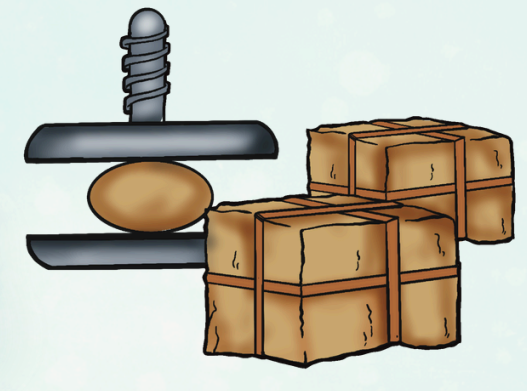
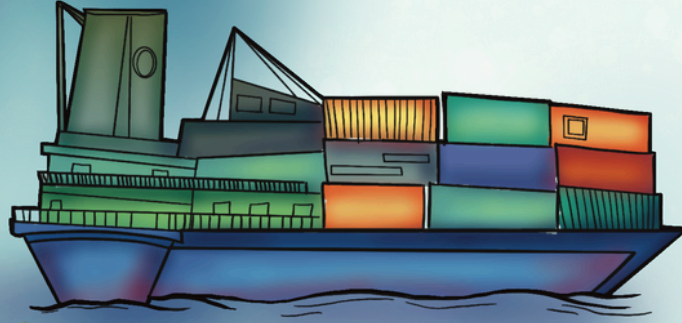




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# WHERE DOES THE ISLANDS' WASTE GO?

Waste is a growing concern in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, affecting both community health and the environment. If not managed properly, waste from households, shops, hotels, and tourists either gets burned, buried, or washes into the ocean through streams and creeks. Over time, waste contaminates soil and water, affects marine life, and even enters the fish we eat. Unmanaged waste also harms the islands' reputation as a pristine tourist destination.

## HOW IS WASTE MANAGED?

Since there are no recycling industries in the islands, waste must be collected and sent to the mainland for processing. In 2021, a Solid Waste Management (SWM) system was set up in rural areas, with waste collection centers serving 2-3 Gram Panchayats. These centers were equipped with baling machines, e-carts, and incinerators. A private waste vendor collects segregated and baled waste from these centers and ships it to recyclers on the mainland.

Once on the mainland, waste is sorted and processed:

- Plastics, metals, glass, and paper are recycled into new products.
- Multi-layered plastics and tyres are used as co-fuel in cement factories.

## CHALLENGES IN WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Poor waste disposal habits – littering, open dumping, and burning waste reduce recyclability.
- Lack of source segregation – mixed waste contaminates dry waste, making recycling difficult.
- Limited equipment and infrastructure – frequent baling machine breakdowns, insufficient protective gear for workers, and lack of spare parts.
- Shortage of manpower and funds – understaffed Gram Panchayats struggle to collect and sort waste efficiently.
- Difficult to manage waste – glass bottles, sanitary waste, and unprocessed wet waste accumulate due to high transport costs and limited disposal options.

## OUR ROLE

Since 2022, Dakshin Foundation has been working to strengthen waste management by collaborating with youth, sanitation workers, Gram Panchayats, local administration, and technical experts. Together, we are finding solutions to improve waste collection, segregation, and disposal, ensuring a cleaner and healthier future for the islands. This project is supported by the PwC India Foundation.



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