

UN ENVIRONMENT GLOBAL INITIATIVES TO BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION

On 5 June 2018, India will serve as the global host of the [2018 World Environment Day under the theme *Beat Plastic Pollution*](#). The World Environment Day, coordinated by UN Environment and celebrated by thousands of communities worldwide, is the UN's most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

In 2018 UN Environment invites governments, industry, communities, and individuals to explore sustainable alternatives and reduce the production and use of single-use plastic that pollutes oceans, damages marine life and threatens human health.

The World Environment Day 2018 website presents the following [Plastic Pollution facts](#):

- Every year the world uses 500 billion plastic bags.
- Each year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic end up in the oceans, the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute.
- In the last decade, we produced more plastic than in the entire last century.
- 50 percent of the plastic we use is single-use or disposable.
- We buy 1 million plastic bottles every minute.
- Plastic makes up 10% of all the waste we generate.

The World Environment Day 2018 website invite all interest actors [to take part in the global movement to Beat Plastic Pollution](#). Many [ongoing initiatives presented](#) on the official website show that the actions can be focused locally, nationally or globally, encouraging a wide participation in the solution of a global problem in our world.

Another important initiative launched in February 2017 by UN Environment to fight plastic pollution is the [CleanSeas Campaign](#), engaging governments, civil society and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic litter.

The website of the Campaign presents data on the impressive impact of plastic waste in our environment. Each year, more than 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the oceans, wreaking havoc on marine wildlife, fisheries and tourism, and costing at least \$8 billion in terms of damages to marine ecosystems. Up to 80 per cent of all litter in our oceans is made of plastic. According to some estimates, at the rate we are dumping items such as plastic bottles, bags and cups, by 2050 oceans will contain more plastic than fish and an estimated 99 per cent of seabirds will have ingested plastic.

The [section get informed of the Campaign's website](#) presents a detailed information about ocean plastic.



Roughly 80 per cent of marine pollution originates on land. To address this, UN Environment contributes by hosting the secretariat for the [Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities](#).

This program is the only global intergovernmental mechanism directly addressing the connectivity between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems. The work of the secretariat has been focused on establishing and strengthening a multi stakeholder partnerships on nutrient pollution, marine litter and wastewater involving international agencies, governments, businesses, academia, local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Over a year since the launch of the Clean Seas Campaign, 43 governments accounting for more than half the world's coastline, have signed up specific commitments to protect oceans, encourage recycling and cut back on single-use plastics. Examples of the engagements taken by different countries are presented in order to encourage other partnerships. The Clean Seas Campaign invites all interested actors to join the platform for coordinating activities and exchanging experiences and best practices. The members will also have access to exclusive webinars as well as other activities.

From the point of view of the actors involved in territorial development processes and the local companies that carry out innovative activities for the recycling of plastic materials, these initiatives managed by UN Environment offer an important point of reference. In fact, participation in these international platforms makes it possible to enhance the ongoing activities and the results achieved, as well as enables the creation of operational partnerships with other experiences under way in different countries and with organizations that can ensure support to expand the impact of the initiatives.

To know more

[World Environment Day 2018 website](#)

[World Environment Day in UN Environment website](#)

[UN Environment in Facebook](#)

[CleanSeas Campaign website](#)

[CleanSeas Get-informed](#)

[Article in UN Environment website](#)

[Global Partnership on Marine Litter](#)

[Facts on marine pollution in UNESCO website](#)

