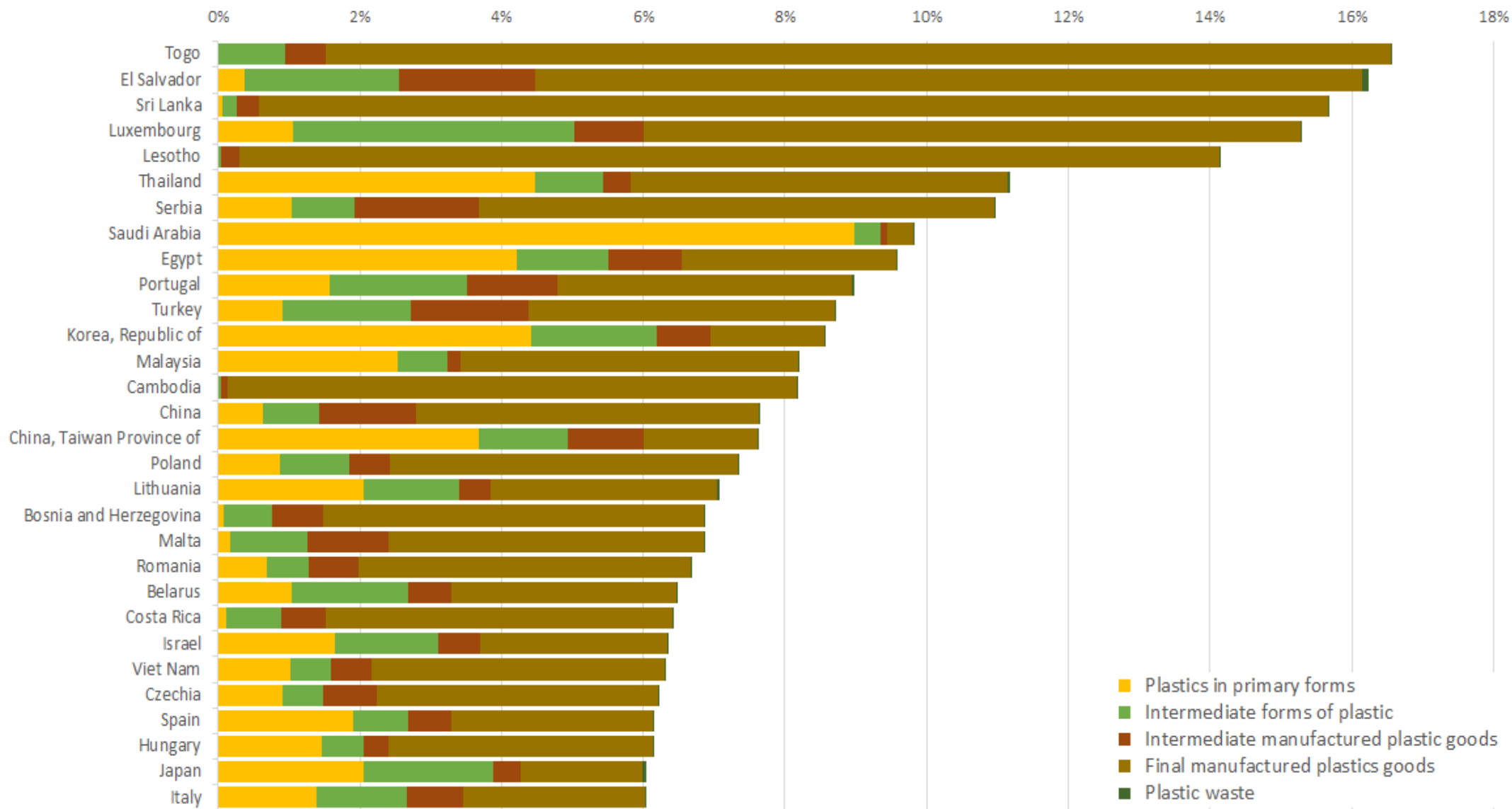
Why change is difficult – Plastics is big business. Global trade is huge, multi-faceted, complex (US\$b, exports, 1995-2020).



Share of plastics trade in total merchandise imports, 2020  
 (Where plastics represent more than 8% of global imports). Source: UNCTAD Stats; Barrowclough 2022



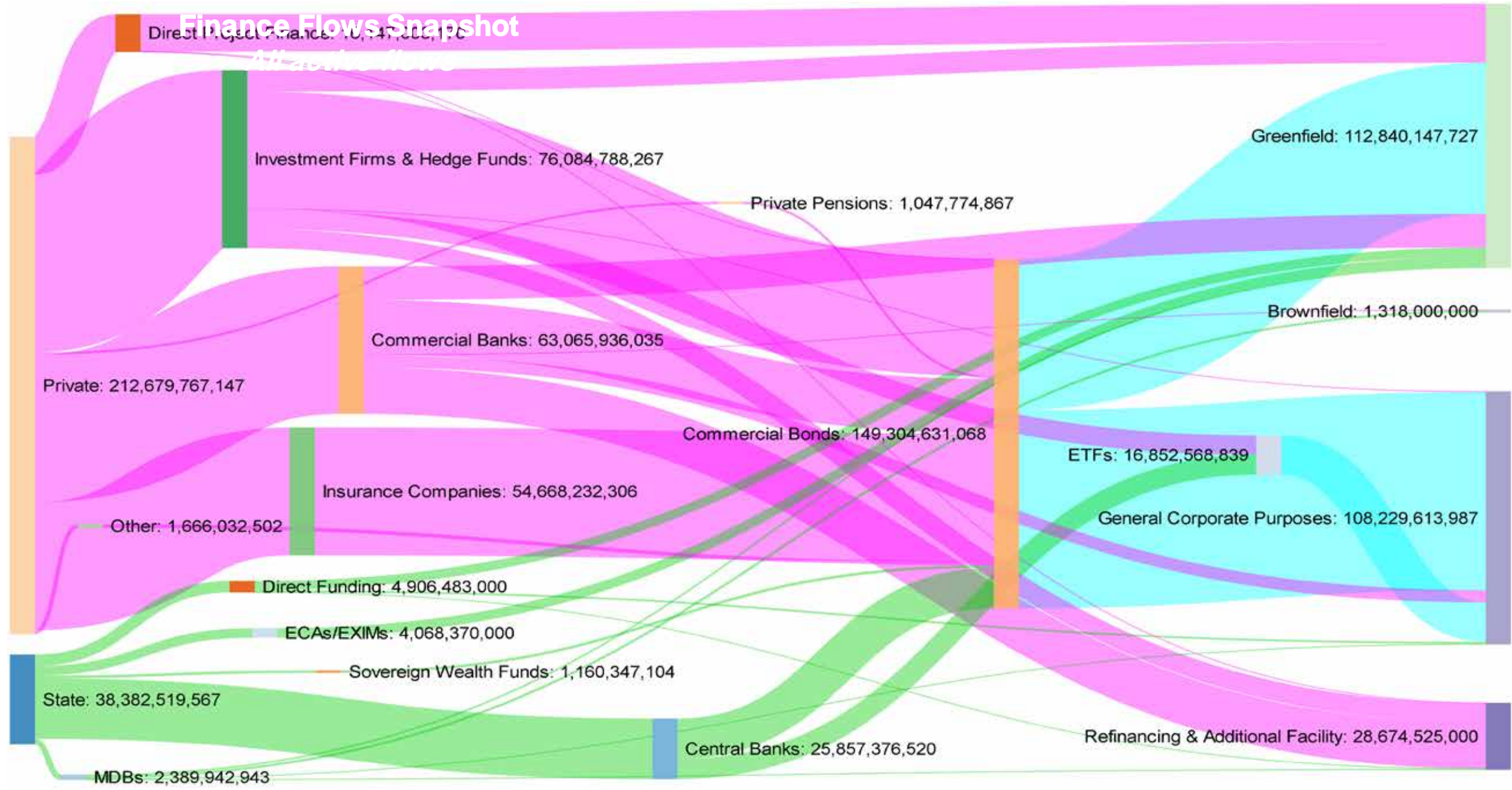
Share of plastics trade in total merchandise exports, 2020  
 (Only countries where plastics represent more than 6% of global exports)





# Finance Flows Snapshot

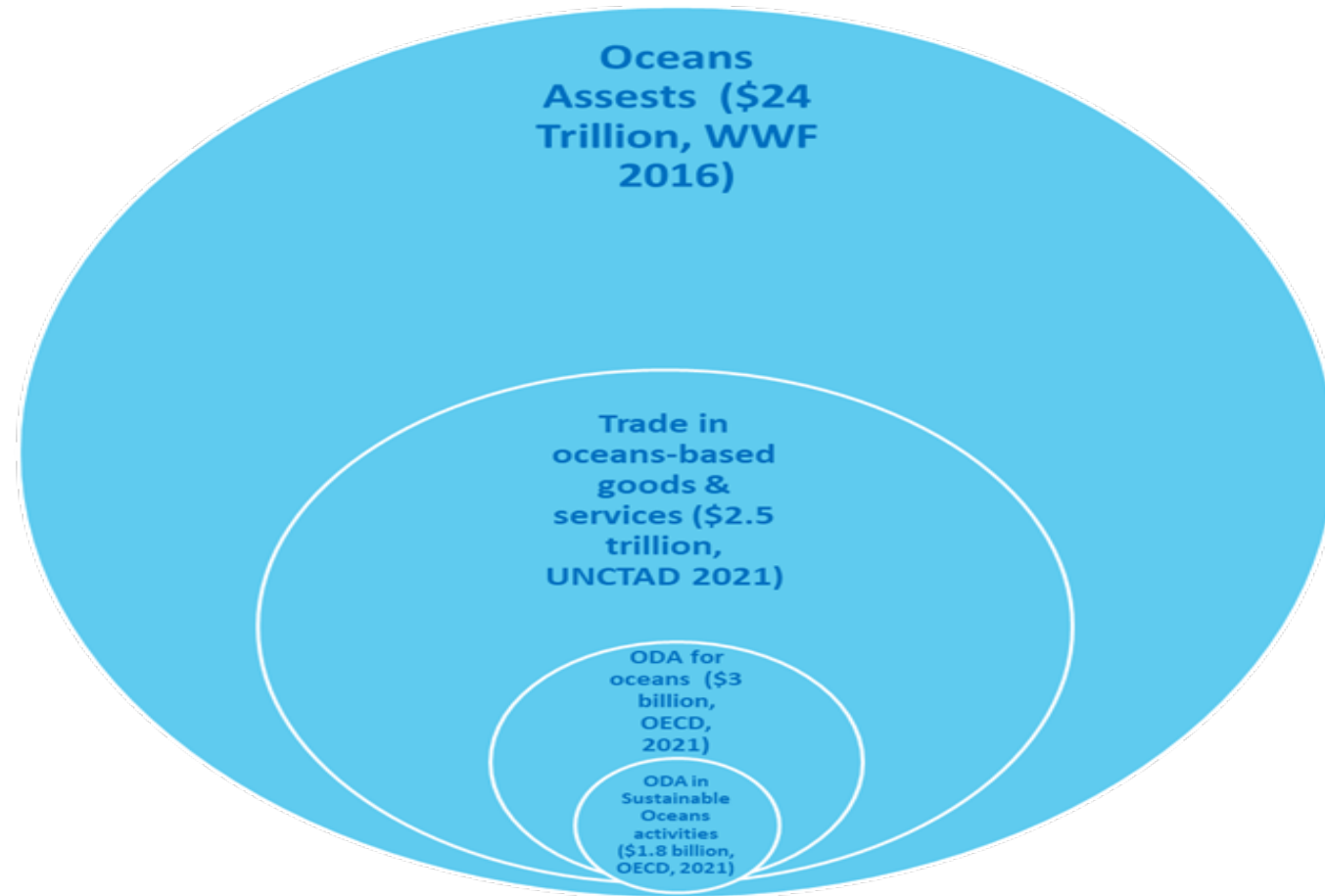
All active flows



# Who funds what in the ocean economy – through a plastics lens

Category of activity /likely means of finance	Potential to earn a financial return.		
	High -----Moderate, under certain conditions-----Low		
	1.Markets: green and blue bonds, equities, venture capital	2.Mixed institutions and instruments: Concessional loans, public banks, debt for nature	3.Non-market: ODA, Grants and philanthropy, results-based finance
Ecosystem and natural resource management	Some aquaculture, seafood processing and distribution, some fisheries.	Some fisheries, aquaculture and mariculture, specific conservation with Trusts and communities.	Conserving ocean, coastal and marine ecosystems; mangrove and wetland ecosystems, river courses.
Pollution control	None	Some peripheral activities - waste collection and management, some water collection and waste treatment	All activities and core systems - Waste management, wastewater management, circular economy
Sustainable coastal development and infrastructure	Shipping, port services, Coastal and island accommodation and tourism services, sea tours and cruises.	Some elements of coastal and maritime tourism, some ports and shipping investments	Coastal resilience, alternative fuels and energy
Industrial Transition away from plastic, towards Alternatives	??	??	??

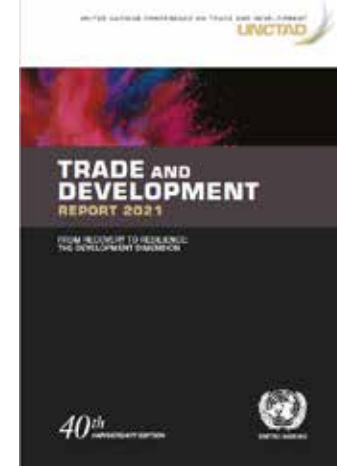
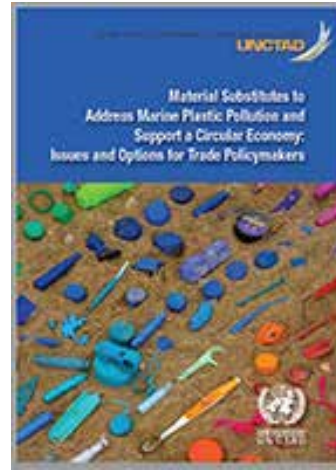
If not the market, then who?  
(Where Public banks and Funds fit into this...)





# How Multilateral support complements National strategies to combat plastic pollution and transition to a greener future.





<https://unctad.org/topic/trade-and-environment/oceans-economy>

<https://unctad.org/project/sustainable-manufacturing-and-environmental-pollution-smep>

Barrowclough D (2022), Plastic trade dependency or alternative opportunities? implementing a Blue/Green New Deal. UNCTAD WP

Vivas D, Barrowclough D and C. Contreras (2021). The Ocean Economy: trends, impacts and opportunities for a post covid-19 Blue Recovery in developing countries. South Centre Research Paper 137.