

24

HOURS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

MARINE LITTER



...MEMBERS OF THE EMIRATES DIVING ASSOCIATION PROUDLY DISPLAY THE UNEP FLAG DURING A DIVE TO CLEAN UP MARINE LITTER...

Marine litter—mainly non-degradable plastics—is a growing environmental issue. It travels long distances with ocean currents and winds, and is found everywhere: from the poles to the equator, from continental coastlines to small remote islands.

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SHOWING**

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...GLOBALLY, MORE THAN ONE MILLION BIRDS AND 100,000 MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES DIE EACH YEAR FROM ENTANGLEMENT IN ABANDONED FISHING NETS, OR INGESTION OF PLASTIC DEBRIS...

Marine litter kills and injures marine mammals, turtles, fish, birds and invertebrates. It also transports invasive species between seas, smothers the seabed and accumulates in the water column. Billions of dollars are spent annually to clean up marine and coastal litter. Despite international, regional and national efforts, the marine litter problem continues to worsen.

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05:34:56

UNIVERSAL TIME

INDIAN OCEAN

...UNEP MARINE EXPERT ELLIK ADLER POINTS OUT THAT, IN SOME AREAS, FOR EACH KILOGRAM OF PLANKTON IN THE OCEAN, THERE ARE SIX KILOGRAMS OF PLASTIC...

The UN General Assembly recognized the problem of marine litter in 2005. It urged governments to integrate marine debris into their national waste management strategies to develop appropriate economic incentives and to implement joint prevention and recovery programmes. UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) contribute by assisting Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

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