

# Impact report

## Protecting oceans from ocean-bound plastic



# Tackling ocean-bound plastic while empowering local communities

Every minute, the equivalent of one garbage truck of plastic enters the ocean. It is a serious issue requiring urgent action. This project aims to catch plastic waste before it reaches the ocean by supporting local communities to collect plastic in exchange for additional income and life-changing benefits. As a result, the project has a positive impact on society as well as the environment.

How does it work exactly? Plastic collection points are established in coastal areas particularly affected by plastic pollution and poverty. At the same time, the project empowers local people, often living in poverty, to become members and collect plastic before it can enter the ocean. At the collection branches, members can exchange the collected plastic for money or benefits such as health, work, or life insurance, grocery vouchers, or school supplies. A proprietary, blockchain-secured platform makes these exchanges traceable. The collected plastic is cleaned, sorted, and recycled into Social Plastic® – feedstock that is reprocessed and reintegrated into products and packaging, creating a circular economy. Currently, the project is active in six countries: Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, and the Philippines, with license-based expansion in Cameroon and Thailand.



**Nature conservation project**  
no generation of Verified Emission Reductions



**Measures**  
plastic collection, plastic recycling, support of local communities



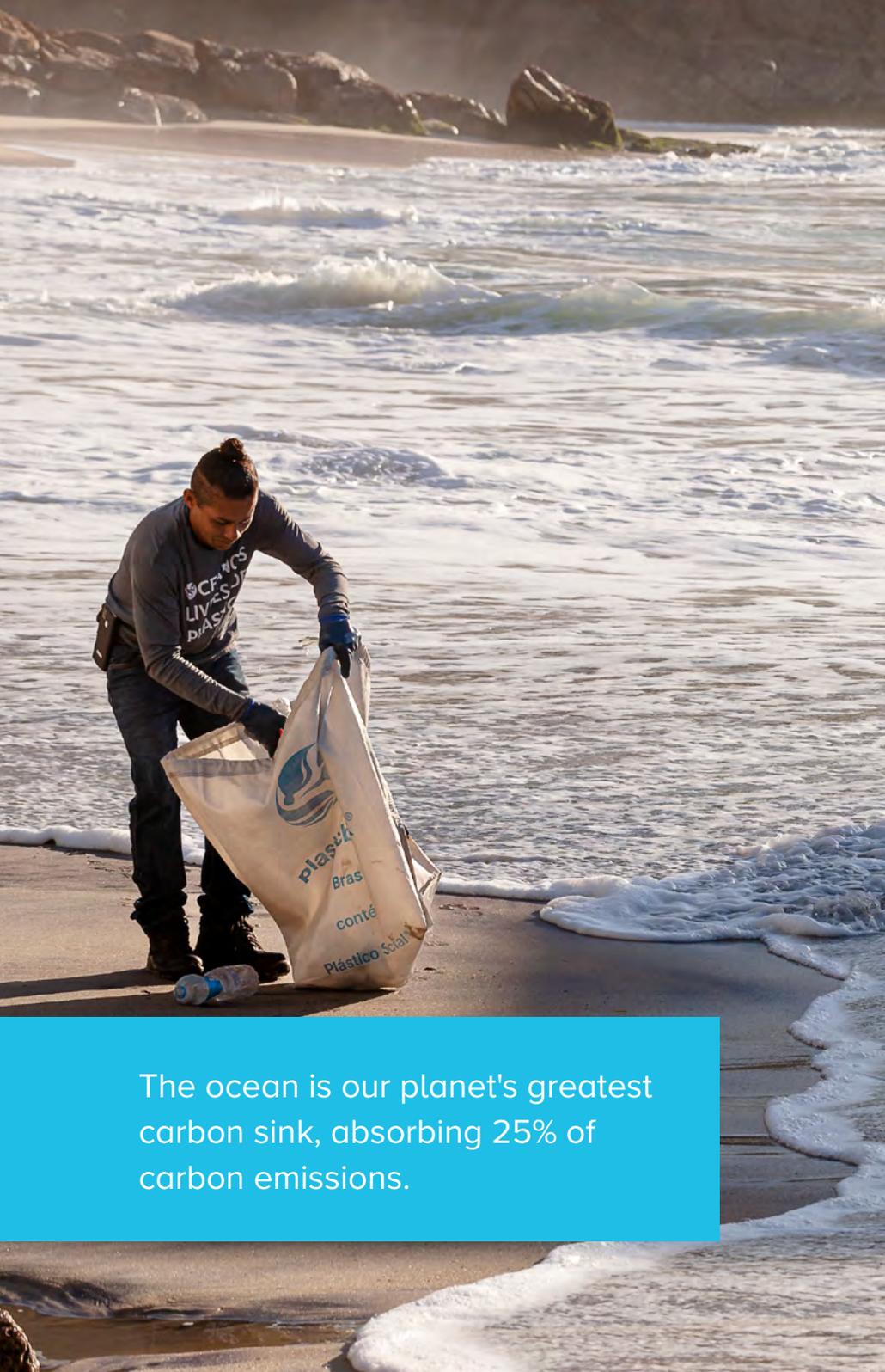
**Countries**  
Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cameroon, Thailand



**3,128,408 kg**  
plastic collected through the support of ClimatePartner clients (as of 14.09.2023)



[www.climatepartner.com/1087](http://www.climatepartner.com/1087)



The ocean is our planet's greatest carbon sink, absorbing 25% of carbon emissions.

## Why is it important to protect oceans?

Oceans cover more than 70% of Earth's surface and play a vital role in our lives and on our planet.<sup>1</sup> They have a significant influence on the climate, absorbing 25% of all carbon emissions and capturing 90% of the excess heat generated by these emissions.<sup>2</sup> Oceans also produce around 50% of Earth's oxygen and help regulate global temperatures by transporting heat from the equator to the poles.<sup>2,3</sup>

Beyond their importance for the climate, oceans are also home to a broad diversity of species, with many still to be discovered.<sup>4</sup> They provide essential ingredients for medical products (such as for treating cancer or heart disease), support the livelihoods of over 40 million people, and are an important source of food.<sup>3,4</sup>

However, due to human activity, our oceans face severe threats. Climate change is causing harm to coral reefs, overfishing is depleting fish stocks, and agricultural nutrient pollution is contributing to the formation of dead zones. In addition, more than 12 million tonnes of plastic finds its way into the ocean annually, often transported there by rivers.<sup>1,5</sup> Once in the ocean, plastic endangers marine ecosystems. It is estimated that one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals are killed every year due to ingesting or becoming entangled in ocean plastic.<sup>6</sup> Plastics, including microplastics, have become so pervasive in our natural environment because their sought-after qualities – durability and resistance to degradation – also render them nearly indestructible by natural processes. Most plastic items never fully disappear, but break down into smaller and smaller pieces, with microplastics now even found in the human body.<sup>5</sup>

Plastic pollution is of particular concern in developing countries where waste disposal infrastructure is lacking or inadequate. This is where this project comes in.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/why-do-oceans-and-seas-matter#:~:text=Oceans%20feed%20us%2C%20regulate%20our,to%20fisheries%20to%20international%20shipping>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/ocean#:~:text=The%20ocean%20generates%2050%20percent,heat%20generated%20by%20these%20emissions>.

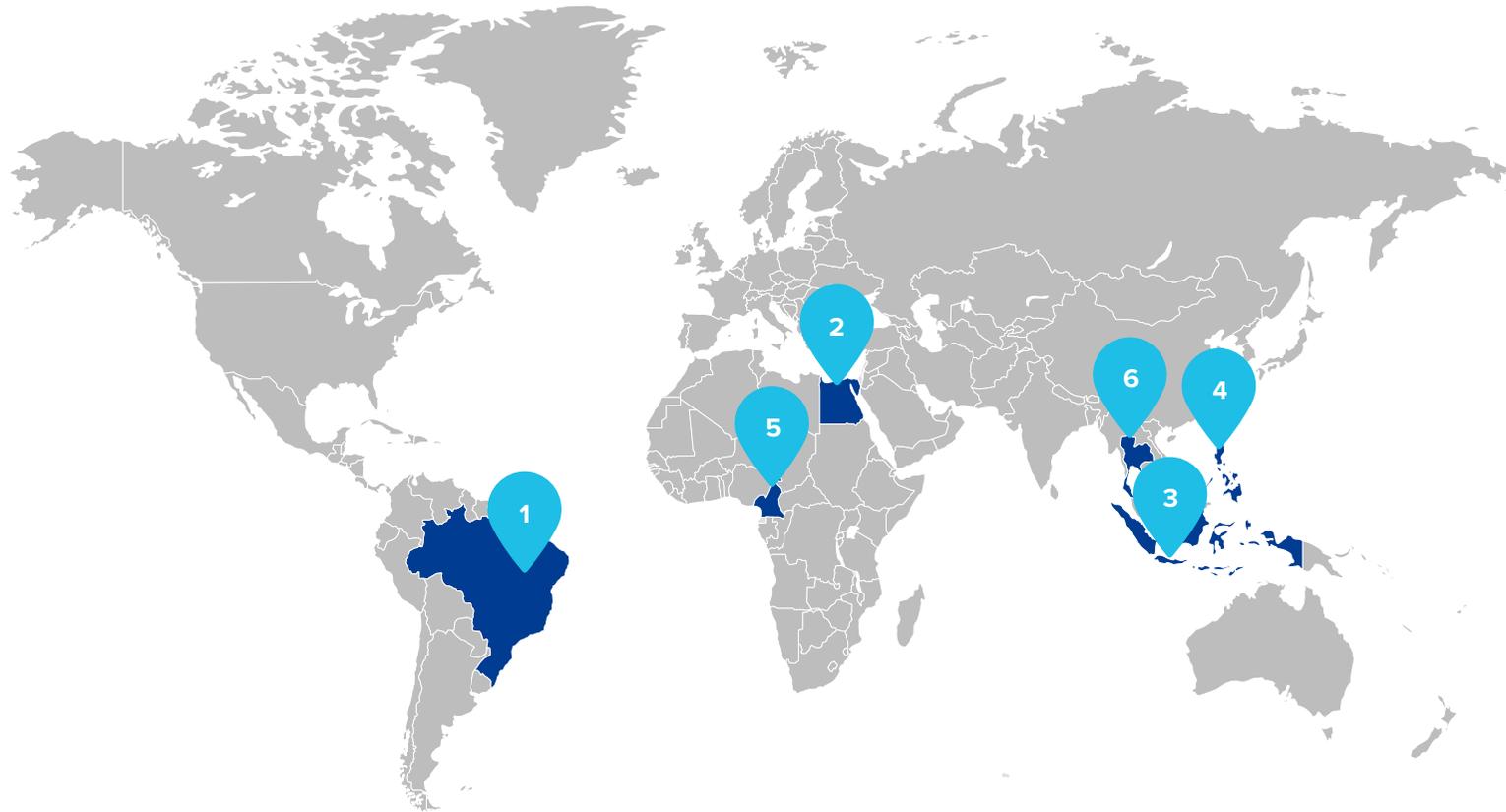
<sup>3</sup> <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/why-care-about-ocean.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/08/here-are-5-reasons-why-the-ocean-is-so-important/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unep.org/interactives/beat-plastic-pollution/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/world-oceans-day-unesco-reinforces-importance-preserving-largest-eco-system-planet>

## The project locations worldwide



1. Brazil\*



2. Egypt



3. Indonesia



4. Philippines



5. Cameroon\*\*



6. Thailand\*\*



\* Numbers show the locations on the map

\*\* Licensed partner-based expansion





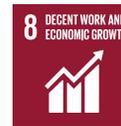
## A contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The project contributes to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by protecting marine ecosystems, creating jobs, and building recycling communities, among other things.



**No poverty:** Members receive fair and stable income in exchange for the plastic they collect. The project provides additional incentives and life-improving benefits, such as health insurance, work insurance, and food vouchers.



**Decent work and economic growth:** The project creates full-time and part-time work opportunities for people in some of the world's poorest countries, while enforcing strict policies to uphold labour laws and human rights. The project works with local partners to transport, process, and ship Social Plastic® feedstock to inject maximum value into the local economy. Social Plastic® is recycled ocean-bound plastic feedstock that is reprocessed and reintegrated into products and packaging, creating a circular economy.



**Responsible consumption and production:** Social Plastic® feedstock is incorporated into the supply chains of multinational companies, reducing reliance on virgin plastics. Consumers can identify the Social Plastic® or project logo on partner's products to help guide responsible purchasing decisions.

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LIFE BELOW  
WATER



Life below water: The project seeks to stop plastic before it reaches the ocean, establishing collection branches within 50 km of the coast or ocean-bound waterways. Ocean plastic creates a multitude of issues for animals, humans and the environment. Plastic in the ocean is estimated to be directly responsible for over 1,000,000 seabird deaths and 100,000 marine mammal deaths per year, usually due to accidental ingestion or entanglement. Not included in these estimates are biodiversity losses from the destruction of habitats and breeding grounds. Microplastics are also hotbeds for toxins in the ocean and quickly enter the aquatic food chain.

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PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



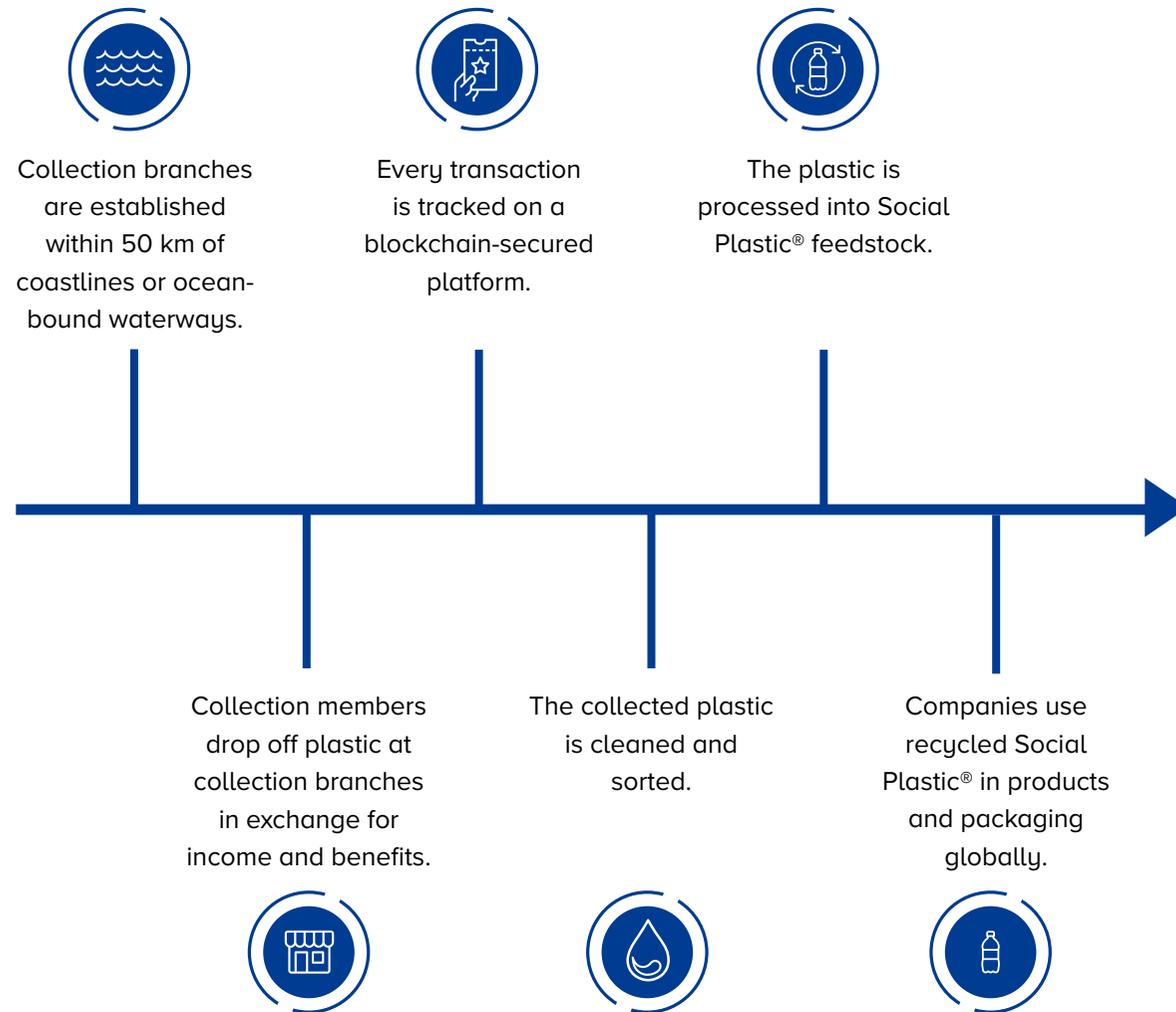
Partnerships for the goals: The project developer was a winner at the UN's SDG Action Awards in 2019 for linking stakeholders to action in impactful and innovative ways. This work rebuilds trust between citizens and institutions at all levels and informs the policy changes needed to make the SDGs a reality.





## The project over time

What happens to the collected plastic and how do members receive their benefits?



## Environmental and social impact (01.01.2022 - 31.12.2022)



These figures were collected by the project and refer to all project supporters, not only to clients of ClimatePartner.



29,996 tonnes of plastic were collected by local community members before it could enter the ocean. The plastic collected is equivalent to 1,499,817,227 plastic bottles.



In 2022, there were 21,791 active plastic collectors that regularly collected and exchanged plastic.



The project paid out \$2,181,671 in bonuses and offered work insurance to 2,539 people, health insurance to 5,600 people, meal vouchers to 2,896 people, and mobile phones and data packages to 496 people.



Through the project's benefits programme, 851 children of plastic collectors had access to bursaries and school supplies.



There are 817 collection branches that buy the collected plastic and facilitate the project's collection, bonus, and benefits programmes.



The project had a positive impact in the six countries where plastic collectors operate: Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia, Egypt, the Philippines, and Thailand.



In 2022, the initiative worked with 53 certified processing partners that use the recycled Social Plastic® in their products and packaging. By doing so, the need for virgin plastic is reduced.





## Community impact story: meet Indah and her daughter

Indah is a plastic collector for the project and a mother and wife from Indonesia. She has been collecting plastic waste in the neighbourhoods of Candi Kuning, Bedugul, and Tabanan, Bali, since 2021.

In December 2021, Indah was expecting her first child, and when she learned she would require a Caesarean section, she and her husband were worried about being able to afford the procedure – a financial concern that should not have existed in the first place.

Through the health insurance that Indah received from the project, the surgery and three days of hospitalisation were financially covered. The delivery went smoothly, and Indah and her husband welcomed home a healthy baby girl.

According to the [World Health Organization](#), at least half of the world's 7.3 billion people lack access to the health services they need, and nearly 100 million people are being driven into extreme poverty every year due to out-of-pocket health expenses. Providing basic health insurance supports not just the collectors themselves, but also their families' wellbeing. In 2022, 5,600 people received health insurance thanks to the project.

## Community impact story: meet Mr. Clovis and his team

Mr. Clovis is a 61-year-old owner of a collection branch and cooperates with the project in Brazil. At his branch, plastic collectors can exchange plastic for bonuses that help provide basic family necessities.

Mr. Clovis moved to the state of São Paulo in the 1980s to work as a builder. Upon arriving in his new city, he noticed rubbish in the streets, and instead opened a junkyard to help manage waste in a city surrounded by nature. He started with four employees, and now has 38.

When asked about his business, Mr. Clovis explained that people and the environment are relying on him to view plastic as opportunity and not waste. “Sometimes people say ‘You work with garbage.’ And I say, no. Garbage is what does not return to the production chain and is buried. What guarantees monthly income is not garbage, this material has value. I work to transform the material.”

Mr. Clovis loves working in recycling and feels passionate about preserving nature. Today, he feels fulfilled because he has created job opportunities for people in his community and can see the growth of his business and passion.

The project works with local entrepreneurs who are engaged in the recycling business. At collection branches, plastic collectors can exchange plastic for bonuses such as school programmes or meal vouchers. In 2022, the project had 817 active collection branches in six countries.





## Combined projects: international climate action meets regional nature conservation



With combined projects, ClimatePartner combines Verified Emission Reductions from a certified climate project with an additional and voluntary commitment to nature conservation, such as worldwide ocean protection.

We also offer combined projects with nature conservation projects in specific locations, mostly in European countries. Please contact us if you are interested in other initiatives.

In addition to international climate action, you can also help improve our domestic ecosystems or protect the ocean. With our combined projects, companies finance a certified climate project as usual, but in addition, for every tonne of carbon saved through the contribution to this climate project, a nature conservation project is supported.



## Due diligence

The high quality of the climate projects at ClimatePartner is made possible by our own extensive due diligence process.

The purpose of the due diligence process is to get to know the contractual partners and the project, and also to identify and avoid risks. The process involves an assessment of the contractual partners as part of a Know Your Counterparty (KYC) check. The examination of any reports that might have been published about the project is also part of a basic check. If necessary, we extend the analysis.



Last updated: December 2023

The internal due diligence process for the Ocean protection, worldwide project has produced the following regarding public reporting in the basic check:

- The basic check only produced non-critical results.
- There are many highly favorable reports about this project.
- One article questioned that the plastics are collected from land not sea. However, the project's intention is to stop plastic from entering the ocean. The project's website says on this matter: "Our purpose and core focus is stopping ocean-bound plastic. We believe that plastic shouldn't flow into the ocean to start with. Before we can effectively clean plastic debris from the ocean, we must turn off the tap to single-use plastic before it enters the ocean in the first place."
- The project's [FAQ page](#) provides lots of clarifications and helpful insights.

ClimatePartner ascertains the quality of the offered projects and supports its clients in a transparent commitment to climate action.

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