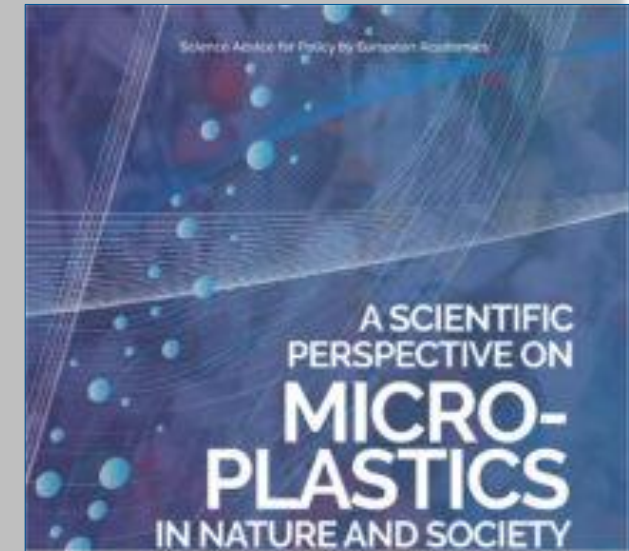


# ***Microplastics in nature and society: A scientific perspective***

of the European Academy consortium  
Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

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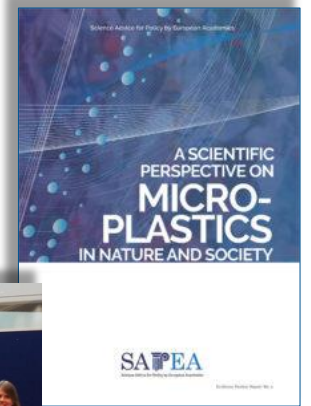
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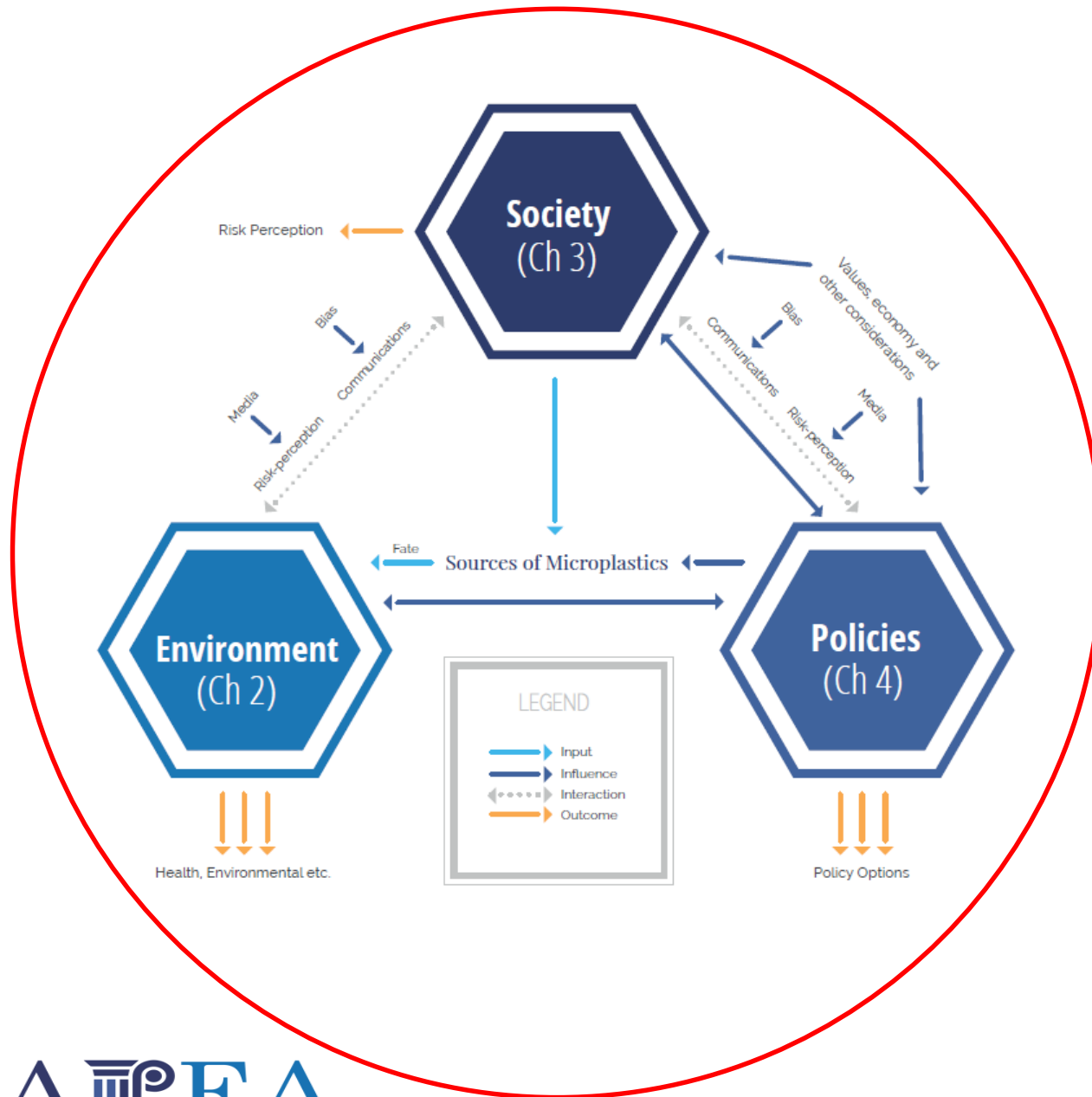
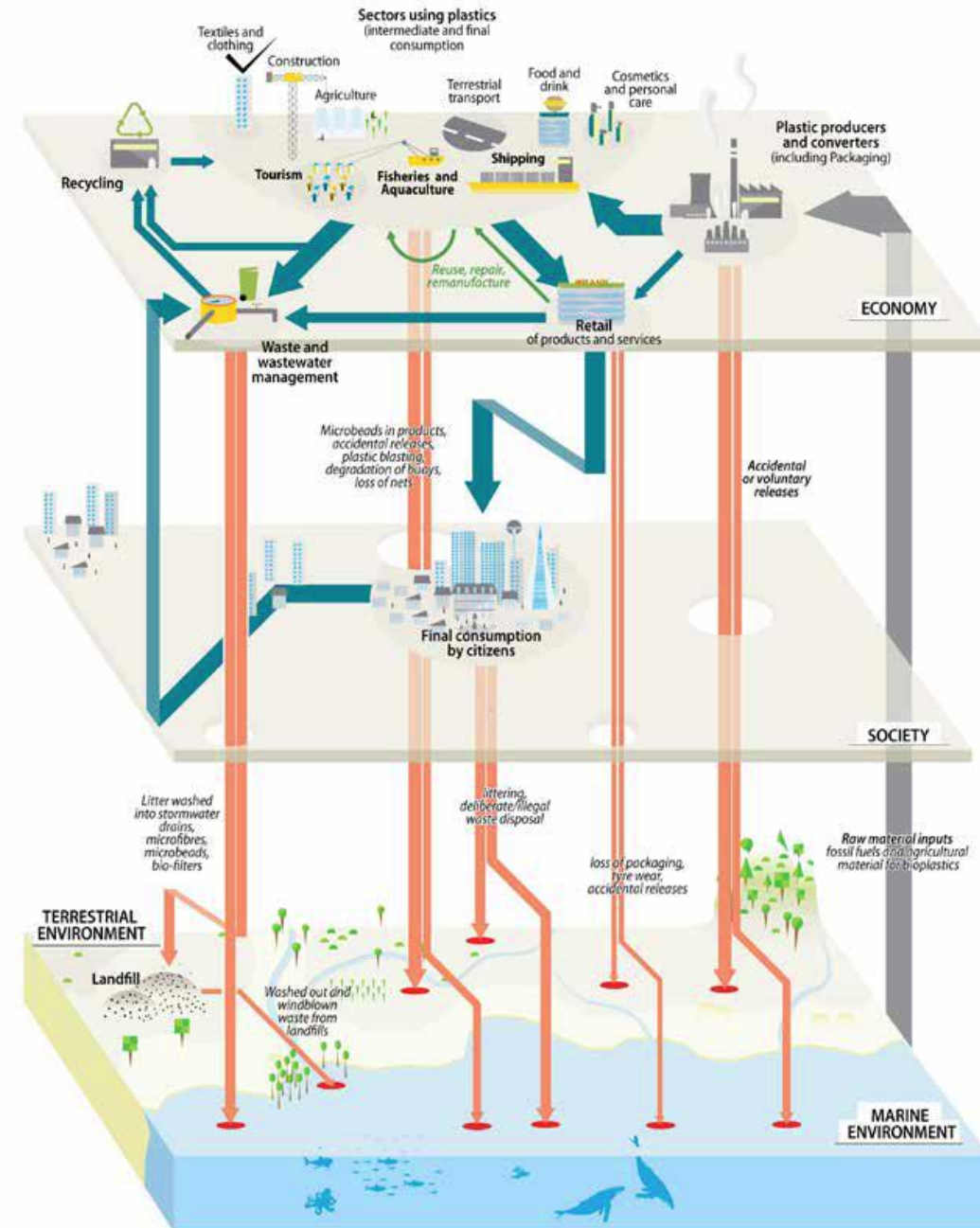
Dr Stephanie Wright, King's College London (United Kingdom)

# A Scientific Perspective on: Microplastics in Nature and Society

- Evidence review report (ERR)
- Systematic literature search
- A review of reviews
- New literature 2016-2018.
- Expert judgment
- Separate known from unknown
- External review
- Release ERR: January 10<sup>th</sup> 2019
- Microplastics Pollution Round-table, G7 Washington, February 2019
- Stakeholder meeting April 26<sup>th</sup> 2019
- SAM Scientific Opinion April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Applicable to other topics, e.g. SDGs

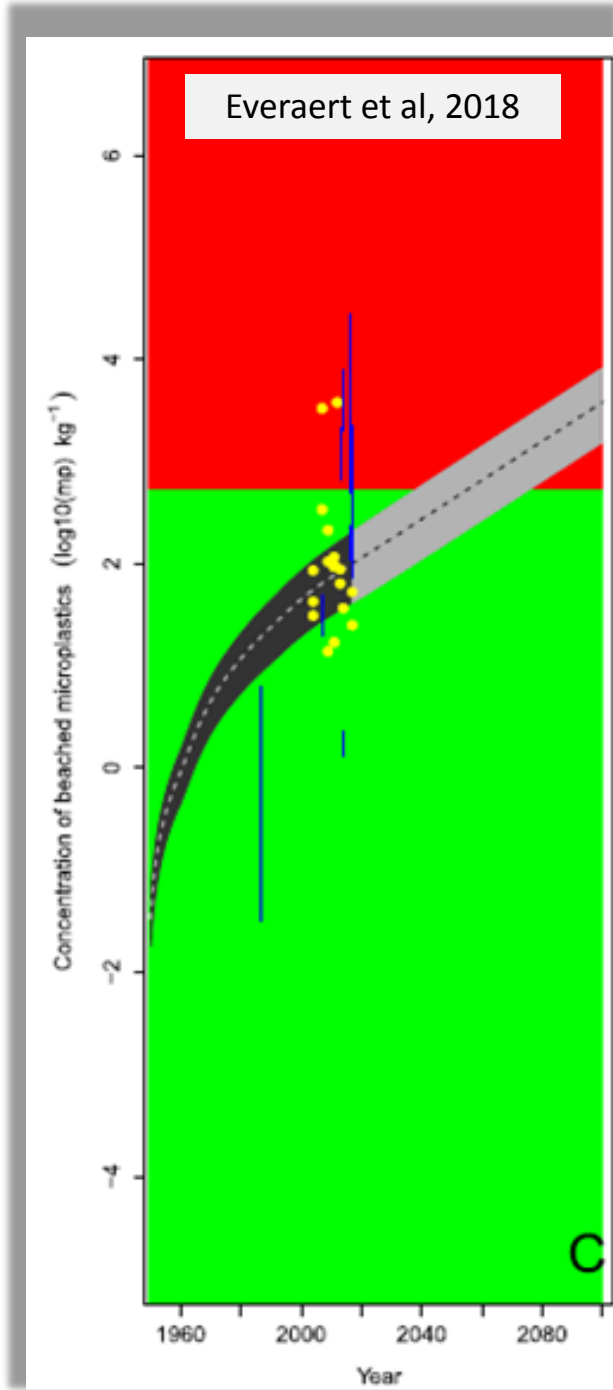


## How plastic moves from the economy to the environment



# Conclusions microplastics in environment

1. Currently there may some locations where environmental concentrations exceed the predicted no-effect level, however, there is no evidence for widespread ecological risks.
2. If emissions remain the same, ecological risks may be widespread within a century
3. Even though 'high quality' risk assessment is not yet feasible, action to reduce, prevent and mitigate is suggested (as an *option* for policy)
4. At the same time, it is important to develop and use risk assessment approaches to be able to prioritize these actions, and to plan where and when to apply them.



The best available evidence suggests that microplastics and nanoplastics do not pose a widespread risk to humans or the environment, except in small pockets. But that evidence is limited, and the situation could change if pollution continues at the current rate.

→ How do you communicate ‘no evidence of harm’, if:

- There is little evidence
- The evidence is contradictory
- The evidence is uncertain



Zoeken op Twitter

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BuzzFeed News

## Microplastics Are In Most Bottled Water But The WHO Says They're Not A Health Risk — For Now

Yesterday



UN News

## Microplastic pollution is everywhere, but not necessarily a risk to human health

Yesterday



just-drinks.com

## Plastic microparticles in bottled water "low risk" - World Health Organisation

50 minutes ago



Daily Mail

## UN drinking water report calls for a crackdown on microplastic pollution

Yesterday · International

euronews.

## Microplastics are in our drinking water, warns WHO

Yesterday

Reason

## Banned Microplastics Pose No Risk to Human Health, Says World Health Organization



Chelsea Rochman @ChelseaRochman · 22 aug.

Below, a perfect example of what happens when a report is solicited before an evidence base about the impacts of [#microplastics](#) on human health is built. Below, different interpretations of a WHO report by different news outlets. [#WeNeedMoreScience](#) @UofTTrashTeam

Daily Mail  
UN drinking water report calls for a crackdown on microplastic pollution  
Yesterday · International

euronews.  
Microplastics are in our drinking water, warns WHO  
Yesterday

Reason  
Banned Microplastics Pose No Risk to Human Health, Says World Health Organization  
4 hours ago

CNN  
Plastic particles in drinking water present 'low risk', WHO says  
Yesterday · International

The National  
Microplastics in drinking water not harmful to humans, WHO says  
7 hours ago · International

Sky News  
Microplastics in drinking water 'don't appear to pose health risk,' WHO says  
CNN · Yesterday  
[View full coverage](#)

BBC News  
Microplastics that can be absorbed into the body found in UK tap water  
Sky News · Yesterday

KATV  
UN: Don't worry about drinking microplastics in water  
KATV · Yesterday

Down To Earth Magazine  
WHO will release its first report on microplastics in drinking water  
Down To Earth Magazine · 2 days ago

72

112



Chelsea Rochman heeft geretweet



Kara Lavender Law @klavlaw · 22 aug.

"No evidence of harm" is not the same as "Evidence of no harm".  
[#WeNeedMoreScience](#)



Matt Cole @SciMatty · 22 aug.

Microplastics in water not harmful to humans, says WHO report

[theguardian.com/environment/20...](https://theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/20/who-report-microplastics-in-drinking-water-not-harmful-to-humans)



13

34



Seattle Times

## UN: Don't worry about drinking microplastics in water

Yesterday

WION

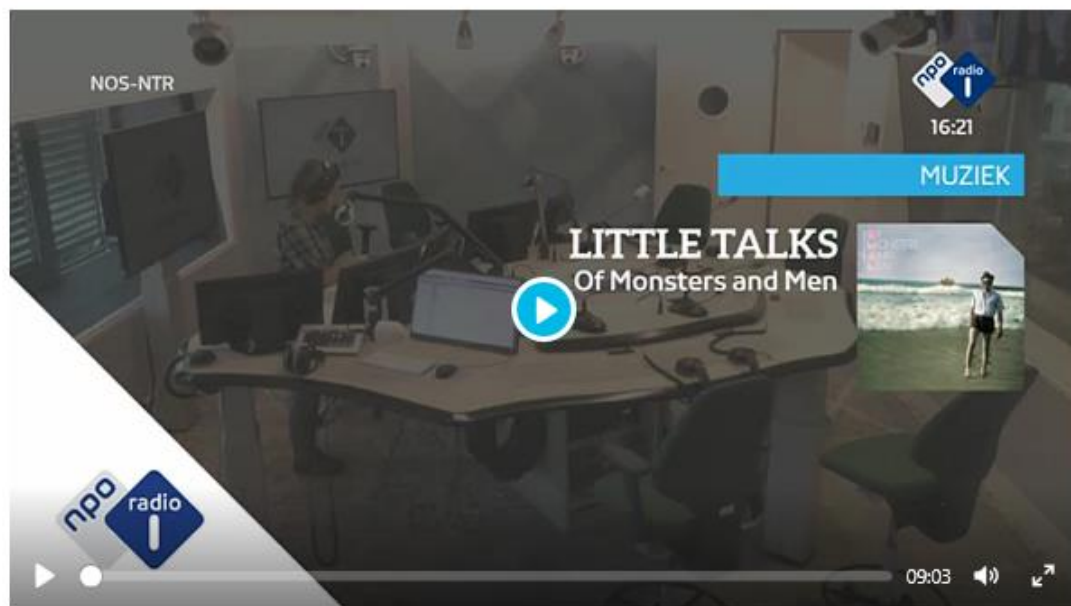
## Water with microplastics not harmful to humans, WHO report

2 hours ago



## De WHO is wél bezorgd om microplastics in drinkwater

donderdag 22 augustus 2019, 16:49 uur



['Microplastics in drinkwater vormen geen bedreiging voor de volksgezondheid'](#), ['Microplastics in water niet schadelijk voor de mens'](#), [\\* WHO: concentratie microplastics in drinkwater geen bedreiging voor volksgezondheid \\*](#), ['De Wereldgezondheidsorganisatie WHO is niet bezorgd om microplastics'](#).

Het zijn een aantal koppen van verschillende nieuwsmedia over het nieuwe rapport van de Wereldgezondheidsorganisatie WHO over microplastics in drinkwater. Maar zegt de WHO dat eigenlijk wel allemaal? Maakt het zich geen zorgen dat microplastics mogelijk schadelijk zijn voor de mens? Want in haar [officiële communicatie](#) roept de Wereldgezondheidsorganisatie juist op om dringend meer onderzoek te doen naar de microplastics en het risico op menselijke blootstelling te vermijden.

We praten er over met hoogleraar waterkwaliteitsbeheer Bart Koelmans van de Universiteit Wageningen. Koelmans is een van de co-auteurs van het WHO-rapport.

\* Deze [media](#) pasten hun kop later nog aan.



Thank You