



## Newsletter October – December 2022

### ONGOING PROJECTS

As part of [Waste Free Oceans' Africa Roadshow](#) and [DOW's Pulling our Weight Campaign](#), we organized a cleanup mission on Alexandria's beach, in Egypt, on October 23.

As a reminder, the aim of the Pulling our Weight Campaign is to collect at least 4 pounds of waste, which corresponds to the average amount of waste produced per person per day.

In 2020, **WFO** partnered with DOW and committed to collect 10 tons of waste in Africa as part of their campaign. The cleanup in Alexandre Beach was our last destination with DOW and volunteers did an amazing job, filling dozens of bags of plastic waste.

## Alexandria Beach, Egypt



## WFO ON THE MOVE

### *Plastic Summit: global event*

On October 17, **WFO**'s CEO and co-founder, Alexandre Dangis, attended the [Plastic Summit](#) in Lisbon to address and moderate a debate on: "Pollution in the Oceans: the True Causes. Effectiveness of the Current Solutions and Challenges for the Future."

You can watch the video about the event through the following [link](#).



## *Plastic Waste Free World Conference and Exhibition*

On November 9 and 10, **WFO** attended the [Plastic Waste Free World Conference and Exhibition](#) in Cologne, Germany. The Conference gathers international stakeholders with the aim of offering solutions to reduce plastic waste as well as providing businesses with the opportunity to showcase their climate mitigation efforts and eco-friendly alternatives to plastic products.

The **WFO** teamed up with [Kela](#) Eco Boat to showcase the WFO trawls and Kela boats used for cleanup missions. Kela is an Italian based company working on developing ecological boats capable of executing cleanup missions and separating oil and semi-submerged plastic from the ocean. The size and maneuverability of Kela's boat allows it to operate in remote places on seas, lakes and rivers.



## *Plast Eurasia Fair*

At the end of November, our team attended the [Plast Eurasia Fair](#) in Istanbul, Turkey. The Plast Eurasia fair gathers over 800 exhibitors working on developing the technology and machinery dedicated to plastic manufacturing and recycling. **WFO** was there to present its clean-up operations and facilitate the contact between businesses and recycling plants in order to promote recycled-based products.



# UPCOMING PROJECTS

In January we are continuing with our African Roadshow with cleanup missions on the beaches of Dar Es Salaam with our partners [Blue Courses](#), [NAK Limited](#) and [The Recycler](#). Our waste-catching trawl will be used to also tackle waste flowing into the ocean. As usual, WFO also works with local authorities and partners to raise awareness on plastic pollution and to encourage the development of sorting and recycling facilities.



## OUR COLLABORATIONS



Our partner [Petjes World](#) released new Ocean Friends, made out of recycled stuffing! A box of these toys, was sent out as a gift to [Hogar del Niño](#), which provides medical care, food and education to children and teenagers through development and sustainable projects. Hogar del Niño and WFO have worked on river cleanups in June 2022 in La Romana.

Our collaboration with [Euro-Optics](#) enabled us to work on new reading glasses and sunglasses made of ocean bound plastic. By 2025, they want to produce 50% of their eyewear out of WFO recycled material collected from the oceans. More information can be found on our website.

Finally, our partner [Baume & Mercier](#) have released a new watch, the *Baume Ocean II*, crafted in upcycled plastic from marine debris gathered by Waste Free Oceans. Its interchangeable strap is made of woven RPET and lined with natural black cork. More information is available on their [website](#).



## **European Commission publishes long-awaited Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive**

The European Commission published its long-awaited Packaging and Packaging Waste legislation at the end of November. The legislation aims at achieving recyclability and reusability goals for all packaging produced in the EU by 2030. This comes as the plastic production in the EU increased by 12,5 million tonnes from 2009 to 2019. On average, Europeans generate almost 180 kg of packaging waste per year, while waste recycling rates in the EU are very low.

One of the measures proposed is to restrict unnecessary packaging and to promote reusable solutions. This means that by 2030, there must be 5% less packaging waste, and 15% less by 2040. Sectors such as the food and beverage industry or commercial and industrial activities will also have to meet certain reusability targets in their products. This includes measures such as ensuring the composability of tea and coffee bags, or the introduction of a mandatory return system for cans and plastic bottles.



Such efforts are aimed at promoting high-quality recycling so that all packaging on the European market will be recyclable by 2030. In addition, all packaging items will have to undergo a recyclability assessment to ensure that their design also meets the recyclability criteria. From 2030, only packaging scoring above 70% on the design for recycling criteria will be allowed on the market, boosting the uptake of recycled materials. By 2035, it will be 100%.

Producers will also be required to make packaging with a minimum amount of recycled content. By 2030, 30% of packaging will have to be made out of recycled materials. This will be raised to 65% by 2040. To boost these goals, the EU is introducing harmonized mandatory labelling of packaging and waste receptacles through a new pictogram system, replacing the previously used ABC system. QR codes will be used for reusable packaging. The reusability and recyclability goals are meant to reduce Europe's dependency on primary natural resources and create a well-functioning market for secondary raw materials.

## **UN Plastics Treaty negotiations**

On 2 December 2022, the first of a planned five sessions on the UN negotiations for a Global Plastic Treaty ended in Uruguay. The aim was to craft the first legally binding agreement on plastic pollution by 2024. While debating, UN members differed on major issues such as limiting plastic production or phasing out types of plastic and harmonized rules. The High Ambition Coalition, consisting of EU Member States, naming Switzerland, Uruguay and Ghana, wanted the treaty to be based on mandatory global measures, including limits on production. This contrasts with the approach by countries such as the United States and Saudi Arabia which advocate for country-driven pledges. Despite the disagreement on the approach, there is a growing consensus that plastic pollution encompasses more than just marine litter. This narrative is welcome as it allows a wider vision on the production and consumption patterns. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said the agreement is the most important international multilateral environmental deal since the Paris Agreement. The mandate to start these negotiations was issued during the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2022. The next meeting is expected to take place in Paris in May 2023.

# HOW TO SUPPORT US

- ✓ Follow us online on   or through our [website](#).
- ✓ Make a [donation](#) or check out our products on our [shop](#) to help us finance our next cleanup missions
- ✓ Interested in collaborating? Fill in the [form](#) or email us at [contact@wastefreeoceans.org](mailto:contact@wastefreeoceans.org)

