

UNEP stocktaking

(Social Transfer)

Project leads

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Abstract

This is a project that collects information about actions globally that are undertaken to reduce the flow of plastic to the ocean. Results were presented in a range of UN meetings and will be discussed at the 5th UNEA meeting in 2021. Data is also made available via a repository and dashboard developed by partner AKVO.

Keywords

plastic pollution, microplastics, holistic, systems approach, solutions

Aims of the Third Mission activity

Global stocktake of actions that reduce the flow of plastic to the ocean, to inform UNEP activities, framework and policy.

Cooperation partners outside the university sector

UNEP, four partner universities, other partners determined in the relevant UN resolution

Cooperation partners from the scientific/research field

None

Faculty

Psychologie, Stadt- und Umweltpsychologie

Timeframe

2019 - 2021

Funding

UNEP

Research basis

This is based on my previous involvement in plastic pollution research and policy and the social science method of collecting (qual and quant) data via online surveys. It's the first time to my knowledge that this approach has been used in this context and the results are being used as evidence base for global policy.

Social/economic relevance

Plastic pollution is a major environmental issue (see also my responses for LimnoPlast project).

Integration into academic teaching/the curriculum

No

Impact	Data and insights are used to determine policy action, indicators and evaluation at the global level.
Transfer aspect of the activity	My previous research on psychological and behavioural determinants of plastic pollution has influenced the tool, method and interpretation of the data. For example, we were particularly interested in different types of actions and found that awareness raising and behaviour change was nominated as the most frequent category.
Future orientation & sustainability	This is inherent in the project.
Achievement of objectives	We have to report to UNEP; reality control was also given by our presentations to the member states and major groups at several UNEP meetings.
Measures to sustain this activity over the long term/expand it	None
Visibility	UNEP communicates about the stocktaking and other activities and outcomes.
Links/Publications	There are various documents on the UN papersmart portal, e.g., an advance version of the meeting report of the fourth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics (AHEG-4), which took place online from 9 to 13 November 2020, has been made available on the AHEG web portal: https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/expert-group-on-marine-litter
