



AFRICAN
MARINE
WASTE
CONFERENCE

July 9th - 13th, 2017, Port Elizabeth South Africa

BE THE CHANGE



Plastics | SA

The International Coastal Cleanup on the Cape Beaches.

**21 Years on the Cape Beaches –
What have we learned?**





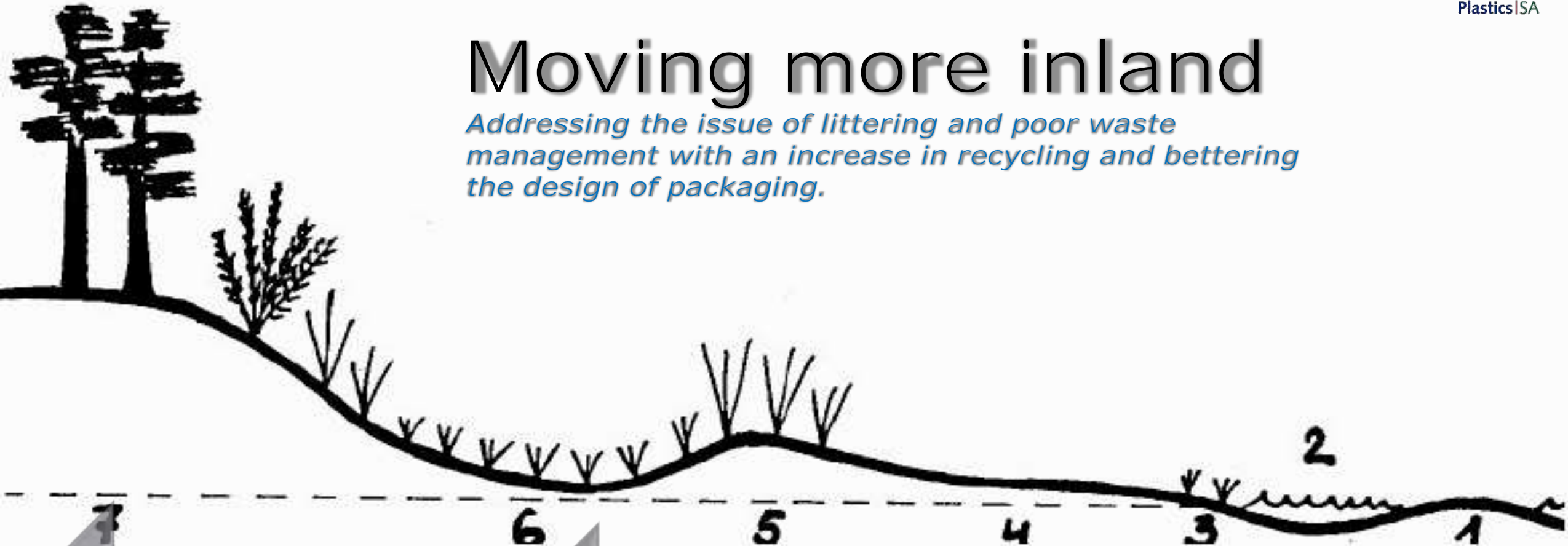
Background.

- The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the largest awareness and coastal/waterway cleanup internationally and in South Africa (Ranges between 10 000 and 13 000 volunteers every September in Cape Provinces).
- The ICC is an audited cleanup. A quarter is audited and now due to Clean Swell it is growing as a bigger source for Citizen Science data.



Moving more inland

Addressing the issue of littering and poor waste management with an increase in recycling and bettering the design of packaging.



2017 (1 to 7)



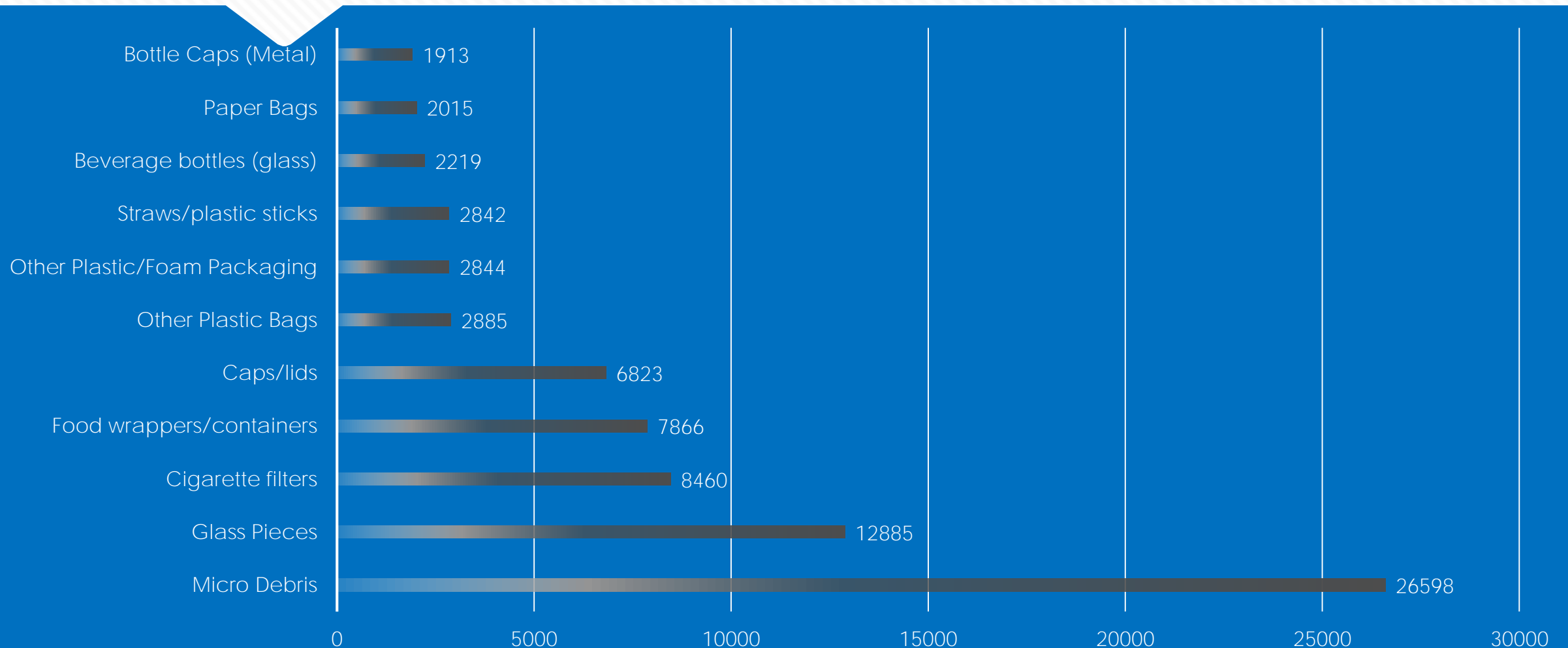
2013 to 2016 (1 to 6)



Pre 2013 (1 to 4)



2016 ICC Material collected in audited clean-ups.



Drivers and Barriers to progress in recycling.

If progress is seen as proper waste management with an increase in recycling.

1. Dependence of Consumer Goods in South Africa and Africa is growing:
 - a) Growing populations.
 - b) Growing economies.
 - c) More dependence on food packaging.
 - d) Dependence on importation of goods.
2. Transport costs is hampering recycling efforts. Material is increasingly granulated for transport in Africa which might lead to increased leakage.

While,

3. Stewardship of pellets is well managed.
4. Increased awareness in South Africa during the last 10 years but still far from adequate. Disjointness to the environment is on the increase.
5. Research on pollution is inadequate in South Africa and especially in Africa.

Drivers and barriers to progress?

If progress is seen as non littering, proper waste management with increase in recycling.

1. Poverty.
2. A non caring society outnumbering the caring society.
3. Importance of recycling not recognised by many (even industry).
4. Inadequate opportunities collecting material for recycling.
5. Lack of adequate financial support for recycling.
6. The waste industry has matured in the past decade and the momentum is still growing but waste management outside metros is not met with urgency.
7. Recycling industry hampered by outdated technology.

Consumers playing a role to combat the problem?

1. Put pressure on Industry and government via retailers and manufacturers to ensure packaging is recyclable.
2. Put pressure on industry and government for collection points for material recycling.
3. **Rethink the use of “once use” plastics. If there is no recycling step in its lifespan – do not use it.**
4. Do not use beauty products where micro plastics serves as scrubs.
5. We must ensure that taxes on packaging must be used for what it is intended for – the support of recycling efforts.

What have we learned?

Positive

- Ideal platform to raise awareness on Marine Debris. (start of Spring and strong international link).
- Ideal communication tool between communities and industry.
- Serves as ideal indicator for Legislators on needs of communities.
- Led to Working For The Coast.
- Let to still standing positive environmental actions. (Robben Island and landfill sites on coast).
- Data collected provides good view of changing state of marine debris on regional level.
- More broader representation.

Negative

- Last few years, a dilution, due to increased cleanups with awareness raising goals.
- In last few years it is (ab)used increasingly by politicians as electioneering platforms especially where Working For Coast Teams are prevalent.
- **“Corporate Cleanups”**. **More waste generated than collected.**



