



# Q1-Q3 REPORT 2025



## CONTENTS

- 3 Executive summary
- 4 Project locations
- 5 Our impact
- 6 Government Partnerships
- 8 Education
- 10 Plastic and Health
- 12 Finance and Operations

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## The first three quarters of 2025 have seen Common Seas delivering impact through collaboration, as we have strengthened our partnerships with SIDS governments and educators.

Our Government Partnerships programme has now completed policy recommendations for Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, and Guinea-Bissau and Saint Lucia. We are delighted to report that the project's funder, the UK FCDO has endorsed our progress, awarding a further grant to support the move toward implementation.

While negotiations towards a global plastics treaty have stalled, we have reinforced our international leadership on plastic pollution in SIDS by co-hosting a ministerial event at the UN Ocean Conference with the Government of Tuvalu and contributing to a high-level panel at INC-5.2. Recognising that meaningful change on plastics will require multilateral action, we launched the first Insights Paper from the Plastics National Action Plan Working Group.

Long-term sustainable change demands youth engagement, and education sits as a key enabling factor in policy recommendations for our SIDS partners. Our Education Programme has continued to grow in reach and recognition: the Barbados Ministry of Education endorsed Plastic Clever Schools, reinforcing the link between our policy and education work; the programme has also been endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade Project.

To support wider adoption, we launched new global resources - shaped by a working group of 14 international experts - and translated these into French, Dutch, and Indonesian. In Q4, we will launch a new website and CRM designed to accelerate completion of the award programme.

In the laboratory, our Health Research into the effects of plastics on human health has made good progress. Preliminary results from the thrombosis study at Imperial suggest that exposure of human endothelial cells to specific microplastics trigger an inflammatory response.

While analysis of the gut health study nears completion, our advocacy efforts have already supported a youth-led campaign on plastics in chewing gum. Linking back to our policy work, our high-profile *Nature* roundtable in Q4 will connect policymakers and researchers on the emerging health impacts of plastics.

Throughout the first three quarters, we have successfully driven an increasing interconnection between our programmes. Together, these mutually reinforcing programmes are driving systemic change to stop the flow of plastic pollution at its source. Thank you for your continued support.

**Charlotte Davies**  
Managing Director  
Common Seas



## PROJECT LOCATIONS

- Barbados
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guinea Bissau
- Indonesia
- Papua New Guinea
- Saint Lucia
- The Gambia
- Tuvalu
- UK

## COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WITH REGISTERED PLASTIC CLEVER SCHOOLS

- |                          |            |                         |                |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| • Albania                | • Cyprus   | • Kuwait                | • Serbia       |
| • Argentina              | • Dominica | • Liberia               | • South Africa |
| • Aruba                  | • Estonia  | • Malawi                | • South Korea  |
| • Australia              | • Fiji     | • Malaysia              | • Spain        |
| • Bahrain                | • France   | • Moldova               | • Sweden       |
| • Barbados               | • Germany  | • Namibia               | • Switzerland  |
| • Belgium                | • Greece   | • New Zealand           | • Turkey       |
| • Bosnia and Herzegovina | • India    | • Nigeria               | • UAE          |
| • Cambodia               | • Ireland  | • Oman                  | • Uganda       |
| • Canada                 | • Israel   | • Portugal              | • UK           |
| • Chile                  | • Italy    | • Romania               | • Uruguay      |
| • China                  | • Jamaica  | • Russia                | • USA          |
| • Croatia                | • Jersey   | • Sao Tome and Principe | • Venezuela    |
|                          | • Kenya    |                         |                |



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS INCLUDING:



UBS Optimus Foundation



# OUR IMPACT

## OUR KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHTS

**10** PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES PUBLISHED →



## INFLUENCE AND ENGAGE PROFESSIONALS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**527** PROFESSIONALS UPSKILLED →



## TO ENACT AND SUPPORT POLICY CHANGE AND DIRECT ACTION

**3** NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ENDORSED  
4 MORE UNDERWAY



**1,562** SCHOOLS TAKING ACTION →



## TO ELIMINATE PROBLEM PLASTICS

**8,757 TONNES** POTENTIAL ANNUAL REDUCTION IN PLASTIC POLLUTION ✓

**4,972 TONNES** POTENTIAL PLASTIC WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL ✓



## REPORTING ON Q1-Q3 2025

The first three quarters of 2025 have seen significant progress in advancing our mission to reduce plastic pollution in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with growing government commitment and regional collaboration driving long-term change.

### National Action Plans

In Q3, we reached a major milestone across all five partner countries: Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, and Tuvalu. Supported by the UK Government, our team has completed three new National Action Plans (NAPs) – for Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, and Guinea-Bissau and presented them to government stakeholders. This follows broad national consultations engaging over 140 participants. The final *Report on Plastics Policy Recommendations* for Saint Lucia was published in September, and the draft NAP for Grenada remains under government review.

Building on these achievements, the UK FCDO confirmed an extension of our programme through March 2026, enabling us to support countries as they move from planning to implementation.

### Regional and Global Engagement

We deepened our influence at the global level through an official side event at the UN Ocean Conference co-hosted with Tuvalu, and a high-level panel at the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations (INC-5.2) hosted at the World Economic Forum. The Plastics National Action Plan Working Group launched its first *Insights Paper* to inform treaty discussions.

Progress also continued on our *Regional Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)* initiative, now in external consultation ahead of its publication later this year.

## LOOKING AHEAD

With policy development nearing completion, our focus for Q4 will be on transitioning from planning to implementation. This includes finalising the remaining National Action Plans for government endorsement and developing implementation finance assessments for Saint Lucia and Guinea-Bissau.

We will also support governments to strengthen institutional capacity to operationalise their NAPs and align with wider regional initiatives on circular economy and climate finance.

On the research side, we will launch the final Regional EPR report and Vision Paper, marking a major step toward a shared approach to producer responsibility in SIDS and other remote geographies.

Finally, we will continue to raise visibility of our work through global and regional forums, consolidating Common Seas' position as a trusted policy partner to island nations tackling plastic pollution.

## OUR IMPACT

**3**  
NAPS →  
ENDORSED



**4** ←  
NATIONAL ACTION  
PLANS AND REPORTS  
– COMPLETED  
OR IN ADVANCED  
DRAFTING STAGES.

**200+** →  
STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED  
ACROSS ALL CONSULTATIONS  
AND EVENTS



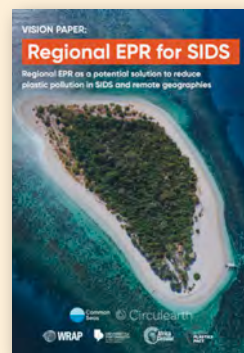
**3** ✓  
DRAFT NAPS PRESENTED  
TO GOVERNMENTS  
IN Q3 (PNG, TUVALU,  
GUINEA-BISSAU)



**2** ←  
HIGH-LEVEL  
INTERNATIONAL  
EVENTS HOSTED  
(UNOC & INC-5.2)

INTERNATIONAL NGOS  
COLLABORATING ON  
NATIONAL PLANS IN THE  
GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY **7**

**£0.5M+**   
SECURED IN NEW PROGRAMME FUNDING  
(FCDO EXTENSION)



**8**  
EXPERT  
ORGANISATIONS  
CONTRIBUTING  
TO REGIONAL  
EPR WORK  
←

## IN PHOTOS



## 2025 TARGETS

In 2025, our focus will be delivering the 5 ambitious National Action Plans / Reports in partnership with the countries we have secured in 2024, while contributing to the policy debate in our areas of expertise. We will:

- Deliver five National Plans / Reports with partner countries
- Publish Regional EPR report for remote areas
- Publish a joint position statement for the Global Plastics Treaty
- Secure funding for the next stage of the programme
- Increase external recognition of Common Seas in SIDS policy space



## REPORTING ON Q1-Q3 2025

This year, we're supporting educators and empowering students through new global resources, youth-led initiatives, and hands-on events. From launching Plastic Clever Schools (PCS) in Indonesia to receiving UN Ocean Decade endorsement, we're driving inclusive, action-focused ocean literacy worldwide.

### Equipping Educators

- Through in-person events, webinars, and one-on-one meetings, we supported 325 educators worldwide, equipping them with tools and inspiration to nurture the next generation of ocean advocates.

- August - we launched new Global Action resources in partnership with River Cleanup. A Global Education Working Group - 14 experts from 7 countries - helped shape this work, ensuring our programme is globally relevant, inclusive, and action-oriented. With support from the Amyas Valora Foundation, these resources were translated and launched in Indonesia, where 10 schools are already working to become Plastic Clever.

### Empowering young people

- Over 1,700 youth-led actions to tackle plastic pollution have been submitted to the PCS platform, showcasing students' creativity and commitment. 106 schools have earned the award, with progress accelerating thanks to increased support from project officers and access to the School Action Fund.
- Amy Meek, Co-founder of our partner charity, Kids Against Plastic, joined Common Seas as Youth Action Officer, applying her extensive experience of

youth empowerment to developing a participation and enrichment programme to increase our direct engagement with educators and young people.

- In Greece, we joined a two-day event at the Cycladic Museum in Athens. 400+ children participated in Common Seas workshops, gaining tools and ideas to champion ocean advocacy in their schools.

### Building recognition as expert partners

- Our partnership with River Cleanup has enabled resource translations into French, Dutch, and Indonesian, and secured funding to launch PCS in Cameroon later this year.
- In Barbados, the Ministry of Education is recognising PCS not only as a tool for plastic reduction but also as a resource for embedding student-centred learning. Our project officer recently trained 16 teachers, equipping them with the confidence and resources to implement hands-on, practical learning in their classrooms.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In the final quarter, we will focus on deepening global engagement, enhancing digital infrastructure, and expanding enrichment opportunities to empower schools in taking meaningful action. We will also lay the groundwork for a robust education strategy leading up to 2030.

### Key priorities include:

- Deliver the 2025 International Day of Action
- Engage schools globally with hands-on activities and expert sessions.
- Launch the new Plastic Clever Schools website
- Roll out a refreshed platform to support global school audience.
- Expand enrichment activities
- Continued to inspire and motivate school progression.
- Conduct site visit in Indonesia
- Strengthen relationships with partners and funders through in-person engagement.
- Prepare for 2026 and long-term strategic planning





## OUR IMPACT

Education Officer, Konstantina, delivering student workshop in Greece.



# 298

**SCHOOLS REGISTERED TO PLASTIC CLEVER SCHOOLS (TOTAL 1,562)**



# 414

**EVIDENCE SUBMISSIONS DEMONSTRATING STUDENT ACTION ON PLASTICS POLLUTION (TOTAL 1793)**

**SCHOOLS ARE ACTIVE ACROSS THE PROGRAMME STAGES**

(submitted at least 1 evidence piece):

- INSPIRE 30**
- INVESTIGATE 91**
- ACT 29**
- COMPLETE AWARD 106**

(NB: Some schools have submitted evidence across multiple stages.)

# 10

**FRENCH, DUTCH AND INDONESIAN PCS RESOURCES, EYFS OCEAN LITERACY LESSON PACKAGE, GLOBAL PCS TEMPLATES.**



# €185,000

**SECURED IN NEW FUNDING (AMVAL, LATSIS, RIVER CLEANUP AND SPORADES PRIVATE DONOR)**



# 327

**TEACHERS ATTENDED ONLINE TRAINING WEBINARS, EVENTS OR RECEIVED 121 SUPPORT (TOTAL 827)**

## IN PHOTOS



Word of Life, Liberia: the first school in West Africa to become a PCS

## 2025 TARGETS

- 2,000 schools registered
- 250 teachers equipped
- 2 new markets
- £1.5 million in new funds across 5 years
- 10% complete award
- 21 publications



### REPORTING ON Q1-Q3 2025

In the third quarter of 2025 work has pressed forward in both our experimental work and with the surrounding communication and advocacy efforts. Two research projects are ongoing at Imperial college London.

#### Thrombosis study

(co-funded by Medical Research Council)

Preliminary *in vitro* results of the study show that exposure of human endothelial cells to the microplastics polyamide (PA), polystyrene (PS) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Produce a low-level inflammatory response and shifts the cells to a pro-thrombotic state. Gene readings show increases in thrombosis-related markers (tissue factor/TF and SELE/E-selectin), and protein assays report higher tissue-factor activity and von Willebrand factor (VWF) release. These changes are consistent with increased clotting propensity. Continuing work on stromal endometrial cells is being done to a similar effect of a reactionary inflammatory response to the microplastics with a co-in siding increase in thrombotic markers.

#### Communication and advocacy on health impacts

- Supported City2Sea and *nuud* gum, to raise awareness around plastics in chewing gum and advocate for a UK ban, with participation by young people from Plastic Clever Schools.
- Initiated plans for a roundtable event in partnership with *Nature* to highlight emerging research into impact of plastics on human health, bringing together researcher and policy makers from a variety of disciplines; to take place in Q4.

#### Food packaging and gut health studies

(co-funded by Minderoo Foundation)

Progress was hampered by absence of a key researcher and degradation of some of the tissue samples. Some additional samples were prepared and tested to complete the practical experimentation stage. Analysis and write-up are nearing completion.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### Key priorities include:

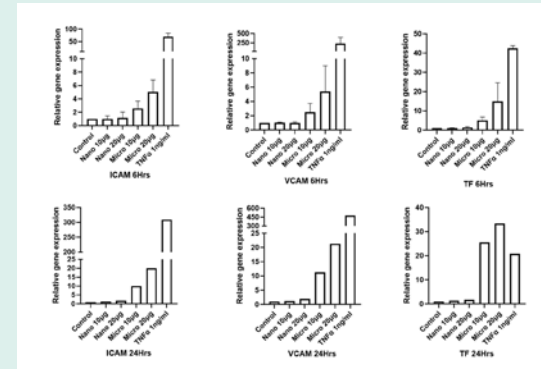
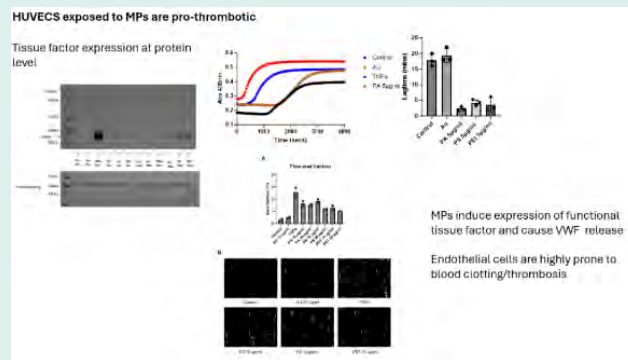
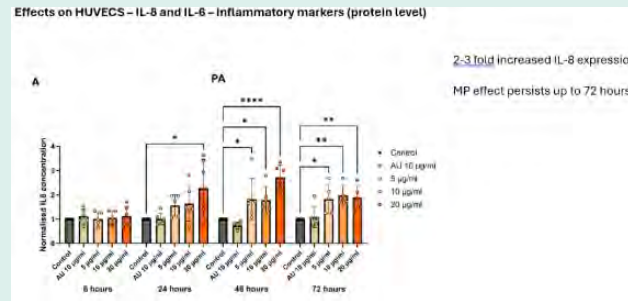
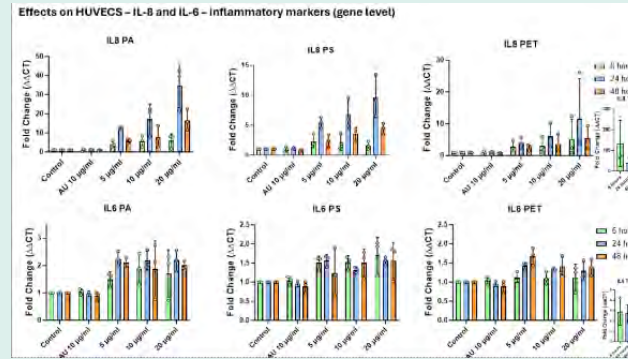
- Deliver the 2025 International Day of Action
- Engage schools globally with hands-on activities and expert sessions.
- Launch the new Plastic Clever Schools website
- Roll out a refreshed platform to support global school audience.
- Expand enrichment activities
- Continue to inspire and motivate school progression.
- Conduct site visit in Indonesia
- Strengthen relationships with partners and funders through in-person engagement.
- Prepare for 2026 and long-term strategic planning



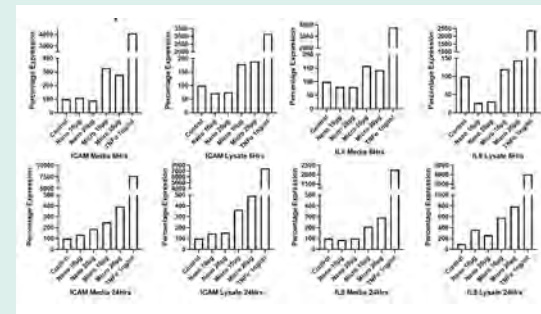
1 PUBLISHED RESEARCH ABSTRACT JUNE 2025 VOLUME 9 S2



IN PHOTOS



Gene Expression



Protein Expression

2025 TARGETS

- Publish two new peer-reviewed results papers
• Deliver an influential campaign around next set of published results.
• Initiate next phase of research programme with roadmap and criteria for support.
• Establish position embedding health aspects into national policy and education programmes.

## 2025 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES:

**CULTIVATING  
OUR TALENT**

**INDEPENDENCE  
THROUGH IMPACT**

**BUILDING AN  
AUTHENTIC  
GLOBAL BRAND**

## INDEPENDENCE THROUGH IMPACT

Monthly reporting against our impact framework is now embedded, with new dashboards providing deeper insights at the programme level. This data-driven approach is helping us allocate resources effectively and identify areas for growth.

Our funding working group has established a pipeline with several applications submitted. A significant success was in receiving confirmation of an extension in funding of £525k from the UK government to build on the existing policy work in SIDS.

Income secured -

- AmVal - €150k Global template and Indonesia project
- Clean Blue Sporades - €15k
- Latsis foundation - €5k Education programme
- River Cleanup - €10,813 PCS website dev
- £525k FCDO Phase 2

## CULTIVATING OUR TALENT

Team members have actively represented Common Seas at high-profile events, including the UN Ocean Conference in Nice and the latest round of the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations in Geneva, building networks and expertise.

We've continued our learning series with diverse topics—from EPR to finance—and are continuing to develop our 2030 strategy. Following our successful team day in June, we combined induction sessions for new staff with a team litter pick activity as a practical way of connecting around our mission and shared values.



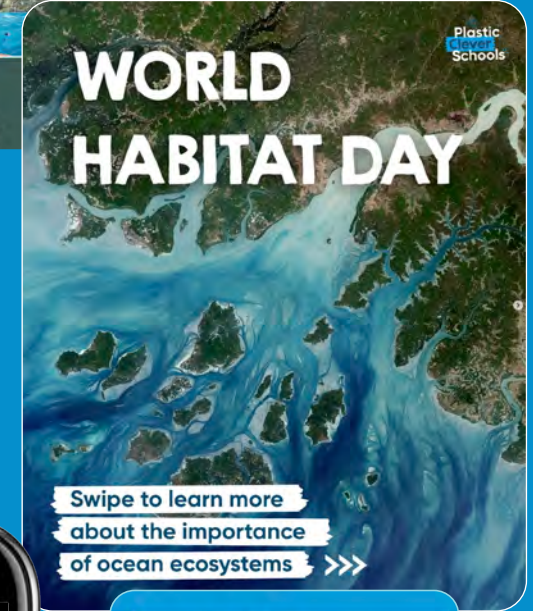
# BUILDING AN AUTHENTIC GLOBAL BRAND

We've made great strides in building a more cohesive, accessible, and globally relevant brand that reflects our values and impact, and improved our channels to effectively communicate those to our stakeholders.

We've integrated the messaging across our Government Partnerships, Education, and Health programmes—making the complementary contribution of the different programmes to our systems change approach clearer. Communications strategies for Education and Health are now complete, with a revised Government Partnerships communications strategy underway to reflect the changes brought by the extension of our FCDO-funded project.

Our new low-bandwidth, accessible website launched in Q3. By combining ultra-low bandwidth and AAA standard accessibility, it will improve access to resources and showcase our global work more effectively to our SIDS stakeholders.

We've adapted to shifting social media trends by refining our audience targeting toward the most relevant stakeholders through paid and organic content. Our focus on opinion-led content from team members has significantly boosted reach and engagement compared to last year, despite challenging headwinds from algorithm changes on our social media platforms





**THANK  
YOU**

**Q1-Q3 REPORT 2025**

