

INTRODUCTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

Over the last 50 years, plastic products have become almost irreplaceable in our lives and are used in huge quantities across the world. 8% of the world's crude oil is used for producing plastic in thousands of different forms for human beings.

As this substance is very cheap and versatile around 50% of the plastic items we produce are single use products and subsequently get thrown away almost immediately. Plastics do not biodegrade, they photodegrade; this involves plastic breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces under the exposure of the sun's ultraviolet rays but never ceasing to exist in their most basic form. This means, with the exception of the small amount that has been incinerated, virtually every piece of plastic ever made still exists in some shape or form.

663 SPECIES
AROUND THE WORLD ARE HARMED
BY PLASTIC EVERY YEAR



PLASTIC TAKES OVER
1,000 YEARS
TO DEGRADE

PLASTIC POLLUTION FACTS

IN 2006 EVERY SQUARE
MILE OF OCEAN HOSTS
46,000 PIECES
OF FLOATING PLASTIC
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM ESTIMATED



DUMPING OF PLASTIC WASTE
IN THE OCEAN HAS INCREASED BY 10%
EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS

44% OF SEABIRDS
43% OF OCEAN MAMMALS
AND 86% OF SEA TURTLES
INGEST OR BECOME TANGLED IN THIS MAN MADE MATERIAL

NO OCEAN ON EARTH IS UNAFFECTED BY PLASTIC POLLUTION



FIND OUT MORE AND GET INVOLVED!

Global Ocean is a London-based marine conservation charity established in 2006. We focus on informing the public about plastic pollution and marine debris, and teaching children about the importance of a healthy ocean. Our objective is to heighten public awareness about the plight of the seas and to change the social attitude towards marine conservation.

To do this, Global Ocean aims to:

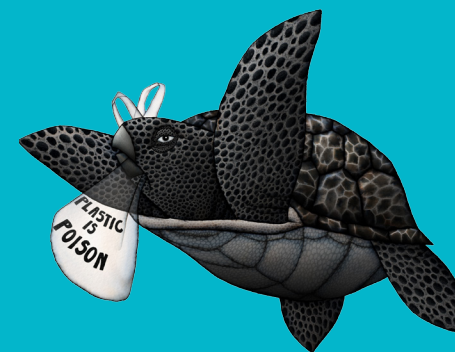
- Be the voice on plastic pollution in our oceans.
- Fund small projects with big impacts worldwide.
- Protect marine species and their habitats.
- Generate an affinity to the marine world, to encourage individuals to positively contribute to marine stewardship.
- Highlight the importance of individual and collective responsibility for our marine resources, to safeguard them for future generations.
- Facilitate relationships between marine conservation bodies to guarantee long-term sustainability of the oceans.

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PLASTIC NOT FANTASTIC
THE STORY OF PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR OCEANS



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HOW CAN WE HELP?

