## The Aldabra Clean-Up Project

Tackling ocean plastic pollution through action, education and research



#### Global plastics production

Annual global polymer resin and fiber production (plastic production), measured in metric tonnes per year.



Our World in Data

Our World in Data

Global

**Problem** 

#### Share of plastic waste that is inadequately managed, 2010

Share of total plastic waste that is inadequately managed. Inadequately disposed waste is not formally managed and includes disposal in dumps or open, uncontrolled landfills, where it is not fully contained. Inadequately managed waste has high risk of polluting rivers and oceans. This does not include 'littered' plastic waste, which is approximately 2% of total waste (including high-income countries).



#### Plastic waste generation per person, 2010

Our World in Data Daily plastic waste generation per person, measured in kilograms per person per day. This measures the overall per capita plastic waste generation rate prior to waste management, recycling or incineration. It does not therefore directly indicate the risk of pollution to waterways or marine environments.



#### Plastic ocean input from top 20 rivers, 2015

Our World in Data Plastic input to the ocean from the top 20 polluting rivers across the world. Shown is the given river, its location, and estimated annual input of plastic to the oceans in tonnes.



# How does this global problem impact one of the world's most remote islands?



### What can be done about it?



## The problem for Aldabra:

## So SIF joined forces with the Queens College, University of Oxford, to form the Aldabra Clean-Up Project (ACUP).





seychelles islands foundation

In addition to a five-week expedition, that aimed to remove 50 metric tonnes or 500 m<sup>3</sup> of plastic pollution, ACUP took on four objectives:

1. Raise £150,000;

- 2. Raise awareness locally & internationally;
- 3. Research the marine debris found on Aldabra;
  - 4. Reprocess the collected marine debris.

#### ✓ Raise SCR2.7 million / £150,000: By February 2019 ACUP had raised SCR 3.9 million/ £222,000 or 148% of its original aim!







**Breakdown of ACUP funding sources** 



Intl Corp Sey Corp SIF Crowdfunding Grants

## Aldabra Clean Up Project



'Moniman pou limanite' 'Prezerve a jamais pou leternite Patrick Victor - Aldabra

Eliminating ocean plastic on Aldabra Sharing knowledge and research Promoting positive steps to reduce plastic use

#### Money raised in Seychelles Money raised abroad



#### To achieve this ACUP:

- Approached over 50 businesses in Seychelles for CSR & over 40 international corporations;
- Applied to 15 grants (5 successful);
- Reached out to various organisations for in-kind support & other assistance;
- Crowdfunded SCR 277,000 / £15,540 (or 7%) of funds raised from 107 sponsors (donations ranged between £1 & £500).





























NOBLE CALEDONIA CHARITABLE TRUST

















#### ✓ Raise awareness locally & internationally: Momentum still growing!



#### WHY?

For ACUP to have a meaningful impact it has to be part of the solution that tackles the issue at its source: plastic consumption (particularly single-use) &pollution/littering. This means;

- Encouraging societal & individual changes through education & outreach activities;
- Ensuring that the expedition was covered by local & international media;

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• The team has & will continue to engage with & educate the public on marine plastic pollution on Aldabra, in Seychelles & globally.

### The Expedition:

A team of 12 based for five weeks on Aldabra, majority of the time based on three remote field camps with no electricity, running water & limited communication with the outside world. Physical aim: remove 50 metric tonnes or 500 m<sup>3</sup> (available space on supply vessel) of plastic pollution.

#### Expedition split into two phases:

- Phase 1 collect as much as possible from 16 different nesting turtle beaches along south coast;
- Phase 2 move collected waste from shore to supply vessel;
- Assisted by 10 Aldabra staff throughout despite concurrent activities (Eco school visit, AGM, tourist activities & Nekton mission);
- Joined in phase 2 by 15 members of Seychelles People Defence Forces on Coastguard vessel Etoile, their help was indispensable;
- Awareness (documenting), research (beach surveys) & reprocessing (sorting at source) objectives had to be reached concurrently.

#### Aldabra with beaches marked and area of coastline cleared







#### Results:

1) 25.75 metric tonnes of marine debris removed from Aldabra;

2) 10 new Aldabra ambassadors / environmental campaigners;

3) A baseline for future research into composition, origin & accumulation rate of marine debris on Aldabra.



#### Research the marine debris found on Aldabra: ongoing

We set out with the question of what can we learn from the waste that has accumulated on Aldabra?

#### Initial results from Dune-Jean Louis (DJL) phase 1 (only indicative).





Modelling & observations indicate that most of the consumables found are from SE Asia & East Africa.

However, fishing gear collected, such as FADs can also originate from activities in Seychelles.







## Reprocess the collected marine debris: (ongoing & ambitious, but we believe it's not enough to move the problem elsewhere!

ACUP aims to prevent 40-60% of collected waste from being landfilled. Landscape and Waste Management Agency has agreed for the collected waste to be stored on their premises until October 2019.





# The SIF board of trustees has agreed that there will be a second ACUP expedition. Watch this space!



## Who won?

#### MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION: How long until it's gone?

The Estimated Decomposition Rate of Plastics in Our Oceans



Thank you for your time.

Any questions? Would you like some marine debris? If you would like to keep up to date with ACUP please follow:

> Facebook: @AldabraCleanUp Twitter: @AldabraCleanUp Instagram: @aldabra\_cleanup

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