



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21<sup>st</sup> Century

Producer:  
Script version:  
Duration: 7'27"

## PLASTIC OCEAN

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### STUDIO INTRO #2 – PLASTIC OCEAN

Plastic - both a wonderful invention and a scourge on our planet. Over 300 million tons will be produced this year. Most is never recycled and remains on our land and in our seas for ever. Our story shows the damage to all creatures who depend on the ocean for their food – from birds... to us.

#### VIDEO

#### AUDIO

#### TEXT ON SCREEN

This film contains images that viewers may find disturbing

The world produces more than 300 million tons of plastic every year. Including billions of plastic bottles and five billion plastic bags. (14.5")

PLASTIC BAGS, BOTTLES, CRANES  
LIFTING MOUNDS OF PLATIC ITEMS

CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*Plastic is wonderful because it's durable and plastic is terrible, because it is durable. (7")*

REVEAL CRAIG LEESON IN  
AMONGST PLASTIC TRASH MOUND  
NAME SUPER

Craig Leeson, Journalist

*Almost every piece of plastic ever made is still on the planet in some form or another. Plastic production globally, this year, is expected to be more than 300 million tons, half of which we'll use just once and then throw away. By 2050 when the population explodes to almost 10 billion people, it is expected that plastic production will triple. The problem with that is, is that today, only a fraction of the plastic that we produce is recycled. The rest ends up in our environment and it's coating our land and our oceans, like a disease. (38")*

SPINNING EARTH GLOBE GRAPHIC  
GRAPHIC OF PLASTIC BOTTLE  
SPINNING INTO THE OCEAN

NARRATION

Garbage thrown away in the United States can make its way to Antarctica. Plastic in our coastal waters is pulled into the centre of massive wind-driven, churning in circular gyres. There are many other ocean currents also diverting the trash all around the surface of the ocean. In reality, it's just one ocean with no boundaries. (23")

WAVES CRASHING ON THE OCEAN

MUSIC

NARRATION

CHILDREN PADDLING IN WATER

SUPER

Lord Howe Island, Near Australia

Lord Howe Island is a heritage site and home to migratory sea birds like the shear water. Seabirds are incredibly helpful because they act like an army

of scientists. They travel thousands of miles across the ocean. They pick up plastic off the surface of the ocean, they bring it back to their rookeries, where they feed it to their chicks and that provides an incredible amount of scientific data in terms of the place it comes from, it's distribution and how it breaks up on the ocean surface. (32")

### NAME SUPER

Dr. Jennifer Lavers, Marine Scientist

FLOCKS OF BIRDS IN THE SKY

DEAD BIRD ON THE BEACH

DR. LAVERS EXAMINING THE DEAD BIRD

### NARRATION

Dr. Jennifer Lavers, she's devoted her life to studying the plight of seabirds...(11")

she wards her incredible birds, they migrate thousands of miles, stopping only here to breed.(6")

CLOSE UP OF BIRDS STOMACH ENTRAILS

EXAMINING THE STOMACH WITH FINGERS

### DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)

*Yeah, the stomach is very, very full and if we look here, we see some very dark pieces, some very light pieces and if you see, if I push on this, it's absolutely rigid. Completely, completely full of plastic all the way up (16")*

LEESON LOOKING AT BIRDS ENTRAILS

### CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*Ugh look at that, (2")*

LAVERS AND LEESON LOOKING AT THE BIRD

### DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)

*Absolutely no doubt that this bird died as a result of that plastic. That is*

*literally a gut full of plastic. It's quite alarming isn't it. (9")*

CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*It's awful. (1")*

DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)

*A range of plastic types and colours, we've got everything from the blues and the reds to the...(5).*

EXAMINING THE BIRD'S STOMACH,  
PICKING OUT PLASTIC

CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*His stomach is just filled with it. Big pieces too. (3")*

TAKING PLASTIC OUT OF THE BIRD

DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)

*Big sharp pieces (2")*

CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*Oh wow, look at the size of that big black piece. (3")*

DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)

*That is an enormous piece of plastic.(2")*

LAVERS TAKING PLASTIC FROM  
THE BIRD AND PLACING ON TABLE

CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*Unbelievable.... Look at the size of that. (2")*

FAST-MOTION VIDEO PLACING  
PLASTIC IN ROWS

MUSIC

CRAIG LEESON (In English)

*Jen, I counted 234 pieces of plastic out*

*of that one bird. Is that a record? (6”)*

JEN WEIGHING THE PLASTIC FROM  
THE BIRD

DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)  
*Not even close, unfortunately. So for this species, the record is 276 pieces of plastic inside of one 90-day old chick. And that plastic when we weighed it out, counted for 15% of that bird’s body mass. So that’s a pretty scary statistic. If we translate that into human terms, it gets even worse. That would be equivalent to you or I having around 6 or 8 kilos of plastic inside of your stomach. That’s equivalent to about 12 pizzas – worth of food in your stomach.(30”)*

BEACH SHOTS BIRD ON THE  
SURFACE OF WATER

SUPER  
Midway Island, Pacific  
BIRD ROOKERIES

JEN ON BICYCLE WITH BIRDS

TEXT ON SCREEN  
The island has a very large population of Laysan albatross. It’s estimated that 90% of seabirds have swallowed plastic at some time in their lives. (17”)

JEN EXAMINING BABY BIRD  
INNARDS

DR. JENNIFER LAVERS (In English)  
*That’s quite a bit of plastic for one little bird. The parents were trying to do the right thing there’s a lot of squid beaks in here and this purple colour is evidence of the squid ink. It’s just a shame that every now and then they got it wrong and got it wrong in a bad way. (19”)*

MORE PLASTIC BEING PULLED  
FORM BIRDS INSIDES.

*It really is quite an overwhelming thing.*

*I do have some pretty rough days, have to go home and really wrap my mind around where do we go from here? (9”)*

PETER THOMSON (in English)

*As a Pacific Islander, I know that the ocean is in deep trouble. The very authoritative prediction shows that by the year 2050, there will be as much plastic as there is fish in the ocean by weight. (12”)*

NAME SUPER

Peter Thomson (Fiji), President, United Nations General Assembly

PLASTIC DEBRIS BEING WASHED UP

MUSIC

THOMSON ON CAMERA

PETER THOMSON (in English)

*Every country uses plastic. We’ll need to start rationalizing that. We need to start thinking about reuse of plastic, single use of plastic, has got to be on its way out. And you know, plastic shopping bags are a good example of that, your family does not need to use them. Take a cloth bag with you when you go shopping and put your shopping in that. (18”)*

TEXT ON SCREEN

Rwanda is one of the few countries to ban plastic bags

TEXT ON SCREEN

Haiti Plastic Bank – recycled plastic exchanged for cash and cell phone charging

FOOTAGE FROM RWANDA PAPER CENTRE

PETER THOMSON (in English)

*There’s an equivalent of a large*

MORE PLASTIC DEBRIS IN THE

WATER

BOTTLES AND OTHER PLASTIC  
BEING THROWN INTO THE WATER.

BIRDS FLY OFF INTO AIR

TEXT ON SCREEN

... re-use ...

... recycle ...

... reduce use of plastic ..

... and pledge your commitment

*garbage truck every minute, of every day backing up to the ocean and just dumping plastic into it. We really have to look at ourselves and say, "do we deserve this beautiful ocean that was given to us?" (14")*