



**AFRICAN  
marine waste  
NETWORK**

A programme of Sustainable Seas Trust

# Towards Zero Plastics to the Seas of Africa

Second International Conference of the  
African Marine Waste Network



## Call for Abstracts: First Announcement

This theme reflects a drive in Africa to stop plastics from entering the environment at any stage of the value chain. If the journey of plastic waste from land and sea-based sources can be halted before they reach the sea, a major step towards managing plastic waste will be achieved. In addition to stopping new waste from entering the environment, methods for reducing the number of plastics already in the environment need to be developed.

In your abstract, tell us how your work; whether in science, education, economics, anthropology, sociology, conservation, industry (from production to recycling and repurposing), policy, health, waste management, or advocacy; is or can contribute to the drive to stop plastics polluting the environment and ultimately contaminating the seas. Tell us about your current, or previous, case studies, successes and failures, the lessons you have learned, and why some projects failed, so we can work together to find and develop solutions to the plastic waste problem. As plastic waste is a global issue, while the focus of this conference is Africa, anyone, anywhere in the world is most welcome to submit an abstract.

The primary objective of the conference is to foster problem-solving. Abstracts, and the final presentations, should, therefore, focus on actions that need to be taken, spending little time sketching the problem. A major output of the conference is to contribute to a guide to best practices for inclusion in a decision-making framework for the development of national and regional action plans for Africa. It is recommended, therefore, that abstracts be arranged as follows:

- 1. Brief introduction in which the specific problem to be solved is concisely described.**
- 2. What is being done to solve the problem and how will it contribute to the achievement of the goal of zero plastics to the seas (any positive step in any discipline which leads to fewer plastics entering the environment or more plastics being cleaned from the environment would qualify).**
- 3. Final section on how the work might contribute to action plans.**

## Content:

- Must be in English.
- Should not exceed 350 words.
- Should not include references.
- Should not contain tables, graphs, images, etc.
- One abstract per first author only.
- Specify all abbreviations in full at the first mention, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. Use the abbreviation thereafter.
- Submissions for abstracts close 31 October 2021.

The African Marine Waste Network (AMWN) team and its partners are keen to learn from the experiences of others on how their work and ideas may contribute to solving problems. Authors are encouraged to contact the AMWN with any queries or questions related to a proposed abstract.

## Abstracts falling into the following broad categories will be most keenly considered:

### **Gathering scientific data to guide decisions, including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- Data, measuring, monitoring, modelling, and evidence-based planning. The scope includes macro, meso, and microplastics from both land and sea-based sources.
- Mapping and networking: Using maps to show locations of stakeholders with similar interests, thereby opening doors to collaborations and creating networks across Africa.

### **Finding ways to mitigate economic, human and environmental health costs of plastic waste, including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- Plastics and the climate, including reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Mitigation of costs and impacts of plastics on human and environmental health.
- Mitigation of costs of plastic waste on ecological goods and services.
- Evaluating economic costs of plastic waste to nations and cities.

### **Harnessing opportunities for economic, socio economic and entrepreneurship, including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- Informal and formal waste management.
- Developing enterprises for Africa.
- Providing incentives and employment.
- The pivotal role of municipalities/local governments in waste management and solving the challenges they face.

### **The leading role of industry, including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- Actions that industry can take at every step of the value chain, sustainability approaches by industry, innovations, and new opportunities to improve final products.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); will it help reduce plastic waste in Africa.
- Industry perspective of EPR and its applicability to Africa.



**New ideas and technical innovations, including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- Developments in bio-plastics, technology, mobile and other apps, ICT, and more.

**Education and training, including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- The role education has in behaviour change, sustainable livelihoods, climate change, resilience, environmental knowledge, etc.
- Reimagining online education for better futures.
- Expanding access, openness, and flexibility: Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Innovative learning and teaching methodologies: Designs for student success, education in times of uncertainty, closing the knowledge gap (from research to practice). This theme aims to bring together scientists, scholars, students, teachers, learners, educators etc. to inspire teaching and learning.

**Leadership and policy development in managing plastic and other waste including aspects that deal with any of the following:**

- International policies and guidance.
- National policies and legislation.
- Municipal regulations and implementation.

If your field of work is not covered by any of the abstract topics mentioned above, please contact SST to ascertain whether your work can be included. As the conference is a platform to share novel ideas, case studies, new breakthroughs, and ideas that can promote the drive to move towards zero plastics to the seas of Africa, you may find that your work is welcome.

Click here to **submit**, then click “My Instructions” to get started.

**For more information about the conference visit**  
**<https://conference.sst.org.za>**

