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See page 19

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Bonn 2025

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### Introduction

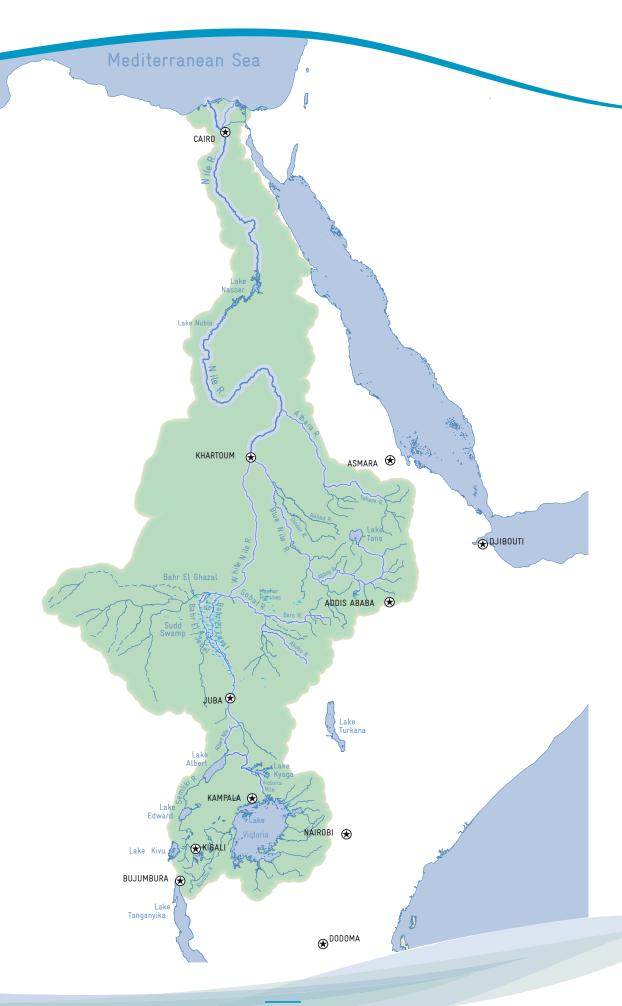
ood water quality is essential for biodiversity and human health, yet the exponential growth of plastic production since the 1950s and inadequate waste management have resulted in the accumulation of plastic debris in oceans and freshwater systems alike. Transboundary rivers are particularly vulnerable to plastic pollution, with the Nile Basin – spanning 11 countries and supporting over 272 million people – being a prime example.

Studies indicate substantial plastic contamination in the Nile, threatening both ecosystems and local livelihoods along the river and in the Mediterranean Sea. Plastic pollution is affecting water quality, increasing flood risks, impairing water and transport infrastructure and is a visual blight.

However, data on plastics in the Nile basin is still sparce. There is a need for systematic monitoring of plastics in rivers to identify hotspots of plastic pollution and reveal temporal trends. This will inform the development of measures to reduce plastic pollution effectively and track the success of efforts to reduce plastic waste and clean up polluted areas.

Against this background, the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, initiated efforts to enhance knowledge on plastic pollution and its monitoring in the Nile Basin.

In a first step, the aim was to achieve an improved level of understanding of plastic pollution in the Nile and its sources in the basin. To this end, NBI and its collaborators analysed waste streams and waste management practices in the basin. The final report provides baseline information, like key hotspots of plastic pollution, information on waste management, data gaps, as well as recommendations for plastic pollution control in the basin.





In a second step, the aim was to understand and assess existing approaches for macro plastic (plastic pieces bigger than 5 cm) monitoring by different actors in the Nile Basin, to build the capacity of member states on macro plastic monitoring through training and exploring some of the existing approaches. NBI and GIZ also aimed for an Action Plan for macro plastic pollution monitoring in the Nile Basin countries. As a result, a scoping mission was carried out in two hotspot areas (Jinja, Uganda and Kisumu, Kenya), a Baseline Report and Action Plan have been developed, recognising the available capacities and resources regarding macro plastics monitoring and data management. In addition, the Action Plan acknowledges and encourages citizen scientists throughout the basin to continue their efforts in monitoring and collecting plastic debris in freshwater systems.

In parallel, NBI in cooperation with the Global Environment Monitoring System for Freshwater (GEMS/Water), had also organised a training workshop on macro plastic monitoring methods, application of citizen science approaches in water quality monitoring and reporting to the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.3.2 on ambient water quality.

Citizen science is the involvement of the public in research from planning to data collection, interpretation and reporting. Community data obtained by citizens can fill information gaps about plastic pollution levels over larger geographical areas. The public involvement in environmental science activities can also have a positive social and environmental impact by creating social bonds, increasing awareness, changing behaviours and advocating for policy change.

To understand and enhance the participation and involvement of civil society actors, GIZ engaged the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) to map those actors and their approaches for monitoring plastic pollution in the Nile Basin. Accordingly, NBD mapped a total of 159 citizen science organisations (CSO) active in plastic pollution monitoring from ten Nile Basin countries. This publication provides an overview of citizen science initiatives and their activities in all NBI member states based on the mapping results of the NBD. In order to maintain a manageable scope for this publication, only a selection of organisations and their activities are described. Many other initiatives are actively involved in this area, and this publication does not claim to cover everything.

### Burundi



#### **AVEDEC**

## Association Villageoise d'Entraide et de Développement Communautaire

AVEDEC is an organisation that works on community awareness raising of plastic waste pollution impacts, waste collection, disposal and recycling. AVEDEC provides capacity building for social entrepreneurial organisations, media houses, womens' groups, and municipalities.







#### **RPEEBU**

#### Réseau pour la Promotion de l'Education Environnementale au Burundi

RPEEBU is primarily dedicated to raising awareness and educating citizens about the impacts of plastic pollution, as well as advocating for policy changes in plastic waste management. The organisation mainly engages young people in plastic waste collection activities, which take place throughout the year.

priscillagirukwisha@gmail.com



#### TIZ

#### Twikenure Impfuvyi Zitwenge

TIZ focuses on community awareness raising and policy advocacy. Engaging volunteers, TIZ collects plastic waste to be dumped or recycled. The NGO also provides incentives to plastic recycling industries and supports youth in plastic waste recycling innovations.

tizburundi.org@gmail.com



- Udceh (union pour le développement, le changement de mentalités et l'epanouissement de l'humanité) |
   <u>www.facebook.com/100063483953655?locale=de\_DE</u> |
   Bujumbra
- FUPDD (Forces Unies des Partenaires pour le Développement Durable) | www.facebook.com/fupdd
- FRACADE BURUNDI (Fraternité des citoyens Actifs pour le Développement au Burundi) | www.facebook.com/people/ Fracade-Burundi/100071150081551 | Avenue de l'amitié, Bujumbura
- BAHEZA (Burundian youth committed for development)
- OPIRCO (Organisation pour la prévention et l'intervention contre les risques et contingences)
- ACAPE Burundi (Associations Catholique pour la Protection de l'Environnement au Burundi) | www.facebook.com/ acapebu2017/?locale=fr\_FR
- AJVDD (Action des Jeunes Volontaires pour le Développement Durable)
- PES (Propreté, environnement et santé) |
   www.initiativesclimat.org/Porteurs-d-initiatives/
   Proprete-environnement-et-sante-PES
- APEDEP (Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et Développement Population)
- AVEDEC (Association Villageoise d'Entraite et de Développement Communautaire) | <u>avedec.org</u> | Quartier Shatanya, MR 11 Gitega
- SODIN (Solidarité pour le Développement Integral dans la Région de Nyabihanga)
- AJEB (Association des Journalistes Environnementalistes du Burundi) | www.facebook.com/p/Associationdes-Journalistes-Environnementalistes-du-Burundi-AJEB-100064053973408

## D. R. Congo



#### ACPDI

## Action des Communautés Paysannes pour le Développement Intégré

ACPDI is engaged in education and awareness raising of communities, plastic waste monitoring, collection and policy advocacy. Working mostly with young people, the NGO promotes environmental protection.



acpdi2003@gmail.com

Cellule Visogho No 69, Quartier Vutetse, Commune Kimemi, Ville de Butembo, Province du Nord-Kivu

#### BENI NATURE KWETU NATURE

BENI NATURE focuses on raising community awareness and advocacy, as well as on plastic collection, disposal, and recycling. These activities involve community volunteers, staff, and partners working with government bodies. The NGO also engages in advocacy efforts to influence policymakers to implement responsible waste management policies and legislation.

beninature243@gmail.com

+243 998706742

www.facebook.com/p/Beni-nature

www.instagram.com/beni\_nature243





- SOFEJEP (Solidarité des Femmes et Jeunes pour le Progrès) | Butembo
- VAM (Vision Active Mobilisons le Terre)
- EST (Environnement Sein et Durable pour Tous)
- AES (Association pour la conservation et la protection des écosystèmes des lacs et l'agriculture durable des lac)
- GRACE RDO
- ARPI (Association pour la Reconstruction de la Paix en ITURI)

## **Egypt**



#### AOYE

### The Arab Office for Youth and Environment

AOYE serves as an umbrella organisation for associations interested in plastic management at the national level, implementing collective activities, and promoting recycling and alternatives to single-use plastics in collaboration with universities, schools, and major shopping centres.

- www.aoye.org
- aoye@link.net
- +20 1001437405
- 3 Misr Lel Tameer Buildings, Zahraa Elmaadi St., Maadi, Cairo

# Together for Development Association in Asfon

The NGO works on plastic waste collection and disposal, community awareness raising, and policy advocacy. It involves volunteers from communities (plastic waste collectors and sellers) and collaborates with government bodies (e.g. municipality), and with other CSOs.

- together4development.mystrikingly.com
- ☑ Hfareda01@gmail.com
- +20 11117786860

#### The Muslim

## Young Women Association of Beni Suef

The association works in critical areas, such as the Nile river delta and canals, to mitigate environmental impacts of plastic waste pollution. It promotes the welfare of women and children and raises community awareness about environmental health and sustainability.

- www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10008016 2243092&sk=about&locale=ga\_IE
- 🔀 <u>shabaat@yahoo.com</u>
- +20 1003800845

- Pioneers of the Future for Economic Development
- The House on the Rock Association
- The Ahaleena Association for Comprehensive Development
- Al-Nahda Association for Agricultural Development and Water Management
- The Environmental Union in Aswan
- The Environmental and Community Development Association in Dendara, Qena
- Youth of Sharqia for Development
- Abu Salama Association in Red Sea
- Experts Training Association for Community Development and Improvement
- Ahliya NGO for Environmental Protection in North Sainai
- Friends of the Environment Association in Port Said
- Local Community Development Association in meet Ghorab

### Ethiopia



## Lem Ethiopia, the Environment & Development Society of Ethiopia

The NGO works in urban waste management and raises awareness about plastic pollution. It has implemented its own projects focused on urban waste management. A key priority area is advocating for strong and enforceable laws to ban non-recyclable plastic materials and to increase public awareness of the impacts of plastic pollution.

www.lemethiopia.com

🔼 lemethiopia92@gmail.com

P.O. Box 8632, Addis Ababa

#### NCA Norwegian Church Aid

The NGO works on climate and environmental stewardship, plastic collection and recycling, community awareness raising, and policy advocacy. The key priority is developing appropriate national policies and law enforcement mechanisms while encouraging strong involvement of the private sector.

Ethio-China Friendship Avenue P.O. Box 1248, Addis Ababa

www.kirkensnodhjelp.no/en/where-we-work/ethiopia2

<mark>⊠ tsze@nca.no</mark>





- EOC-DICAC (Ethiopia Orthodox Tewahedo Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission) | | eotodicac.org | P.O. Box 503, Addis Ababa
- ENDA-Ethiopia (Ethiopia Environmental Development Action)

### Kenya



#### Dhamira Moja

Dhamira Moja is an NGO working on community awareness raising and policy advocacy, engaging also in plastic waste recycling including making crafts and utensils from plastic waste. The purpose of plastic recycling is to generate income and at the same time protect the environment.

- 🔀 sarah.martha@dhamiramoja.org
- 🔼 info@dhamiramoja.org
- dhamiramoja.org
- +254 712131416
- Opposite Faith Church, Bulanda Road in Busia Town, P.O. BOX 235, 50400, Busia

#### CSD Kisumu

## Community Support for Development in Kisumu

CSD works on plastic recycling and environmental clean-up activities, community awareness raising and policy advocacy on environmental issues. It collects plastic waste, engaging volunteers from communities.

- info@csd-kisumu.org
- csdkisumu@gmail.com
- www.csd-kisumu.org
- +254 738028865





- DIWBO (Disability Without Borders Self Help Group)
- KORANDO (Korando Environmental Defenders' Self-Help Group)
- SULWE (Sulwe Integrated Community Based Organization KODAWO) (Kodawo Self Help Group) | www.facebook.com/kodawoselfhelpgroup | Kisumu
- HILLTOP (Hilltop Self Help Group)
- CEMI-K (Community Empowerment and Media Initiative in Kisumu) | www.facebook.com/CEMI2015
- SJOCODEG (St. Joseph Community Development Group)
- KISYO (Kisumu Informal Settlements Youth Organization)
- Ngeri Smart Ladies Organization
- Kisumu United Youth Association | www.facebook.com/groups/745438706071893

### South Sudan



#### **GYE**

#### **Green Youth Empowerment**

GYE is an advocacy group focusing largely on environmental sustainability, environmental education, awareness raising and community development. GYE promotes the use of plastic bottles filled with sand and soil as building material.

tabanisaac92@gmail.com

+211 922287464





#### HF-AFRICA

#### Hope Foundation-Africa South Sudan

The NGO mainly concentrates on agriculture, environment, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) issues. It focuses on recycling and reuse of plastic waste to make building materials like interlocking bricks, roofing, and compound tiles. It engages in tackling climate change, promotes tree planting and a responsible treatment of the environment.

www.facebook.com/hfafrica.godi

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wepsouthsudan1@gmail.com or

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hf.africa.org@gmail.com

+211 928460720

+211 910801207

- NBDF-SS (Nile Basin Discourse Forum-South Sudan)
- Eco-Clean Company
- SSECS (South Sudanese Environment Conservation Society)
- WEP (Women Empowerment Program) | wep-ss.org | Head Office: Bor Jonglei State Location: Plot no 3, 2nd class block N, Liaison office: Muniki Block A, P.O. Box Juba, Central Equatoria

### Sudan



## SECS Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society

The NGO is engaged in community awareness creation, policy advocacy, plastic waste collection and disposal, and plastic waste recycling and reuse, involving volunteers, plastic waste sellers, collectors and school children. The organisation promotes social entrepreneurship initiatives to help women and youth recycle plastics into crafts.

- secs.org.sd
- ⊠ sanjak1956@gmail.com
- alikamal1944@gmail.com
- secs1975@yahoo.com
- Arkawit Block No 68, Khartoum





#### **SZWO**

#### Sudan Zero Waste Organisation

The NGO is engaged in river clean-up activities, WASH interventions, and the management of solid and sewage waste. Youth volunteers participate in clean-up activities. Most of its work focuses on waste management, which is integrated into broader environmental projects.

- www.zerowastesudan.org
- mustafa@zerowastesudan.org
- HO: Portsudan, Hai Almatar, Block 4 House 141, Khartoum: Omdurman, Alwaha East, Block 7, House 63

#### Istidama Wattan Organisation

The NGO works on clean-up activities involving volunteers from communities, partnering with government authorities, academia and researchers. The purpose is to protect human and environmental health as a statutory requirement.

www.facebook.com/p/%D8%A7%D8%B3%D 8%AA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9istidama-100080252882670

- Hashab Organization for Rural Development
- Sudanese Health Promotion Society

### **Tanzania**



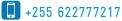
#### **NESODO**

#### **Network for Society Organisation**

The NGO works on waste collection, recycling, awareness creation and community empowerment. It provides training to youth and women on plastic collection and recycling, including making crafts and utensils. NESODO piloted 'plastic waste-to-wealth' recycling programmes that created job opportunities.









#### **EMEDO**

## Environmental Management and Economic Development Organisation

The NGO focuses on plastic clean-up activities and raising community awareness about the risks of plastic pollution. Collected plastic waste is either transferred to recycling industries or delivered to landfill collection points. EMEDO also supports individuals in generating income through the sale of plastic waste.

www.emedo.or.tz

kitogolaw@gmail.com

+255 767867872

🕡 Block A Sweya, Mwanza

#### <mark>SAWAU</mark> SAUTI YA WANAWAKE UKEREWE

The women-led local CSO mainly focuses on community awareness creation and policy advocacy related to plastic waste management. It is not yet involved in plastic pollution monitoring.

sophyd2003@yahoo.com





- PAMAO (Pamoja Mazingira Organisation)
- TDI (Together Development Initiative) | tdi.or.tz | P.O. BOX 1371, Buhongwa Magharibi, Mwanza
- Vijana Na Mazingira | www.instagram.com/vijana\_na\_ mazingira | www.facebook.com/vijananamazingira
- Mazingira Bora
- Joint Initiative for Vulnerable Support | www.facebook.com/jointTZ/?locale=pt\_BR
- Advancing Youth for Opportunities Initiative

### Uganda



#### KWI Kinawataka Women's Initiatives

The community-based NGO is empowering women in their economic sustenance through environmentally conscious economic projects Kinawataka slum, Kampala. KWI is mostly known for its woven products made from used drinking straws and has created employment for many low-income earners.

+256 751961813

www.facebook.com/p/Kinawataka -Women-Initiatives-100064028590785

kinawataka@gmail.com
P.O. Box 22145, Kampala





## KAFRED Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development

The CSO focuses on plastic waste collection and disposal, as well as raising community awareness. It engages young volunteers to collect and sell plastic waste as a source of income. The organisation operates its own incinerator for plastic disposal. Key priorities include making data available to support informed decision-making and establishing community bylaws on waste management.

<mark>⊠ byonapeter@gmail.com</mark>

+256 779732510

- Judeplast Company, Twezimbe Women's Group | iccad.net/voices-from-frontline-p2
- Soil and Seed Alliance Uganda | <u>alliancebioversityciat.org</u>
- Pirewish Foundation Uganda www.purefuganda.org Lira, Uganda, St. Mary's Road, Lira Central Division, P.O. Box 330102, Lira
- Action for Resilient Agriculture
- Juliro Charitable Community Initiative
- Global Youth Foundation
- Youth Vision Fellowship
- Kalyet initiative Uganda | www.kalyet-initiative.com | P.O. Box 100940, Kampala
- Kakoro Children and Youth Empowerment Center
- Action for Development of Grassroot Communities
- Hope Case Foundation
- HCF (Happy Childhood Foundation) | forahappychildhood.org
   F366+4V7
- YES (Youth Environment Service) | www.yesbusia.org.ug | P.O. BOX 404, Busia
- PINA (People In Need Agency) | rejuvenate.global/ organisation/people-in-needagency-pina
- Mabamba Bay Women Champions Group
- BiVA (Bio Vision Africa) | <u>biovision-africa.org</u> | Miwanda Rd Opp Oryx

### Conclusion

All Nile Basin countries are facing compelling challenges from plastic pollution. Monitoring data are necessary to identify pollution hotspots and reveal temporal trends. This data can also help track the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce plastic pollution in the Nile basin.

In all countries, CSOs are engaged in plastic waste management and awareness raising, which can be a solid basis on which to set up plastic monitoring activities. In addition to more structured planning and financial support, CSOs require targeted capacity-building trainings to improve their technical expertise, particularly on citizen science approaches, for effective plastic pollution monitoring.

Stakeholder collaboration and networking of CSOs through public-private-civil society partnerships could effectively promote plastic waste management and also improve technical capacity and synergies between CSOs.

Public pressure and support of CSO networks could promote the elaboration or enforcement of laws and regulations to reduce plastic pollution. The promising example of Rwanda shows that clear guidelines and enforcement mechanisms combined with high public awareness on the adverse impacts of plastic waste can contribute to its effective reduction.



### **Notes**



#### Photo captions:

- Cover: The Nile begins its regulated flow from Lake Victoria at Jinja, Uganda.
- Page 6: Ogwado Joachim is a visual artist from Kampala, Uganda, turning plastic trash into sculptures and installations.
- Page 8: Early 2025, GIZ together with NBI, organised a training on macro plastic monitoring for representatives of the member states in Kisumu, Kenya.
- Page 9: Groups of participants of the macro-plastic pollution training conduct a bank survey of macro plastic (foreground) and visual counting (background from bridge) at Nyamasaria River, Kisumu, Kenya.
- Page 11: A journalist training on plastic pollution and citizen science for media representatives across the basin has been another activity of the cooperation between NBI and GIZ. Here, journalists who attended the training, engage with
- Page 12: Journalists visit one of the recycling hubs in Kampala, Uganda during the training on plastic pollution.
- Page 13: Some of the participants of the macro plastic monitoring training in Kisumu, Kenya during a group discussion.
- Page 14: Visit to a plastic recycling hub during the journalist training in Uganda.
- Page 15: Impressions from the plastic pollution training in Kenya in 2024.
- Page 16 Some initiatives are turning plastic trash into art or everyday items, like here in Kampala, Uganda.
  - Top Ogwado Joachim, a visual artist and founder of Ogwado Studio in Kampala, Uganda, turns discarded plastics into vibrant forms of art. Ogwado Studio is part of the Plastic Talks Initiative.
  - Bottom Kinawataka Women's Initiative in Kampala, Uganda is transforming plastic straws from the environment into usable products such as bags.
- Page 17: The river Nile in Jinja, Uganda.

#### Photo credits:

@GIZ/Andrew Kartende

Most photographs in this publication were taken in Uganda and Kenya and are not intended to fully represent each initiative or country.



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