

World Environment Day 2023 – 5 June – Solutions to plastic pollution

Global

The lead countries: Côte d'Ivoire and The Netherlands.

More than 400 million tonnes of plastic is produced every year worldwide, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 % is recycled. An estimated 19-23 tonnes end up in lakes, rivers, and seas annually.

Microplastics – tiny plastic particles up to 5mm in diameter – find their way into food, water and air. It is estimated that each person on the planet consumes more than 50,000 plastic particles per year –and many more if inhalation is considered. Discarded or burnt single-use plastic harms human health and biodiversity and pollutes every ecosystem from mountain tops to the ocean floor.

Mauritius

With our new trend of living, plastic now makes up a significant percentage (>14.5 %; 75 tonnes p.a) of the total waste generated.



The rate of plastic waste recycling is very low~ at 4%. The global average is 9% recycled, 12% incinerated, and 79% in landfill/environment

Mauritius has promulgated a regulation that prohibits the possession, use, distribution, sale, export, import, manufacture, or supply of plastic bags from 01 March 2021, but with the exception of plastic bags used for packaging, waste disposal, and agricultural and medical sectors.