



ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

END
PLASTIC
SOUP



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 EndPlasticSoup.





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 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. ESRAG and EndPlasticSoup cooperate in support of our common goals; in the longer term it may become clear whether an organizational integration is the best way to effectively reach our goal.

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

In the Rotary Year 2021-2022 we introduced our [Young Ambassadors for EndPlasticSoup](#) worldwide, and we started 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 2021-2022, 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 2021-2022](#) available at the 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 are interfering with the endocrine systems of humans and wildlife. with health, fertility, and all life on earth. Therefore, we support our alliance Plastic Soup Foundation, who leads the [Plastic Health Coalition](#), to intensify research and to report facts regarding consequences and alternatives.

The functioning of plankton in oceans has been strongly reduced in the past decades and this has a large impact on our food chain, CO2 absorption and oxygen production, as plankton in the oceans is responsible for about 60% of these capacities of our planet.



Reduction of microplastics by 70% is possible, according to this report by [TNO](#). EndPlasticSoup and all the supporting Rotary, Rotaract and Interact Clubs and our alliances take action for awareness, support education and projects worldwide. We hope our planet can recover when we drastically reduce the use of plastics and microplastics, and in doing so, offer future generations 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. Preparations for projects in Uganda, Ghana-Sierra-Leone, Balkan countries, 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 in Indonesia and The Philippines among others.





We established new alliances, i.a. with [Break Free From Plastic](#), and we cooperate to realize the legislation as agreed in the UN Plastic Treaty, signed in March 2022.



EndPlasticSoup had the following board members in 2021-2022:



- [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 (not in the picture).
Madelon Schaap (4th from left) left the board. She is an honourable Fellow of EndPlasticSoup.

Thank you all for your support.

Board of EndPlasticSoup, Amsterdam, December 2022

For more information, please download our Policy plan and legal status, available at our [website](#) and the [Financial Report 2021-2022](#)



Overview of Actions and Projects

Our [website](#) is available in five languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Dutch. You can find our [Newsletters](#) in the year 2021-2022, giving an overview of actions, projects and alliances.

Holger Knaack, Madelon Schaap and Shekhar Mehta in Prague 2021



During the Rotary Year 2021-2022, we presented EPS at many District and Rotary International conferences like the Rotary Institute in Prague in September, the [West African Project Fair](#), the [RI Presidential Conferences in Manilla](#) in November, in [Venice](#) in March, the RI Conference in Houston in June, and at other District Conferences worldwide.





We are energized that the United Nations agreed on a [Plastic Pollution Treaty](#) in March 2022.

The United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi agreed to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024. [Dr. Janet Kabeberi-Macharia](#), Head, Gender and Social Safeguards Unit at UNEP, Ambassador in Kenya and member of the EPS Advisory Board, gave a webinar on the subject. Together with our alliance 'Break Free From Plastic', we will support clear legislation and policies to reduce plastic pollution worldwide.



At the start of the Rotary year in July and August 2021, we were confronted with the dramatic consequences of climate change: floodings in Central Europe and forest fires across the world. [The Rotaract MDIOs](#) of Europe, Mediterranean and Oceania started a series of three events 'Unite for the Environment' showing worldwide consequences of climate change. EndPlasticSoup supported these events: read more [here](#) and [here](#).



In September 2021, during the [Synergy Europe EndPlasticSoup seminar](#) "Planet, People, Profit and Peace", we welcomed our earliest Young Ambassadors for EndPlasticSoup: Melati & Isabel Wijsen and the young leaders of Bye Bye Plastic Bags in Bali, Indonesia. We are proud to introduce more international Young Ambassadors for EndPlasticSoup.





Young Ambassadors

Our Young Ambassadors are talented young people who, like EndPlasticSoup, are committed to fighting plastic pollution and creating a better environment for all of us. We will make them part of our EndPlasticSoup network. They will be our future leaders and deserve our support. We will support the activities and projects of the Young Ambassadors who will raise awareness of EndPlasticSoup on social media and during their actions. Together we will have more impact and, we will create more awareness.

In May 2022, EndPlasticSoup organized the first worldwide Interact event where our [Young Ambassadors inspired Interactors](#).

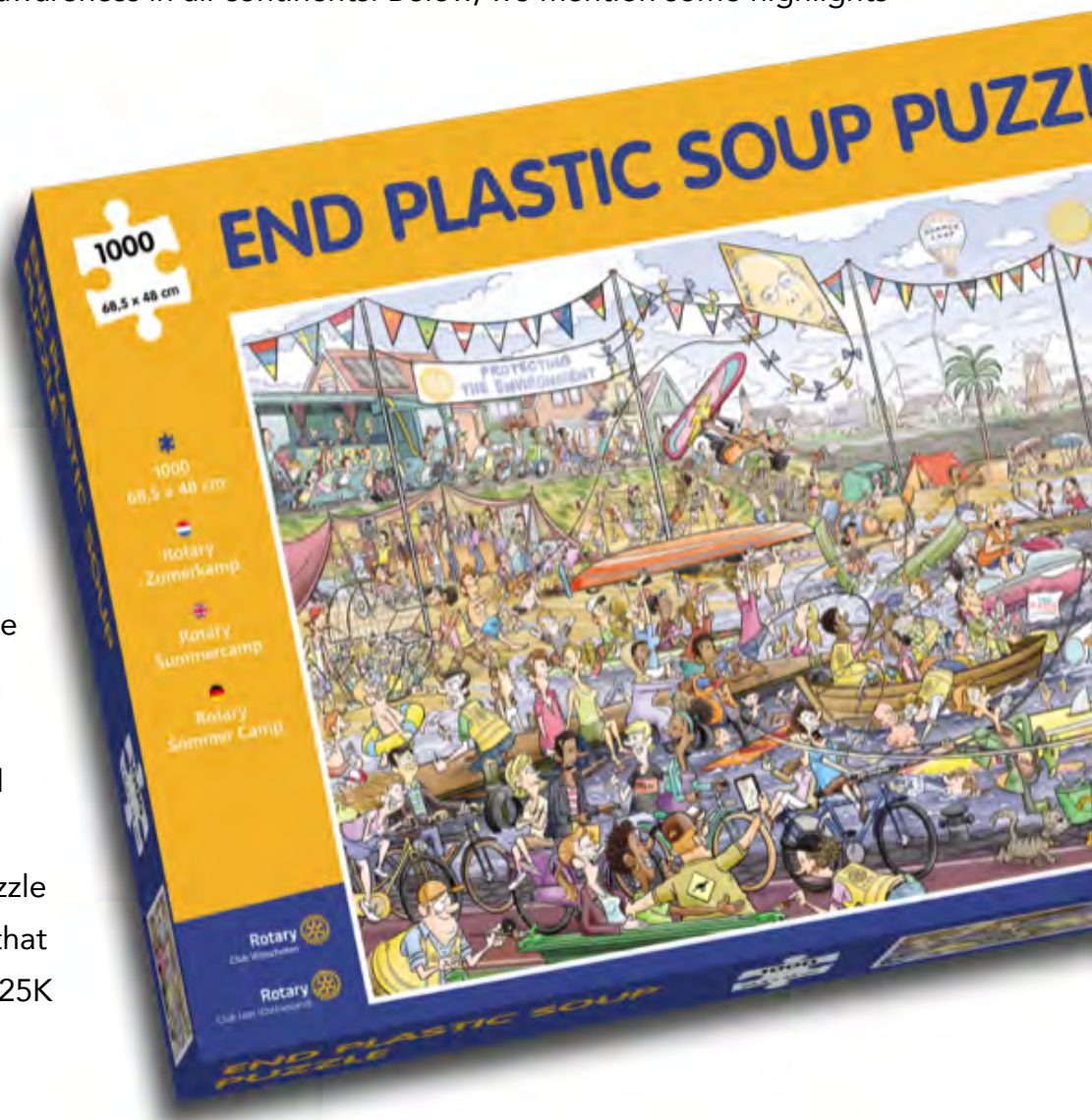
Young Ambassadors EndPlasticSoup



Highlights of Club actions

Thanks to our Ambassador and Supporter Clubs and Rotary Friends worldwide, we are able to create awareness in all continents. Below, we mention some highlights of club actions:

RC Winschoten (The Netherlands) and RC Leer (Germany) together organized together a second EndPlasticSoup Puzzle fundraising action that already generated 25K euro.





RC Brühl (Germany) organized a plastic art competition with high school students. The best creations were awarded, and during an auction RC Brühl generated 40K euro. 10,000 euros were spent on the new EndPlasticSoup education boxes for primary and secondary schools. The remaining funds were spread over 3 EndPlasticSoup actions, which were selected by the students: our alliance [Everwave](#) and their projects, the preparation of the project in Ghana by [Technicians without borders](#), and our Young Ambassadors of [Bye Bye Plastic Bags](#) for educational purposes.



Rotaract Club of mutesesa 1 Royal University kirumba masaka, Uganda, started with clean-ups with other Rotaract Clubs in Uganda, as a preparation for a new project "Youth for a plastic free lake Victoria".



Many clubs, like [RC Miami](#), [RC Windsor](#) and [RC Lake Havasu City](#) in the USA, organized actions and inspired us with new ideas.

Worldwide Action Days

Of course many clubs organized actions at our 5th Worldwide EndPlasticSoup Action Day on 4th June 2022 (first Saturday in June) to grow awareness. Some examples are the Stop Plastic Waste event at the [World Expo Floriade](#), and the [plastic art competition 'NieMeerMüll'](#).

EndPlasticSoup participating clubs also took action for awareness at [World Water Day](#) 22nd March, [Earth Day](#) 22nd April, and at [Rotary Action Days](#).





Jointly with the project Clean Rivers of the World, ESRAAG and WASHRAG, EndPlasticSoup took the initiative to support **World Cleanup Day** (3rd Saturday of September) and **World Rivers Day** (4th Sunday of September).

It is important that we together support these international days to accelerate solutions and policies to prevent and drastically reduce plastic pollution of rivers worldwide.

This first World Rivers Day at Rotary will hopefully inspire many clubs to start an action, adopt a river and/or start a project to clean and keep clean our rivers.



SECOND CLEANING OF THE RIO GRANDE RIVER



La Iniciativa de Limpiar el Río Bravo



Education



Education and awareness for children at primary schools, secondary and professional schools are key priority to EndPlasticSoup. Education materials are being translated and adapted to the local culture and learning methods.

We 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 with the Plastic Clever School materials.

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



ONE ISLAND



ONE VOICE

MY ISLAND
is beautiful
without
PLASTIC
GARBAGE

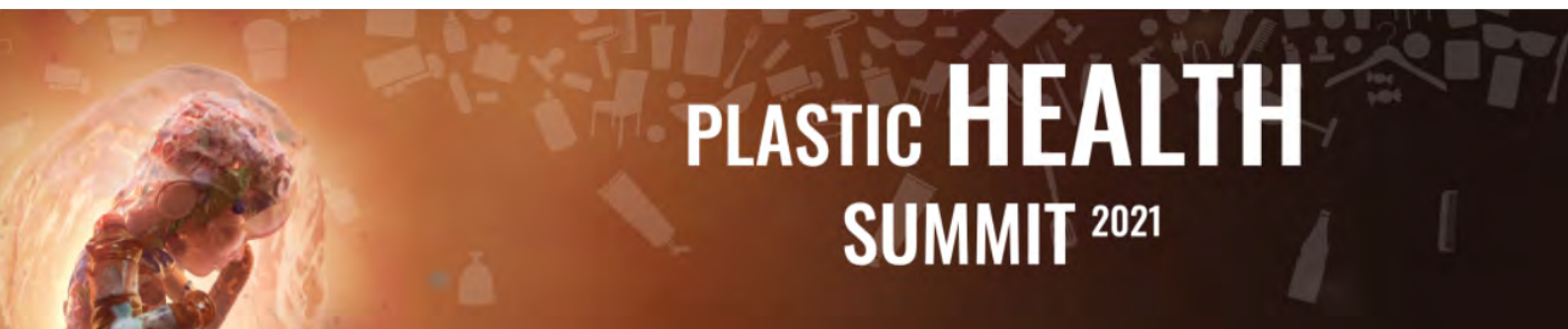


Advisory Board

Early 2022 we started the [EndPlasticSoup Advisory Board](#) consisting of members with experience in the Rotary organization and with knowledge regarding plastic pollution and solutions. They advise us regarding direction, priorities and solutions to achieve our goal.



EndPlasticSoup was present at the 2nd [Plastic Health Summit](#), 21st October 2021, organized by our alliance the Plastic Soup Foundation. Scientists from all over the world presented the results of two years of research on the impact of plastic pollution on our health. Lawyers, politicians and entrepreneurs presented their view on required legislation to reduce plastic pollution. The next Plastic Health Summit will take place on 11th May 2023 in Brussels.



During the year we supported with a Global Grant projects like Nile Plastic Free in Egypt and the EndPlasticSoup Clean River Drina in Bosnia Herzegovina. The implementation of the [Bubble Barrier in the Old Rhine in The Netherlands](#) (picture below) has been established, and preparations for projects in Uganda, Ghana/Sierra-Leone, the Balkan countries, India, Indonesia, and The Philippines are ongoing.



Looking forward

We will continue to organize Ambassador Club meetings and webinars (nine webinars in 2021-2022, seven planned in 2022-2023) with interesting presentations regarding research, solutions and projects, and sharing ideas and experiences.

Furthermore, we plan to organize an International EndPlasticSoup RYLA following the initial RYLA successes in Germany.



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.



A circular plastic recycling factory for 10 fishing villages in Vizianagaram, AP, on the east coast of India

A Global Grant is requested for a recycling factory for 10 fishing villages where the low-quality street plastic is recycled into building material for the same villages. This is analogous to the circular Intereg factory in Almere, built by partner Save Plastics, where the municipality delivers the low-quality urban plastic to its doorstep and receives sturdy benches, bridges, shoring and beams in return. The grant amounts to € 100,000. € 35,000 is still needed.



Please Join Us Now! [EndPlasticSoup!](#)

COLOPHON & INFORMATION



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Additional picture by Justin Hofman