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Science Agency

Global Plastic Leakage Baseline Data Summary Report, Peru, Lima

Report for fieldwork conducted November 2018

CSIRO Marine Debris Team* in collaboration with Earthwatch Australia and Amcor

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Foreword

Plastic volume in the ocean is increasing rapidly, affecting wildlife, economies and potentially human health. Recent model projections suggest that somewhere between four and twelve million tons of plastic flow into the world's oceans each year, with much of this waste coming from urban centres (Jambeck et al. 2015). However, to date there has been very little data collected to empirically document the existence and extent of these plumes and to validate the model estimates.

Through this collaborative field-based project, CSIRO is developing the first global, empirical baseline estimate of mismanaged waste entering the coastal and marine environments near major urban centres in countries around the world. The project aims to identify links between land-based waste management and pollution entering the marine environment. The data collected is helping to clarify the magnitude of this pollution to the public, to industry and to policy makers. Learnings from the project can serve as a basis for decision making, and to support social pressure for investment in infrastructure and regulation for improved waste management. We hope the results can also be applied to engage with industry, the retail sector, government and consumers alike regarding best-practices. We also aim to improve waste management and increase the value of plastic to reduce poverty and create alternative livelihoods that are socially, culturally, economically, and environmentally appropriate and sustainable.

We are carrying out this research in countries all over the world, and thus far have surveyed major metropolitan centres in numerous countries in the Asia Pacific region, as well as South America and Africa. In Peru, CSIRO and Earthwatch Australia joined together to help achieve this goal, with the support of Amcor staff.

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1 Introduction

Increasingly considered a tragedy of the commons of the 21st century (Vince and Hardesty 2016), plastic pollution is a wicked problem (Landon-Lane 2018; McIntyre 2020). Trash knows no geopolitical borders, moving with people, rivers, through the landscape and ultimately, if not managed properly, it can be lost into the global ocean. We know that mismanaged waste results in negative social, economic and ecological outcomes. There is substantial value in collecting data to help improve our understanding of the sources and drivers of why, when, where, and how waste is lost to the environment. Furthermore, knowing how waste moves through the environment, the impact our waste has on people, communities, wildlife and economies, and how we can implement policies to result in better outcomes can arm us with the knowledge to make better decisions. Collected properly and consistently, data affords us a metric, a tangible means of measuring change through time and space. This is fundamentally important to understand how effective new actions, activities and legislative measures are in terms of reducing waste entering the environment.

In late 2016, CSIRO was successful in securing funds to embark on a world first project which aims to quantify how much waste is leaking to the environment, where it is entering the environment, and to identify interventions that may be successful in stemming the flow of plastic pollution from land to the sea. The primary objective of the project is to use field sampling and mathematical modelling to document the distribution of plastic in the ocean, on the coast and in the nearshore environment generated by major urban centres and surrounding areas that have been identified as having significant waste mis-management losses into the coastal/marine environment. We initially targeted 6-8 major metropolitan areas in different countries around the world, with a focus in South East Asia. We were focusing on this part of the world because it has been identified as a region of high waste losses to the environment (Jambeck et al. 2015). Furthermore, recent work has suggested that many of the world's major polluting rivers are located in Asia (Lebreton et al. 2017). Rivers are increasingly recognized as critical conduits to plastic waste entering the oceans (Wagner et al. 2019), further highlighting the need for research such as this where empirical data is used to ground-truth predictions and inform model-based estimates of waste in the environment. However, this does not mean that we want to overlook other critical countries and regions of the world where mismanaged waste is also a significant issue. In fact, with the growing population numbers and change in accepting waste from overseas across countries in Asia, ensuring representation from countries across Africa and the Americas is critical.

Understanding the transport of plastics from land into coastal and marine systems is critical for modelling the distribution and trends of plastic in the ocean, estimating its impact on regional economies near sources, and clarifying the magnitude of this pollution to the public, to industry, and to policy-makers. With a robust, comparable baseline of information, we not only are poised to evaluate policy effectiveness and change through on-ground activities at local, national and international scales, but we are starting to see these changes happen.

A further objective of the global plastics leakage project is to increase the capacity and skillset for on-ground partners in multiple countries, helping to build the breadth and depth of skills to monitor coastal and ocean health beyond the life of this project. The more people are armed with knowledge and skills across jurisdictions, the better equipped individuals, communities and governments will be to make the decisions needed to ensure the best outcomes possible to ensure growth, health, wealth and well-being and ensure sustainability and a reduction in waste leaking to the environment.

We hope that the results from this work will serve as an international baseline against which progress can be gauged through time and space. Ideally, governments from all levels, from local or municipal to state and national will be able to use the information from this work to inform or underpin policies and decisions that will ultimately lead to a reduction in waste entering the environment. We also hope that the results can provide opportunities to engage with industry regarding best-practices and product identification for major brands which are frequently lost into the environment.

1.1 A Partnership in Action

In November 2018, CSIRO, Earthwatch Australia and 16 Amcor employees from around the world joined together to quantify the amount of debris coming from land in the metropolitan and surrounding regional areas of Lima, Peru, and arriving at the coast. The Lima region was selected because it represented an urban region of significance within the country and is the largest city (by population) within the country. Furthermore, we identified the region as an area that could be sampled within a reasonable time frame (~ 2 weeks) with the Amcor team. Additionally, the region or watershed also has a river system which could transport debris to the sea, and hence was deemed appropriate in the context of the overall global project. Our ultimate goal was to develop a baseline measurement of debris along an approximately 230 km stretch of coastline and the surrounding riverine and inland areas of Lima. To this aim, we conducted field surveys that included coastal, inland, and river-side surveys following a statistically robust and user-friendly sampling methodology. With a few days of training, the crew was ready to tackle the challenge of sampling.

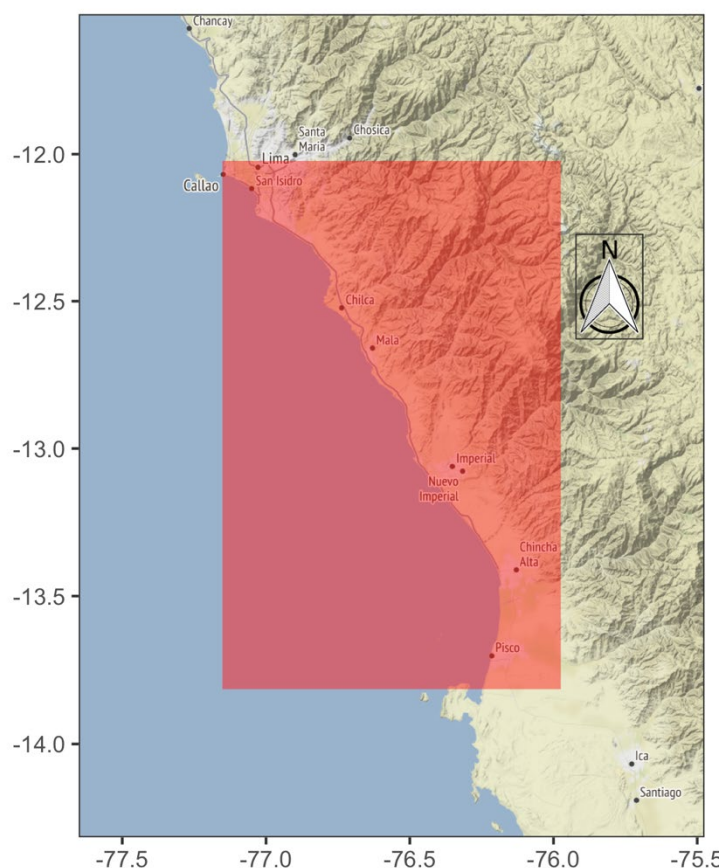


Figure 1. Location of study area.

1.2 Site Selection and Study Area

Our target area included the metropolitan and regional areas surrounding Lima (Figure 1). We selected a region roughly 230 km long from the town of Callao to the town of Pisco. The inland and river sites surveyed extended inland past Cieneguilla. The study area was constricted further inland by an inaccessible mountainous region.

Survey locations were assessed for suitability by CSIRO and Earthwatch staff in advance of the Amcor team arriving in Peru. Sites were selected based on a suite of criteria and were intended to sample across the range of a variety of covariates, including population density, land use type, road and transportation networks. We aimed to strike a balance between sites that were representative across the watershed region we were surveying and ensuring travel times between sites were not so long as to make field work impractical. While all of the sites were selected in advance, occasionally chosen site locations could not be accessed in the field. This could be due to a range of reasons, including that the points fell on private land or were unsafe to access. In these instances, surveyors chose the nearest location that was accessible to and in a similar environment as the originally designated site.

During the first days, participants and trainers worked together to ensure all participants received consistent, intensive training on how to collect, record, report, and make decisions regarding debris items, site selection characteristics, and other key factors required for consistency in data collection for the different survey methods (coastal, inland, and river). Following the training period, we divided into a number of teams to carry out fieldwork safely and securely over the chosen study region. The group successfully completed surveys at a total of 89 sites (Figure 2).

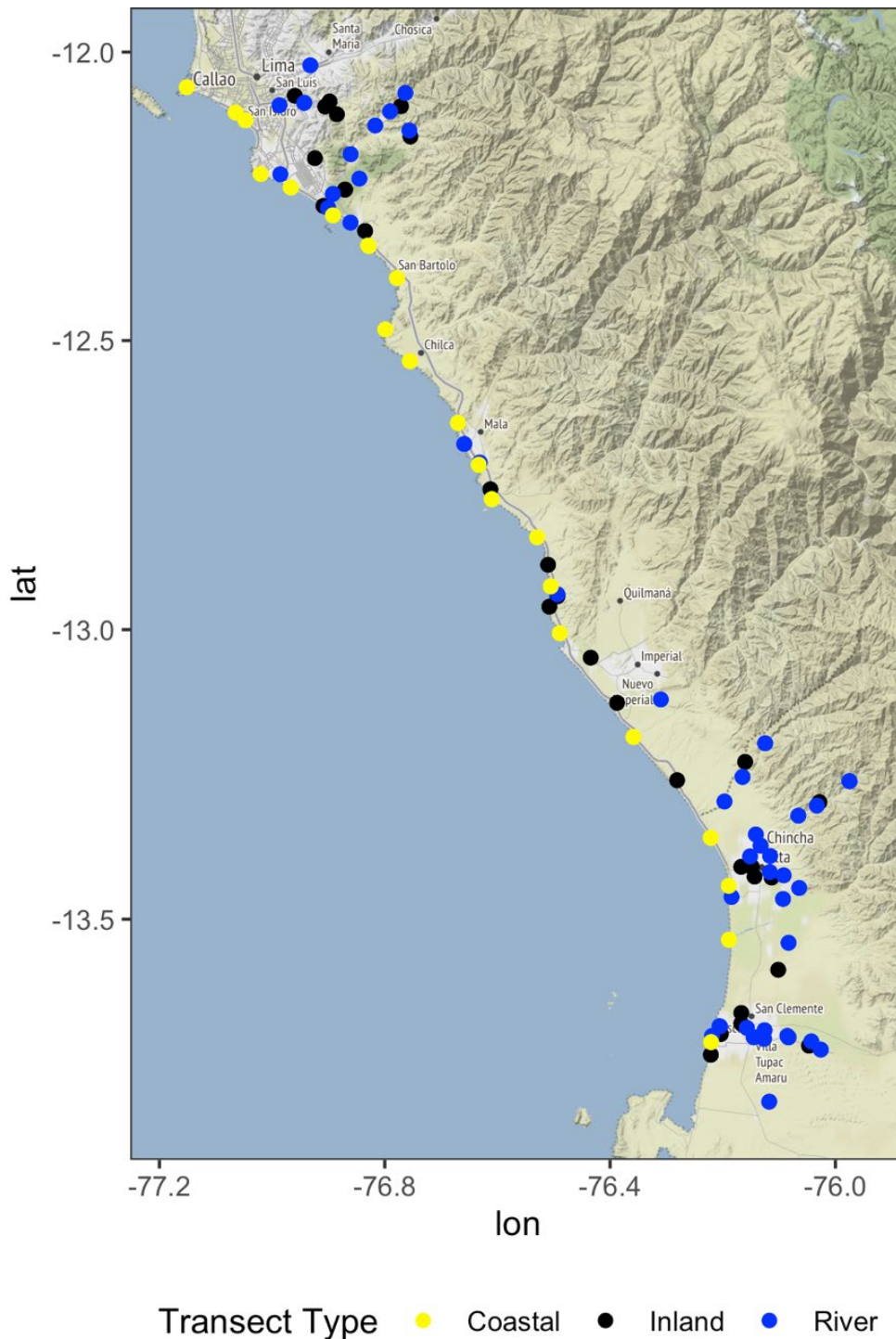


Figure 2. Location of completed surveys along the selected region of coastal Peru. The yellow points are coastal sites, the black points are inland sites, the blue points are river sites.

1.2.1 Coastal sites

Coastal sites are defined as those sites that occur directly up to the ocean's edge. They could encompass any of a number of substrates and were not limited to sandy beaches. Coastal sites were selected between Callao to the north of Lima to Pisco in the south near Paracas, at approximately 10 km intervals along the coastline. We selected this interval because this provided us with an adequate or appropriate number of sites to be representative of the coastline as a whole and was enough samples to provide the statistical robustness required for analysis purposes.

1.2.2 Inland sites

To select inland survey sites, we placed a 5 km grid over the study region and selected the centre of each 5 km x 5 km cell. We then used globally available Geographic Information System (GIS) spatial layers to quantify several factors that have been shown in our previous work to be associated with the amount of debris or litter observed (covariates). Covariates included the local population density, land use type, distance to the nearest road, distance to the coast, distance to the nearest river and distance to the nearest railway station. We also used proxies for socio-economic status, including night lights within 1 km radius of the site. Additionally, we included a measurement of the total monetary value of the built environment (both rural and urban), calculated by the United Nations as part of a global exposure dataset aimed at on disaster risk management (GAR15) (UNDDR, 2015). We carried out a stratified random sampling design to select sites that covered, as much as possible, the full spectrum of these important covariates.

1.2.3 River sites

We used a global GIS data layer of rivers (<https://hydrosheds.org/>), and subset the layer to select sites every 15 km along the river features, starting at the coast. From this set of points, for ease of access, we selected sites that were less than 2 km from the road and no more than 7 km from another inland site.

2 Methods

The initial few days the team was together were spent explaining the goals of the project and training participants in the survey methods. All participants learned to search, record data, and lay out transects for river, inland and coastal surveys. Furthermore, participants were provided an electronic copy of CSIRO's survey methods handbook for reference, and a hard copy of the handbook was available for each vehicle transporting participants.

Debris was measured at each land-based site type (river, coastal and inland) using a consistent survey method. Once a site was chosen, a Site Information Sheet (Figure 3) was completed before any surveys took place. This sheet collected information about the site's aspect, accessibility, apparent cleanliness, and number of people present, as well as weather conditions, time of day, and details of the survey recorder.

At each site, a minimum of three and a maximum of six transects were carried out. For river and coastal surveys, transect lengths varied depending on site characteristics such as the width of the shoreline (distance from the waterline to the backshore vegetation) and riverbank height. There was no fixed length for these two survey types, the length of the transect was dependent upon the local environment, and each transect was 2 m wide. For inland surveys, survey dimensions were fixed at either 12.5 m long x 2 m wide, or 25 m long x 1 m wide.

Transects were laid out with a metre tape. For coastal and river transects, the transect always began at the water's edge and ran perpendicular until reaching two metres into the backshore vegetation. For inland transects, the starting point was that which was closest to the GPS location identifying the site. The transect was also divided into ten equal distance intervals that encompassed the full length of the transect. For example, an 18 m long transect would have ten 1.8 m intervals or segments. Typically, two people walked the transect (each surveying a 1m wide swath) while a third person recorded the debris category for every item found, and whether it was a whole item or a fragment. This information allows us to understand whether the items are likely to have been recently littered or are slightly older and more degraded. Observers were each provided with a string that was one metre wide to ensure only items within the survey width were recorded. This prevents errors that can occur if observers include items that may fall just outside the one metre wide transect zone.

Each item observed was recorded in a debris category (See Appendix A). The size class was also recorded for the first item found in each distance interval (and if no item occurs in that distance interval a 0 or dash (-) was recorded). The purpose of recording this size information is to gain an indication of the sizes of items across the each transect. We are striking the balance between time required and important information to collect. We acknowledge it would be too time consuming and labour intensive to record the size of every single item (particularly since we can sometimes report hundreds or even thousands of items on an individual transect).

For an in-depth methodology on all survey types please refer to the CSIRO handbook which can be found [here](#) (Schuyler et al. 2018).

INLAND SITE INFORMATION SHEET (AIN)

GENERAL DETAILS		Organization responsible for survey
Location:	EACHTWATCH	Name of data recorder
Recorder name:	LAIN COCHETTO	Contact number for data recorder
Contact number:	0415 321 174	Contact email for data recorder
Contact email:	lain.cochetto@amcor.com	
Site location:	Latitude: -34.926 Longitude: 18.4300	Latitude and longitude of site location (dd.dddd). Ensure GPS is in WGS 84.
GPS Accuracy:		Accuracy (metres) of GPS at time of reading
SITE DETAILS		
Location/Municipality:	CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NAT. PARK	Town location of site
Country:	SOUTH A.	Country in which site was sampled
Survey date:	23.10.17	Date survey undertaken (dd/mm/yyyy)
Site name:	GILFADMMETSIE RD	Unique name of site
Photo number/s:	MARK	The name of photos from the site
Dominant land use:	Industrial Residential Commercial/Municipal <input checked="" type="radio"/> Natural/Parkland <input type="radio"/> Agricultural <input type="radio"/> Roadway	Circle best option to describe the dominant land use of the site
Number of humans:	Time of day (00:00): 11:00 No. of people: 0	Number of people counted in a 100 x 100m grid
Current weather:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Clear <input type="radio"/> Rain/Storm <input type="radio"/> Overcast <input type="radio"/> Drizzle	Circle best option to describe the weather.
Wind speed:	0 1 2 3 4 5 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 3	0: calm 1: light breeze (<10km/h, <6 knots) 2: mod. breeze (10-25km/h, 6-22 kt) 3: strong breeze (25-49km/h, 21-26 kn) 4: high wind (50-65 km/h, 27-35 kn) 5: gale (65-85 km/h, 35-45 kn)
Wind direction: (compass)	N NE E SE <input checked="" type="radio"/> SW W NW N/A	Direction from which wind is coming measured by the compass. N/A if no wind.
Date of last clean up:		If known
Access to site:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Paved <input type="radio"/> Unpaved <input type="radio"/> Trail <input type="radio"/> Other (specify):	
Trash cans or rubbish bins present?	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Cleanliness at first glance:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No debris visible <input type="radio"/> Scattered debris visible <input type="radio"/> Lots of debris visible <input type="radio"/> Large amounts of dumped debris	
Evidence of dumping? (circle one or more)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> None <input type="radio"/> Construction <input type="radio"/> Household <input type="radio"/> Other(specify):	
Evidence of recent activities at site: (circle one or more)	<input type="radio"/> Clean-up or removal of rubbish <input type="radio"/> Apparent spilled trash or rubbish <input type="radio"/> Storm or flood <input type="radio"/> High winds <input type="radio"/> Public event <input type="radio"/> Mowing	
Comments:		

Figure 3. Site information sheet used to collect data for survey locations.

2.1 Analysis

To design effective interventions and prevent mismanaged waste from entering the sea, it is important to understand what is driving the distribution of debris. Based on previous work, we investigated several different factors that could influence debris distribution. At each survey site, we collected information on the local conditions, including the number of visible humans, the slope of the land, the height of the vegetation, the percent of the transect that was bare ground, and the substrate colour (see Schuyler et al. 2018 for example data sheets).

We also integrated information from globally available GIS layers, including the local population density, land use type, distance to the nearest road, distance to the coast, distance to the nearest river and distance to the nearest railway station. We also used proxies for socio-economic status, including night lights within 1 km radius of the site. Additionally, we included a measurement of the total monetary value of the built environment (both rural and urban), calculated by the United Nations as part of a global exposure dataset aimed at disaster risk management (UNDDR, 2015). We put these covariates into a statistical model, designed to determine which factors are most strongly correlated with debris amounts in the survey sites. We used the R program mgcv and MuMin packages (Wood, 2011; R Core Team, 2018; Bartoń, 2018) to find the model with the lowest AIC value, which explains the most amount of the variability in the data. More than one

model was within two AIC points of the best model, which means they are essentially equivalent models. In order to incorporate information from all relevant models, we used model averaging to get the best-fit model.

For coastal analyses, we used an offset of lineal metres for the model, to reflect that the measure of interest was the amount of debris along the lineal coast, while for inland analyses, we used the offset of the area of each transect. We examined residuals of the models to look for indications of non-linear patterns in explanatory variables. We ran comparative models using some variables as categorical, or continuous smoothed variables to identify better fit. To be able to directly compare the covariates and determine which best predicts the observed debris amounts, we calculated the effect size. Terms with a positive effect size have a positive correlation with the amount of debris, while terms with a negative effect size are negatively correlated with the amount of debris. In other words, the higher the value of the covariate, the lower the amount of debris. The higher the absolute value of the effect size, whether positive or negative, the more that particular covariate explains the variability in the debris found (see Figure 9 and Figure 12).

3 Results and Discussion

A total of 37,755 debris items were detected and recorded across the 89 sites surveyed.

The ten most abundant fragment debris items found in the surveys included brick/cement, soft plastics, ceramics, polystyrene, and other single use items such as thin film bags and food wrappers (Figure 4). Brick/cement accounted for 20.4% of all fragment items found, followed by unknown/other soft plastic at 15.5%.

The ten most abundant whole debris items found across all survey types were dominated by single use items such as thin film bags, bottle caps, food wrappers and cigarette butts (Figure 5). Overall, thin film carry bags were most abundant with 15.7% of all whole items found, followed by bottle cap/lid at 12.6%.

In terms of debris density, river surveys had the highest debris density with 5.3 items found per m² (Figure 6). Overall, river debris density was 1.7 times that observed at coastal sites, and 1.5 times that observed at inland sites.

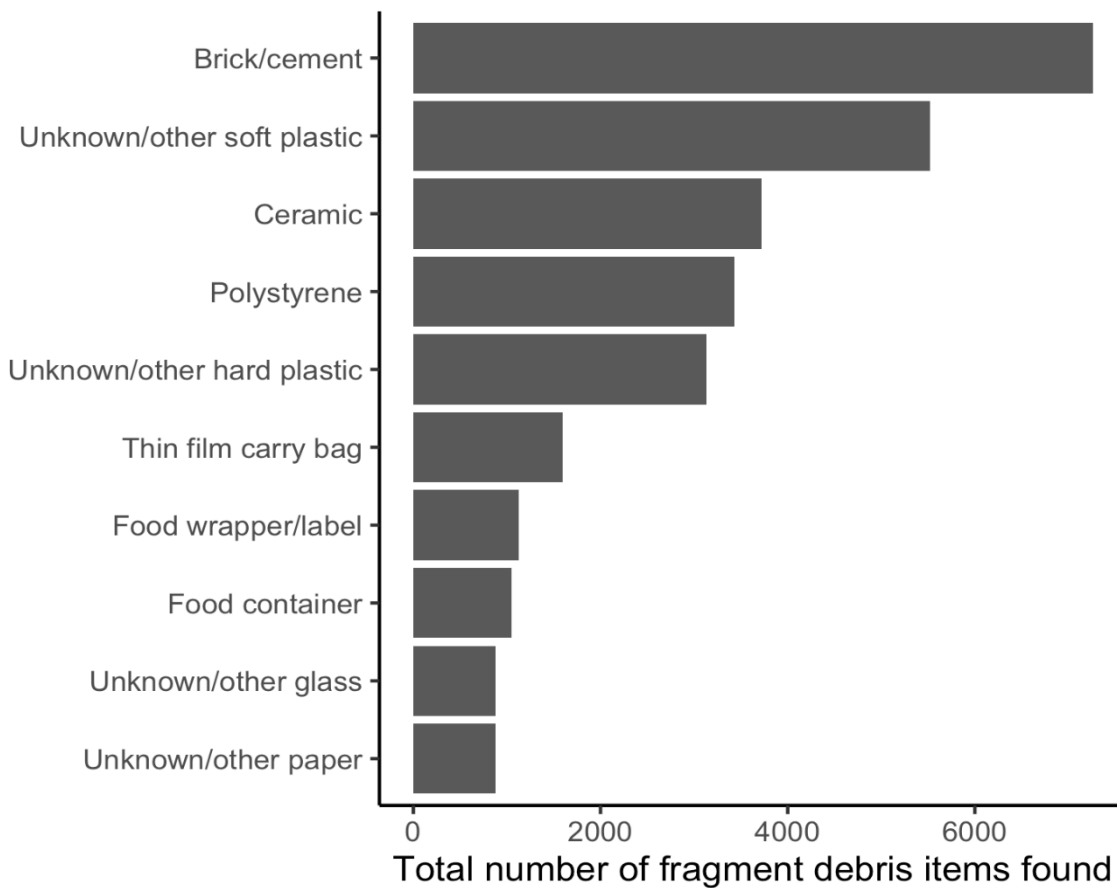


Figure 4. The ten most abundant debris items (fragments) found across the coastal, inland, and river surveys combined.

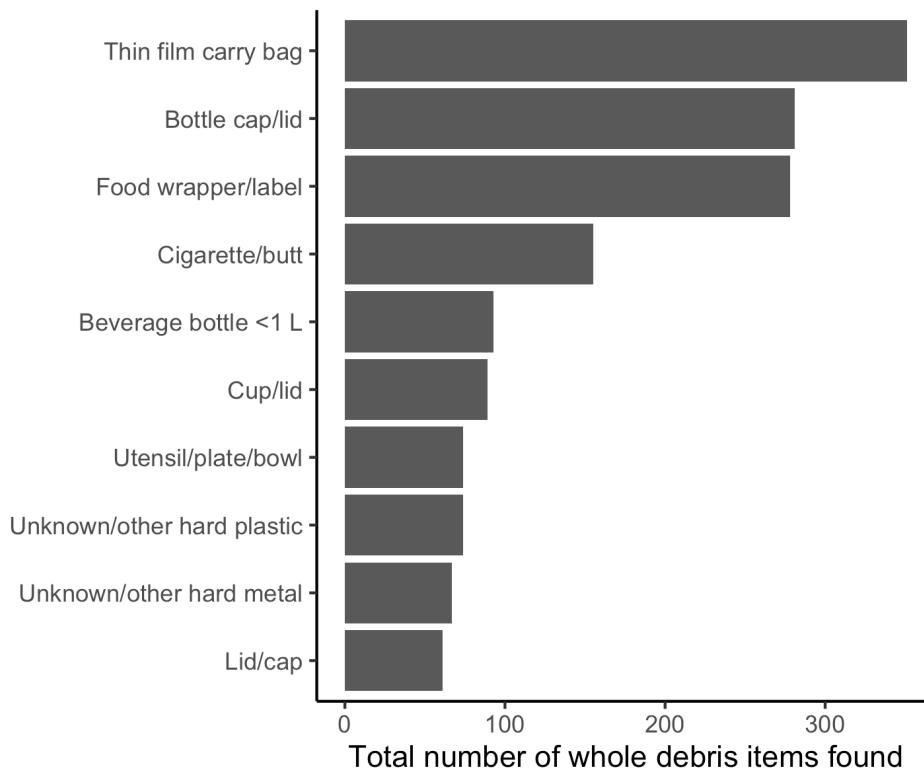


Figure 5. The ten most abundant debris items (whole) found across the coastal, inland, and river surveys combined.

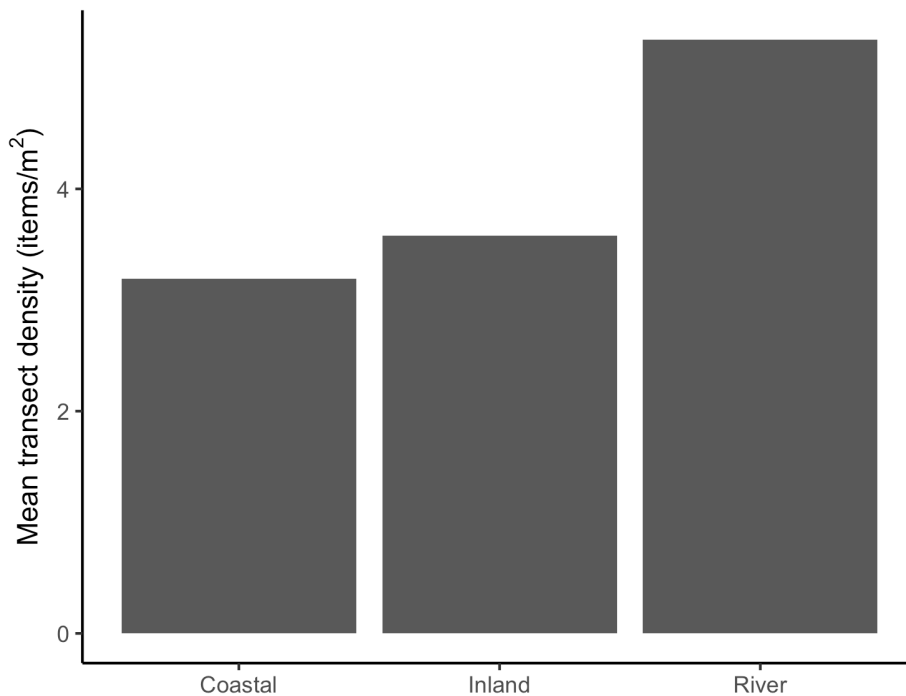


Figure 6. The mean density of debris found across all transects from coastal, inland and river surveys.

3.1 Coastal Surveys

A total of 63 transects were completed at 20 coastal sites. Overall, 16,218 items were recorded within coastal surveys. On average, across all transects, 128.71 items of debris per lineal metre of coastline were recorded.

Polystyrene was the most common *fragment* type found with 3127 pieces or 20.6% of the total fragment items recorded. Unknown/other soft plastic was the second most recorded item with 2867 items recorded and unknown/other hard plastic was the third most common, with 2186 pieces recorded.

Bottle cap/lid was the most common *whole* item found with 212 pieces or 20.4% of the total whole items recorded. Food wrapper/label was the second most recorded item with 139 items recorded and cigarette/butt was the third most common, with 91 pieces recorded.



Figure 7. The team cleaning up debris after finishing a transect at a coastal debris survey site.

A size class was estimated for 497 debris items with size class 3 being the most common found (size class 3 objects are larger than 2 cm x 2 cm, but smaller than 4 cm x 4 cm). For further information refer to the size class chart in the [Marine Debris Survey Handbook] (<https://research.csiro.au/marinedebris/resources/>). Of all items recorded, 26% were 16 cm² or smaller.

There was substantial variation in the number of debris items observed across the coastal surveys (in the unit of log number of items per lineal metre) (Figure 8). The highest number of items found on a coastal survey was at site PLIC24 located at -13.712, -76.221 east of Pisco. Of the 2590 items recorded at this site, 1419 of them were classified as D4_F: Polystyrene fragments.

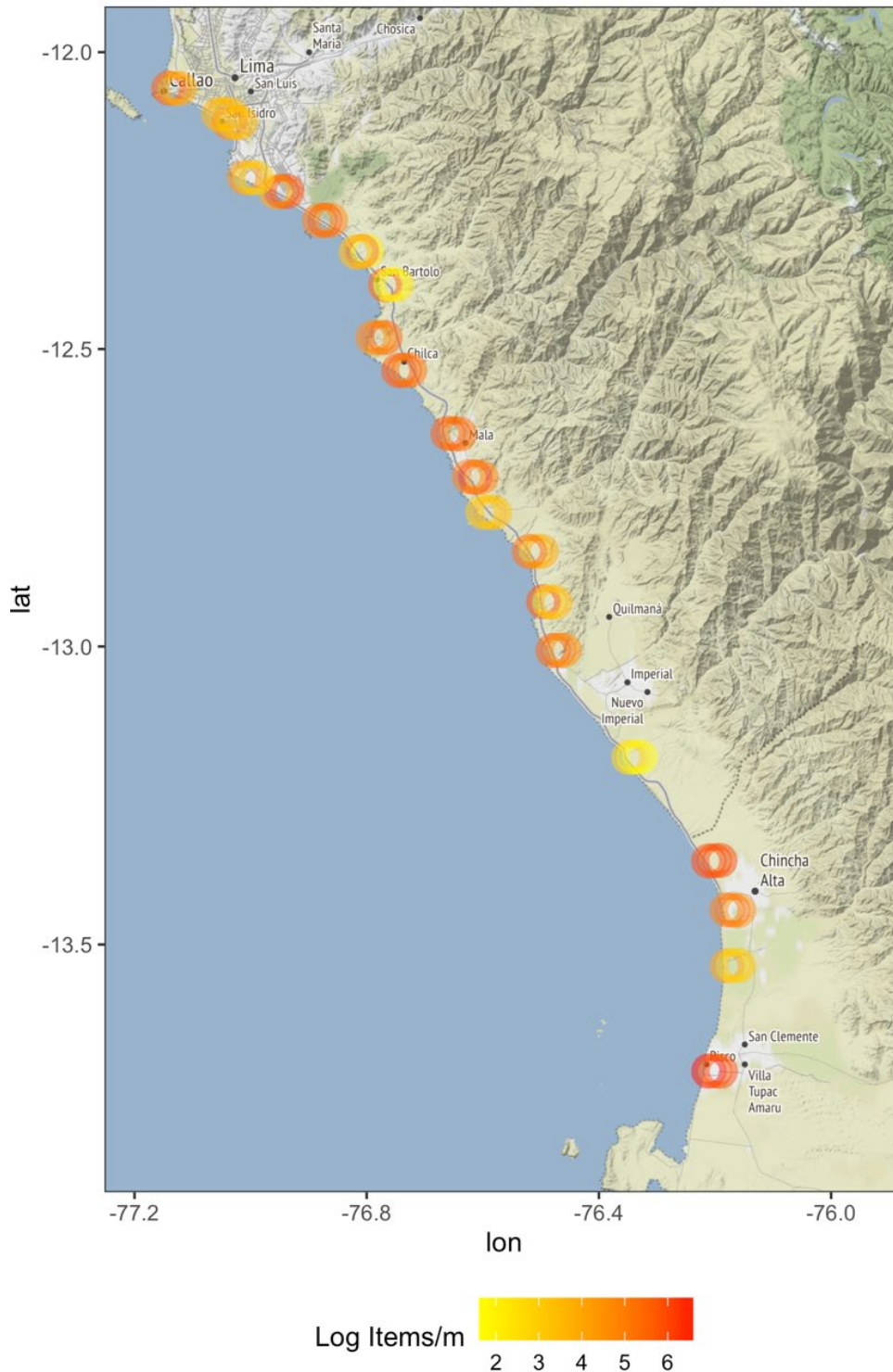


Figure 8. The log number of items per lineal metre for coastal sites in Peru.

After running the GAM, one coastal model was selected. In the best final model, five terms were statistically significant. While the remaining terms were not statistically significant at $P = 0.05$ level, they did explain some of the variability in the model, and thus were left in the model. The terms with the highest effect size were LanduseAgg, wind shore, and wind compass. The density of debris was greater for offshore winds than no wind, for Eastern winds rather than South-eastern, for Villages, Rangelands or Dense Settlements that Cropland, for increasing urban property value and decreasing rural property value.

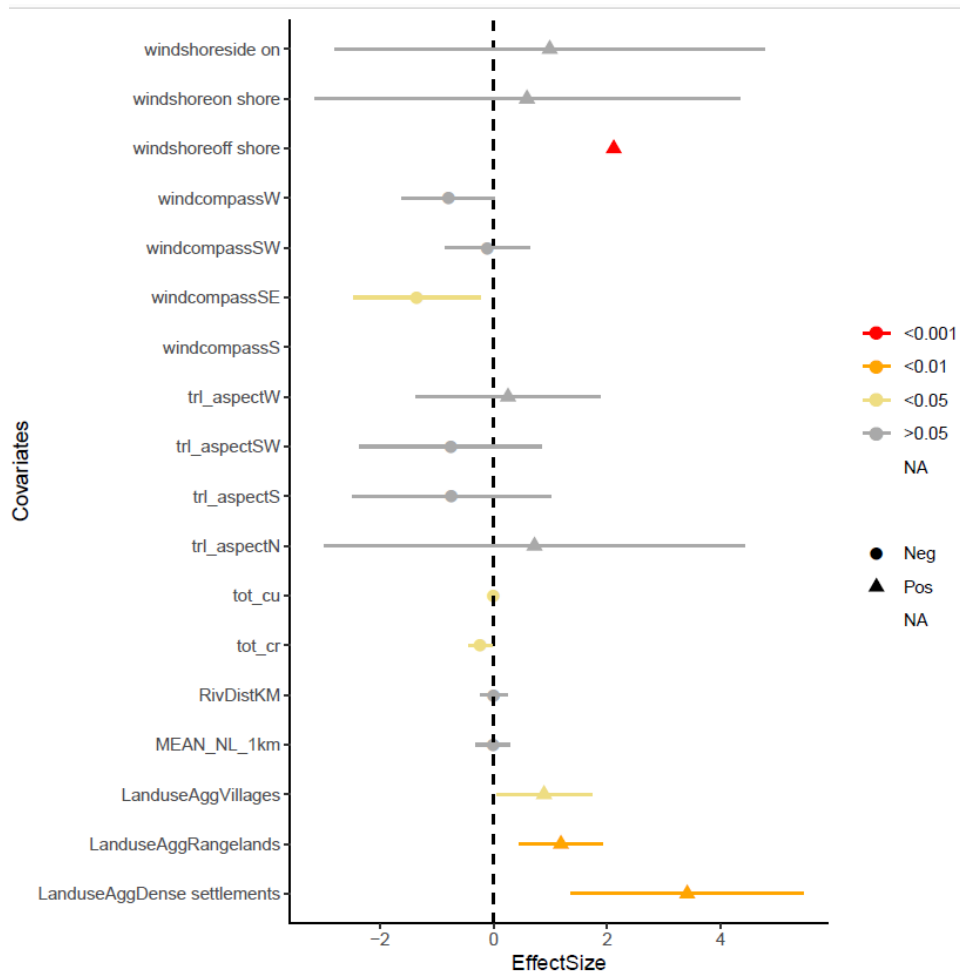


Figure 9. Model average effect size plot for coastal transects. Colour represents the p-value significance level, and the lines are the standard error for each term. Triangles denote a positive coefficient for a given factor, whereas circles denote a negative coefficient. The effect size is calculated as the median value of the factor times its coefficient. Reference variables for categorical variables were No wind for wind shore (wind in relation to the shore), wind from the east for wind compass (the absolute direction of the wind), and Croplands for LanduseAgg.

3.2 Inland Surveys

The team completed 90 transects at 29 inland sites across a range of site types including roadways, car parks, natural vegetation and agricultural landscapes (Figure 10). A total of 8057 items were recorded on inland transects, equivalent to an average of 3.58 pieces of debris for every square metre of land surveyed.



Figure 10. (L) Transect at an inland (urban) survey site. (R) Debris survey at an inland (rural) survey site.

Brick/cement was the most common *fragment* type found with 1438 pieces or 19.07% of the total fragment items recorded. Unknown/other soft plastic was the second most recorded item with 1122 items recorded and unknown/other hard plastic was the third most common, with 601 pieces recorded.

Thin film carry bag was the most common *whole* item found with 67 pieces or 12.98% of the total whole items recorded. Food wrapper/label was the second most recorded item with 58 items recorded and cigarette/butt was the third most common, with 56 pieces recorded.

A size class was estimated for 635 debris items with size class 3 being the most common found (size class 3 objects are larger than 2 cm x 2 cm, but smaller than 4 cm x 4 cm). For further information refer to the size class chart in the *Marine Debris Survey Handbook*. Of all items recorded, 35% were 16cm² or smaller.

Figure 11 shows the differences in the number of debris items observed across the inland surveys (in the unit of log number of items per square metre). The highest number of items found on an inland survey was at site PLII08 located at -13.428, -76.113 in a farming area west of Cruz Blanca .

Of the 1109 items recorded at this site, 673 of them were classified as Z2_F: Brick/cement fragments.

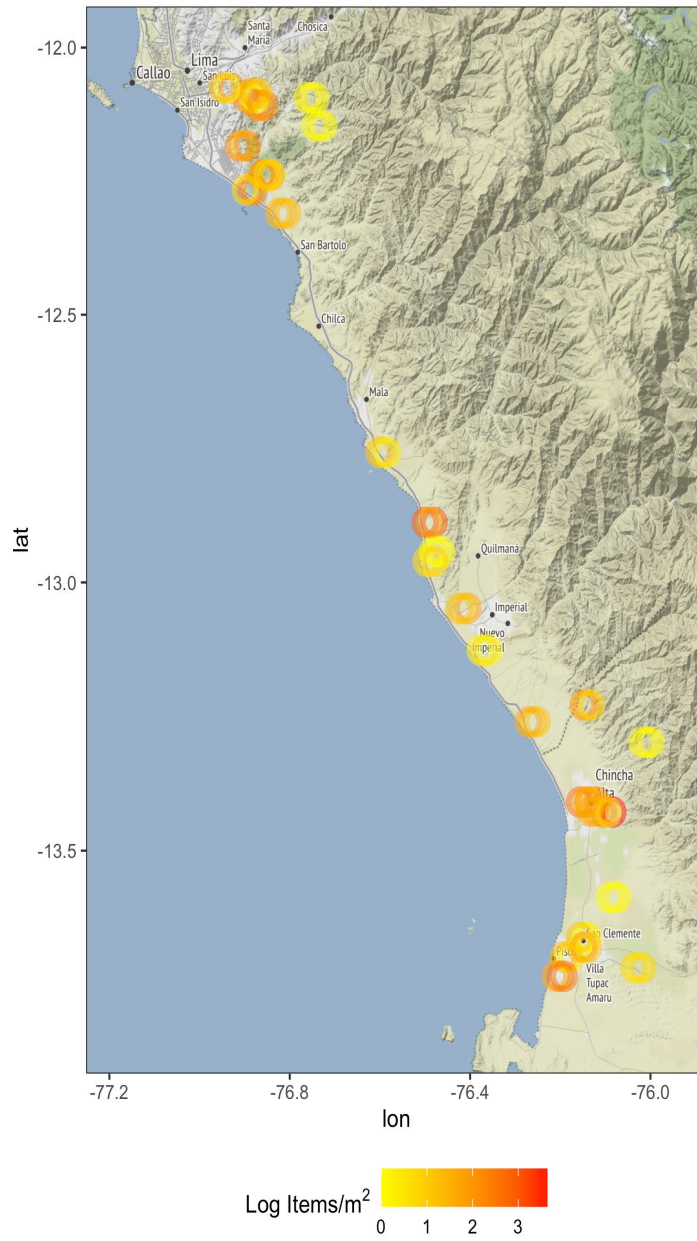


Figure 11. The log number of items per square metre for inland sites in Peru.

In Peru, after running the GAM, 28 inland models were equally as good as one another. These models were averaged to get the best final model. In the best final model, one terms was statistically significant: Site Type. While the remaining terms were not statistically significant at a P = 0.05 level, they did explain some of the variability in the model, and thus were left in the model. Roadways had significantly higher debris than the reference type, Agriculture.

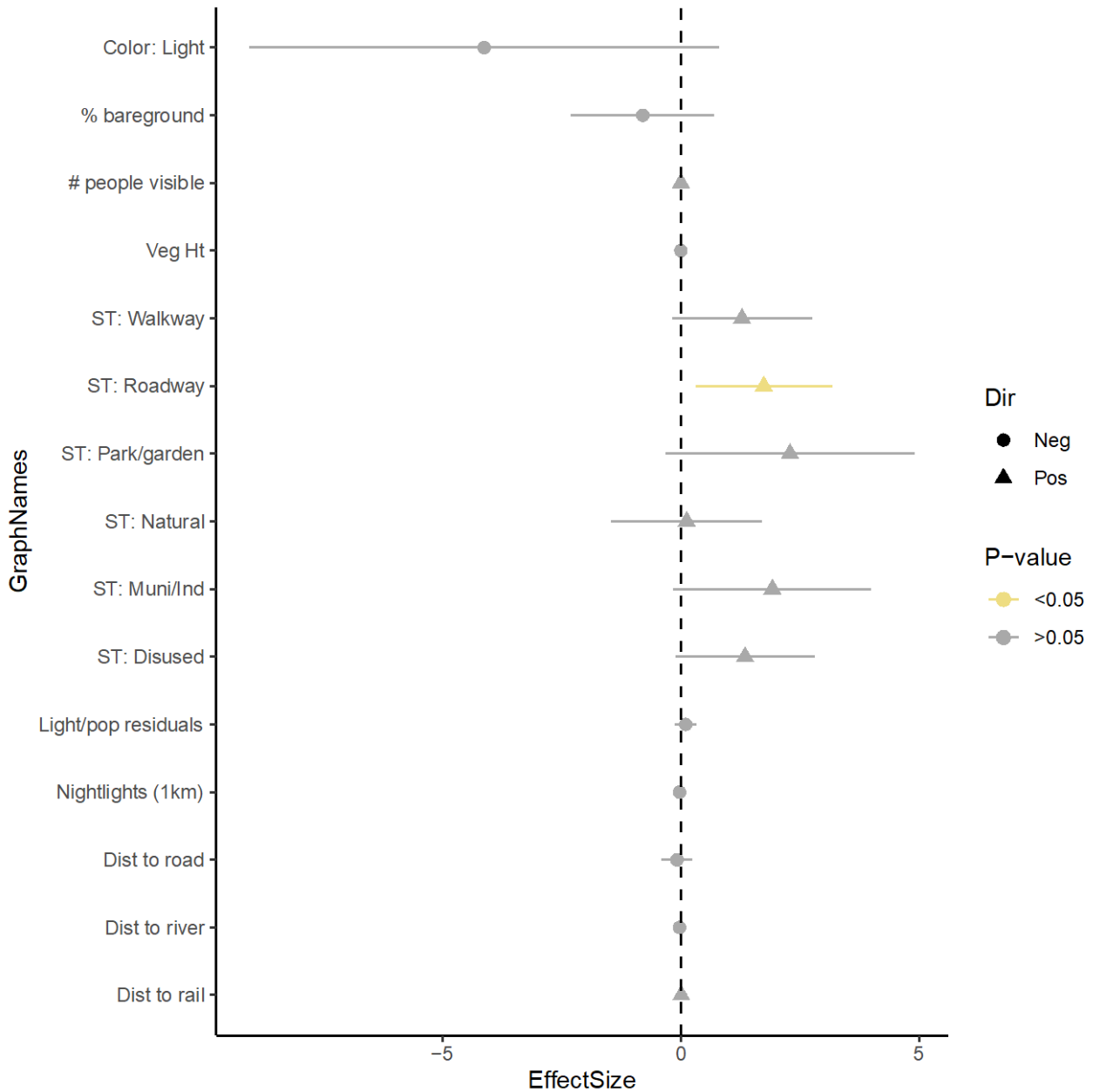


Figure 12. Model average effect size plots for inland transects. Colour represents the p-value significance level, and the lines are the standard error for each term. Triangles denote a positive coefficient for a given factor, whereas circles denote a negative coefficient. The effect size is calculated as the median value of the factor times its coefficient. Reference term for Site Type is Agricultural.

3.3 River Surveys

A total of 136 river transects were conducted at 40 river sites. A total of 13,480 items were recorded in river surveys, an equivalent of 44.8 pieces of debris for every lineal metre of riverbank surveyed (on average).



Figure 13. Examples of two different river sites where the team conducted debris surveys.

Brick/cement was the most common *fragment* type found with 4702 pieces or 36.7% of the total fragment items recorded. Ceramic was the second most recorded item with 3423 items recorded and unknown/other soft plastic was the third most common, with 1532 pieces recorded.

Thin film carry bag was the most common *whole* item found with 211 pieces or 31.3% of the total whole items recorded. Food wrapper/label was the second most recorded item with 81 items recorded and beverage bottle <1 l was the third most common, with 33 pieces recorded.

A size class was estimated for 712 debris items with size class 4 being the most common found (size class 4 objects are larger than 4 cm x 4 cm, but smaller than 8 cm x 8 cm). For further information refer to the size class chart in the Marine Debris Survey Handbook. Of all items recorded, 13% were less than 16 cm².

Figure 14 shows the variability in the number of debris items observed across the river surveys (in the unit of log number of items per lineal metre). The highest number of items found on a coastal survey was at site PLIR19 located at -12.939, -76.494 to the west of Lomas de Mar (Figure 8). Of the 4826 items recorded at this site, 3214 of them were classified as Z4_F: Ceramic fragments.

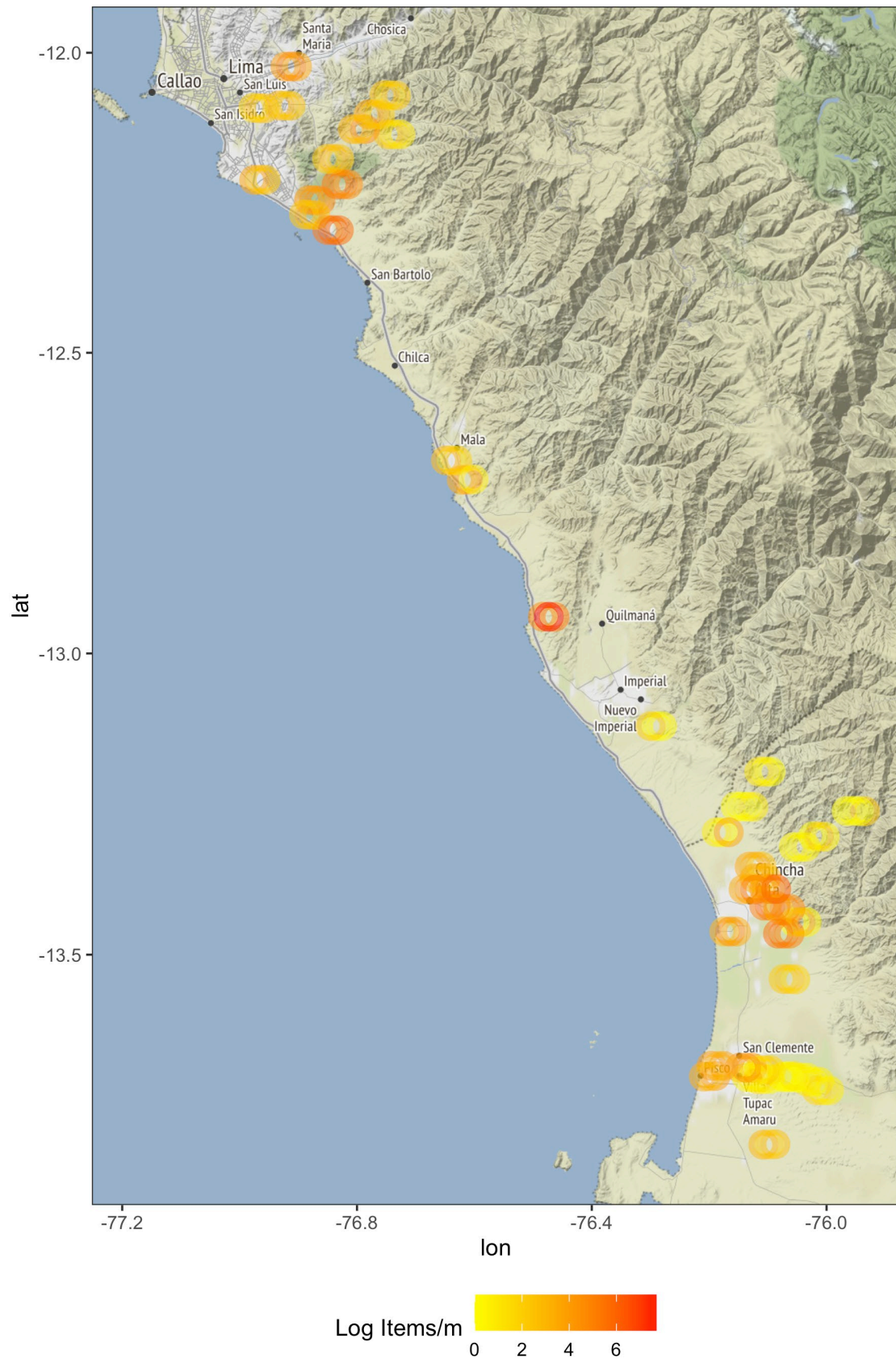


Figure 14. The log number of items per lineal metre for river sites in Peru.

4 Summary

Surveying the Lima region of Peru was a tremendous undertaking, which required substantial coordination, field effort by a large number of participants and patience and good humour by all. A total of 289 transects (including 63 coastal transects, 90 inland transects, and 136 river transects) were conducted. To our knowledge, the data collected provides the first comprehensive baseline look at plastics and other anthropogenic debris on land, along rivers and at the coastal interface for such a large portion of Peru. While we acknowledge these data provide a 'snapshot' in time, this information can be used as a baseline against which change and seasonal differences in debris deposition and movement can be compared. Such information provides an important first step that can be used to inform policy and decision making. Furthermore, as new policies or practices are implemented, the data can be used to quantify the changes that may come with such policies, practices or awareness-raising campaigns. We also hope to use these data in conjunction with statistical models to produce figures that highlight the litter plume of this particular urban and nearby area.

The data collected here contributes to a world first, statistically robust, global baseline study of how much waste is lost to the coastal and marine environment. By using the same methodology and building capacity for individuals in multiple countries around the world, we are better able to make large scale predictions about not only local, but also national, regional and global debris losses into the environment. Additionally, we can look at differences we identify in types and amounts of debris across coastal, inland and riverine areas between countries to identify the drivers that may be similar or different amongst surveyed regions.

It appears that the amount of debris on the Peruvian coastline is around ten times higher than the loads estimated along the Australian (10.2 items/m; Hardesty et al. 2016) and United States (16.5 items/m; Hardesty et al. 2017) coastlines based on previous survey work conducted by the CSIRO team. Using this dataset and others collected from around the world, ultimately we will be able to estimate the amount of waste, most of which is plastic, from these plumes that is lost to the open ocean or redeposited back to land. We are also able to discern regional differences that may occur. For instance, the most common debris item found in Kenya was hard plastics compared to Seychelles which was glass. With a robust, comparable baseline of information gathered in multiple major metropolitan centres around the world, we will have the data in hand to evaluate policy effectiveness and change through on-ground activities at local, national and international scales.

Based on the coastal surveys we completed, if this estimate is representative of the entire 2,414 km of Peruvian coastline (downloaded from Wikipedia Feb/2021), this would equate to an estimated total debris load of over 300 million items along the entire coastline of Peru. We acknowledge that this is an estimate, given the variability in annual weather patterns, coastal topography, population density, and other factors, but it provides a useful baseline to understand the relative magnitude of the problem, based on the very best available data.

Understanding the transport of plastics from land into marine systems is critical for modelling the distribution and trends of plastic in the ocean and estimating its impact on regional economies. This project will clarify the magnitude of this pollution to the public, to industry, and to policy-makers.

Appendix A

An example of the debris survey items list showing all debris categories

Site ID Code: _____

Date: _____ No debris found

ITEMS LIST

Page ____ of ____

Transect No. ____ of ____

Subsampled? Y N

ITEMS		ID	Fragment	Whole	ITEMS Cont.		ID	Fragment	Whole
Hard Plastic	Pipe/PVC	H1			Foam	Food container	D1		
	Beverage bottle <1 L	H2				Cup/plates/bowls	D2		
	Other bottle	H3				Polystyrene	D4		
	Bottle cap/lid	H4				Unknown/other	D5		
	Food container	H5				Paper	Cigarette/butt	P1	
	Utensil/plate/bowl	H6			Paper/cardboard		P2		
	Bucket/Crate	H7			Magazine/newspaper		P3		
	Lighter	H8			Bag		P4		
	Lollipop stick/earbud	H9			Box		P5		
	Unknown/other hard	H10			Food container/box		P6		
Soft Plastic	Thin film carry bag	S1			Food wrapper/bag	P7			
	Food wrapper/label	S2			Beverage container	P8			
	Sheeting	S3			Cups	P9			
	Cup/lid	S4			Plates/bowls	P10			
	Straw	S5			Unknown/other	P11			
	Unknown/other soft	S6			Fishing	Net	F1		
	Other plastic bag	S7				Fishing line	F2		
Plastic Straps	String/rope/ribbon	BP1				Fishing Lures	F3		
	Packing strap	BP2				Buoys/floats	F4		
	Cable ties	BP3				Glow stick	F5		
	Unknown/other strap	BP4				Fishhook/sinker	F6		
Metal	Pipe	M1				Unknown/other	F7		
	Wire	M2			Miscellaneous	Battery	Z1		
	Aerosol	M3				Brick/cement	Z2		
	Beverage can	M4				Carpet	Z3		
	Food can/tin	M5				Ceramic	Z4		
	Lid/cap	M6				E Waste	Z5		
	Food wrapper	M7				Furniture	Z6		
	Aluminium foil	M8				Appliances	Z7		
	Bucket/drum	M9				Large car parts	Z9		
	Unknown/other hard	M10				Large boat parts	Z10		
	Unknown/other soft	M11				Bag/box dom. waste	Z11		
Glass	Beverage bottle	G1				Nurdles	Z12		
	Jar	G2				Other		O1	
	Light globe/tube	G3					O2		
	Unknown/other glass	G4					O3		
Rubber	Thong/shoe	R1					O4		
	Tyre	R2					O5		
	Balloon	R3					O6		
	Rubber band	R4			Size class (and sub-sampling intervals)				
	Unknown/other	R5			Interval start (m)	Dist on tran	ID (F/W)	Size class	
Cloth	String/rope/strap	C1			1	0 -			
	Clothing/towel	C2			2				
	Wipes/cloths	C3			3				
	Insulation/stuffing	C4			4				
	Unknown/other	C5			5				
Timber	Wood/timber	T1			6				
	Utensil/food stick	T2			7				
	Bottle cork	T3			8				
	Pallet	T4			9				
	Unknown/other	T5			10	- (end)			

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