



Project title: Incentivize 100 marginalized plastic waste pickers in Douala, Cameroon

General overview of our plastic waste project

Douala, the commercial capital of Cameroon with a population of about 4 million people, has recently been experiencing an upsurge of plastic waste pollution. This is mostly due to increased production from the brewery and water bottling companies, combined with increasing population and poor waste management systems, resulting in negative impacts on the surrounding environment (land, waters, air and human health).

In 2017 the city of Douala produced more than 20,000 tons of plastic waste daily of which about 3% was collected and only around 2% recycled. The quantity of plastic waste produced daily now has increased due to increased population and poor plastic waste management.

The waters (stream, rivers, sea and ocean) and landfills in Douala are overflowing with plastic waste, and are as such affecting both human health and the aquatic/marine ecosystems downstream. Hazardous plastic waste, non hazardous plastic waste, e-waste, and other types of waste products aggregate in the waters and land systems in the city. These plastic wastes also clogs in gutters, waterways, rivers, streams and when it rains, the city of Douala experiences severe floods and inundation. As a consequence of these floods many lost their houses, and other properties, hence causing many people to be homeless and stranded. This year on Friday 21 August 2020, the city of Douala witnessed heavy rainfall which made the entire Douala city and environs to experience serious floods and inundation.

On the waterbed and land big piles of waste are being burned in open landfills, producing toxic fumes affecting nearby residents, hence causing air pollution.

Some of these waters and lands are now biologically dead and even areas far away from the most urban are affected by the massive amounts of plastic waste that flow downstream during the rainy season, as the waters systems in the city drain out in the estuary connected to the Douala Edea National Park; the first and only marine national park and nature reserve in Cameroon. The waste reaching this far is now affecting the animal life at an increasing speed.

Environment and Food Foundation (E2F) wish to supplement the work being done in the city by bringing up a new collection, reusing and recycling system for plastic waste, with a traceable social and environmental impact to global waste management.

Our innovative approach seeks to strengthen the plastic value chains, create new jobs, as well

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as relieve Douala from plastic pollution. We aim to change the paradigm on plastic by monetizing/incentivizing its collection and turning what was once waste into a resource, as a way to reduce extreme poverty in Cameroon. We aim to reveal the value in plastic waste making it too valuable to throw away. Due to COVID-19 lockdowns, waste pickers in Douala are prevented from work and daily income, having massive consequences for one of the most vulnerable groups. Many people have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, leading to increase unemployment and poverty rate in Cameroon. This project aim to create more new jobs and livelihoods to marginalized plastic waste pickers, unemployed youths and women in Douala, Cameroon living in extreme poverty during and after COVID-19 lockdowns. For every kg of plastic waste picked up by the waste pickers, they receive a cash payment or token for cleaning the environment.

The collected plastic waste shall then be given to plastic recycling companies in Cameroon for recycling.

Some of the plastic waste bottles collected shall be used to construct eco-friendly products like eco-chairs, eco-benches, eco-tables, bulb covering and among others.

This is how the process of incentivizing plastic waste pickers works:

- 1) Sponsors, grantors, funders, collaborators donate to E2F: Your contribution fuels the process.
- 2) Cleanups and Registration: Plastic waste pickers collect and deliver plastic waste.
- 3) Credits to waste pickers: In return waste pickers get paid, a support which can enable them earn a living.
- 4) Release of money: Cleanups are funded by E2F funds from your donations.
- 5) Impact Reports to sponsors: You see your full impact once the cleanups are done.

The positive outcomes of the project are:

1. Provision of a cleaner and healthier environment (earth).
2. Improving the health of our streams, rivers, estuaries coast line and oceans.
3. Limit the spread of waterborne diseases like bilhalzia.
4. Empower and train communities, with enhanced capacity to engage in collection and reusing of plastic waste.
5. Increase capacity of community members to engage in participatory clean up campaigns and natural resource management.
7. Better management of plastic wastes in households, schools and communities.
8. Improve the livelihood of 100 plastic waste pickers by incentivizing the collection of plastic waste.

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9. By raising \$10.000USD, 30.000kgs of plastic waste is removed from the environment, 100 waste pickers received immediate relief through incentives, about 75 tons of CO₂ is saved by recycling and reusing.

Description of project activities

The main activities for our project are:

The goal here is to pick up plastic waste from waters (streams, rivers, oceans), landfills, beaches, communities, streets, schools, restaurants, bars, hotels, companies, and households, in the city of Douala, Cameroon and provide incentives to waste pickers.

- We will organize cleanup events involving picking up plastic waste across various plastics polluted landfills, beaches, streams and rivers. Organize clean up events in target landfills, beaches, rivers, streams highly polluted with plastic waste. We will pick up, weigh, register the plastic waste. Each waste picker receives an incentives according to the quantity of plastic waste picked up and delivered
- Moreover, we will train and empower about 100 waste pickers, unemployed youths and women to become plastic waste ambassadors. We will equip our plastic waste ambassadors with personal protective gears (PPG) like safety boots, safety gloves, sunshaded caps, working clothes, face masks and others. This is to respect the hygiene measures for work set by E2F board of directors for the well being and safety of E2F staffs or volunteers. They will go into streets, communities, landfills, streams and rivers to pick up plastic waste. For every kg of plastic waste they picked they will receive a cash reward/token for cleaning their communities, hence creating a source of livelihood and job for less privilege youths and women.
- In addition, we will create collection points at target landfills, rivers, streams, streets, communities, schools and others. The collection points are the points were we will design as stopping points for us to collect plastic waste.

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The estimated costing for our project is at **\$10,000 USD**.

The detailed specifications of what to be achieved with the money are shown in the table below:

S/N	DESIGNATION	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE (\$)	TOTAL PRICE (\$)
01	Incentives to waste pickers per kg	30,000 kg	0.25	7,500
02	Purchase of weighing scales	5	10	50
03	Purchase of safety boots	100	10	1,000
04	Purchase of safety gloves	100	1	100
05	Purchase of work protective cloths	100	15	1,500
06	Purchase of sunshed caps	100	1	100
07	Purchase of nose masks	100	1	100
08	Transportation of plastic waste	30,000	0.01	300
	GRAND TOTAL			10,650

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