



Common
Seas

Q3 Report 2026

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↑ Exceeded ✓ On track → Delayed ✗ At risk

Through the report, see our progress against 2026 targets



At a glance



21 **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.

62 **Events & webinars hosted**



3,742 **Professionals upskilled**



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

70,000 **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.

1,499 **Schools taking action**



Executive summary

Common Seas tackles plastic pollution across the whole system, helping governments put national policies into practice while young people take action and lead behaviour change.

A major step forward came for **Guinea-Bissau**, where the Council of Ministers formally adopted the National Action Plan we helped develop, enabling immediate enforcement on single-use plastics.

The financial assessment we delivered alongside the Plan was key to securing approval and is now informing access to climate finance, with similar assessments underway in **Papua New Guinea** and **Tuvalu**. We are also building the case for reuse in **Saint Lucia**'s hospitality sector and, with the **Indian Ocean Commission**, designing the first multi-country producer responsibility scheme for Small Island States.

Through Plastic Clever Schools, we have now reached almost **70,000 young people** and **3,497 teachers** over the year, already exceeding our annual targets for educators and schools. Our new monitoring tools, based on established behaviour change models, show that **71% of schools** joining our events already go on to report further action.

Supporting these programme's successes, our growing profile saw engagements at international and regional forums including the UN Ocean Decade International Conference on Ocean Literacy, contribution to a report on microplastics launched in the UK Parliament, and bringing together **participants from 25 countries** at the World Circular Economy Forum.

We'll end the year with real momentum at both levels too. As our partner countries prepare to fund and deliver their plans, we'll bring the plastic-climate connection to a global audience at COP31. Meanwhile, schools from Indonesia to the UK will unite for our International Day of Action. From government ministries to classrooms, we're building the conditions for a future free from plastic pollution.



Charlotte Davies
Managing Director

Our work

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

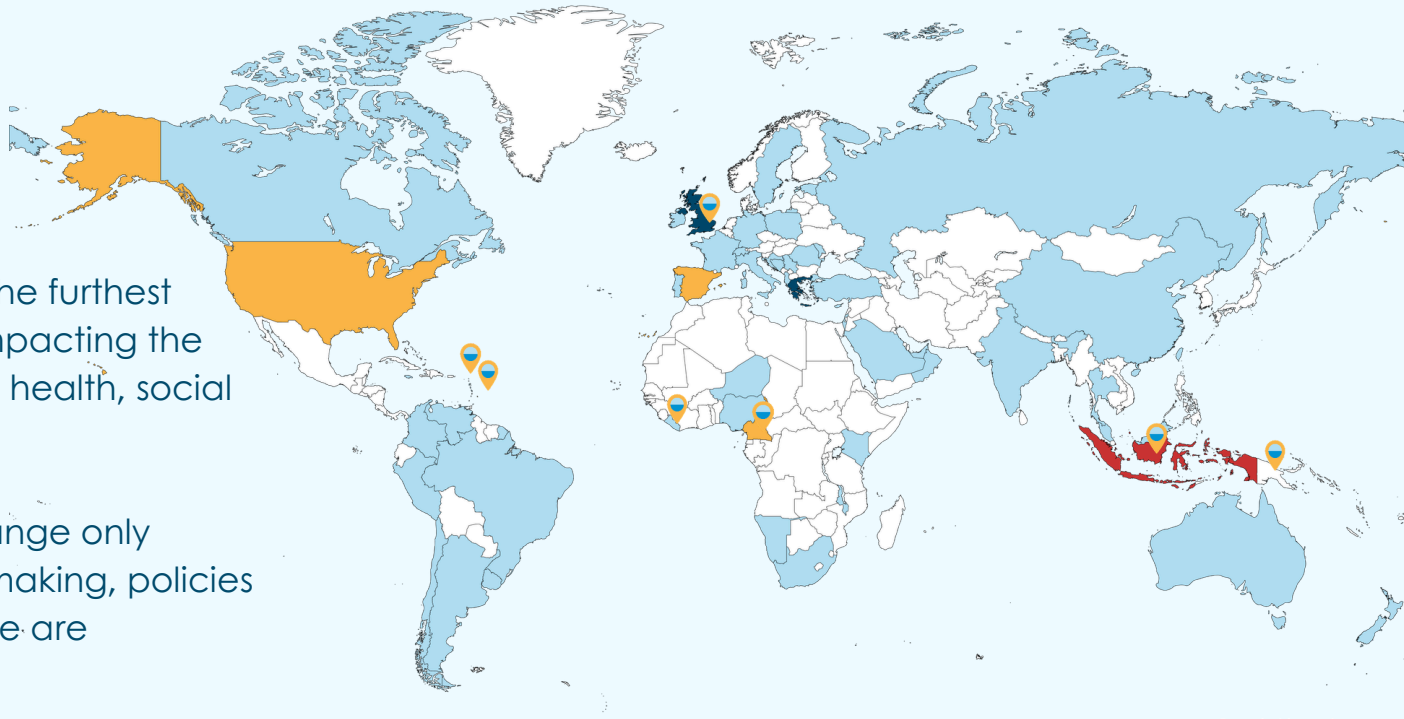
The challenge

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.

Plastic Clever Schools: ● Over 200
● 100–200
● 11–50
● 1–10



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



Plastic pollution remains a significant challenge for SIDS, and we've continued our work supporting governments, regional organisations and businesses to turn national policy commitments into practical action, focusing on policy implementation, tailored solutions and private sector engagement.

4 **Countries**
receiving direct
implementation
support

Policy implementation

Cost assessments of priority policies are underway for **Papua New Guinea** and **Tuvalu**, helping governments understand the investment required and mobilise finance to implement. Reports will be published in 2027. The finance assessment previously delivered in **Guinea-Bissau** was instrumental in securing full approval of the National Action Plan by the Council of Ministers, and has informed progress on access to climate finance to support delivery.

2 **sessions hosted**
on circular
solutions

SIDS-tailored solutions

Our program focused on reusable alternatives to single-use products in the hospitality sector in **Saint Lucia** is underway. This work will assess the environmental and economic benefits of reuse systems and help build the evidence base for wider adoption.

The first phase of a feasibility study in partnership with the **Indian Ocean Commission** to design the first multi-country EPR scheme is also in progress.

245 **Event**
attendees
across 9 key
events

Private sector engagement

Following consultation with regional stakeholders and relevant consumer brands, Common Seas has been identified as the best-positioned organisation to act as the secretariat of a new phase of the Plastics Pact in the **Pacific**.

Work focussed on developing the value proposition and business model, with recommendations to present to members by the end of 2026.



14 Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association members

introduced to relevant reuse approaches, building sector buy-in

48 Island experts at the World Circular Economy Forum

brought together to tackle circularity challenges unique to SIDS



1 Legislative enforcement on single-use plastics approved

on single-use plastics approved, by **Guinea-Bissau's** Council of Ministers enabled by the National Action Plan

"We consider Common Seas to be the best-positioned organisation to represent Guinea-Bissau when accessing climate finance for the implementation of plastic-related projects, given their demonstrated expertise in the topic and deep knowledge of the country."

Dr Welena da Silva,
Director-General of the
Competent Environmental
Assessment Authority in
Guinea-Bissau

Looking ahead



Continuing our support for governments to move priority policies towards implementation, we will complete the cost and finance assessments in **Tuvalu** and **Papua New Guinea**. We will complete cost benefit analysis on transition from single-use to reuse in **Saint Lucia**, and progress with interviews to inform country profiles as part of the **Indian Ocean** regional EPR feasibility study. We will also present a proposed model for the next phase of the Pacific Plastics Pact to prospective members. In parallel, we will amplify the profile of SIDS solutions internationally through engagements at COP31 and the ISWA World Congress

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



We strengthened engagement across our school network, deepening our understanding of programme impact, and creating pathways for long-term participation. We continued to expand opportunities for schools, educators and young people to take action through a diverse enrichment programme, while strengthening our monitoring, evaluation and learning systems to better understand and support behaviour change.

17 Resources published

Equipping educators

We have already exceeded our annual target, with **3,497 teachers** participating in programme training and events. Feedback from teacher focus groups reported increased confidence in teaching about plastic pollution and empowering student action. Building on the insights, we embedded monitoring and evaluation tools within the Plastic Clever Schools platform, aligned to the COM-B behaviour change model, to better understand programme impact over time. Our resources for schools have been **downloaded 993** times.

442 Schools joined taking total active Plastic Clever Schools to 1,499

Building recognition

Plastic Clever Schools continues to grow through strategic partnerships, local collaboration and strong school engagement, with **68% of registered schools** showing active participation in the programme. International partnerships continue to play an important role in scaling the programme, with **127 schools** now participating in **Indonesia**, alongside growing networks in **Cameroon, Liberia, the Caribbean, Greece** and **the UK**. Communications and partner networks remain important growth drivers, generating **42% of new school registrations** this year.

70,000

Students participated in events

Empowering young people

54 enrichment events have reached almost **70,000 young people**. Our events, activities and resources continue to provide meaningful opportunities for students to learn, connect and take action on plastic pollution.

Programme data indicates that enrichment activities help drive deeper engagement, with **71% of schools joining events** going on to take further action through the Plastic Clever Schools programme.

We're proud to partner with Common Seas to support programmes that empower young people to care for the environment and become champions for change."

Amyas Valora Foundation



3,497

Teachers participated in events

exceeding our target for upskilling educators to teach about plastic pollution

54

Webinars and enrichment events

reaching students in over 50 countries



Icons from Noun Project: Hoeda

Looking ahead



In Q4, 'Beacon' schools from across our network, including **20 schools** from one Multi-Academy Trust in the UK, will help host our flagship annual event, the International Day of Action, and showcase global participation.

Emerging insights from our enhanced monitoring, evaluation and learning framework will inform future development. We will continue investing in local partnerships that support sustainable programme growth and seek to improve pathways for educators to lead.

Through the Amyas Valora Foundation, we will join a 'futures and foresight' programme alongside other youth- and ocean-focused organisations and funders to inform our long-term approach, and develop practical short-term skills and tools for our work.

2026 targets:

- ↑ 1000 teachers to join training and events – as we are ahead of target, we increased the target to 3000 teachers which has been exceeded
- ↑ 400 new schools join PCS
- ↑ 1000 active schools participating in PCS
- ✓ 150 school 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.

9 Speaking engagements at international and regional forums

Cultivating our collaborations

During the year, we shared key milestones such as new funding from the UK Government's Sustainable Blue Economies programme, the expansion of Plastic Clever Schools to **Cameroon**, and National Action Plan endorsements in **Tuvalu** and, **Guinea-Bissau**.

This builds on our refreshed communications and engagement approach, leading to improved profile among governments, funders and partner organisations. This has been seen through invitations to contribute to relevant events, knowledge products and opportunities to scale our impact.

4,195 article views of our newsletter 'The Current' Evidence our impact

We published several case studies and resources sharing lessons from our work with Small Island States. Our session at the World Circular Economy Forum 2026 brought together **participants from 25 countries** to explore circular economy solutions for island contexts.

We also contributed to international forums and initiatives, including the UN Ocean Decade International Conference on Ocean Literacy, the European Marine Science Educators Association conference, the UK 'Tackling Microplastic Pollution in the UK' report launch in Parliament and the Break Free From Plastic European coalition.

8 Funding proposals submitted

Securing sustainability

Q3 has seen a marked increase in the value of funding applied for but not yet awarded. Funders have pushed back decision-making deadlines whilst additional applications have been successfully submitted. The total pipeline value currently stands at **£2.2m**, of which **£1.6m** lies is awaiting decision.

Our recently developed fundraising tool is now embedded in the management review cycle and has led to improved visibility, response times, and a highly co-ordinated approach.

**"We see Common Seas as
the NGO voice of SIDS."**

Andrea Cino, Strategic
Partnerships & Innovation
Lead, WRAP



Looking ahead

Looking ahead, as we continue to support governments to implement priority policies, we'll share new evidence on the plastic-climate nexus at COP31, and mobilise schools globally through the Plastic Clever Schools International Day of Action. We will continue developing partnerships to expand delivery in priority regions and complete our 2030 organisational strategy, providing a roadmap for future growth and impact.

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

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