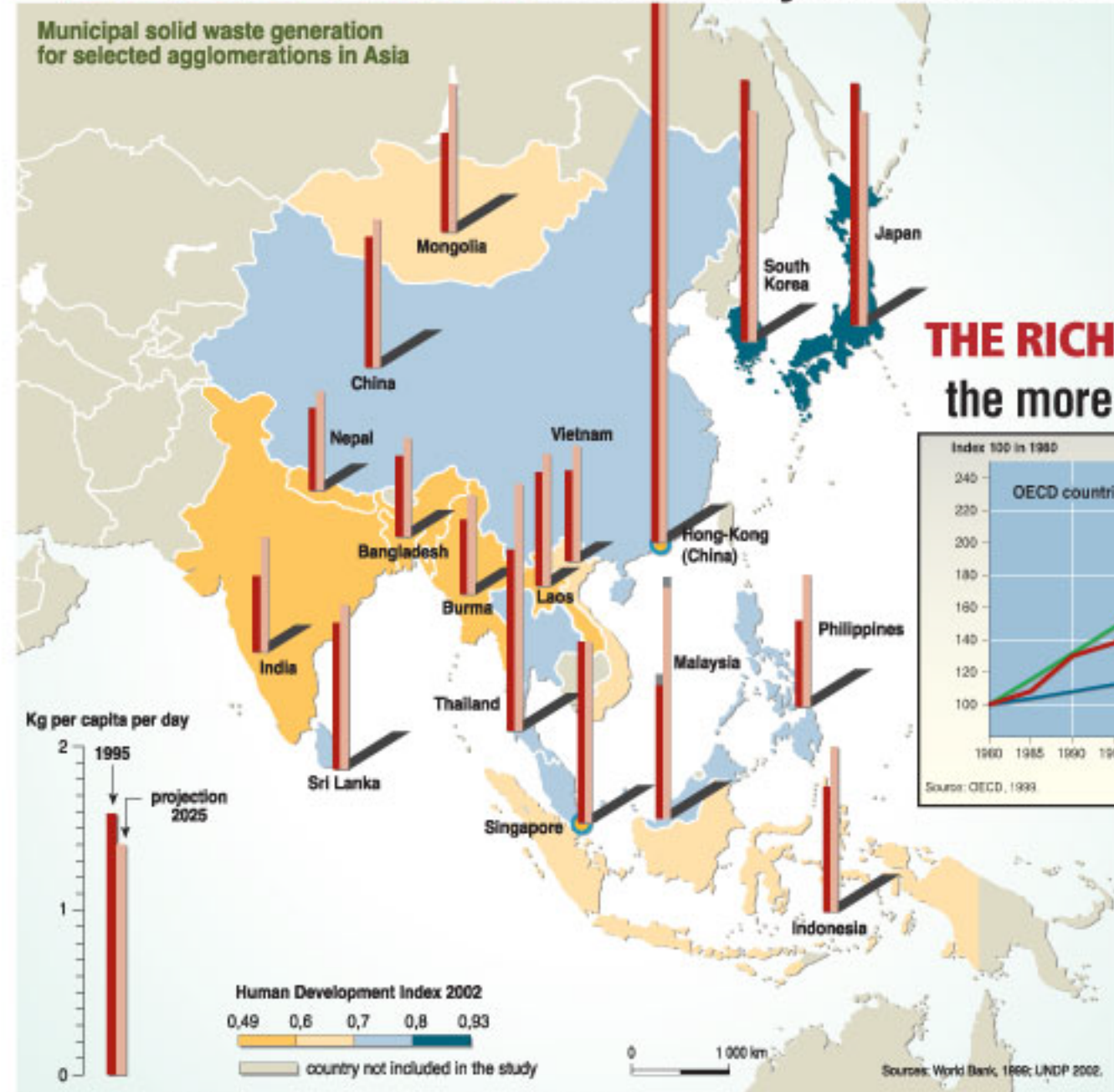
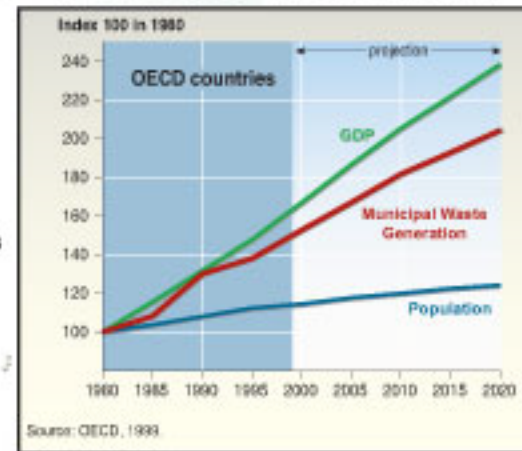


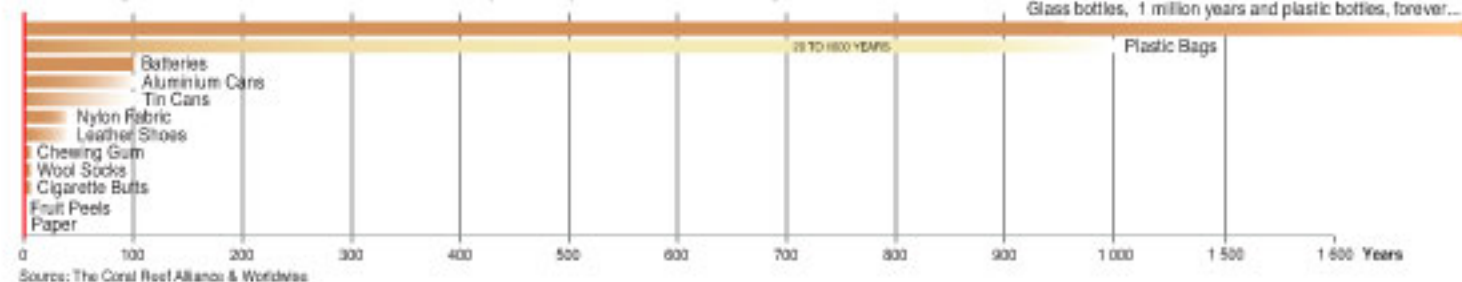
EXCUSE ME! What's in your dustbin?



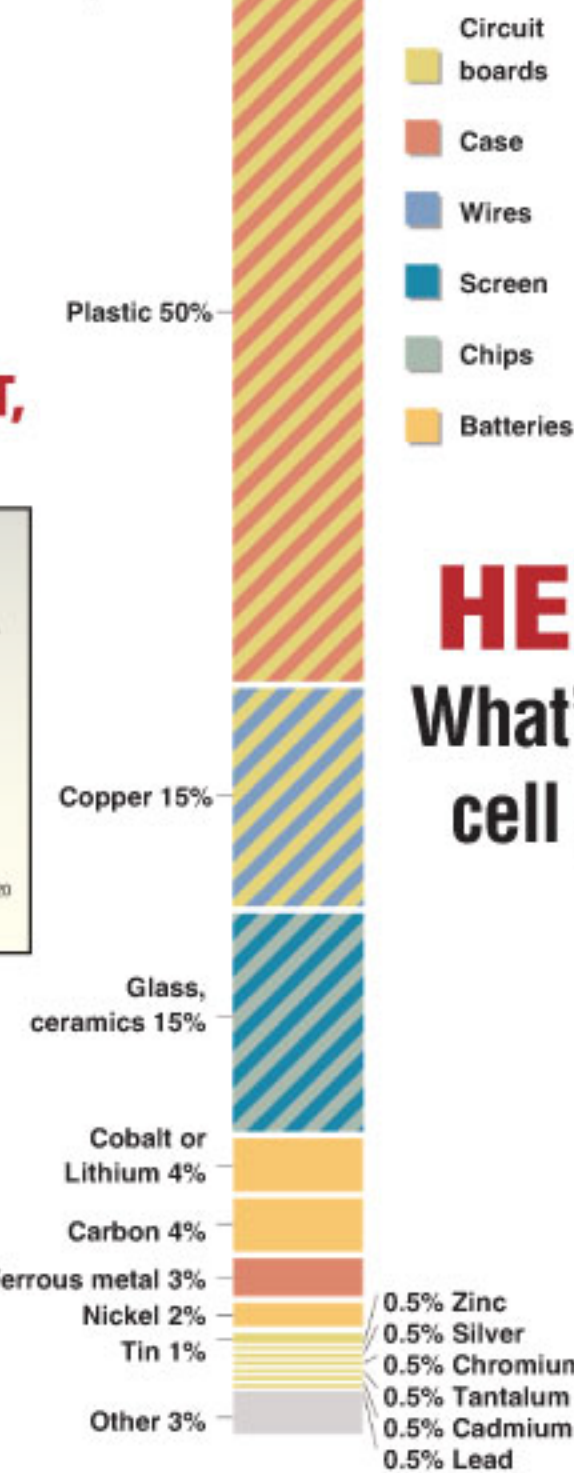
THE RICHER WE GET, the more we discard



How long does it take for some commonly used products to biodegrade?



Cell phone composition



Made in Elsewhere

It is impossible to detail all the types of waste directly or indirectly involved in manufacturing mobile phones. In developed countries production processes manage to keep sensitive materials in a closed circuit, without any waste escaping to the outside world. Production – “Made in Elsewhere” – does not usually take place where the phones are most widespread. Degrees of efficiency in health and environmental protection vary. In some assembly facilities, workers can be exposed to a mixture of toxic chemicals, with waste finding its way into the atmosphere, ground and water supply, posing a serious risk to their health and that of the people living in the neighborhood.

HELLO? What's in your cell phone?



Ring a civil war

It is reported that more than 4 million people have died in Central Africa in a war over Coltran, a heat-resistant mineral widely used in cell phones. By weight, coltran is worth more than gold. Eighty percent of the World's coltran reserves are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Reports of rampant human-rights abuses pour out of the rebel-controlled mining region, where there is a huge market for prostitution. Local men, women and children are forced into mining, fighting and sex work or they are threatened with torture, rape and murder. The coltran makes its way out of the mines and ends up being bought by a U.S. Company, who sells it cell to phone manufacturers.

* among them' less than 0.1% of antimony, gold and beryllium
Sources: Basel Convention, 2006; Lindholm (Nokia report), 2003.

Source: UNEP/GRID-Arendal Maps and Graphics Library, 2006