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Waste Wise Cities & African Clean Cities Platform NEWSLETTER

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Plastic and Textile waste

Challenges and opportunities of Plastic waste

The fashion and textile industry is a significant contributor to plastic waste, generating approximately 92 million tons of textile waste annually — the equivalent of a waste collection truck full of clothing being incinerated or dumped in landfills every second. Synthetic fibres like polyester, nylon, and acrylic make up over 60% of global textile production, and their widespread use has led to severe environmental consequences.

Synthetics, and polyester particularly, are widely considered responsible for the rise of throwaway clothing and the fast fashion business models that sit at the heart of this growth.

Eleven per cent of plastic waste comes from clothing and textiles, making it third in line after packaging (40 per cent) and consumer goods (12 per cent). These materials, derived from fossil fuels, contribute to carbon emissions and environmental degradation, further exacerbating pollution in water bodies and food chains.

All textiles are subject to fibre fragmentation, contributing to environmental pollution by shedding microfibres during production, laundering, consumer wear, recycling and end of life.

The rise of fast fashion has intensified these issues, making it more difficult to curb plastic waste.

However, as consumer awareness grows, there is increasing demand for sustainable alternatives that reduce plastic waste and mitigate environmental harm.

Shifting market trends indicate that both policymakers and brands are under pressure to develop more responsible production practices, making sustainable fashion a promising avenue for change.

Challenges

Dependence on Synthetic Fibers

The fashion industry heavily relies on synthetic fibres such as polyester, nylon, and acrylic due to their affordability and durability. However, these materials are derived from fossil fuels and are non-biodegradable, leading to significant plastic pollution.

Many clothing brands rely on these textiles due to their affordability, durability, and versatility.

However, synthetic materials are non-biodegradable and contribute to long term plastic pollution. Only 8 per cent of textiles fibres in 2023 were made from recycled sources, with less than 1 per cent of the total fibre market coming from textile-to-textile recycling.

A lack of fibre recycling practices is estimated to equate to an annual material value loss of more than US$100 billion.

Microplastic Pollution

A pressing issue is microplastic pollution, as each wash of synthetic garments releases microplastics into wastewater systems, eventually reaching rivers and oceans, harming marine life, and entering the food chain. The textile sector currently contributes 9 per cent of the microplastic pollution that flows into the ocean.

Waste Management and Recycling Limitations

Waste management and recycling limitations further exacerbate the problem, with only a fraction of synthetic-based clothing being effectively repurposed or recycled.

Many garments end up in landfills or incinerators, adding to the growing environmental burden.

Photo credit: Immago

Opportunities

Sustainable Material Innovations

Despite these challenges, several opportunities exist to reduce plastic waste in the fashion sector.

The development of bio-based and biodegradable fabrics, such as those derived from plant sources or lab-grown textiles, present an opportunity to reduce dependency on petroleum-based synthetics.

Circular Fashion Models

Globally, consumers lose about US$460 billions of value each year by throwing away clothes that they could continue to wear, and some garments are estimated to be discarded after just seven to

10 uses. A growing movement in circular fashion emphasizes extending product lifecycles through repair, resale, and rental services, can help minimize waste.

Brands are also exploring closed-loop recycling systems that recover synthetic fibres for reuse, further promoting sustainability.

New circular textile business models could generate US$700 billion in economic value by 2030.

Reducing volumes of production and consumption in key markets, eliminating hazardous chemicals and microfibre shedding, and diverting existing textiles from landfills through reuse and recycling, is vital to the zero-waste agenda.

Policy and Consumer Action

Policy measures and consumer action play a crucial role in this transformation, as governments and organizations implement regulations to curb plastic-based textiles while consumers increasingly prioritize sustainable purchasing choices.

This growing demand for eco-friendly alternatives encourages brands to adopt more responsible production practices. Doubling the number of times a garment is worn would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 44 per cent.

By transitioning toward sustainable fashion solutions, the industry has the potential to play a crucial role in reducing plastic waste while fostering environmental responsibility.

Collaboration between policymakers, brands, and consumers is essential to achieving a circular and less wasteful textile economy.

Photo credit: Adobe Stock

Case studies

Case Study in Circular Innovation: Transforming Textile and Plastic Waste into Opportunity

This article was contributed by Planet 3R

Textile and plastic waste have become a recurring decimal in the world today contributing about 442 million tonnes of waste combined (Hannah Ritchie et al.,2023, Earth.org 2023). The Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of having a rethink in processes involving waste management. Goal 12 directly encourages the prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse of waste.

The increase in waste over the years also presents a great potential for unprecedented growth in this sector. In response, efforts have been in top gear across developed and developing countries, driven by collaborations between governments, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

These stakeholders have mobilized for action to curb the unbridled rise in waste generation while simultaneously investing in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R) value chain.

This strategic approach not only mitigates environmental degradation but also unlocks economic opportunities, fosters innovation, job creation, and sustainable development.

At the heart of environmental conservation and recycling in Africa is Planet 3R; a social enterprise dedicated to converting textile and plastic wastes into eco-friendly products using the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

Planet 3R utilizes an ancient weaving technique from the 15th century native to the Southwestern part of Nigeria.

Aso-oke, a woven fabric recognised for its aesthetic value and high cultural significance, hosts the solution to the pressing challenge of plastic pollution.

In demonstrating dedication to Target 6 of Goal 8, Planet 3R's approach encourages innovation, research, and technology development throughout the recycling value chain by granting access to reasonably priced technical and vocational education whilst preserving a highly revered fabric.

Impact

Planet 3R has made a significant environmental and social impact by 950 tonnes of CO2 emissions, recovering 6125 tonnes of plastic and textile waste, and saving up to 10,800 litres of water in operations.

By diverting waste from landfills and incineration, the release of harmful gases like methane, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide have been prevented in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, where their recycling hubs are situated.

Over 378 employment opportunities for women, and youths have been provided via preventing their recycling hubs located in different communities empowering them with technical skills and training.

Photo credit: Planet 3R

Host communities with these recycling hubs particularly benefit from the presence of the company because the personnel and staff at these hubs are employed from the community.

This in turn reduces the carbon footprint of the organization as our recycling hubs are mostly walking distances from the homes of staff.

Planet 3R fosters inclusion by giving women in underserved communities an equal opportunity at employment with 90 percent of their staff being female.

Furthermore, awareness that waste can be used to generate revenue, has significantly increased participation in the value chain and decreased waste in host communities.

More than 40 women and youths now have bank accounts, enabling them to receive salaries directly and building financial credibility and encouraging financial inclusion.

Through various advocacy outreaches and training, Planet 3R has empowered 1300 youths, sensitized 4300 students and reached 119 thousand people across social media and other platforms on the importance of embracing Zero waste and promoting the circular economy across Nigeria.

Over 5,000 children have received durable school bags made from recycled materials, designed to last up to five years.

At Planet 3R, waste is considered a design flaw hence their designers are dedicated to ensuring nothing goes to waste in their factories.'Waste' from production is made into art works and textile waste is made into Eco-Fashion bricks.

Planet 3R gives life to waste whilst ensuring that trash becomes cash for everyone involved in the value chain.

In the coming years, Planet 3R aims to expand its impact by establishing more recycling hubs across Nigeria and Africa, further driving sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Photo credit: Planet 3R

Get to know our affiliates

Breathe Conservation

Breathe Conservation is a South Africa based non-profit marine conservation organisation, created to reduce plastic in oceans through eliminating single use plastics, and on engaging local communities to help them work towards this goal.

They are now working to spread the message “Live Deeply, Tread Lightly”. With this motto, they aim to inspire future generations to reconnect with nature and be conscious of their impact on the earth.

They want to encourage curiosity about where things come from (such as water, electricity, food, clothing) and where things go (such as waste management), and to consider how to eliminate single use plastic from our lives.

Breathe Conservation encourages this curiosity and consideration through multiple approaches: they offer school and corporate education talks, they promote sustainable products to use instead of plastics, they provide education resources on this topic, and they run monthly beach and reef cleans, amongst other events.

Photo credit: Breathe Conservation

The Circulate Initiative

The Circulate Initiative is a non-profit working to stop plastic pollution by promoting circular and inclusive economies, especially in emerging markets.

Founded in 2019 by Circulate Capital, it focuses on research, impactful programs, and collaboration with businesses and governments to improve waste management and reduce environmental harm.

Its mission is to tackle plastic waste while supporting social and economic growth.

Key programs include the Responsible Sourcing Initiative, which aims to improve conditions for 50,000 informal waste workers, and Urban Ocean, a city-focused program to reduce ocean plastic.

The Incubation Network also helps local innovators in South and Southeast Asia develop solutions.

The initiative’s goals are to build sustainable and inclusive recycling systems, increase the use of responsibly sourced plastic, and improve labor conditions.

It works with brands, recyclers, and investors to scale data-driven, high-impact solutions that can be replicated globally.

By sharing best practices and supporting innovation, the organization helps shape global efforts toward a more sustainable and equitable waste management system.

Credit: The Circulate Initiative

Waste Wise Cities Affiliates

Do you want to:

- Support Waste Wise Cities and improve waste management in cities around the world?
- Be an official partner of Waste Wise Cities and UN-Habitat?
- Show up on the Waste Wise Cities website?
- Implement the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)?
- Read about your activities in this newsletter?
- Do much more?

Then contact us and become a Waste Wise Cities Affiliate! Together we can become Waste Wise.

Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)

Have you forgotten what the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) is? No need to worry, you can access all the relevant information on our website.

Here you can explore which cities have already submitted data collected with the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT). As indicated in the article below, additional data is continuously becoming available.

WaCT updates

Waste Wise Cities Tool Survey Kicks Off in Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana

As part of the African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) initiative, Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) has been selected alongside Red Sea Governorate in Egypt and Antananarivo in Madagascar to implement the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT).

This project aims to identify key policy, operational, and financing gaps in solid waste management across African cities.

The WaCT survey contributes to baseline data collection for SDG 11.6.1 monitoring. In AMA, it focused on key steps of the WaCT methodology, including assessments of household waste generation, waste transport systems, recovery facilities, and dumpsite waste composition.

Photo credit: Accra Metropolitan Assembly

Key Activities Include:

- Initial meetings coordinating the Director of AMA and the Director of SWM, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, together with the rest of the officials.Inception workshop with key stakeholdersTraining of volunteers on WaCT methodology
- Selection of 90 households and distribution of linear sampling bags
- Visits to recovery facilities, including end-chain, Apex, and intermediate recyclers
- Household waste composition analysis over three days
- Waste composition studies at Adipa landfill major dumpsites using samples from waste trucks.

To complement these field activities, a **Stakeholder Data Validation Workshop** will be held in **Accra on June 4, 2025**, to review the preliminary findings and gather critical input from stakeholders.

Workshop Objectives:

- Validate WaCT data and review survey results, and gap analysis

- Identify policy, operational, and financing gaps
- Bring stakeholders together in the planning phase of Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM)
- Foster partnerships and align initiatives with the priorities of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly and other key actors

This workshop marks a crucial step in transforming the data collected into actionable strategies, strengthening Accra's capacity for evidence-based waste management and sustainable urban development.

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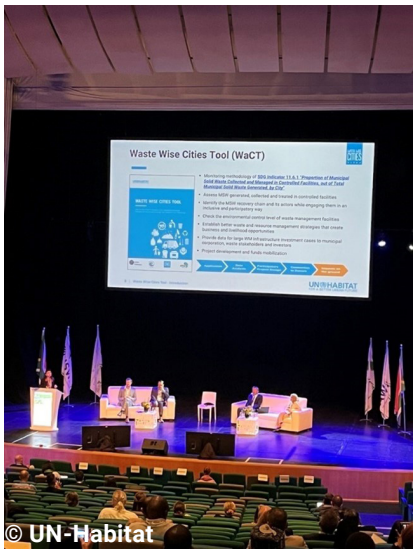
Waste Wise Cities & African Clean Cities Platform Updates

ISWA Congress 2024: Spotlight on Africa's Waste Management Progress

From 15 to 18 September 2024, Cape Town, South Africa, hosted the ISWA Congress 2024, a key moment that celebrated the establishment of the ISWA African Chapter. The event gathered experts, city officials, and partners to advance sustainable solid waste management across the continent.

The WWC and the ACCP played an active role throughout the congress, sharing experiences from the field and highlighting their collaborative efforts with member cities, affiliates, and development partners.

Their participation underscored the importance of localized support



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and partnerships in improving MSWM systems. In a joint session, the UN-Habitat team emphasized the need for sustainable financing, presenting findings from WaCT assessments. This was supported by case studies from a JICA representative, showcasing private sector engagement.

Together with UNEP and ISWA, the session highlighted how data-driven planning is essential for effective circular economy interventions.

WWC and ACCP also took the opportunity to engage in discussions with potential donors and technical partners, paving the way for future collaboration.

Their continued advocacy aims to bring concrete impact to cities on the ground through strengthened partnerships and innovation.

First roundtable workshop – Waste reduction, collection/ transportation, waste recovery

The first roundtable workshop focused on waste reduction, collection and transportation, and waste recovery. Participants shared knowledge and good practices from various cities across Africa, highlighting both challenges and innovative solutions in municipal solid waste management.

Knowledge and Good Practices Sharing

Ethiopia: Limited budgets and logistical constraints hinder effective waste collection and recovery efforts. While initiatives to convert waste into fertilizer exist, financial and operational challenges have slowed progress.

Pikine, Senegal: The city implemented centralized collection points operated by community groups, reducing inefficiencies in door-to-door collection. This approach has improved waste transport and facilitated material recovery.

Antananarivo, Madagascar & Kinshasa, DRC: Both cities struggle with waste management due to rapid urban expansion, lack of infrastructure, and uncontrolled disposal sites. Kinshasa alone generates 10,000 tonnes of waste daily, posing significant challenges.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Public awareness campaigns have contributed to waste reduction, with city-wide clean-ups held twice a week. Businesses and communities actively participate, and outreach programs target schools. These efforts have helped maintain an average waste generation rate of 0.5 kg per capita per day.

Kitwe, Zambia: The city collects only 25% of its waste, with a recovery rate of 2%. Kitwe aims to localize recycling to support the local economy, moving

away from exporting recyclable materials.

Kisumu, Kenya: With a 4% waste recovery rate, the city has established four operational waste recovery centers. Plans are underway to expand recovery activities and create a network of private waste management entities to enhance best practices and efficiency.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Waste recovery has increased from 3% to 10% due to newly formed associations for paper, plastic, and composting. The government supports these groups by providing workspaces, market access, and subsidies to incentivize composting. Waste collection fees are now integrated into water bills to deter illegal dumping.

Monrovia, Liberia: Weak policies and lack of logistical support hinder effective waste collection. Key challenges include inadequate salaries, insufficient safety gear, and a lack of disposal sites. There is a call for stronger government and international support, as well as a structured recycling and resettlement plan.

Expectations from ACCP

- Encourage high-level commitments from governments to prioritize solid waste management.
- Promote school cleanup initiatives across Africa, inspired by Japan's model.
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement for securing financing and developing waste management projects.
- Support policy shifts to enhance accountability at all levels, from government officials to communities.
- Take concrete steps to promote waste management technologies and awareness campaigns.

This roundtable provided valuable insights and reinforced the need for collaborative action in improving waste management across African cities.

UN Secretary-General 's Advisory Board on Zero Waste

The UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste convened its third meeting on 13 December 2024 in Istanbul with a clear mission: accelerate global action on zero waste and respond to the Secretary-General's strategic challenges. Chaired by UN-Habitat's ED, the meeting marked a significant step forward in shaping the international agenda on sustainable waste management and strengthening global collaboration.

The SG challenged the Board to identify 20 cities that showcase impactful zero waste initiatives. Further, the Board will aim to increase youth engagement on zero waste. In collaboration with the UN Youth Office, members will raise awareness of youth-led initiatives and develop a shared think piece on what defines a zero waste approach.

The Board also discussed ways to raise the profile of zero waste initiatives in its webinar series and around the International Day of Zero Waste. It will continue to gather and share good practices to demonstrate the link between zero waste and sustainable development.

To support local authorities, the Board will compile and share examples of effective policies that advance zero waste. It also agreed to translate its materials into additional UN languages to reach a broader audience.

Lastly, the Board will strengthen collaboration with other UN agencies, Resident Coordinators, and UN Country Teams to promote joint initiatives, including webinars and shared advocacy efforts.

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COP29

At COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, significant strides were made towards zero waste initiatives. One of the key outcomes was the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste, signed by thirty countries representing nearly 50% of global methane emissions from organic waste1.

This declaration emphasizes the importance of addressing food loss and waste, elevating it as a political priority. For the first time ever, there was a zero waste pavilion dedicated to facilitating dialogue to address climate change and waste.

Additionally, various events and discussions highlighted good practices and innovative solutions for waste management, aiming to reduce the environmental impact of waste and promote a circular economy.

These efforts are crucial for mitigating climate change and achieving sustainable development goals.

The UN SG's Advisory Board on Zero Waste hosted a joint webinar with the COP29 Presidency on methane emissions and waste.

Here you can watch the discussions on local solutions to the waste crisis and high-level processes.

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WUF 12: Driving Zero Waste Agenda and Sustainable Financing System

The twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12), themed "It all starts at home", was held from 4 to 8 November 2024 in Cairo, Egypt, co-organized with the Government of Egypt. WUF12 was the largest in the Forum's history, with over 25,000 people from 182 countries attending the more than 700 partner-led events, both online and in person.


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Updates

For WWC and ACCP, One of the main events of WUF12 was the Zero Waste World special session. It was hosted by Ben Brown and Ciara Doyle, the Co-Founders of Going Green Media, who guided the audience throughout the two-hour session. The show began with a fashion show-inspired performance organised in collaboration with several Egyptian creators and waste management practitioners.

Another event was also organised by the ACCP with the World Bank, Senegal, JICA, Catalytic Finance Foundation, Ecoplastile. During the session, the panel discussion, reinforced the key findings of the preceding presentations.

Cities across the continent are in need of support both in terms of financial assistance as well as technical assistance and capacity building.

Particularly, most local governments require support for the development of bankable projects and setting up mechanisms to ensure that OPEX can be covered in the long-term.

CCAC project for eliminating open burning of waste through regional roadmaps and city pilots

UN-Habitat, under the leadership of the Royal Academy of Engineering and in partnership with the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and Practical Action, was awarded a two-year global project starting in 2024, funded by UNEP's Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), to address the open burning of solid waste—a practice with severe impacts on human health and the environment. The project aims to enable a step-change towards eliminating open burning by developing regional roadmaps in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and implementing them in one pilot city per region.

As part of the project, UN-Habitat leads the estimates of regional greenhouse gas (GHG) and short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) emissions for regional roadmaps and the establishment of GHG and SLCP emissions baseline from the waste sector for action plans in each pilot city using the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) and other existing tools.

Field monitoring survey on open waste burning conducted in Kisumu City, Kenya in July 2024

In July 2024, UN-Habitat and the Kisumu County Government conducted a WaCT survey and a field monitoring survey on open waste burning in Kisumu City, Kenya, the pilot city for Africa. The WaCT found the city generates 272 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) daily (0.46 kg/capita/day), with a collection rate of 12%, recovery rate of 6%, and only 3% managed in controlled facilities per SDG 11.6.1 indicator.

The transect walk survey showed the highest open burning density in industrial areas (375 kg/km²/day), with an estimated 21.5 tonnes burned citywide per day.

Additionally, the field monitoring survey, conducted using a transect walk methodology, indicated that open waste burning was most concentrated in industrial areas (375 kg/km²/day), followed by middle-income (357 kg/km²/day), low-income (297 kg/km²/day), and high-income areas (66 kg/km²/day). At the city level, the estimated total amount of waste burned openly was 21.5 tonnes per day.

Based on these findings, a local stakeholder workshop was held in November 2024 to validate the survey results and to discuss the challenges and opportunities for improving Kisumu City's MSW system. The outcomes of both surveys contributed to the development of the pilot city action plan for Kisumu.

Local stakeholder workshop held in Kisumu City, Kenya in November 2024

In November 2024, UN-Habitat held a local stakeholder workshop to validate the survey results and discuss ways to improve Kisumu's MSW system. The findings from both surveys informed Kisumu's pilot city action plan.

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In addition, a consultation workshop on the Africa Roadmap for transformative action to end open burning of waste was organized in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15–16 April 2025 by the Royal Academy of Engineering with Nairobi City County, Practical Action, and UN-Habitat. The workshop brought together around forty key African stakeholders to discuss and establish key milestones towards ending open burning by 2040—a commitment articulated in the resolution adopted at the 2022 African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

For the LAC region, UN-Habitat will conduct a WaCT survey in Paraná City, Argentina. The findings will identify gaps in the city's SWM system and inform its pilot action plan.

Transforming Waste Management in Korogocho

The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) project in Korogocho is making significant strides towards enhancing waste management and promoting a cleaner, healthier environment. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Nairobi City County Government, UN-Habitat, AVSI, Miss Koch Kenya, and the local community.

Key achievements include the establishment of a Construction Committee to ensure community participation and transparency, and a successful groundbreaking ceremony held on March 12, 2025, which marked the commencement of construction. The project has also addressed challenge, demonstrating the commitment of stakeholders to overcoming obstacles.

The MRF aims to improve the lives of approximately 4,500 Korogocho residents by providing regular waste collection services, creating jobs, and supporting recycling efforts. Community engagement and awareness activities are integral to the project's success.

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The project is currently in the structural phase, with foundation work underway. Upcoming activities include completing the MRF construction, capacity training for Community Based Organizations (CBOs), developing a community waste collection plan, and commencing source segregation and MRF operations.

This project represents a significant step towards sustainable waste management in Nairobi, with potential benefits for river regeneration and environmental conservation.

CiCoSA

CiCoSA, Circular Construction and Housing in Sub-Saharan Africa, project aims to strengthen the sustainable building and construction (SBC) sector by applying circular economy and low-carbon principles (waste wise approach.

The CiCoSA Action Toolkit includes a CiCoSA Handbook and a CiCoSA Implementation Guide with a focus on Kenya and Namibia.

The CiCoSA Handbook examines benefits & risks of circular economy approaches to a sustainable building and construction (SBC) sector from the waste management perspective, providing practical case studies that could be scaled up in the region as part of a sustainable urbanization strategy.

The CiCoSA Implementation Guide serves as a roadmap to navigate challenges on circular construction. It is specifically tailored to policymakers in Sub-Saharan Africa, considering the region's unique social, economic, and environmental context.

It outlines the various stages of a circular construction life cycle, from product manufacture and design to construction, operation, and ultimately, building deconstruction.

Recommendations emphasize the crucial role of empowering local communities and fostering collaboration across sectors.

Updates

Dar Safi

Dar Safi Bahari Safi is a project designed to combat plastic waste pollution in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where an estimated 22,500 tonnes of plastic waste leak into the ocean annually, making the city one of Africa's largest contributors to marine plastic pollution.

With only 35% of municipal solid waste collected and just 10–15% of recyclables recovered, the majority of waste remains unmanaged, polluting rivers, coastal areas, and the Indian Ocean. Plastic waste accounts for over 70% of litter found on Dar es Salaam's beaches, threatening marine ecosystems, fisheries, and public health.

Funded by the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection of Germany (BMUV) and led by HafenCity University Hamburg, Dar Safi introduces systematic, sustainable, and scalable solutions to improve plastic waste management and prevent further environmental damage.

UN-Habitat is working on the analyses of current policies and legal frameworks dealing with solid waste in Tanzania, which should be the base for the policy brief later being handed over to the national government.

In February, the project consortium met in Dar es Salaam to conduct site visits and agree on the way forward.

ACCP Onsite Training and Mutual Learning Programme in Kenya: Practical Skills and Shared Solutions for Sustainable Waste Management

From 25 February to 6 March 2025, the ACCP Onsite Training and Mutual Learning Programme was successfully held in Kenya, bringing together 20 delegates from 10 ACCP member countries. The two-week programme focused on practical learning, peer exchange, and actionable insights in solid waste management. The first week, conducted in collaboration with Kiambu County Government, emphasized improved landfill management through the Fukuoka Method, a semi-aerobic landfill approach.

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After foundational morning sessions provided by the Fukuoka Method professionals team, SWAN (Solid Waste Advisers Network) Fukuoka, participants engaged in hands-on training, including gas venting pipe installation, leachate quality checks, and access road improvements at the landfill site.

The second week shifted focus to sustainable financing for waste management. Participants shared case studies from their cities, while JICA presented key approaches to improve financing and MSWM system in general. Group work sessions enabled delegates to conduct gap analyses and formulate concrete actions to implement upon return to their cities.

The programme concluded with a visit to Sanergy, a leading Nairobi-based company using black soldier flies to convert organic waste and promote sustainable sanitation across Africa.

Participants praised the training for its relevance and impact, with many already planning to brief city leaders and integrate lessons into daily operations and provided some feedback such as “the training was extremely useful and can be applied to daily operations,” and “I have started preparing to provide feedback to my superiors and the mayor to connect it to the next actions.”

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Zero Waste Day 2025

The International Day of Zero Waste, observed annually on 30 March, highlights both the importance of bolstering waste management globally and the need to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. Multiple observances and events globally call on everyone to embrace a lifecycle approach, which entails reducing resource use and emissions to the environment throughout all stages of products' life cycles.

This year's International Day of Zero Waste was jointly organised by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 27th March 2025. In Nairobi, the event was held in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Türkiye to the United Nations. This year's theme "Towards zero waste in fashion and textiles" focused on the urgent need to take action to reduce the waste impact from the fashion and textile sector and promote sustainability and circularity.

To commemorate the third annual International Day of Zero Waste in Nairobi, the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste spotlighted three selected zero fashion and textile waste good practices from around the globe.

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The Secretary-General established the Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste (the Advisory Board on Zero Waste) at the High-Level Meeting on the Role of Zero Waste as a Transformative Solution in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, held during the General Assembly on 30 March 2023 for three years.

The 12 members that constitute the Advisory Board are to promote local and national zero waste initiatives through awareness raising, promoting local and national zero waste initiatives, and the dissemination of best practices and success stories towards the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 77/161.

The commemoration also featured Kenyan musician Savara, who shared his personal connection to sustainable fashion, reflecting on how his mother's work in the fashion and textile sector shaped his understanding of responsible production and consumption. Additionally, a panel discussion titled 'Unveiling Key Insights on Avoiding and Addressing Fashion and Textile Waste' fostered engaging dialogue, with the audience invited to ask questions that were addressed by the four panellists.

Updates

By bringing together governments, industry leaders and young entrepreneurs, the event raised awareness of the impacts of textile waste while showcasing zero-waste solutions that promote sustainability and equity, particularly in vulnerable communities. The International Day of Zero Waste calls on everyone to embrace a lifecycle approach, which entails reducing resource use and emissions to the environment throughout all stages of products' life cycle.

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Call to Action

- Share with us your good practices of Plastic Waste, zero waste practices, and other innovative solu-tions related to Plastic waste!
- Proactively implement and enforce robust and sustainable plastic waste schemes in your cities for sustainable waste management!
- Become an ACCP and/or Waste Wise Cities member or affiliate and share your stories with us!
- Visit our ACCP and waste Wise Cities websites for more details on our projects in Plastic waste!

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