

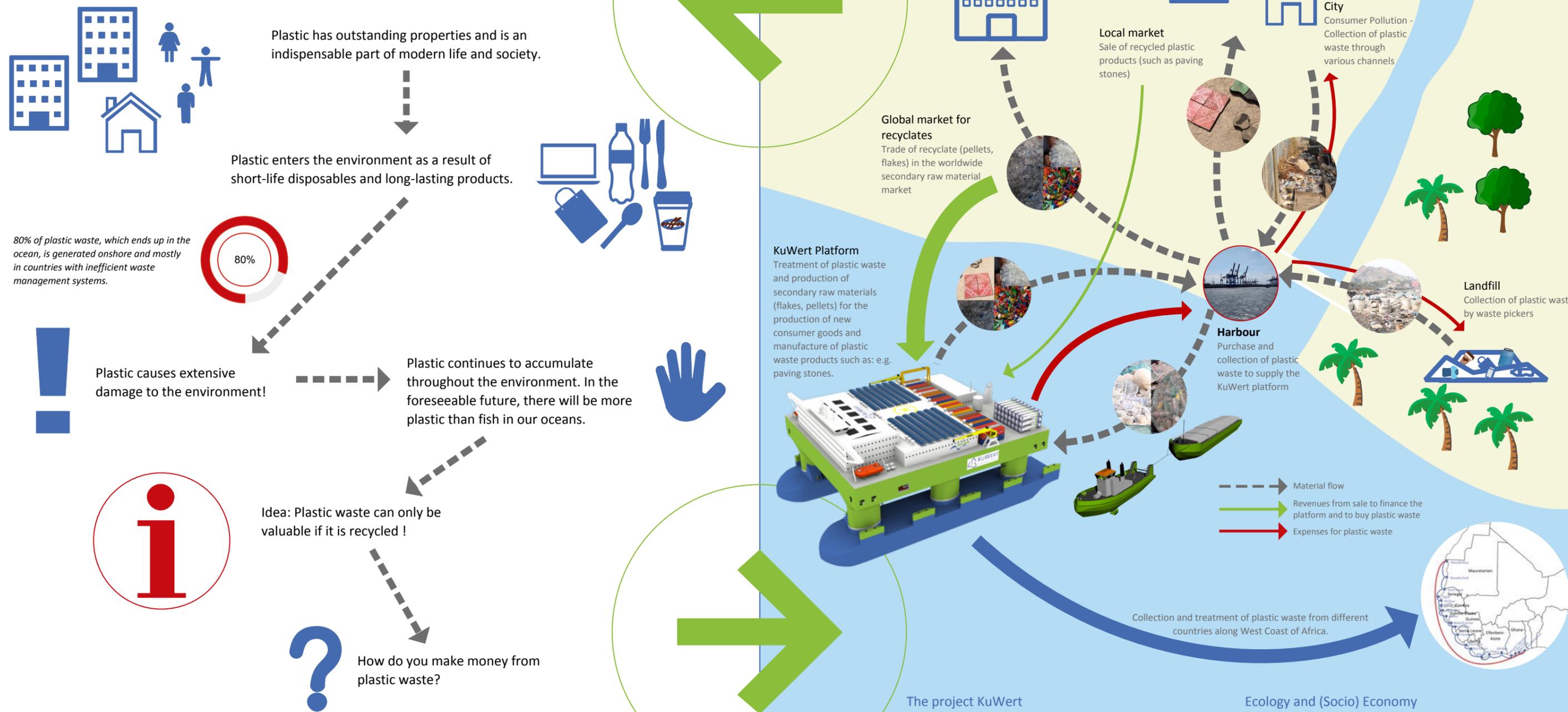
CREATING VALUE FROM PLASTIC WASTE

RECYCLING AND TRADING OF VALUABLE PLASTIC WASTE HELPS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, CREATES ADDED VALUE AND ORIGINATES JOBS

From an economic point of view, waste management can be divided into two areas:

1. Waste from which little or no added value can be generated must be utilised or disposed of in order to protect the environment and citizens. This part of waste management is a mandatory service of general interest, which must be financed.
2. Waste that generates sufficient revenues after being recycled (plastics, metals, PPK ...) can finance its own collection and treatment, provide additional value, and create jobs. This requires special know-how that is not yet widely available.

The KuWert project shows a possible example of an economically self-supporting waste management system for the disposal of valuable plastic waste in West African countries. This is possible with the transfer of know-how and implementation of specially adapted technology.



80% of plastic waste, which ends up in the ocean, is generated onshore and mostly in countries with inefficient waste management systems.



Plastic causes extensive damage to the environment!

Plastic continues to accumulate throughout the environment. In the foreseeable future, there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans.



Idea: Plastic waste can only be valuable if it is recycled!



How do you make money from plastic waste?

The project KuWert

KuWert – a floating factory for the treatment of plastic waste from along the West Coast of Africa. In order to reduce the amount of plastic entering the ocean, value chains are to be set up on land and the recovered waste processed off-shore on a floating treatment platform. The recyclate produced is to be sold locally or internationally to the secondary raw material market and finally brought back into circulation as a source material for new products. The treatment platform was designed as part of the project as a semi-submersed platform which is 125 m long and 80 m wide and has a treatment capacity of around 64,000 tons of waste plastic per year.

Ecology and (Socio) Economy

The concept of the floating platform to recycle plastic from plastic waste collected from many different collection points in many different countries, can probably be self-financing through the revenue achieved from the sale of the recyclate produced. The substitution of primary plastic by recyclate will save around 1.5 million tonnes of CO₂ over the planned lifespan of the platform. The construction, operation and scrapping of the platform have already been taken into consideration. Operation of the platform could create over 1,200 jobs (on the platform and in the collection of plastic waste) in the destination countries.

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