



A Report on Combating Marine Plastic Litter and Micro plastic Along West Coast of Cameroon



Beach Clean up Action and Plastic Collection



Background Information



INTRODUCTION

Plastic pollution is one of the biggest environmental challenges of our time, with statistics showing that there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish by 2050. To change the future, we all need to play our role. Whether it is a bottled soft drink, a bag from the supermarket or a spoon in a coffee shop, single-use plastic has become embedded in our daily lives. The low cost, convenience and lightness of these products have revolutionized the packaging of goods. However, the catastrophic environmental cost of this convenience is now becoming increasingly clear.

This year, World Environment Day is calling on people across the world to help **Beat Plastic Pollution**.

Every year, 8 million tons of plastic enter our oceans, threatening marine and human life and destroying our natural ecosystems. We want to work with education partners to help them reconsider their plastic habits, generate solutions and raise awareness.

To Beat Plastic Pollution, we need everyone to step up and think deeply about how they can not only reduce, reuse and recycle, but seek to inspire new behavior. Our aim is to use World Environment Day to reduce the amount of plastic dumped into our oceans, which is currently around a truckload every minute. This pack is an invitation to collaborate with UN Environment –work with us to take action and inspire teachers, pupils and parents alike, to help turn the tide on plastic.

BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

”Beat Plastic Pollution”, the theme for World Environment Day 2018, is a call to action for all of us to come together to combat one of the great environmental challenges of our time. The theme invites us all to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural places, our wildlife – and our own health.

While plastic has many valuable uses, we have become over reliant on single-use or disposable plastic-with severe environmental consequences. This World Environment Day we’ll be engaging partners from all corners of society and the world to join us in raising awareness and inspiring action to form the global movement needed to beat plastic pollution for good.

Global plastic pollution by the Numbers:

- 500 billion plastic bags used each year.
 - 13 million tons of plastic leak into the ocean each year.
 - 17 million barrels of oil used on plastic production each year.
 - 1 million plastic bottles bought every minute.
 - 100,000 marine animals killed by plastics each year.
 - 100 years for plastic to degrade in the environment
 - 90% of bottled water found to contain plastic particles.
 - 83% of tap water found to contain plastic particles
 - 50% of consumer plastics are single use.
 - 10% of all human-generated waste is plastic.
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- Plastic pollution is a defining environmental challenge for our time.
 - In the next 10-15 years global plastic production is projected to nearly double.
 - Avoiding the worst of these outcomes demands a complete rethinking of the way we produce, use and manage plastic.
 - Individuals are increasingly exercising their power as consumers. People are turning down plastic straws and cutlery, cleaning beaches and coastlines, and reconsidering their purchase habits in supermarket aisles. If this happens enough, retailers will quickly get the message to ask their suppliers to do better.
 - While these steps are a cause for celebration, the reality is that individual action alone cannot solve the problem. Even if every one of us does what we can to reduce our plastic footprint – and of course we must – also address the problem at its source.
 - Consumers must not only be actors but drivers for the behavior change that must also happen upstream.
 - Ultimately, our plastic problem is one of design. Our manufacturing, distribution, consumption and trade systems for plastic – indeed our global economy – need to change.

- The linear model of planned obsolescence, in which items are designed to be thrown away immediately after use, sometimes after just seconds, must end.
- At heart of this is extended producer responsibility, where manufacturers must be held to account for the entire life-cycle of their consumer products. At the same time, those companies actively embracing their social responsibility should be rewarded for moving to a more circular model of design and production, further incentivizing other companies to do the same.
- Changes to consumer and business practice must be supported and in some cases driven by policy.
- Policymakers and governments worldwide must safeguard precious environmental resources and indeed public health by encouraging sustainable production and consumption through legislation.
- To stem the rising of single-use plastics, we need government leadership and in some cases strong intervention.
- Many countries have already taken important steps in this direction.
- The plastic bag bans in place in more than nearly 100 countries prove just how powerful direct government action on plastics can be.

Calls to Action:

- Governments must lead, enacting strong policies that push for a more circular model of design and production of plastics.
we're calling on every government to enact robust legislation to curb the production and use of unnecessary single-use plastics.
- The private sector must innovate, adopting business models that reduce the downstream impact of their products.
we're calling on every plastic manufacturer to take responsibility for the pollution that their products are causing today, and make immediate investments in sustainable designs for tomorrow.
- Citizens must act as both consumers and informed citizens, demanding sustainable products and embracing sensible consumption habits in their own lives.
we're calling on every plastic consumer to exercise their buying power by refusing single-use plastics.

Reducing Single-Use Plastics

50% of the consumer plastics are designed to be used only once, providing a momentary convenience before being discarded. Eliminating single-use plastics, both from design chains to our consumer habits is a critical first step to beat plastic pollution.

Improving Waste Management

Nearly one third of the plastics we use escape our collection systems. Once in the environment, plastics don't go away, they simply get smaller and smaller, last a century or more and increasingly find their way into our food chain. Waste management and recycling schemes are essential to a new plastics economy.

Phasing Out Micro plastics

Recent studies show that over 90% of bottled water and even 83% of tap water contain microplastic particles. No one is sure what that means for human health, but trace amounts are turning up in our blood, stomachs, and lungs with increasing regularity. Humans add to the other non-recoverable materials.

Promoting Research into Alternatives

Alternative solutions to oil-based plastics are limited and difficult to scale. This does not need to be the case. Further research is needed to make sustainable plastic alternatives both economically viable and widely available.

Actions and Resolutions

This World Environment Day is a culmination of years of effort by Member States aimed at focusing the world's attention and galvanizing action around plastic pollution. UN Environment and its Member States have been developing innovative science and forging new consensus on the complex relationships between plastics, society and the environment for decades. Most recently, the third United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 3/7, which:

1. Stresses the importance of long-term elimination of discharge of litter and microplastics to the oceans and of avoiding detriment to marine ecosystems and the human activities dependent on them from marine litter and microplastics.
2. Urges all actors to step up actions to; “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kind, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution”.
3. Encourages all member states based on best available knowledge of sources and levels of marine litter and microplastics in the environment, to scale to avoid marine litter and microplastics from entering the marine environment.

Litter in the seas and water bodies is a major global environmental problem particularly along the West Coast of Cameroon bordered of the Atlantic Ocean.ICENECDEV and its Partners is joining the **Clean Seas Campaign**, a global UN Environment initiative to tackle and reduce marine litter. The Clean Seas Campaign was launched in January 2017.

It aims to increase global awareness of the need to reduce marine litter.Proper waste management infrastructure is lacking in some areas including Toilets and water ,hygiene facilities and sanitation , while in others the challenge involves the general public's awareness of the impact litter has on the environment, human health and marine wildlife

Land-based sources of pollution have a major impact on planetary health and on the oceans, evidenced by the development of a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA). Growing populations, increasingly intensive and large-scale agriculture, and booming urbanization mean a growing amount of wastewater discharge into aquatic ecosystems and nutrient runoff to waterways. Together, these lead to eutrophication, toxic algae blooms, greater incidence of water-borne disease, lowered resilience of ecosystems to environmental change, and harm to species, including humans

Project Justification



Most of the village communities along the West Coast of Cameroon (Isobe, Idenau. Bakingli, Ettisah,and Batoke) with a population of more than 3 million people .The

Proper waste management infrastructure is lacking in some areas including Toilets and water ,hygiene facilities and sanitation , while in others the challenge involves the general public's awareness of the impact litter has on the environment, human health and marine wildlife

Each year, at 1 million tonnes of plastic and other waste products end up in the atlantic oceans. More than 50% of the litter that accumulates on shorelines, the sea surface and the sea floor is made up of plastic, the most common items being cigarette butts, bags, remains of fishing gear, and food and beverage containers.

The consequences are severe: marine litter harms over 600 marine species (15% of which are endangered), it impacts on coastal economies, and can enter the human food chain through fish consumption. In recent times , the proliferation of microbeads and single-use plastics has made the problem even more serious.

Project Aim

- It aims to increase global awareness of the need to reduce marine litter and the general public's awareness of the impact litter has on the environment and human life.
 - Educating and engaging people especially along coastline regions and Organizing clean beach and coastline initiatives
- 1.To reduce the impacts of marine litter along Cameroon coastline on ecosystems, animal welfare and human health among 1,000 school children, Community Members and 100 stakeholders
 - 2.To provide Trash Cans and promote regular clean up campaign along coastline Among 100 stakeholders and 1,000 school children
 - 3.To promote knowledge management, information sharing and monitoring of progress on the implementation of marine litter mitigation Strategy among1,000 school children and 100 stakeholders .
 4. To increase awareness on sources of marine litter among 1,000 school children, community members and 100 stakeholders.



Coastline Clean Up Action and Plastic Waste Collection

Project Implemented Activities



- ICENECDEV and Partner are committed in tackling of marine litter by suggesting and recommending a Local national collection point
- Promoting community based organizations ,Businesses, Hotels and plastic companies to participate in beach clean-ups Activities In Cameroon.
- Engaging Companies Business and shops to inform customers on the negative environmental impact of plastics Carrier Bags and microplastics
- Campaign to discourage the single use of plastics(Plastic reuse is plastic reduce)
- Promote research and community investigation on plastics.
- Education and Sensitisation on the impact of plastics on human health and marine ecosystem in local communities and schools
- Promoting community based organizations and plastic companies to participate in regular beach clean-ups Activities in Cameroon.
- Engaging Companies Business and shops to inform customers on the negative environmental impact of plastics Carrier Bags and micro plastic
- Promote Research on the Impact of plastics on soil among smallholders' farmers Along the West Coast of Cameroon.
- Donation of Trash Cans and Bags for plastic Collection
- Promote research and community investigation on plastics On marine wildlife along the west Coast of Cameroon
- Establish an informal Network to Combat Marine litter in Cameroon

Find the project video link

below:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVVvsSKEZqbQ>

Project Outcomes:



- Promotion of knowledge management, information sharing and monitoring of progress on the implementation of marine litter mitigation Strategy-Clean up Campaigns and Provision of Trash cans among 500 stakeholder, 50,000 school children and community members.
- Enhance and raise awareness on regular clean up campaign along coastline and use of Trash cans Among 500 stakeholders and 50,000 school children.
- Promotion of knowledge management, information sharing and monitoring of progress on the implementation of marine litter mitigation Strategy among 1,000 school children and 500 stakeholders through the Marine Action Network Cameroon
- Awareness raising on sources of marine litter among 50,000 school children and 500 stakeholders through the Marine Action Network Cameroon.

Project Challenges



Plastic dumping along the west coastline Cameroon

- Most of the village communities along the west coast lack Proper waste management infrastructure including Toilets and water ,hygiene facilities and sanitation , while in others the challenge involves the general public's awareness of the impact litter has on the environment, human health and marine wildlife
- Inadequate Technical Capacity of relevant stakeholders on strategies to combat marine plastics litter and microplastics at national and regional level.
- Insufficient information and resources to establish national and regional platforms and networks to address issues on marine plastic litter and micro plastic.
- Inadequate scientific research on the effects and impact of marine plastic litter and microplastic on environment, economy and Humans at National and regional levels
- Inadequate proper waste disposal system to prevent land based pollution contributing to Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics in some countries and Regions.

- Ignorance of global framework, laws and regulations on combating marine litter and microplastics at National and Regional levels.
- low level of awareness of Businesses and Companies on the advantages of collaboration and partnership with relevant stakeholders to address issues on marine plastic litter and microplastics in creating other avenues of Market.
- Inadequate scientific information in the population about the negative effects and impacts of marine plastics litter and microplastics on the environment and human Health.
- Inadequate capacity of the interpretation and application of existing laws and regulations by relevant stakeholders to address issues on Marine Plastic Litter and microplastics generating to weak enforcement of existing laws and regulations.
- Development of a proper waste disposal system to prevent land based pollution contributing to Marine Plastic litter and micro plastic at national and regional levels
- Inadequate knowledge on integration and inclusive approaches and frameworks in combating marine plastic litter and micro plastics particularly at national and regional levels.
- Insufficient technical, Material and financial resources to combating marine plastic litter and microplastics.

Recommendation and Suggestion



- Development and implementation of Research and capacity building programmes to raise global awareness on the effects and impacts of marine plastic litter and microplastics on the environment, economy and humans at national, regional and international levels.

- Establishment Platforms and networks for exchange information and expertise on strategies to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics at national and regional levels.
- Promotion of regulatory framework and laws at the national and regional levels to discourage the single use of plastics as one of the way forward to combat marine plastic litter and microplastics.
- Reinforcement of Capacity Development to strengthening integrated and inclusive approaches of relevant stakeholders to combating marine plastic litter and microplastics at national, regional and international levels.
- Development of regional and international legally agreed binding measures which discourage and ban the production and use of micro plastics and nanoplastics.
- Establishment of a global funding programme to facilitate the mobilization of technical and financial Resources to combat marine plastic litter and micro plastic at Regional and International level.

Lesson Learned



During this reporting period the following lessons were learned by the project:

- More than 70% of the source of the plastic waste originated from shipping vessels and trawlers dumping their waste in the Ocean and water bodies
- The village communities along the West Coastline are associated with disaster risk from Floods and water pollution which need urgent intervention
- Plastic pollution in the Ocean caused frequent accidents of flying boats resulting to lost of life
- Village communities along the west coast of Cameroon used the oceans and rivers as their trash can and dumping sites and still depend on it for sustainable Livelihood(Fishing)
- Macro and Micro Plastic affects the reproductive health and digestion of fishes and marine wildlife.

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