

WELCOME BACK TO WFO'S NEWSLETTER

Short summary of our actions in Q2!

Ongoing Project

- **Equatorial Guinea:** Two clean-ups organised with the United Nations
- **Tanzania:** New floating barrier installed with ECO

Ocean News

- EU Nature Restoration Law
- INC4 - What happened in Ottawa?

Events

- **SURPASS** - Our 5th Consortium Meeting done!
- **Check our Youtube video from our last clean-up in March for World Recycling Day**

What's next?

- Meet us again for our next cleanup in Brussels for World Cleanup Day!



Ongoing Projects

Equatorial Guinea - Clean-ups

In the continuation of our African roadshow, WFO travelled to Equatorial Guinea where we organized two clean-ups and visited a local recycling initiative. Our first clean-up took place on Saturday 4 May, where our project manager Victor Préaux teamed up with GreenLives Hub to clean up the side of a busy highway in Malabo, the country's capital.

The local NGO regroups volunteers from around the city every two Saturdays to raise awareness about local waste management issues. Together with a group of 30 people, we collected over 22 medium-sized bags and 15 big bags containing all kinds of waste: from water bottles and drinking cans to packaging and organic waste, a wheelchair, and car parts!

While it is sad to see all the trash around the city, these young folks are dedicated to showing they care about their city and its environment! It is their determination and dedication that will make changes happen!



A few days later, WFO traveled to Bata, Equatorial Guinea, to clean Bome Beach with Centro La Fe, a school for people with hearing disabilities. Despite the beach's natural beauty, it was covered in litter from ocean waste and rivers carrying household trash.

With around 20 volunteers, we spent two hours cleaning up fishing nets, plastic bottles, and packaging. This effort was made possible by sponsors like Papier-mettler, whose recycled plastic bags we used.

Equatorial Guinea lacks a strong waste management system, so most waste is burned rather than recycled. However, the NGO De Gracia Recibisteis is making a difference by collecting, separating, and recycling local waste into beautiful products like handbags and water fountains. Their center also educates the community on recycling and reusing items. Witnessing their creativity and impact was truly inspiring!



Ongoing Projects

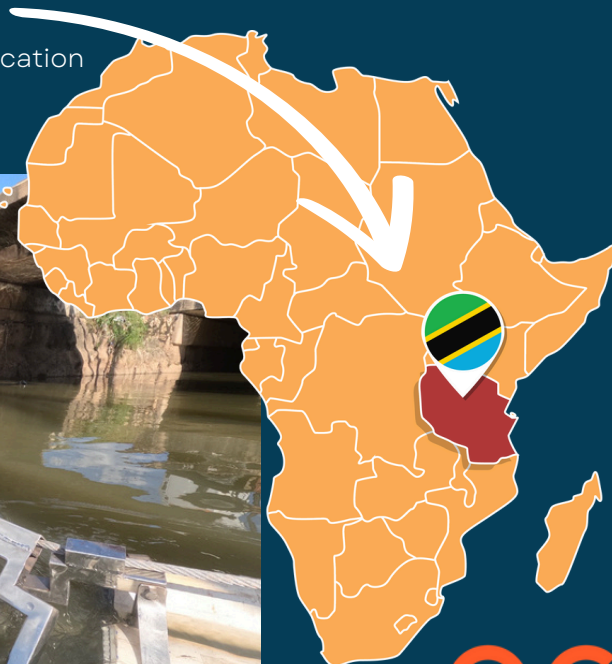
Tanzania - New floating barrier

We are thrilled to announce the installation of a new floating barrier in the Feza River in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania! This project, made possible by our local partner The Recycler and in partnership with the sustainable brand Eco Eyewear, aims to reduce river pollution and promote sustainability.

The Recycler will visit the site weekly to collect, sort, and recycle the captured trash, ensuring that waste is managed effectively and sustainably. This initiative not only highlights our ongoing efforts but also the valuable support from Eco, whose dedication to sustainability aligns perfectly with our mission.

Together, we are making strides toward a cleaner, greener future. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting partnership and our environmental initiatives!

The barrier is located exactly here
Click on the photo to have the exact location



Events



WFO Attends 5th Consortium Meeting- SURPASS in Germany

Waste Free Oceans (WFO) is pleased to announce our participation in the 5th consortium meeting for the European-funded SURPASS project, held recently in Germany.

This initiative focuses on pioneering research to recycle plastic and develop safe, sustainable composites in construction, building, and packaging.

The meeting brought together leading experts to share progress, discuss innovative findings, and plan the next steps. WFO's contributions centered on enhancing recycling processes and developing eco-friendly materials.

Our involvement in SURPASS highlights WFO's commitment to sustainability and cutting-edge research. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress with this transformative project.

World Recycling Day in Brussels

We're excited to share the highlights from Global Recycling Day, held this March in Brussels! Our latest video captures the fun, energy, and inspiring moments of the event, showcasing the incredible efforts of everyone involved in promoting a sustainable future.

From interactive workshops to engaging talks and hands-on recycling activities, there was something for everyone. The enthusiasm and commitment of our participants made this day truly special.

Check out the video to relive the excitement and get inspired for our next event in September. Trust us, you won't want to miss it!

Watch the video now and join us in making a difference. See you in September!



Ocean News

EU ministers of environment approve new the EU Nature Restoration Law

Under discussion for a long time, the nature restoration law was at last approved by the European ministers of the environment on 17 July, four months after the green light from the European Parliament. Long in doubt, its approval follows a positive vote by the Austrian minister of environment, tipping the majority in favor of restoring our nature.

What does it contain? The law aims to bring healthy ecosystems back to Europe and provides a set of ambitious targets, it aims to fill gaps and reinforce efforts to establish a healthy and resilient ecosystem. At least 20% of the EU's land and maritime areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in poor to bad quality by 2050 will need to be restored and protected. Measures include the extension of natural habitats to stop biodiversity loss and to bring back species and reverse the decline of pollinator populations. Other efforts include concrete targets for forest, marine, urban and agricultural ecosystems. Specific measures can be found [here](#).

Update on the Global PLastics Treaty Negotiations

The 4th session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) took place in Ottawa at the end of April. The negotiators came to some agreement but essential discussion points such as the reduction in the production of primary polymers remain unclear. They agreed to include the development of a list of products and chemicals of concern, and standard design requirements to improve recycling capabilities.

Countries have also agreed to organize formal meetings between INC-4 and INC-5 which could see the pushing through of lists of harmful and avoidable plastic products and chemicals, the product design for reuse and recyclability. These meetings must be used to continue the work of INC-4 and present real progress at the next meeting in South Korea.



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www.wastefreeoceans.com

Thanks For Reading Us!

Call for Volunteers based in Brussels!

Join us for an exciting cleanup event in Brussels this September for World Cleanup Day!

Help make a difference in our beautiful city and be part of a global movement. To volunteer, contact Serena at serena.barthoux@wastefreeoceans.org.

We can't wait to see you there!



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