



2019

REPORT







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A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Waste management is one of the most pervasive issues of our times. Mass production and consumption and indiscriminate disposal of waste seems to have proliferated every tier of our society. However, in an era of global Environmental change, Guyana has to position itself to implement robust but practical and effective systems to stymie the repulsive habit of littering and poor waste management practices. Undoubtedly, the country has made significant strides in regard, from the enactment of the Litter Regulations in 2013 and the banning of importation of Styrofoam on January 1, 2016; to the draft Solid Waste Management Bill and the numerous efforts by the EPA and Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to arrest the waste management issue.

Further, in 2019, the Government of Guyana has carved a comprehensive plan for Guyana's development through the finalisation of the Green State Development Strategy. Moreover, on the brink of the impending ban on single-use plastics in 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency reaffirms its commitment to clean and healthy environment. This is seen not only in our improved policies and programmes but also in the Agency's ardent support for education and awareness and by extension International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) over the years. ICC targets the source of the waste problem; the people and their attitudes towards the environment. The Agency by collaborating with various organisations and volunteers' collects data on types, quantities and categories of waste on our shorelines for informed decision making.

The report focuses on data from two of the common recreational spots in Georgetown and Berbice; the Kingston Seawall and the #63 Beach. Additionally, it highlights status and trends, types, quantities and categories of data collected and relevant data to effect policies and systems necessary for behavioural change. The EPA will be the guardians of the environment to ensure our coastal and marine resources are protected. We want to send a resounding message to all Guyana, that ICC is not just about picking up garbage and making way for people to dirty the area again, it speaks in a very candid way to us as Guyanese and our lifestyles, what? and how much? we consume. It helps us to understand the source of the problem! Styrofoam for example, used to be a major item which littered the shorelines. However, with the ban on Styrofoam, it's almost nonexistent in the marine debris collected during the cleanup exercises. Our coastlines doesn't have to be littered with garbage, what we need is citizen participation! Remember the change starts with YOU!!!!



A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Every year thousands of tons of garbage winds up in the seas and oceans with about 60% of that being composed of plastic material. Plastics especially, last a very long time in the ocean, and are in such abundance that there are more than 46,000 individual pieces of plastic litter for every square mile of ocean. Plastics are very perilous to human life, marine life, killing more than a million birds and over 100,000 turtles, whales and an immense number of fish in our oceans. Coastal clean ups like the International Coastal Cleanup empowers us to play an intrinsic part in curbing the problem.

The Caribbean Youth Environment Network in Guyana (CYEN) is a non-governmental organization whose mission in this process is to (inter alia) protect marine life and build public awareness of the anthropogenic activities that trigger environmental issues. The health of our waterways and community is indicative of the health of our planet. That is one of the things CYEN takes to heart as we are committed to creating significant improvements to promote sustainability at local, regional and even global levels. Considering that there has been a lot of accumulating and littering of trash and debris on coastlines in recent times especially at the Number 63 beach, Berbice and Kingston shores in Georgetown; CYEN decided to carry out a two-day project to clean up the coastline of the said areas. The project involved the total cleaning of all sorts of debris that could be seen on the coastline, with particular interest on plastics and its accessories. The data we collected over this period of time was phenomenal and truly indicative of the pollution problem that we have been grappling with for so long.

The work to protect marine life and curb the marine debris littered on our beaches and in our waterways is far from done and we are dedicated to seeing changed attitudes of citizens. The International Coastal Cleanup is just one phase of what is needed for this ultimate goal and it is through continued support and effort from all stakeholders can we achieve. This year, we saw the most persons attending the cleanup than we have in years. We believe this to be a signal of awareness of the problem and a step in the direction of positive change to the society.



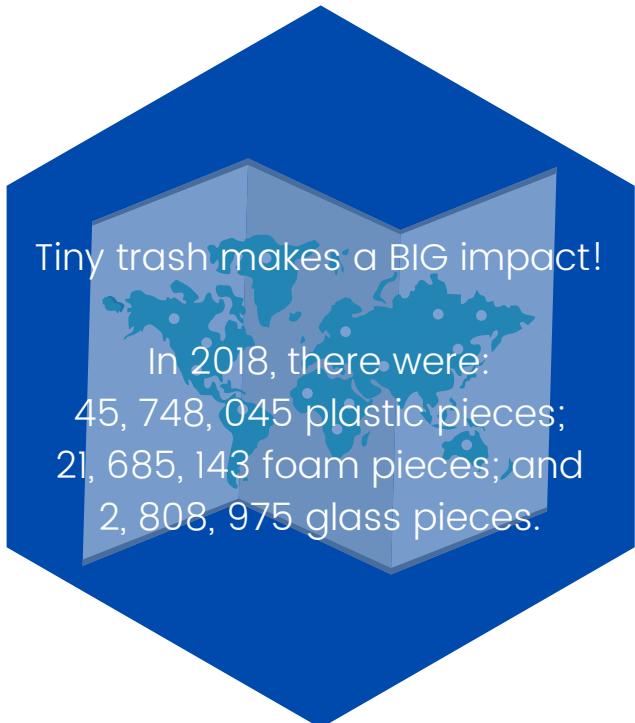
FROM AROUND THE WORLD— GLOBAL NUMBERS FROM 2018



1,080,358 people participated
23,333,816 pounds of trash
collected
97,457,984 items collected



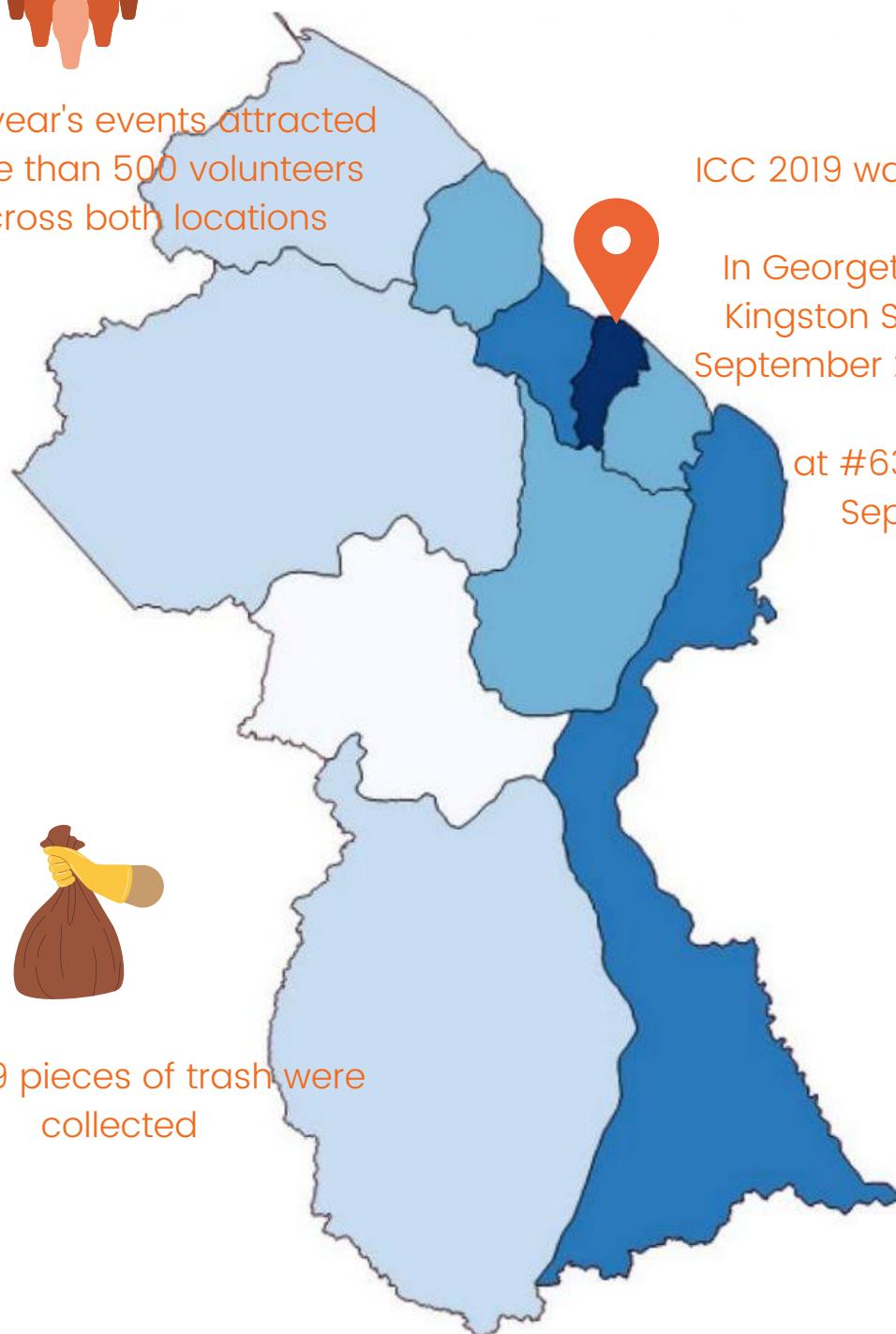
Did you know?
In 2017 and 2018, all the top 10
items collected were made of
plastic!



Tiny trash makes a BIG impact!
In 2018, there were:
45,748,045 plastic pieces;
21,685,143 foam pieces; and
2,808,975 glass pieces.



This year's events attracted more than 500 volunteers across both locations



ICC 2019 was held at 2 locations:

In Georgetown at the Kingston Seawalls on September 21-22; and

at #63 Beach on September 28



36, 849 pieces of trash were collected

IN OUR BACKYARD - COUNTRY TOTALS 2019



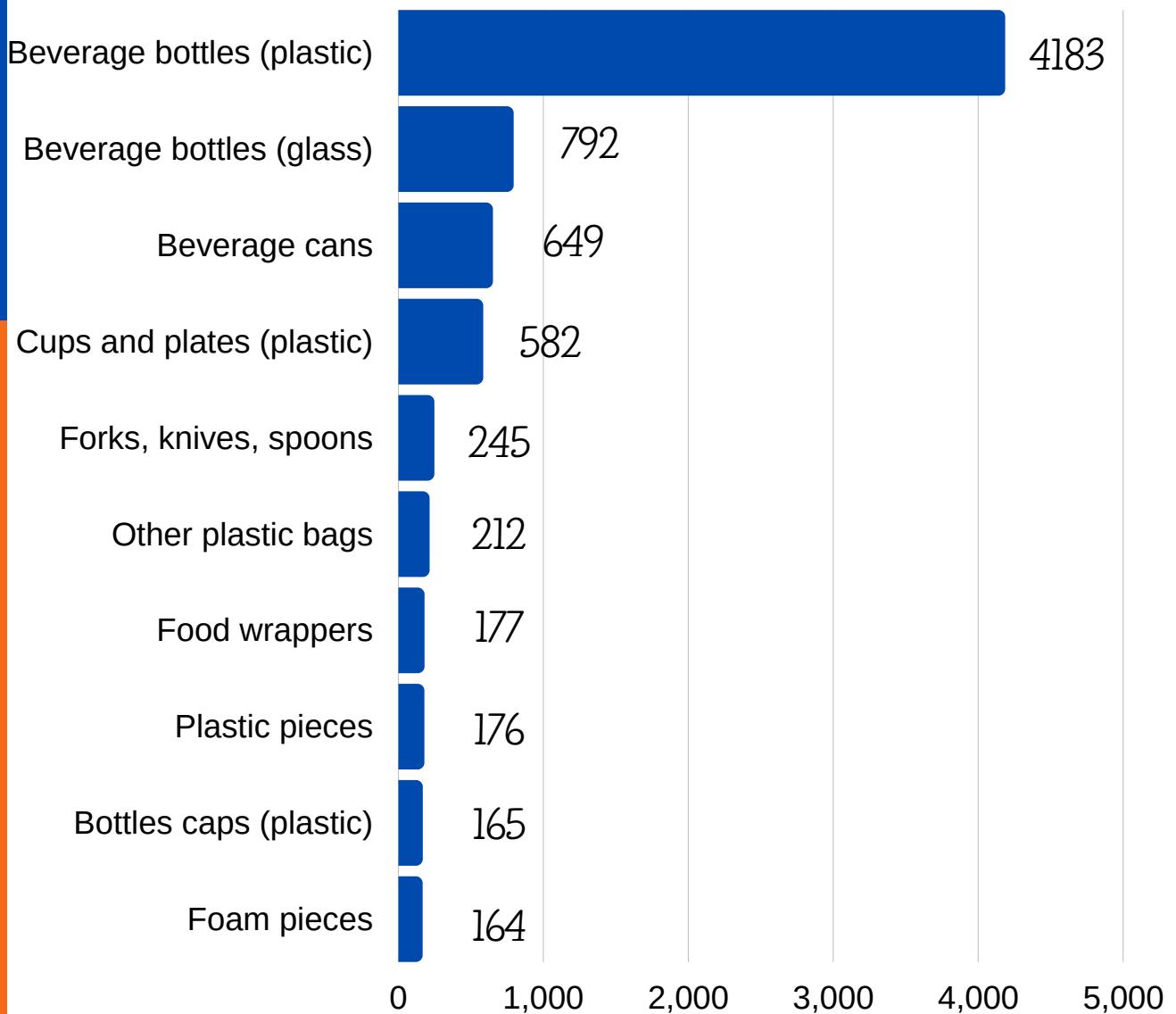
IN OUR BACKYARD - FROM THE KINGSTON SEAWALLS

TOP TEN ITEMS



IN OUR BACKYARD - FROM
#63 BEACH

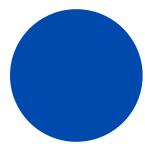
TOP TEN
ITEMS





WHAT IN THE WORLD? UNUSUAL FINDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD





WHAT IN THE WORLD? UNUSUAL FINDS FROM GUYANA



2 hangers



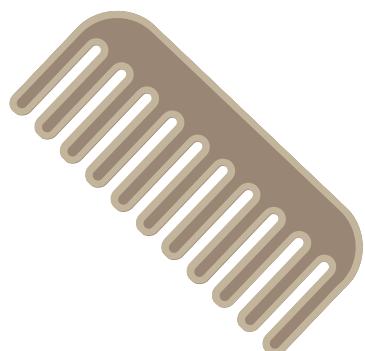
68 batteries



18 toothbrushes



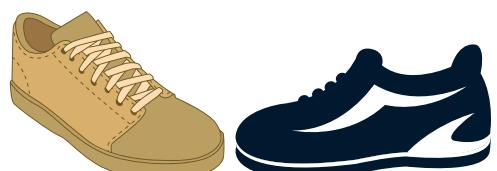
2 cellphone cases



2 combs



4 travelling bags



133 pieces of
footwear



WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM OUR FRIENDS



BUSINESSES

EEPGL
Tiger Rentals Guyana
Repsol
Global Technology
Everything Craft
Banks DIH
DTS Trading and Shipping

SCHOOLS

Queens College
School of the Nations
Georgetown
International Academy
Government Technical
Institute
Marian Academy
Brickdam Secondary
The Bishops' High

NGOS AND CBOS

Lions Club of Bel Air
Lions Club of Ruimveldt
Leo Club of Ruimveldt
Leo Club of South Georgetown
Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek
Red Cross Society
JCI
Come Alive Network Inc
Eco Alliance
Youth Action Movement
Rotaract Club of Georgetown
Miss East Coast Pageant
Child Link
Korean International Martial Arts
Guyana

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA SOCIETIES

Biology Club
Chemistry Club
Dentists Students
Association
Geographical Society
Economics Society
Rotaract Club

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Guyana Police Force
Presidents Youth Award
Programme- Guyana
EPA-Guyana



WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM OUR FRIENDS



UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

University of Guyana Tain
Campus

SPONSORS

Banks DIH
Tiger Rentals
EPA-Guyana



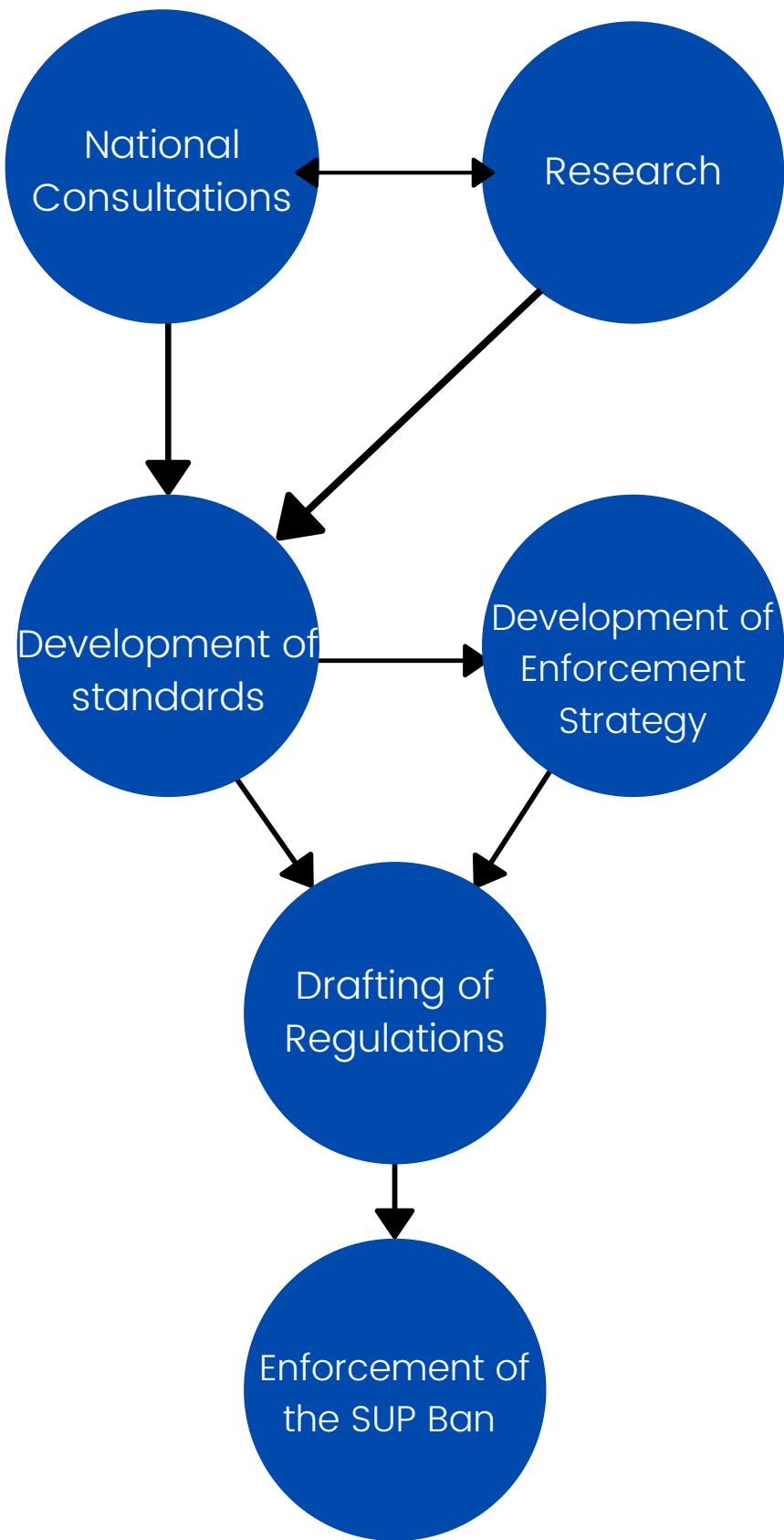
THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

It is evident that our world is evolving rapidly. Over the past decade, there have been unprecedented changes not only in our environment, but also in the areas of health, science and technology, consumption patterns, even the way we socialise. We have become accustomed to convenience and living in the fast lane; we are always on the go. Moreover, we have grown accustomed to plastic products; they make up almost everything we own. Plastics, however, while they are useful, cheap and easily accessible, have had long-term consequences on our health and the environment.

Moreover, single-use plastics have become very problematic and plastic pollution has now become a global problem. Therefore, regulation and appropriate systems to deal with plastic pollution have to be implemented. Guyana will therefore, join with countries around the world to ban some single-use plastic products in 2021.

The proposed ban is on the importation, manufacture, distribution and use of SINGLE USE PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS AND OTHER SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS including plastic plates, food containers, cups, straws, and utensils (spoons, knives, forks), in 2021.

THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS





THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS



Ministry of the Presidency
Department of Environment



GUYANA 2021

Single-Use Plastics Ban

Proposed Items to be Banned:



Plastic Straws

Take up to 200 years or more to degrade.

Plastic Utensils

Take up to 1000 years to degrade.



Plastic Containers

Take up to 450 years to degrade.



Plastic Cups & Plates

Plastic plates take up to 1000 years to degrade.



Plastic Bags

1-5 trillion plastic bags are used each year.
Take up to 20-400 years to degrade.

Join the Conversation at
#592SaysNoToSUP



THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS



GUYANA | *Single-Use Plastics Ban* 2021

Think ALTERNATIVES:



Cutlery
Paper, bamboo,
natural fibres, enamel (reusable)



Cups & Plates

Paper, glassware, corn starch, bagasse,
natural fibres



Straws
Bamboo, paper,
plant-based materials

Food Containers
Paper, corn starch, bagasse,
natural fibres



Bags biobags from paper, jute
canvas, hemp, natural fibres, reusable cloth bags

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Website: www.epaguyana.org



Join the Conversation at:

#592SaysNoToSUP







WASTE MANAGEMENT TIPS



Repair rather than replace

Make your own household cleaners with vinegar, baking soda

Compost your kitchen and yard waste



Perform transactions online to reduce paper waste



Develop a meal plan to avoid food waste

Buy in bulk to avoid excess packaging



Donate used clothing and toys



Participate in paper recycling programs

Buy supplies in bulk whenever possible

Get a reusable bottle for drinking water

Share your agenda digitally

Avoid using disposable plastics whenever possible.

Don't use personal-care products containing "microbeads."

Use reusable groceries bags and other reusable items

Never litter, and always make sure trash is properly disposed

Try reusable metal or glass straw alternatives or opt for no straw



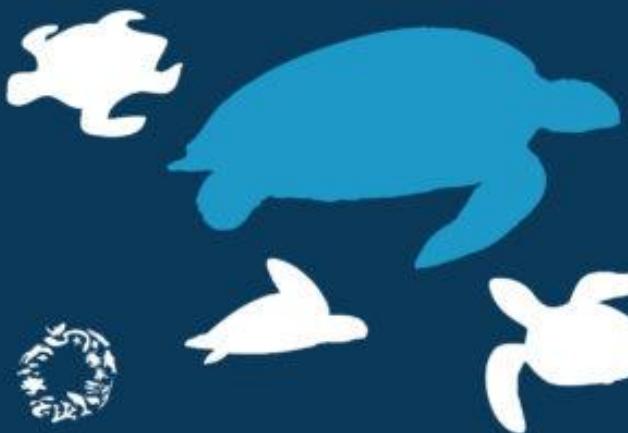


WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

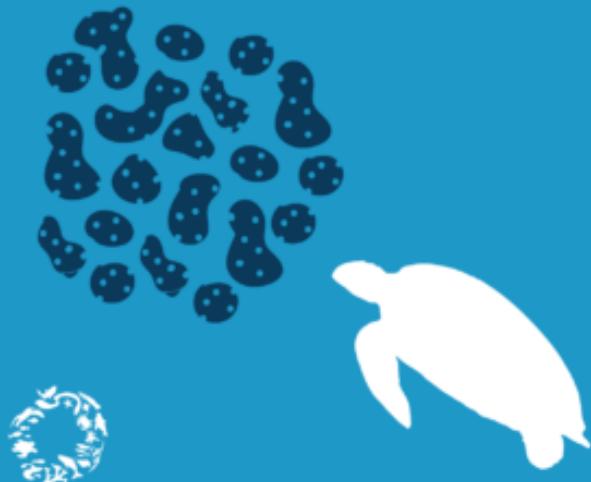
Jellyfish, plastic bags, balloons; these all look like food to a hungry sea turtle. But plastics and trash don't belong inside a sea turtle or in the ocean at all. They can lead to a number of environmental problems. They are especially dangerous for marine animals that can become entangled or accidentally ingest these items while feeding. Once ingested, the plastic items can cause a variety of issues. Digestive tracts can become blocked, which can lead to starvation and death. Over 100 million marine animals die each year due to marine debris, according to the Sea Turtle Conservancy. And more than half of the world's sea turtles have ingested some plastic or human trash, according to a University of Queensland study.

Here are a few facts about our sea turtle friends.

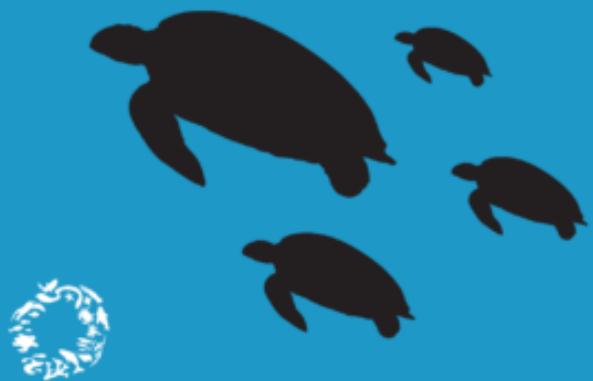
Leatherback turtles are the largest sea turtle in the world.



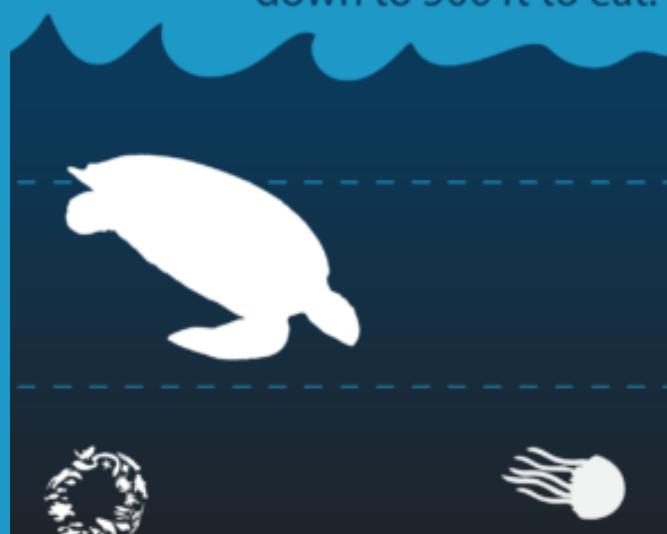
Hawksbills eat 1,000 pounds of sponge every year.



Green sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific actually have darker shells and are known locally as "black turtles."



Male olive ridleys can dive down to 500 ft to eat.







ABOUT INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

HELD IN OVER 100 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD EVERY SEPTEMBER, THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP (ICC) — AN INTEGRAL PART OF OCEAN CONSERVANCY'S TRASH FREE SEAS® PROGRAM — IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST EFFORT TO RID THE OCEAN OF PLASTICS AND MARINE DEBRIS.

This citizen science event contains two components — 1. cleanup of beaches and shorelines, and 2. data collection.

Make a Difference Year-Round. Download our Clean Swell app and document the trash you collect around the clock or start your own Cleanup at a beach near you.



[HTTPS://UNWORLD OCEANS DAY.ORG/EVENT/INTERNATIONAL-COASTAL-CLEANUP-OCEAN-CONSERVANCY](https://unworldoceansday.org/event/international-coastal-clean-up-ocean-conservancy)



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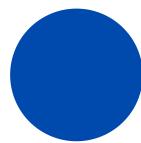
EPA-Guyana



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Environmental Protection Agency- Guyana



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