



Common
Seas

Q2 Report 2026

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↑ Exceeded ✓ On track → Delayed ✗ At risk

Through the report, see our progress against 2026 targets



At a glance



11



Endorsed
resources
published

On track against our targets for this year – **sharing knowledge and insights is critical for effective decision-making** and action against plastic pollution.

45



Events &
webinars hosted

2,879



Professionals
upskilled

With people at the heart of our approach, we've exceeded mid-year targets and are well on course for over **100,000** people to have participated in our activities and training this year.

60,752



Young people
participating

7



Country partners
supported

From national policy to local community solutions, **lasting change needs action at every level.** We already reached our planned number of partners for the year.

1,152



Schools taking
action

Executive summary

During the first half of 2026, Common Seas connected policy, evidence and education to translate ambition into action on plastic pollution, **exceeding our mid-year participation targets**.

Through our government partnerships, we're **directly supporting 4 countries to implement their plastic reducing policies**, and are working collectively with several others. Building on National Action Plans completed in 2025, we advanced financial and legislative work in Papua New Guinea and Saint Lucia, while initiating further support in Tuvalu and Guinea-Bissau. We developed collaborations with regional institutions and private sector stakeholders, working on design of reuse and regional producer responsibility systems, specifically tailored for Small Island Developing States.

We continued to grow Plastic Clever Schools, **reaching 60,752 students and 2,740 teachers** through training, events and educational resources, already exceeding our targets. We published 11 new resources, celebrated strong participation across our global network, and successfully piloted the programme in Cameroon, creating a foundation for further growth in Africa to complement the existing group of schools in Liberia.

To sustain long-term impact, we strengthened our monitoring, evaluation and learning systems, expanded multilingual resources, and secured £440,000 in new funding.

In the second half of 2026, we will focus on enabling priority policies, including regional reuse and producer responsibility initiatives, and mobilising schools worldwide through our International Day of Action campaign. By strengthening partnerships between governments, businesses, educators and communities, we can accelerate locally led action to reduce plastic pollution and build more resilient coastal and island communities.



Charlotte Davies
Managing Director

Our work

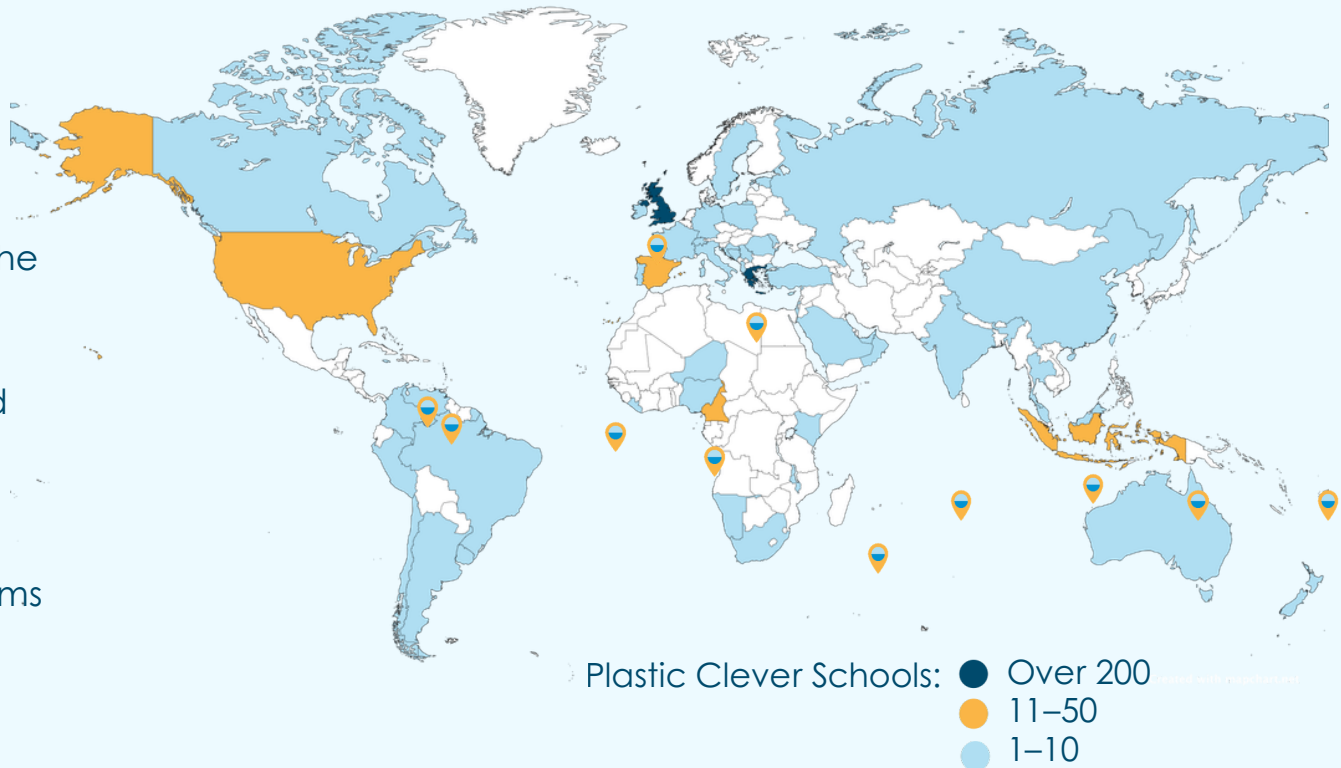
Our vision is a healthy future for people and planet, free from the harms of plastic pollution.

The challenge

The blue planet we depend on is under growing pressure from plastic pollution.

We find plastic everywhere we look - from the furthest shores to deep inside our bodies, directly impacting the environment and climate, as well as having health, social and economic consequences.

Many solutions already exist, but lasting change only happens when evidence informs decision-making, policies create the conditions for action, and people are empowered to be part of the solution.



Our approach

Common Seas creates systemic change to tackle plastic pollution, connecting evidence, policy and education with practical action. We partner with governments, businesses, communities, and young people, to turn solutions into a lasting impact. We work particularly in coastal locations and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) where the challenge is greatest, supporting a just transition to a future freed from plastic pollution.



Partnerships include:

- Barbados
- Indonesia
- Cameroon
- Saint Lucia
- Guinea Bissau
- Papua New Guinea
- Tuvalu

Government Partnerships



With further funding secured from the FCDO, we progressed our three core workstreams for the year: supporting governments to implement national policy plans, deploying practical solutions tailored for SIDS, and bridging the gap between SIDS and businesses whose products contribute to plastic waste.

5 National Plans
used for
policy reform

Policy implementation

We've completed financial assessment reports for Saint Lucia and Guinea-Bissau, and initiated similar approaches for Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu.

These reports analyse implementation costs of priority policies and outline national financing pathways, as a critical stage to securing investment. In Papua New Guinea, our cost benefit analysis of policies to reduce single-use plastics provided government decision-makers with a clear recommendation. Legislative reform is now underway.

2 Financial
assessments
completed

SIDS-tailored solutions

Following St Lucia's Report on Recommendations, we advanced a new programme focused on reusable alternatives to single-use products in the hospitality sector. This work will assess the environmental and economic benefits of reuse systems and build the evidence for wider adoption. We extended our regional engagement with the Indian Ocean Commission, contributing to a broader feasibility study and providing an investment-ready approach to secure additional external funding.

139 Event
attendees
across 6 key
policy events

Private sector engagement

Major brands are vastly consumed in SIDS, but often have very limited operations or infrastructure in these geographies. Consultations with key stakeholders, including Nestlé, the Consumer Goods Forum, ANZPAC, and the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, helped understand how consumer brands can support reduction of plastic pollution. This identified specific knowledge gaps and operational challenges that can be addressed collaboratively.

“This Plan really reflects what we are dealing with on the ground in Tuvalu. The dumpsite is one of our biggest challenges, so it’s important to see that prioritised. Now the focus is on how we take this forward.”

Epu Falega, Director at Department of Waste Management, Tuvalu

1 Feasibility study scoping report for regional EPR

giving an investment-ready approach for the Indian Ocean Commission

1 Single-use plastics cost benefit analysis

enabling policy reform to commence in Papua New Guinea

6 Policy events hosted

providing critical information and training



Looking ahead

We will focus on sustaining support for government partners to enable policy implementation and advancing the development of the reuse approach. Additionally, we plan to commence the feasibility study for regional Extended Producer Responsibility in the Indian Ocean, initiate a Roadmap of Action between SIDS and the private sector, whilst continuing to identify new areas of need.

2026 targets:

- ✓ Unlocking implementation finance in Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea – starting cost assessment and finance analysis for implementation of policies prioritised in their National Action Plans
- ✓ Cost assessment of transition from single-use to reuse in the hospitality sector in Saint Lucia
- ➔ Securing match funding for Regional EPR feasibility study covering 5 SIDS in the Indian Ocean
- ➔ Build on engagement with the private sector and initiate a roadmap of solutions adapted to SIDS

Education



In 2026, we are focused on increasing the action taken on plastic pollution by our school network, deepening our understanding of programme impact, and creating pathways for long-term participation. During the first half of the year, we have improved our data systems and MEL framework while expanding the opportunities for schools, educators and young people, adding more events and activities to our calendar.

11 Resources published

Equipping educators

This year, we have published 11 new teaching resources, and a total of 2,740 teachers have participated in programme training and events. Feedback from 20 schools in our Indonesian focus groups was particularly encouraging, with **100% of participating teachers agreeing that Plastic Clever Schools improved their ability to teach about plastic pollution and empower student action.** Our resources for schools have been downloaded 618 times.

158 Schools joined taking total active Plastic Clever Schools ahead of target to 1,152

Building recognition

Plastic Clever Schools continues to grow through strategic partnerships and strong school engagement, **ensuring schools worldwide can access the resources they need.** In Cameroon, 13 schools joined through a project collaborating with River Cleanup, with 10 having now completed the award. We are also working with IUCN to bring resources across five Caribbean territories. Communications and partner networks remain important growth drivers, generating 36% of new school registrations this year.

60,752

Students participated in events Empowering young people

So far this year, through 39 in-person and online enrichment events, we have reached more than **60,000 young people, learning and taking practical action against plastic pollution.** Our World Ocean Day for Schools collaboration engaged over 30,000 children. The annual Plastic Clever Schools celebration event received 100 nominations from 56 schools across eight countries, showcasing the impact of school action and youth leadership.

"This is a dream come true, thanks so much for such an opportunity to showcase the work we are doing in Liberia. Thanks Plastic Clever Schools leaders."

Edwin Flourish-Kollie, Plastic Clever Schools teacher, Liberia



2,740 Teachers participated in events

exceeding our target for upskilling educators to teach about plastic pollution

39 Webinars and enrichment events

providing relevant and timely opportunities for teachers and young people to participate



Icons from Noun Project: Hoeda



Looking ahead

We will focus on mobilising schools for the International Day of Action, our flagship annual campaign, and increasing participation across the global network.

We will embed our new monitoring and evaluation framework, in line with established behaviour change models to keep improving how Plastic Clever Schools influences knowledge, attitudes and action.

We'll continue to support local champions and partners to expand programme delivery within their regions.

2026 targets:

- ↑ 1000 teachers to join training and events – as we are ahead of target, increase target to 3000 teachers
- 400 new schools join PCS
- ↑ 1000 active schools participating in PCS
- ✓ 150 schools complete PCS award
- ✓ 100,000 students directly engaged

Organisation development

We continue to improve our ways of working to support delivery and strengthen partnerships for long-term financial and strategic resilience.

8 **Speaking engagements**
at international and regional forums

Cultivating our collaborations

This year, as part of a refreshed communications and engagement approach, we've refined our brand materials, created a strategy for external events, and developed a communications capacity-building programme. At the same time, we amplified key milestones including new funding from the UK Government's Sustainable Blue Economies programme, the expansion of Plastic Clever Schools to Cameroon and sharing regional learnings in the Pacific with a launch of Tuvalu's National Action Plan.

23 **Strategic events attended**

Evidence our impact

To ensure our insights are accessible in the regions where they can provide the most value, we published translations of our regional EPR research in French and Spanish. We connected with key stakeholders, participating in cross-sector meetings and events at London Climate Action Week, and involvement in Break Free From Plastic's Europe strategy event.



£440k
Total funding secured

Securing sustainability

We've secured continuation funding from key supporters, as well as extending our portfolio with several smaller funded projects and the submission of a significant proposal aligned with regional opportunities.

With robust control systems in place and a new tool allowing better and faster data collection, we are well placed to meet external requirements and ensure we can contribute effectively to established frameworks such as the UK International Climate Finance metrics.

"Thank you so much for your excellent presentation in PNG and look forward to continuing our collaboration. Thanks for your excellent report that will no doubt inform the development of an enhanced regulation to address SUPs for PNG."

Andrea Volentras, Project Manager, POLP (SPREP)



Looking ahead

We will be continuing stakeholder engagement to further grow our funding and delivery pipeline, and upskilling team members on communications and engagement to support this, while supporting partner countries to launch and implement policies.

We will also be preparing for a packed summer term of education and enrichment activities, and advancing our longer-term strategy, looking towards 2030.

2026 targets:

- ✓ Update our strategic approach to programme delivery towards 2030
- ✓ Ensure impact is measured and celebrated through our communications and engagement strategy
- ✓ Ensure our organisational development and funding approach enables growth and sustainability



Find out more at
www.commonseas.com

Thank you to all partners and supporters including



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