

# END PLASTIC SOUP

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



## Report of the Board

EndPlasticSoup is the global initiative for Rotary, Rotaract and Interact Clubs to solve and prevent the plastic pollution problem together.

**OUR GOAL REMAINS:** By 2050 there is no more plastic soup in the oceans, seas, no more plastic waste in lakes, rivers, forests, parks and streets. 'Plastic Soup' is the name for all the plastic pollution problems in the Air, in the Soil and in the Waters.

Together with all Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors we can create Awareness, take Action and build Alliances to accelerate solutions across the full life cycle of plastic: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The international growth of our participating Supporter and Ambassador Clubs and individual Friends, and growth of our Alliances inside and outside Rotary are priorities of the Rotary EndPlasticSoup initiative.





## WE USE A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

- Clubs worldwide can join the initiative and become a participating Supporter or Ambassador Club. Individuals can join as a Friend.
- Ambassador Clubs represent EndPlasticSoup in their district or region, they can choose the best local approach and priorities. 'Think global and act local'. We inspire Supporter and Ambassador Clubs to take actions and create awareness in their clubs and districts in the way that is relevant in their region.
- Every Rotarian, Rotaractor and Interactor can take action at the individual level: pick up one piece of plastic every day, reduce and do not use single use plastics, bring your own bottle, bag, cup or box, find alternatives and take a plastic diet to reduce plastics, reuse clothes and replace cosmetics that contain a large amount of microplastics, and... tell your friends and family to do the same.
- Every club is independent and as 'People of Action' the club can create Awareness, take Action and build Alliances in the local communities across the full lifecycle of plastic: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Our slogan: Start today, step by step, together we unite, young and old, and we will 'EndPlasticSoup'!



EndPlasticSoup continues to support actions, education, projects and alliances, and cooperates with Clubs and Districts worldwide, now in 45 countries in all continents, and with Rotary Action Groups, Fellowships and Rotaract & Interact Networks. The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) and Rotary EndPlasticSoup cooperate in support of our common goals.

We are happy to see that not only traditional Rotary clubs are joining EndPlasticSoup, also e-Clubs, Passport Clubs, and Fellowships choose to cooperate and support EndPlasticSoup. District Governors, District Governor Elects and Nominees are using 'Environment' and 'EndPlasticSoup' as the central theme in their governmental year.

We continued our cooperation with our [Young Ambassadors for EndPlasticSoup](#) worldwide, and the [EndPlasticSoup Advisory Board](#) consisting of members with experience in the Rotary organization and with knowledge regarding plastic pollution and solutions.

Although we saw an increase of our Ambassador Clubs from 60 to 80 in the Rotary Year 2022-2023, we are also aware of a lower growth of new Rotary and Rotaract



Clubs joining us, while a lower number of existing participating clubs paid the annual fee. We started asking for donations in a more formal way as we need the donations to continue to support the growth in actions and projects worldwide. See the [Financial Report 2022-2023](#) at our website.

Next to the reduction of plastic, we pay more and more attention to the prevention of microplastics in the air, the soil and the waters. Microplastics have a big impact on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Health. Latest research shows that microplastics impact the health, fertility, and the hormone system of humans and all life on earth, with a direct impact on human health and biodiversity. Therefore, we support our alliance Plastic Soup Foundation, who leads the Plastic Health Coalition, to do more research and report facts regarding consequences and alternatives.

The functioning of plankton in oceans has been strongly reduced in the past decades. Plankton is the start of our food chain and is responsible for over 60% of the capacity for CO<sub>2</sub> absorption and oxygen production of our planet, two times more than all trees and vegetation on earth together. Jointly with the warming of our oceans, microplastics cause the reduction of this capacity and microplastics are therefore another major cause of climate change.

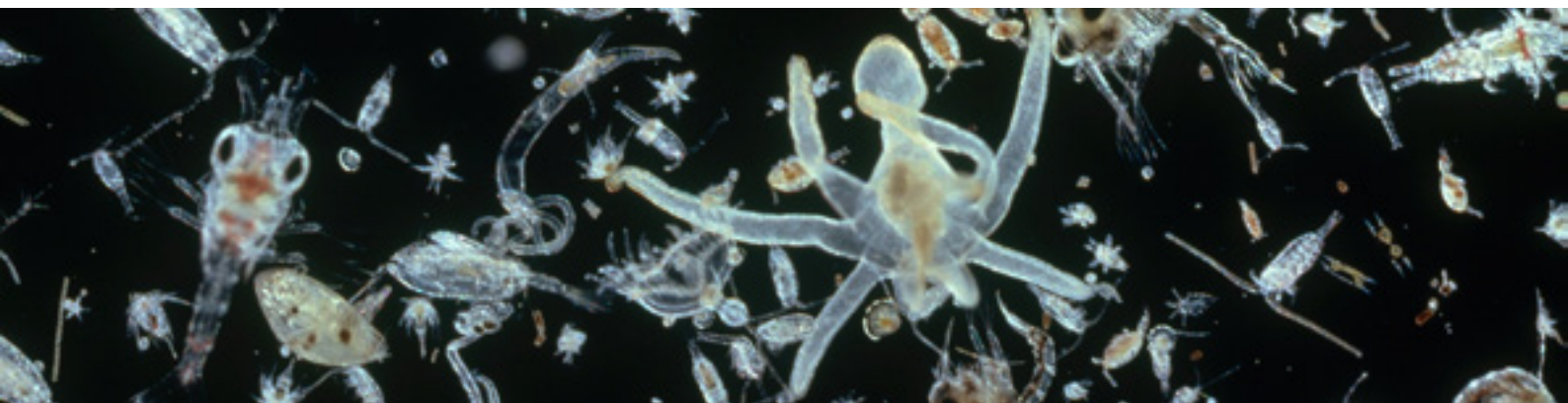


IMAGE BY DR. D. P. WILSON/SCIENCE SOURCE

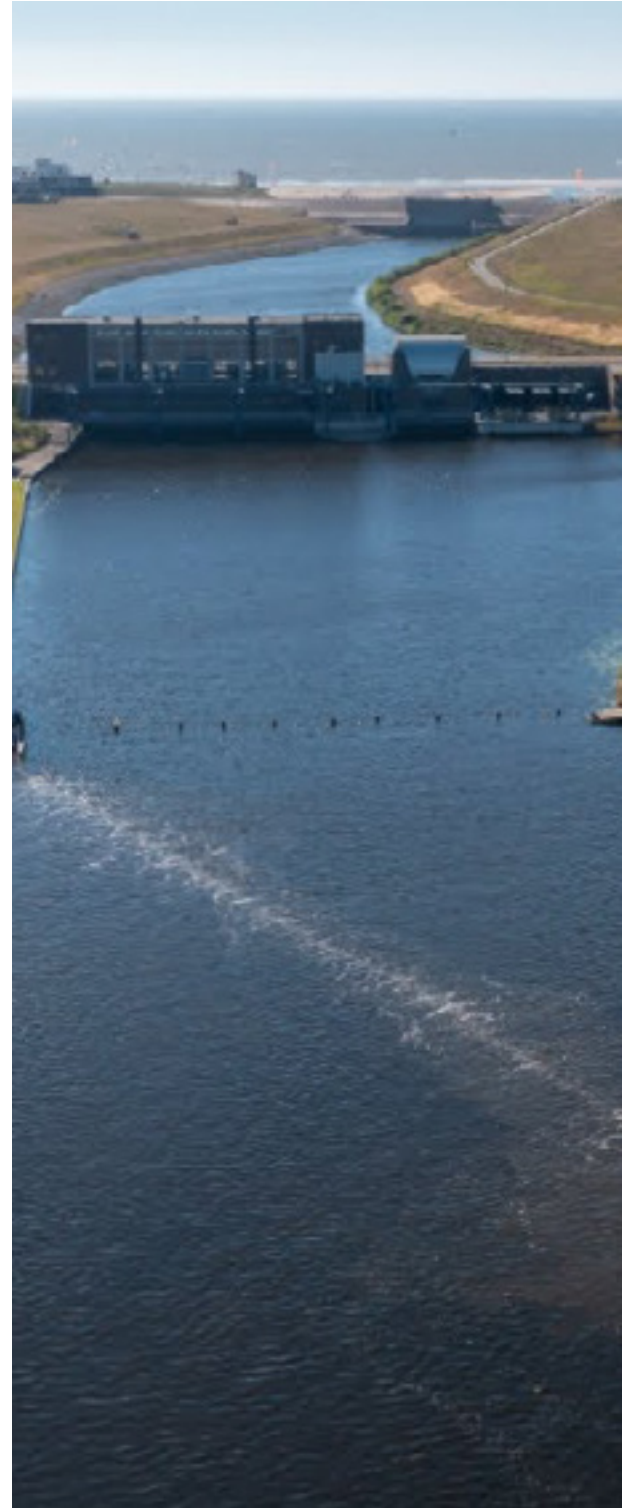


Reduction of microplastics by 70% is possible, according to this report by [TNO](#).

Rotary EndPlasticSoup, supported by all participating Rotary, Rotaract and Interact Clubs and our alliances, take action for awareness, support education and projects worldwide and we expect our planet can recover from the moment we stop the growth of plastics and microplastics, and offer the next generation a new perspective.

We supported new projects like the Nile Plastic Free Global Grant project and the application of the Global Grant for the EndPlasticSoup Clean River Drina in Bosnia Herzegovina. The implementation of the Bubble Barrier in the Old Rhine in The Netherlands has been established and preparations for (Global Grant) projects in India, Uganda, Ghana/Sierra-Leone, Balkan and East-European countries, Latin America, Indonesia and Philippines are ongoing.

The initiatives of our Young Ambassadors are being supported with donations and by using the Rotary network. In the Rotary Year 2022-2023 preparations have started for large scale education projects among others in Indonesia and The Philippines.





Together with our Ambassador Clubs we established new alliances with Happy Green World, Rhine Cleanup , Cafeteria Culture in the USA, and Umyy Relief Foundation in Ghana.



EndPlasticSoup in Rotary year 2022-2023 had the following board members:



- [Wytzia de Savornin Lohman](#), board member, RC Amsterdam, D1580, Netherlands
- [Wendela Sandberg](#), Chair, RC Amsterdam-Nachtwacht, D1580, Netherlands
- [Willem Falter](#), board member, RC Marbella-Guadalmina, D2203, Spain
- [Gert-Jan van Dommelen](#), Secretary and project director, RC Huizen-Gooimeer, D1570, Netherlands
- [Marja Ritterfeld](#), board member PDG 1850, RC Uelsen-Coevorden, Germany
- [Albert Jan Visser](#), Treasurer, RC Amsterdam-West, D1580, Netherlands

We thank Ester Oude Nijhuis from D1580 for her support keeping the social media updated. Please see for more information about our [organization](#), [our legal status](#) and the [Financial Report 2022-2023](#) our [website](#). Thank you all for your support. Only together we will "End Plastic Soup"!

Board of EndPlasticSoup, Amsterdam, December 2023



## Overview of Actions and Projects

At our [website](#), available in five languages (English, Spanish, French, German and Dutch), you can find our [newsletters](#) in the year 2022-2023, an overview of actions, projects and alliances.

During the Rotary Year 2022-2023 we presented EndPlasticSoup at many District conferences, Rotary and Rotaract Club meetings, and international conferences: the Rotary Institute in Basel in September 2022, and of course the RI Conference in Sydney in May 2023.

Our Ambassadors Melanie Lewis, Barbara McChesney and Salvador did a great job by presenting the breakout meeting: "EndPlasticSoup & Stop Plastic Pollution". Together with about 20 volunteer Rotarians they represented us in the House of Friendship. Next year we hope to achieve a similar success at the RI Convention in Singapore and we will apply for an even larger break-out room.







## Webinars for ambassador clubs

We organized seven webinars of one hour with specialists on various EndPlasticSoup subjects all concerning the plastic waste problem and its consequences for the planet, the environment and human health.

18 September 2022

**Dr. Esperanza Huerta Lwanga:** Microplastics in the Terrestrial Environment - How do microplastics affect food safety.

30 October 2022:

**Nils Tore Skogland,** member of our Advisory Board - Framework for Strategic Sustainable Development.

**Geofrey Arinaitwe,** Rotaract Uganda - Project Youth for a plastic free Lake Victoria.

**Mohamad Elmisky,** Dubai - End of Litter Trail.

11 December 2022

**Nacho Dean:** La Espana Azul - Plastic Science on the Oceans.

**Thomas Wurster:** Sustainable aspects of Adult Incontinent Products.

20 January 2023

**Claudia Maria Koch:** Project Heart of the ocean Padangbai, Bali, Indonesia.

**Resa Boenard:** ARBIE From Waste to Value at the Bantar Gebang landfill, Indonesia.

**Miguel and Isabel De Schetzen:** Project Colibri in French Polynesia.

17 February 2023

**Prof. Dr. Volker Harth:** Plastics and its impact on food chain and environment:  
The Effects of microplastics on human health.

17 March 2023

**Aleksandra Letic,** RC Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina - Global Grant EndPlasticSoup  
Drina-Donau-Region.

28 April 2023

**Maria Kojck & Dr. Marjolein Ronday:** Plastic Waste in Care and Surgeries.





## Young Ambassadors

We are proud that our Young Ambassadors caught also the eye of International Conferences:

**Melati Wijsen** spoke at the COP27 Climate conference in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. She also spoke at the Big Improvement day in The Hague, Netherlands in January 2023, and in May 2023 she was co-speaker with former USA President Barack Obama at the Ziggo Dome in Amsterdam, to present Young Change makers with her new initiative Youthtopia.



**Aeshnina Azzahra Aqilani (Nina)**, Java Indonesia, representing Indonesia's young generation, delivered a message to the delegation of G20 member parliaments in the Parliamentary Forum in the context of the G20 Parliamentary Speaker's Summit. She addressed the waste dump of Western countries in her neighbourhood in Indonesia and requested the stop of plastic export from western countries to countries like Indonesia. She also aims at creating 1,000 plastic-free school-canteens in Indonesia and prohibit candies in plastic sachets.



**Ellyanne Wanjiku** from Chlystun, Kenya, visited Zimbabwe in December 2022 to create EndPlasticSoup awareness at schools, in a church and meeting government officials. Ellyanne focused on the river Zambezi that supplies Victoria Falls. Science research shows a lot of African rivers are infested by microplastics. In April 2023 she attended the Africa Children Conference where plastic pollution was discussed. She interviewed Dr. Philiip from the UN Child Rights Committee based in Geneva. And she interviewed many children and also Lady Justice Teresia regarding Children's Justice. She met Mr Emmanuel Macron, president of France, when offering the Children's Declaration for a global financing pact, one that safeguards a just and sustainable future for all the children across the globe.



In March 2023 **Fionn Ferreira** from Ireland has been recognized as Young Ambassador for EndPlasticSoup. He is passionate about solving the microplastic issue and he is testing his method to build a device for the efficient removal of microplastics from water on a large scale.

**Amy and Ella Meek** from the UK, continue the project 'Plastic Clever Schools' and their 'Kids Against Plastic' initiative.

## Highlights of Club actions

Thanks to our Ambassador and Supporter Clubs and Rotary Friends worldwide, we are able to create awareness in all continents. We wish to mention highlights of some of these club actions and the ones we supported with grants:

### Global Grant EndPlasticSoup Drina, Bosnia Herzegovina

After a successful pilot we supported the Global Grant "EndPlasticSoup Drina" project is designed to help protect, preserve and maintain the environment through the protection and restoration of freshwater and, by extension, marine water resources. The main objective of the project is to reduce the pollution of the Drina, a border river between Herzegovina and Serbia, especially with plastic waste, and reduce plastic waste discharge via the rivers Sava and Danube into the Black Sea).





## Global Grant Project Nile Plastic free, Egypt

The Global Grant Project 'Nile Plastic free' is funded by over 22 Rotary clubs, 3 Districts, individual sponsorship and EndPlasticSoup. In June 2023 the new catamaran boat had been launched for cleaning plastic at hotspots in the Nile, a great milestone!



## Limes Bubble Barrier and Visitor centre Katwijk, The Netherlands

We contributed to the Education & Visitor Centre next to the Bubble Barrier in the river Old Rhine in Katwijk, The Netherlands. Huge funding has been collected by selling jig saw puzzles by RC Winschoten, The Netherlands.





## Mobile Recycling Lab and Global Grant Recycling Factory India

RC Amsterdam-Nieuwendam has developed two innovative recycling projects:

- a mobile plastic recycling LAB for primary and secondary education
- a circular plastic upcycling factory for 10 fishing villages in Vizianagaram, AP, on the east coast of India



## EndPlasticSoup Vietnam

Our Ambassador RC Saigon International organized the [End Plastic Soup in Cam Ranh](#) campaign, spearheaded by Alma Resort, and supported by 5 other hotel resorts on the Cam Ranh peninsula, with an extensive two-day clean-up of Long Beach by 300 volunteers and local schools in June 2023 and they started to remove all single-use plastics from the hotels.



## España Azul

District 2201, 2202 and 2203 supported España Azul for the trip of Nacho Dean and his team around the five continents to collect scientific information on plastic waste, to understand and defend the oceans. Together with University of Cadiz they will write the report.



Our Ambassador RC Marbella International installed the Flavo Fish to collect plastic waste from the beaches and inform the public about the time it takes for different types of waste to degrade.







## Worldwide Action Days

In 2022-2023 we made the connection to existing UN environment days to promote Rotary and the 7th area of focus and reach out to Alliances, locally and globally. Together we support these international days to accelerate solutions and policies to prevent and drastically reduce plastic pollution of rivers worldwide. Our aim is that all our supporters undertake an action on the following International Action Days:

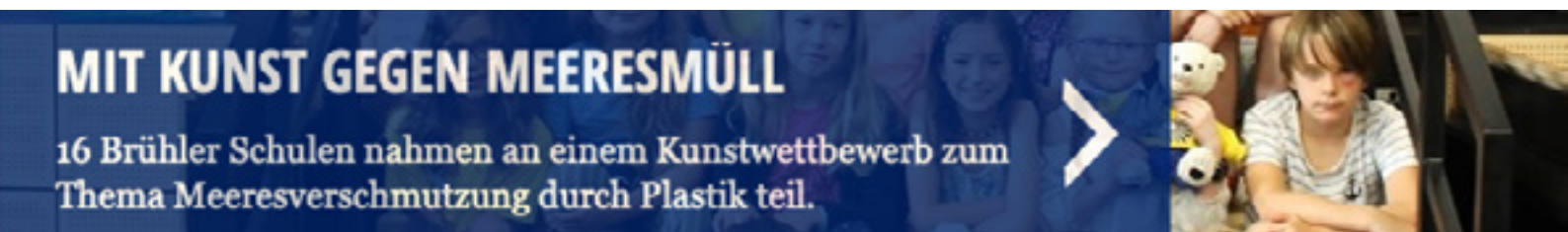
- World Water Day,
- Earth Day
- Worldwide End Plastic Soup Action Day
- Environment Day
- World Oceans Day
- World Cleanup Day
- World Rivers Day

We are proud and grateful that, once again, many clubs organized actions at our 5th Worldwide EndPlasticSoup Action Day, 3rd June 2023 (first Saturday in June) to grow awareness.



## Some more examples of ACTION

- Stop Plastic Waste event at the World Expo Floriade
- Plastic art competition 'NieMeerMüll'
- Cigarette butts had the special interest: students of a secondary school in Amsterdam, made some impactful awareness videos with the help of a professional filmer.
- Ambassador RC Wipperfürth-Lindlar collected more than 10,000 cigarette butts.
- Ambassador Henley Rotary Club, D1090, UK, and friends were in Henley early May undertaking a [Plastic Blitz](#) on the Big Help Out Day for the river Thames in the UK.
- Ambassador Clubs Bruxelles Amitié (Belgium), Roma Nord-Est (Italy) and Zagarje Kum (Slovenia) supported two young students Elmo and Pablo with their awareness project "Flow" in the Balkan and Eastern Europe countries.





# Adopt a River

for sustainable Development

## Adopt a River

The first World Rivers Day at Rotary inspired many clubs to start an action, adopt a river and/or start a project to clean and keep clean our rivers. We will support the Rotary-UN initiative 'Adopt a River' with our EndPlasticSoup projects and actions worldwide. Over 30 Rotaract Clubs around the world, e.g. Dubai, Philippines, organized a large cleanup. See this [Youtube video](#) that has been made.



## Plastic Free Lake Victoria

**Geoffrey Arinaitwe**, our Rotaract Uganda Ambassador, inspired Rotaractors in Uganda and worldwide with his project Youth for a Plastic Free Lake Victoria. Many Interactors in Uganda joined the Lukaya EndPlasticSoup community education and cleanup. It was a great program to create awareness about how to reduce plastic pollution. They had a community cleanup and a plastic bottles pickup. In addition, they were informed about the available health and menstrual hygiene services of Rotary.





## Join Plastic Clever Schools

An award to reduce waste with kids at the heart of the action.



## Education

Education and awareness for children at primary schools, secondary and professional schools are a key priority for EndPlasticSoup. Education materials are being translated and adapted to the local culture and learning methods. Even a musical has been created and produced, free to download in German and English.

The play "No more plastic!" (Schluss mit Plastik!) is intended to make children and families aware of the plastic flood in our environment and motivate them to do without or to recycle. The play tells the story of a turtle family and a human family. Dr. Ralf Hardenberg from our Ambassador Rotary Club Nürnberg-Connect created and directed the play with 12 year old students.

EndPlasticSoup funded the booklets "One Island, One Voice" of our Young Ambassadors Bye Bye Plastic Bags in Indonesia, for our alliance Happy Green Islands to provide education to 65 schools in the Moluccan, and via Kids Against Plastic in the UK we support the 'Plastic Clever School' initiative.



In the Rotary Year 2022-2023 preparations have started for large scale education in several countries in Europe, in Ghana, Indonesia, The Philippines and Vietnam.

New EndPlasticSoup Education materials (boxes) were developed jointly with Bergischer Abfallwirtschaftsverband and the University of Osnabrück for secondary and professional schools. Consequently, many German clubs have donated about 500 education boxes to schools. And the sales have not stopped yet, more to come.





## Advisory Board



The [EndPlasticSoup Advisory Board](#) consists of members with experience in the Rotary organization and/or with knowledge regarding plastic pollution and solutions. They advise us regarding direction, priorities, and solutions to achieve our goal. The board met in May 2022 and March 2023 to discuss and advise us regarding our strategy, projects, scale grant for education, growth and funding.

In March 2023 [Prof Dr. Jur. Helmut Maurer](#) has joined the Advisory Board. He is lawyer and former principal administrator and senior expert at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment's chemicals unit, Germany.

We will continue to organize Ambassador Club meetings and webinars with interesting presentations regarding research, solutions and projects, sharing ideas and experiences. And of course we will continue to build more alliances, support education, club actions and presentations, provide facts and figures and support the actions of our Young Ambassadors.

Become Supporter or Ambassador Club! Get inspired by the video: [Rotary EndPlasticSoup to stop plastic pollution worldwide - Join Us!](#)

**Please Join Us Now! EndPlasticSoup!**



## COLOPHON & INFORMATION



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