

# **CLEAN OCEANS INITIATIVE**



**THIS IS NOT A JELLYFISH.**



**BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT**  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, KFW

## **HOW DIRTY ARE THE OCEANS?**

An estimated **8 million tonnes of plastic waste** enter 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 and stormwater management 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.

The initiative is focusing on the management of waste, wastewater and stormwater globally, with a particular focus on riverine and coastal areas located 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 — Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and KfW — with the objective of **financing €2 billion** in projects that reduce plastic waste by the end of 2023. We achieved more than 80% of this goal at the beginning of 2022, with projects that will benefit more than 20 million people living in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

In October 2020, the founding members of the Clean Oceans Initiative welcomed the Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), the Italian national promotional institution and financial institution for development cooperation, and the Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO), the Spanish promotional bank, as new partners to contribute to the protection of our oceans and seas under this joint initiative.

At the One Ocean Summit in February 2022, at which the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) became the sixth member of the Clean Oceans Initiative, the initiative announced it would raise its funding target to **€4 billion by the end of 2025**.

# CLEANING UP RIVERS AND COASTAL CITIES

## OBJECTIVES

- **Collection, treatment and recycling of waste, and 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 rainfall and floods.

## PROJECTS

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

Providing clean water to more than 4 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.



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

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

KfW approved an **€80 million** loan to help Cape Town improve and extend various municipal wastewater treatment plants as well as a **€1.2 million** grant for training and a **€4.5 million** grant for accompanying measures to support the city. 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.

### **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 sewerage 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. 10% 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 to hit the area, 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 Mariout 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 benefit more than 1.5 million people.

## CLEANING UP THE WATERWAYS IN CENTRAL CHINA

The Yangtze River in central China and its delta region are among the most polluted waterways in the world and thereby contribute heavily to the further pollution of the Pacific Ocean. The region's growth in recent decades has been accomplished at the expense of significant environmental problems. Water quality has deteriorated, air pollution has increased and the soil has been contaminated. Cities in the area will have to make great efforts to reduce the discharge of waste and wastewater.

The Green Urban Financing and Innovation Project is helping local governments to improve sewerage services and the overall water supply. In support of this project, KfW, on behalf of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, signed a **€150 million** loan to finance cities' improvement projects. For the loan's implementation, KfW joined forces with the World Bank, which signed an additional \$200 million loan, in a joint effort to prevent pollutants entering the river and ocean in the first place. This approach gets to the root of the problem and it is expected that its financing structure will 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** (AFD) Group funds, supports and accelerates the transition to a fairer and more sustainable world. Focusing on climate, biodiversity, peace, education, urban development, health and governance, AFD teams carry out more than 4 000 projects in 115 countries and France's overseas departments and contribute to the commitment of France and French people to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)



The **Cassa Depositi e Prestiti** (CDP) is a unique group in the Italian development landscape, combining financial and industrial capabilities. CDP serves Italy and other countries, promoting growth and employment, and supporting innovation, the competitiveness of businesses and infrastructure. [www.cdp.it](http://www.cdp.it)



The **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** (EBRD) is a leader in climate finance in regions stretching across three continents, from Central and Eastern Europe to Central Asia and the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. It has committed to align all its operations with the goals of the Paris Agreement by the end of 2022 and make more than 50% of its investments green by 2025. [www.ebrd.org](http://www.ebrd.org)



The **European Investment Bank** (EIB) is the world's largest multilateral lender for climate action projects and is active in around 160 countries. The EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap outlines its commitment to support €1 trillion of climate action and environmental sustainability investments in the next decade. Under its Clean and Sustainable Ocean Programme, of which the Clean Oceans Initiative is one important pillar, the EIB supports investments that will contribute to improving the health of the oceans and their resources. [www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)



The **Instituto de Crédito Oficial** (ICO) is a corporate state-owned entity attached to the Spanish government's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation. ICO has become a point of reference in the financing of both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large-scale investment projects. ICO contributes to sustainable growth, promoting those economic activities that, due to their social, cultural, innovative or environmental significance, are worthy of promotion and development. [www.ico.es](http://www.ico.es)



The **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau** (KfW) has been improving economic, social and ecological living conditions around the world since 1948. In 2021, it provided €107 billion in financing. Of this total, 53% was spent on protecting the climate and the environment. KfW has about 70 offices and representations worldwide and is one of the world's leading promotional banks, working on behalf of the German Federal Government and the federal states of Germany. [www.kfw.de](http://www.kfw.de)

**European Investment Bank**  
98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer  
L-2950 Luxembourg  
+352 4379-1  
[www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org) – [info@eib.org](mailto:info@eib.org)

[twitter.com/EIB](https://twitter.com/EIB)  
 [facebook.com/  
EuropeanInvestmentBank](https://facebook.com/EuropeanInvestmentBank)  
 [youtube.com/EIBtheEUBank](https://youtube.com/EIBtheEUBank)