

NEWSLETTER

Welcome back!

Summary of our first actions in Q1 2025

Ongoing Projects

- New beginnings!
- Massive Beach Cleanup - Roatan, Honduras
- Massive Beach Cleanup - Utila, Honduras

Events

- Upcoming Cleanup - Senegal
- PRSE in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Surpass Project - News & Results

Ocean News

- BlueCourses
- Coral Bleaching S.O.S

What's next?

- Clean-ups & projects
- New partnerships!



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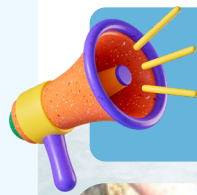


Global Clean-Up Initiatives: Uniting Efforts for a Cleaner World

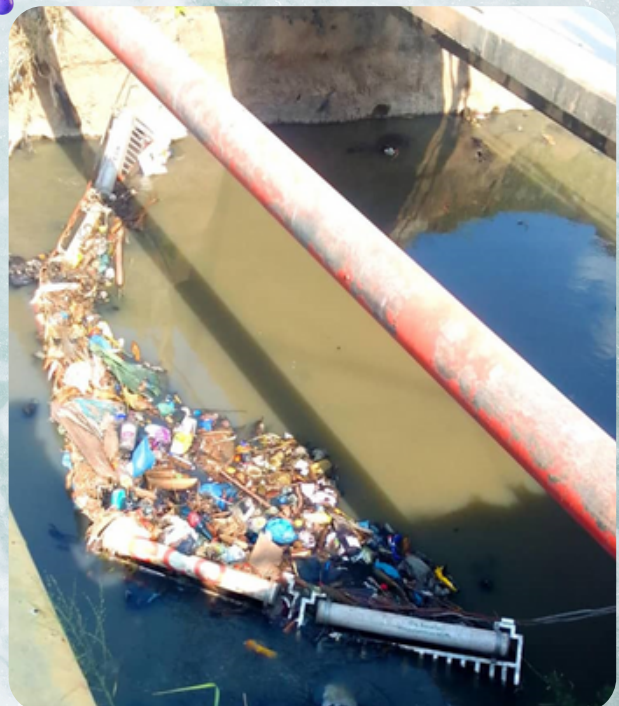
In Q1, we continued to lead by example with clean-up initiatives across the globe, engaging communities and spreading awareness about the importance of waste management and recycling.

Tanzania Feza River – Waste Collection Update

Our efforts in Tanzania have been monumental. Between December and April, the Feza River barrier captured 1.448 tons of waste. This initiative with The Recycler and Eco Eyewear continues to make a real impact on pollution reduction and sustainability. However, the heavy rains from March to April have caused damage to some of our river traps, breaking chains and affecting the system. We are actively addressing these issues and looking for stronger wires to withstand future storms.



1.448 tons
of waste collected



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Global Clean-Up Initiatives: Uniting Efforts for a Cleaner World



Roatan Unites to Protect the Mesoamerican Reef

In March, to commemorate Mesoamerican Reef Day, Waste Free Oceans partnered with Roatán Marine Park and Bay Islands Conservation to lead a large-scale cleanup across Roatán, Honduras. The effort mobilized volunteers from local communities, NGOs, and five dive shops, resulting in the removal of over 1.71 metric tons of waste from critical locations including **West End, Crawfish Rock, Sandy Bay, and Turtle Beach and the reefs.**

In addition to the beach cleanup, an underwater operation led by professional divers tackled marine debris hidden beneath the surface—highlighting the often invisible threats facing coral reefs. These collective actions not only restored the natural beauty of Roatán's coastline but also reinforced the urgent need to protect the Mesoamerican Reef, the world's second-largest barrier reef. This initiative is part of our ongoing mission to preserve marine ecosystems through collaboration, awareness, and hands-on environmental action.



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Global Clean-Up Initiatives: Uniting Efforts for a Cleaner World

Earth Day Cleanup in Utila

To celebrate Earth Day 2025, Waste Free Oceans teamed up with local volunteers and partners to carry out a large-scale coastal cleanup in Utila, Honduras.

Over the course of the day, we collected 871 kilograms of waste across four key beaches: **Trade Wind, Chepas Beach, Los Cocos, and Pumpkin Hill**—all vital areas for the island's ecosystem and community. A fifth site, **Cayitos**, presented an unexpected challenge: large-scale, unusual waste including discarded fridges, washing machines, and other e-waste. While not feasible to remove entirely on the day, this discovery highlighted the urgent need for better disposal systems for bulky and hazardous materials on the island. This Earth Day initiative was more than just a cleanup—it was a call to action. By engaging residents and visitors alike, the activity raised awareness about the growing impact of marine and coastal pollution, and reinforced the importance of collective responsibility in protecting Utila's fragile ecosystems.





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New alliances across the globe



Eyesea

Strengthening Our Global Presence with Eyesea

Waste Free Oceans has entered a strategic alliance with Eyesea, a nonprofit organization that maps marine pollution using user-generated data and innovative technology. The partnership combines Eyesea's data-driven insights with WFO's field expertise in cleanup operations and circular solutions, enabling more targeted and effective responses to ocean pollution. By identifying hotspots in real time, empowering communities to report pollution, and integrating digital mapping with on-the-ground action, the alliance strengthens transparency and collaboration in marine conservation. This marks a key step toward the shared goal of transforming waste into opportunity while protecting marine ecosystems.



Strengthening Marine Conservation with BICA

We are proud to collaborate with the Bay Islands Conservation Association (BICA), a leading environmental NGO committed to the preservation of Roatán's natural resources. With decades of experience in marine conservation, BICA plays a crucial role in protecting the Mesoamerican Reef and promoting sustainable practices throughout the Bay Islands. This partnership will support joint efforts in community outreach, marine litter prevention, and habitat protection, reinforcing our shared mission of safeguarding ocean health through science and action.



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New alliances across the globe

Protecting Roatán's Marine Biodiversity with Roatan Marine Park



As a key player in marine conservation, Roatán Marine Park brings invaluable local knowledge and enforcement capacity to our alliance. RMP's hands-on work in patrolling protected areas, educating the public, and restoring coral reefs aligns seamlessly with Waste Free Oceans' mission to reduce marine litter through circular solutions. Together, we will enhance coastal cleanup operations, engage tourism stakeholders, and promote responsible waste management to preserve Roatán's marine biodiversity.



Empowering Youth for Ocean Stewardship with CIPOTES



Partnering with CIPOTES, a dynamic youth-led organization in Honduras, adds an essential dimension of grassroots activism and education to our efforts. CIPOTES mobilizes young people to take part in environmental advocacy and sustainable development, creating lasting change from the ground up. By joining forces, Waste Free Oceans and CIPOTES will foster environmental awareness, empower youth leadership, and promote innovative approaches to waste reduction that resonate with the next generation of ocean stewards.

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Events

Upcoming Cleanup in Saint Louis, Senegal

On May 10th, the SURPASS Project will collaborate with the University of Saint-Louis (Baston), led by chemist Professor El Hadji Babacar Ly, for a cleanup along the Saint-Louis River. This site was selected due to the significant waste levels identified by Professor Babacar in recent months. Supported by Sokhna Gueye from Nestlé and the local NGO SONAGED, the initiative aims to raise awareness about mismanaged waste and the importance of community-driven environmental action.



WFO at the PRSE 2025 in Amsterdam

Waste Free Oceans (WFO) was proud to attend the Plastics Recycling Show Europe (PRSE) 2025 in Amsterdam, where innovation and circular solutions took center stage. We visited our partner GreenDotGroup's stand and connected with recyclers from around the world—from Indonesia to Colombia—united in the mission to turn waste into opportunity. Events like PRSE remind us why we do what we do: driving global collaboration for cleaner, healthier oceans.





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Events: SURPASS Project and Innovative Research

SURPASS Project Updates

Launched in June 2022, the SURPASS Project is now approaching its final stretch in 2025. Over the past few years, the project has reached key milestones and introduced groundbreaking innovations to reshape how we design and assess plastic materials. In response to the environmental and health challenges posed by plastic waste, SURPASS has developed the first Safe-, Sustainable-, and Recyclable-by-Design (SSRbD) framework tailored for polymers. With new tools, criteria, and digital infrastructure, SURPASS is paving the way for a more circular and responsible plastic economy.

in

Women In Science campaign

This past March, we celebrated Women's History Month by highlighting the women driving the SURPASS Project and our commitment to equality in science and innovation.



Surpass Project Featured in CORDIS Results Pack



The SURPASS Project has been featured in the latest CORDIS Results Pack spotlighting Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD). Recognised alongside 11 EU-funded initiatives, SURPASS stands out for its role in driving safer, greener innovation in materials and product development across Europe.



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Looking Forward: 2025 and Beyond

Ongoing River Projects

The Feza River barrier project will continue to grow, and with the support of our partners, we'll strive for even greater waste collection and recycling outcomes in Dar es Salaam.

More Collaborative Clean-Ups

We are planning to expand our global clean-up efforts, with more initiatives in Africa, Central America, and beyond. Stay tuned for our next clean-up events, where your participation can make a direct impact!



SURPASS's Next Phase

We'll be publishing more insights from the SURPASS project and continue our work in cutting-edge research for sustainable polymer development.

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

We'll be publishing more insights from the SURPASS project and continue our work in cutting-edge research for sustainable polymer development.



GET INVOLVED

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Facts & News



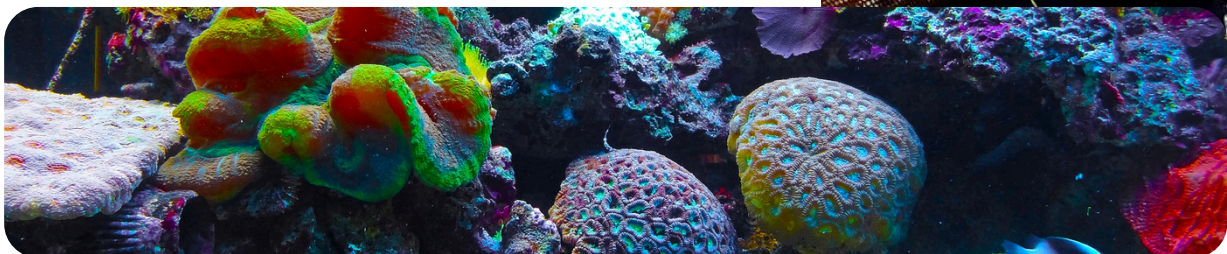
Empowering Ocean Advocates: BlueCourses Partners with WFO

Waste Free Oceans is proud to partner with BlueCourses, a dynamic platform dedicated to ocean literacy and sustainability education. With a shared mission to protect marine environments, this collaboration brings together WFO's hands-on cleanup efforts and BlueCourses' innovative learning tools. BlueCourses offers accessible, engaging online courses designed to educate individuals and organizations on marine ecosystems, circular economy principles, and sustainable ocean practices. Their programs empower a new wave of ocean advocates—equipping learners with the knowledge to take action. By combining education and action, our partnership with BlueCourses strengthens the global movement for cleaner oceans and a more sustainable future.

Global Coral Crisis: Worst Bleaching Event in History Signals Climate Emergency

The world is witnessing the most extensive coral bleaching event on record, with over 80% of reefs across at least 82 countries affected since January 2023. Driven by unprecedented ocean heat, this crisis has devastated reefs in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans—including areas once considered thermal refuges, such as Raja Ampat and the Gulf of Eilat. Scientists warn that this event signals a critical tipping point for marine ecosystems and are calling for urgent global action to reduce fossil fuel use and accelerate clean energy adoption to prevent further degradation of these vital ecosystems.

Source: The Guardian UK



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 [Waste Free Oceans](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wastefreeoceans)

Want to do a clean up with us?

Help make a difference in our beautiful city and be part of a global movement.

To volunteer, contact María Isabel:
mariaisabel.salinas@wastefreeoceans.org



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latest news!

