

Briefing note

Ensuring Support for Vulnerable Insular Territories under Continental Jurisdictions in the Global Plastics Treaty

The Global Plastics Treaty must ensure that vulnerable island territories such as the Galapagos Archipelago (Ecuador), Rapa Nui and Juan Fernández (Chile), and others under continental States are explicitly recognised as eligible for financial, technical, and capacity-building support.

These territories, though not sovereign States or SIDS, face disproportionate impacts of plastic pollution due to their location within major oceanic currents and their status as global biodiversity hotspots.

Despite their ecological significance and exposure to transboundary marine debris, these territories are often excluded from international mechanisms designed for SIDS or developing coastal States. This gap threatens the effectiveness and equity of the Treaty.

States must be supported in mobilising resources for their vulnerable insular territories, which bear a disproportionate and unjust burden of plastic pollution. In the case of the Galapagos Archipelago, over 95% of the plastic waste found along its coastlines originates from external sources, transported by ocean currents from continental regions and international maritime activities.

We recommend that:

- Non-sovereign island territories are explicitly recognised in preambular or operative clauses.
- Resource mobilisation and implementation mechanisms include eligibility for these territories under their parent States.
- The Treaty promote regional cooperation frameworks (e.g. CMAR) that include these islands as critical nodes for marine protection and monitoring.

Including such territories in the Treaty framework ensures no vulnerable ecosystems are left behind due to political or geographic classifications.



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