



Ocean pollution caused by plastic wastes and nutrient pollution washing into the sea is a significant global issue. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from SIDA and NORAD (only for some Innovators), is working to find solutions to address and achieve the targets under Sustainable Development

Goal 14 – Life below water (SDG 14), one of the 17 global objectives that was established in 2015 by United Nations members in order to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure global prosperity, under the prism of sustainability and the conservation of the environment.

About the UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge (OIC)



To achieve each of these goals, tools such as innovation, new technologies and financing mechanism need to be in place. The UNDP OIC is a unique new mechanism designated to accelerate progress for SDG14 by identifying, financing, advising and mentoring truly innovative, entrepreneurial and creative

approaches to ocean and coastal restoration and protection that sustain livelihoods and advance the “blue economy.”

About the first 'Ocean Challenge'



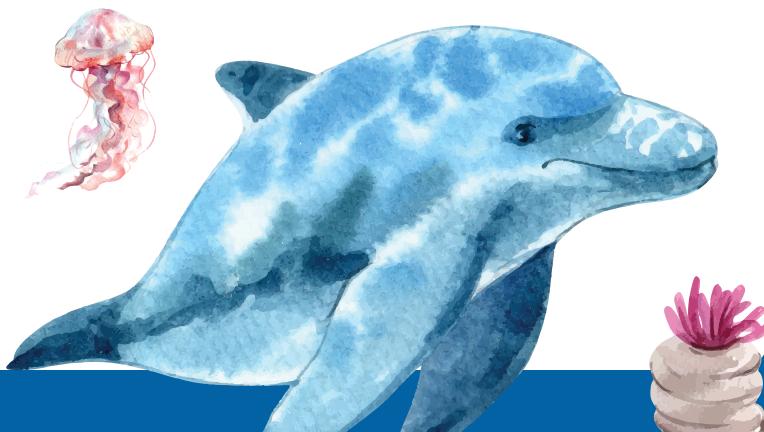
The first 'Ocean Challenge' launched on 6 January 2020 and closed on 5 March 2020. The challenge sought innovative solutions to counter the scourge of ocean pollution. Nutrient pollution loads to the oceans have tripled since pre-industrial times, now approaching around

13 million metric tons (mt) per year, leading to exponential growth in eutrophication and the occurrence of hypoxic (low oxygen) areas, now numbering over 500 and causing hundreds of billions of dollars in economic damage annually. Globally, there are only a handful of examples (such as the Danube/Black Sea basin) where nutrient loads have been reduced sufficiently to reverse and eliminate hypoxic areas, hence much work remains to be done on this SDG target.

Of the over 300 million metric tons(mt) of plastics produced globally each year, some 4.8 to 12.7 million metric tons reaches the ocean impacting negatively on marine organisms and ecosystems. Only about 9 percent of the over 2 billion mt of plastic produced to date has been recycled, so we remain a long way from truly 'closing the loop' on ocean plastics pollution. UNEP estimate the annual damage from marine plastics at USD \$13 billion per year and growing. Rivers represent a major vector for the introduction of plastics to the ocean, transporting between 9 and 50 percent of the total.

The OIC's first Ocean Challenge focused on SDG14.1, Ocean pollution, with a strong focus on nutrients and plastics from land-based sources (such as agriculture, wastewater and poorly managed solid waste) while recognizing that ocean-based sources are also important sources for some types of plastics pollution (such as abandoned/lost fishing nets).

UNDP received over 600 concept proposals, a testament to the tremendous global interest in addressing this issue. Following a rigorous and demanding process of internal and external review and assessment, UNDP has selected its first cohort of nine Ocean Innovators; these innovations cut across a wide range of technological, policy, regulatory and other innovative approaches to reducing marine pollution.



2020 UNDP OCEAN INNOVATORS

#UNDOceanInnovators

<http://oceaninnovationchallenge.org/ocean-innovators>

AN EPR SCHEME FOR PLASTIC AND PACKAGING WASTES

BENEFICIARY COUNTRY: MALDIVES

INNOVATOR: ADELPHI CONSULT GMBH

Every year, the Maldives generates nearly 25,000 tons of plastic waste and, due to poor waste management practices, as much as a third of it ends up in our coastal areas. With support from the OIC, we will be helping the Maldives to put in place a national Extended Producer Responsibility framework that will help the Maldives to close the loop on ocean plastics pollution.

- Improved waste knowledge base for decision-making
- Public-private partnerships
- Creation of national Extended Producer Responsibility scheme

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A PET RECOVERY AND BUY-BACK CENTER

BENEFICIARY COUNTRY: COMOROS

INNOVATOR: UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE, COMOROS

To help reduce ocean plastics pollution, UNDP Comoros is helping the government of Comoros to introduce innovative financial mechanisms for plastics waste recovery, reuse and recycling. The project will not only reduce plastics waste, it will also create new economic opportunities for communities through the creation of plastic waste recovery and buy-back centers.

- Innovative financial mechanisms
- Public-private partnerships
- Creation of new livelihoods

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