

## Project Background

The Dimaniyat Island Nature Reserve (DINR) was designated as a nature reserve in 1996 under the Royal Decree No. 96/23 with the aim of conserving the near-pristine condition of the islands and their environment, as well as to protect the diverse ecosystems they support, including nesting sea turtles, seabirds and a range of other marine wildlife such as whales and dolphins, as well as some of Oman's best-developed coral reefs. The beauty and diversity of the islands make them a popular destination for tourists and locals alike to fish, dive and camp.

Due to recreational and fishing activities, the islands have become a magnet for rubbish and nets, impacting the unique biodiversity and species occupying the island and surrounding waters. In response, ESO organized four beach and four underwater cleanups in 2016 and 2017 to reduce the amount of marine debris, to identify the most common debris items found flowing into DINR, to involve local residents in a hands-on program to clean-up the islands and to inform management action on mitigating the impacts of marine debris on DINR.

ESO's study showed that 61% of the collected waste consisted of plastics in the following order: fishing nets, plastic bottles, plastic bags and food wrappers.

## Summary Numbers

8 cleanups at  
6 locations

120  
volunteers

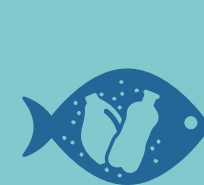
1,654 kg  
of waste collected

11,430  
pieces of waste removed

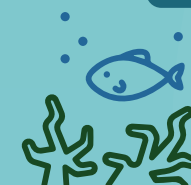
590 kg  
lost fishing gear

61%  
plastic waste

## Impacts of Marine Debris



Ingestion



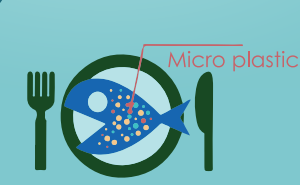
Habitat damage



Entanglement and ghost fishing

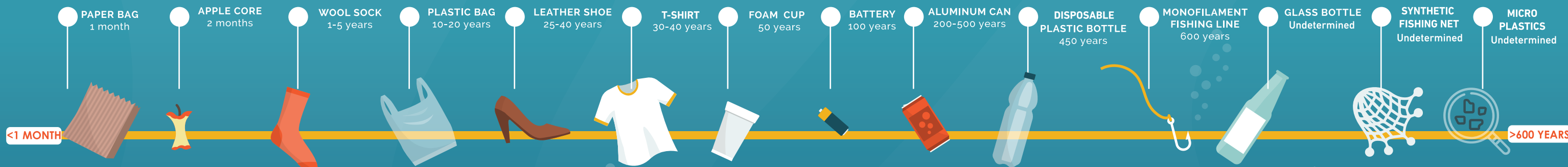


Non-native species



Health and wellbeing

## Marine Debris Decomposition



\*Although no one has lived for 450 or 600 years, many scientists believe that items are made from a type of plastic, such as: plastic grocery bag, plastic bottle, fishing line, fishing net, etc. never entirely go away. These decomposition rates are estimates for the time it takes for these items to become microscopic and no longer be visible. Sources: EPA, Woods Hole Sea Grant

## What Can We Do to Help?



Learn more on the impact of marine litter and share this knowledge



Buy items with minimal packaging



When visiting public areas ensure to collect and safely dispose of your waste



Support your government to address marine litter



Avoid anchoring on coral reefs



Avoid touching or chasing marine life



When visiting beaches avoid bright lights and loud music



Refuse single use plastics



Reduce your ecological footprint



Reuse



Recycle



Volunteer and support ESO

Initiative supported by