

# THE CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE



THIS IS NOT A JELLYFISH.  
THIS IS A DRIFTING PLASTIC BAG.



**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, KFW

## HOW DIRTY ARE THE OCEANS?

An estimated **8 million tonnes of plastic waste and 1.5 million tonnes of microplastics** enter the oceans every year. This threatens marine ecosystems such as estuaries and coral reefs as well as the communities relying on the seas for survival.

Most of the plastics in the oceans come from waste thrown on the ground or into rivers by the 2 billion people who don't have waste collection. Lack of wastewater treatment in many developing cities is a major source of plastic pollution.

Fast population growth and urbanisation in many cities around the world, particularly along the coasts, add to the problem.

## WHY PROTECT THE OCEANS?

The oceans provide countless benefits to the planet. They provide food, medicines, renewable energy and natural resources to people around the globe. The value of goods and services produced by marine and coastal resources is an estimated **€2.5 trillion a year**.

Keeping the oceans clean is crucial for sustainable development and the reduction of poverty. The oceans ensure an income and healthy diet for billions of people. Oceans absorb about **30% of the planet's carbon dioxide**, buffering the impact of global warming.

## WHAT IS THE CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE?

The initiative identifies projects that fight plastic waste in rivers, seas and on land. The goal is to **finance €2 billion** in public and private sector projects by 2023. The initiative has already met more than a third of this target.

The focus is on regular waste, wastewater and stormwater management projects that reduce the discharge of plastics and other waste. To be eligible, projects need to demonstrate efficient and effective ways of stopping plastic waste.

The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the European Investment Bank and KfW, the German promotional bank.

# THE CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON RIVERS AND COASTAL CITIES

## WE ARE TARGETING PROJECTS IN THESE FIELDS:

- **Collection, treatment, recycling and disposal of plastics and other waste** from rivers and coastal areas.
- **Improved waste management** to reduce plastics and other waste in ports and harbours.
- **Innovative projects that keep plastics out of the oceans** or develop reusable or biodegradable plastics.
- **Expanding and improving wastewater collection and treatment to** keep plastics out of rivers and oceans.
- **Urban stormwater management** systems that prevent waste and plastics from entering waterways during rains and floods.

## PROJECTS FINANCED

### **WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

Providing water to more than 4 million residents and managing wastewater are big challenges in Cape Town. The ageing infrastructure cannot keep pace with rapid population growth. The coastal city in South Africa has 26 plants, some dating to the 1950s. Many of them operate inefficiently.

Sometimes untreated wastewater, including plastic waste, reaches the sea and pollutes the coasts. Wastewater runoff is a health hazard, especially in densely populated townships.

KfW gave the city an **€80 million loan to extend and rehabilitate wastewater treatment plants**. The improvements will also enable the city to use reclaimed water in irrigation or industrial sectors. The programme will help Cape Town's future water needs and make it easier to deal with droughts.



**Ageing treatment plants cause wastewater to pollute the coasts and sea.**

### **IMPROVING SANITATION RATMALANA AND MORATUWA, SRI LANKA**

Wastewater management is a big challenge in Sri Lanka. Only about 2.5% of the population is connected to sewers, mostly in the Greater Colombo area.

AFD is helping improve sanitation services in Ratmalana and Moratuwa, two densely populated, growing areas of the country. It approved two loans, for **€76 million and €75 million**, to extend the sewerage systems in the two cities.

The work will give **44 500 people access to better sanitation services** and help the country communicate with the public about sanitation and hygiene, with a focus on gender equality. The project will increase the area served by water treatment plants, enabling the cities to filter and treat more plastics and microplastics. This will significantly **reduce the amount of plastics that reach the nearby Indian Ocean**.



**Deficient stormwater systems cause plastics and other waste to pour into lagoons.**

## **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND FLOODING COTONOU, BENIN**

Cotonou, the economic capital of Benin, is located on the coastal strip between Lake Nokoué and the Atlantic Ocean. 10% of the country's population lives in the city. As it grows, the city has expanded into uninhabitable areas such as lake and lagoon banks, shallows and marshes. In 2010, heavy rainfall in Benin caused widespread flooding, resulting in major financial losses. Significant amounts of plastics and other waste are discharged into the lagoons through open drains.

The EIB signed a **€50 million loan to help Cotonou improve stormwater management and protect the city from cyclical floods**. This will help the 187 000 people living in and around Cotonou and reduce plastic and other waste pollution in the Gulf of Guinea.

The project will upgrade stormwater drainage and improve the coastal shores. It will reduce the flooding of houses and the stagnation of rainwater in urban areas.

## **WATER AND SANITATION BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

In the Escobar Partido, a district of the Greater Buenos Aires urban area, only a small percentage of houses are connected to sewers. The lack of sanitation and proper treatment of wastewater harms people's health and causes plastic pollution.

The EIB approved an **\$80 million loan to upgrade the sewerage and wastewater treatment network in many parts** of the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires. It will improve access to sanitation services for more than 24 000 residents, and significantly increase wastewater treatment capacity.

The project will improve public health, and it will protect the environment by reducing discharges of untreated water. The wastewater treatment plant will capture and reuse the methane produced in the process, avoiding the emission of this harmful greenhouse gas. The plant will reduce plastic pollution in the Río Reconquista, thus **reducing plastics and microplastics in the Atlantic Ocean**.

## **GREEN URBAN FINANCING AND INNOVATION YANGTZE RIVER DELTA, CHINA**

The Green Urban Financing and Innovation Project provides long-term loans to local governments to clean up and improve the Yangtze River Delta in China.

The Yangtze River is one of the most polluted waterways in the world and contributes to the pollution in the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The region's economic growth in recent decades has caused major environmental burdens. Water quality has deteriorated significantly, air pollution has increased and the soil has been heavily polluted. Reducing the uncontrolled discharge of waste and wastewater will require big investments.

KfW provided a **€150 million** loan to China under the Green Urban Financing and Innovation Project to **improve wastewater and stormwater management, waste disposal and water supply**. The investments will improve urban sewers as well as the collection and recycling of waste to keep pollution out of the river. It is hoped that the project will become a model for financing green infrastructure in other provinces.

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LOMÉ, TOGO**

AFD is modernising solid waste management and significantly improving the living conditions in Lomé, a large coastal city with a **population of 1.4 million**. The project is also building the capacity of local authorities to run the project themselves.

A new landfill has been built as well as a system to separate recyclable materials. AFD is also supporting the renovation of the previous landfill to reduce its environmental impact, and is helping the city switch to a **new solid waste management system**.

The project has significantly reduced the plastics and other waste that were thrown directly into the streets and drainage channels of the city, which **cuts the amount of waste reaching the Atlantic Ocean**.

**The project  
is significantly  
reducing the waste  
thrown into streets  
and drainage  
channels.**





AFD is France's public development bank. It offers financing and technical assistance for projects in emerging countries and in the French overseas territories. Its actions support the Sustainable Development Goals. It has 85 agencies and operates in 115 countries. It is financing, supervising and supporting over 4 000 development projects. [www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)



The EIB is the lending institution of the European Union. It is active in around 160 countries and is a leader in climate finance. It has committed to financing \$100 billion for climate action from 2016 to 2020. More than 25% of its financing supports the climate. [www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)

## KfW

KfW is one of the world's leading promotional banks. Acting on behalf of the German federal government, KfW has been improving economic, social and ecological living conditions around the world since 1948. It provided €75.5 billion in financing in 2018. Of this total, 40% was spent on protecting the climate and the environment. KfW has about 80 offices and representations worldwide. [www.kfw.de](http://www.kfw.de)