

CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE



THIS IS NOT A JELLYFISH.



BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, KFW

HOW DIRTY ARE THE OCEANS?

An estimated **eight million tonnes of plastic waste** enters the oceans every year. The billions of facemasks and gloves used during the coronavirus pandemic are making the problem worse. This pollution threatens estuaries, coral reefs, fish and millions of families that rely on the oceans.

Most of the plastics in the oceans come from waste thrown on the ground or washed into rivers. Two billion people around the globe do not have good waste collection systems to catch these plastics. Better wastewater treatment in many developing countries would stop some of the 1.5 million tonnes of microplastics that end up in the oceans every year.

Fast population growth in many cities around the world is increasing plastic pollution.

WHY ARE THE OCEANS IMPORTANT?

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

Keeping the oceans clean is crucial for sustainable development and the reduction of poverty. The oceans provide billions of people with an income and a healthy diet.

Oceans are also important for the climate. They absorb about **30% of the planet's carbon dioxide**, buffering the impact of global warming.

HOW DOES THE CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE WORK?

We are identifying projects that can stop plastic waste from entering rivers and seas or being thrown on the ground. By 2023, we plan to **finance €2 billion** in projects that reduce plastic waste. We have already achieved two-thirds of this goal.

The initiative is focusing on the management of waste, wastewater and stormwater in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

To be eligible, projects need to demonstrate efficient and effective ways of reducing plastic waste or the discharge of microplastics.

The initiative was launched in October 2018 by the European Investment Bank together with the French and German development banks — the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and KfW.

CLEANING UP RIVERS AND COASTAL CITIES

OBJECTIVES

- **Collection, treatment and recycling of waste, and the improvement of wastewater collection and treatment** to keep plastics out of rivers, oceans and coastal areas.
- **Better waste management** in ports and harbours to reduce plastic discharge from ships.
- **Innovative projects that keep plastics out of the oceans** or lead to more reusable or biodegradable products.
- **Stormwater management in cities** to stop plastics from entering waterways during rains and floods.

PROJECTS

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Providing clean water to more than four million people and treating 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 treatment plants, some dating back to the 1950s, and many of them operate inefficiently.

Untreated wastewater, including plastic waste, sometimes reaches the ocean and pollutes the coasts. Wastewater runoff is a health hazard, especially in densely populated townships.

KfW approved an **€80 million loan to help Cape Town improve its infrastructure as well as a €1.2 million grant for training and a €4.5 million grant for the rehabilitation of wastewater treatment plants**. The improvements will enable the city to use reclaimed water for irrigation or industrial sectors. The project will help Cape Town meet its growing water needs and make it easier to deal with droughts.



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

IMPROVING SANITATION IN RATMALANA AND MORATUWA, SRI LANKA

Wastewater management needs a lot of improvement in Sri Lanka. Only about 2.5% of the population is connected to sewers, mostly in the Colombo area.

AFD is improving sanitation services in Ratmalana and Moratuwa, two densely populated, growing coastal areas. It approved a **€75 million loan** to improve the sewage systems in the two cities. This work will allow 44 500 people to have better sanitation services, with a focus on gender equality.

The project will increase the area served by water treatment plants, which will cut down on a lot of pollution and prevent large volumes of plastic waste from entering the Indian Ocean.



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

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD PROTECTION IN COTONOU, BENIN

Cotonou, the economic capital of Benin, is located on a coastal strip between Lake Nokoué and the Atlantic Ocean. Ten percent of the country's population lives here. In 2010, heavy rainfall in Benin caused widespread flooding, resulting in major damage and financial losses. Heavy rain has continued, and significant amounts of plastics and other waste are being discharged into Lake Nokoué and the Gulf of Guinea through open drains.

The EIB signed a **€50 million loan to help Cotonou improve stormwater management and protect the city from cyclical floods**. The project will upgrade stormwater drainage to catch plastic waste and improve the coastal areas. It will reduce flooding around houses and decrease the stagnation of rainwater in urban areas. This will help 187 000 people in and around Cotonou and reduce plastic and other pollution in the Gulf of Guinea.

WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT IN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Alexandria, located along the Mediterranean coast, is Egypt's second-largest city. Its wastewater treatment plant was built in the early 1990s and can no longer serve the population effectively. This has caused high levels of pollution, including microplastics, to enter the nearby Lake Maryout and the sea. Alexandria's population growth makes it even more important to improve sanitation services.

The EIB signed a €120 million loan to help Alexandria improve the treatment of wastewater and upgrade the plant. The project will also reduce the amount of plastics that reach the sea. The project includes sludge treatment that will produce biogas and reduce the use of fossil fuels. The investment will help more than 1.5 million people.

CLEANING UP THE WATERWAYS IN CENTRAL CHINA

The Yangtze River Delta region in central China is one of the most polluted waterways in the world and contributes to the pollution in the Pacific Ocean. The region's growth in recent decades has caused big environmental problems. Water quality has deteriorated, air pollution has increased and the soil has been heavily polluted. Cities in the area will have to do a lot of work to reduce the discharge of waste and wastewater.

The Green Urban Financing and Innovation Project is helping local governments improve sewage services, waste collection and the water supply. KfW signed a **€150 million** loan, which will be implemented in cooperation with the World Bank, to finance cities' improvement projects. The work will keep a lot of pollution out of the river and ocean, and the financing is expected to become a model for other green projects in the country.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN LOMÉ, TOGO

AFD is upgrading solid waste management services and significantly improving living conditions in Lomé, a large coastal city with a **population of 1.4 million**. The project is improving waste collection in many ways, including the construction of a landfill that meets international standards.

The project has significantly reduced waste, including a lot of plastic, that was thrown into the streets and drainage channels of the city. This reduces the amount of waste reaching the ocean.

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





The **Agence Française de Développement** group 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, operates in 115 countries and is supporting over 4,000 development projects. www.afd.fr



The **European Investment Bank** is active in around 160 countries. Over the next decade, the EIB Group aims to support €1 trillion in investments for climate action and environmental sustainability. www.eib.org

KfW

KfW has been improving economic, social and ecological living conditions around the world since 1948. It provided €77.3 billion in financing in 2019. Of this total, 38% was spent on protecting the climate and the environment. KfW has about 80 offices and representations worldwide. www.kfw.de