

Clean Oceans Initiative



What is the Clean Oceans Initiative?

The Clean Oceans Initiative (COI) launched jointly with the KfW group and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), supports the development and implementation of sustainable, viable and low carbon projects that reduce pollution in the oceans, with a particular focus on plastics.

Ninety percent of plastic waste enters the oceans through 10 major river systems, two in Africa and eight in Asia.¹ This can largely be explained by the fact that about 2 billion people worldwide still lack access to regular waste collection, while around 3 billion lack access to controlled waste disposal.

Increasing population growth and rapid urbanization, particularly in coastal areas, also require enhanced efforts in wastewater collection and treatment to improve hygiene and health conditions for the urban poor.

The Initiative will provide up to EUR 2 billion in new lending over the next 5 years, with the three partners contributing together or individually.

Structure of the initiative

A variety of different financial instruments are available under the Clean Oceans Initiative according to the needs:

Instruments	Examples of projects
Long term loan financing for the public sector (sovereign and sub-sovereign)	Construction or upgrading of wastewater treatment plants
Investment grants	May be used alongside loans to improve the financial viability of projects
Long term financing to corporates	Expansion of an e-recycling centre
Project finance	Design build and operation of a plastic recycling plant
Technical Assistance programmes	Upstream project preparation; downstream project implementation and execution support to the project's executing agencies

Innovative financing structures will also be considered, in order to cater for the needs of private enterprises of varying scale, including micro-enterprises, and for research and innovation projects.

The initiative will not provide research grants.

¹ https://www.ufz.de/index.php?en=36336&webc_pm=34/2017

Who can benefit?

The Clean Oceans Initiative is global in nature but with a particular focus on operations in developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Projects shall be located in riverine or coastal areas.

Projects should have positive environmental, climate and social impacts - not only in rivers and the sea, but also on land, as uncollected waste and untreated wastewater adversely affects the environment, public health and quality of life in many cities.

The Bank will measure, report and communicate on the following impact indicators:

- the amount of residual waste collected (tonnes per year)
- the amount of recyclables / bio-waste collected separately (tonnes per year)
- the volume of wastewater treated to acceptable standards (cubic metres per day)

All investments will be expected to contribute to at least one of these.

Potential eligible sectors

The following sectors could benefit from the Clean Oceans Initiative:

- **Collection, pre-treatment and recycling of waste** and particularly plastics collected on land, from rivers and from the sea, focusing on the whole value chain to ensure sustainable projects. To the extent possible and able to be justified, the initiative will also target other recyclable materials and improved solid waste management in a wider perspective.
- **Improved waste management in ports and harbours** to support the reduction of marine littering from ships and transport on water.
- **Support to plastic prevention measures, market development for recycling plastics and other materials and capacity building**, possibly transferring EU experiences of producer responsibility systems.
- **Support to the implementation of wastewater collection and treatment** that enable a reduction in the discharge of plastics and other pollutants to rivers and oceans.



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