

Local Beach, Global Garbage

2013 was marked by conferences and association work, especially in Brazil and Portugal, but also in Germany. In addition, Global Garbage continued its efforts to collect scientific information for the marine debris community and disseminate through mailing lists and social networks. Fabiano Barretto's Global Garbage is internationally recognized as the main source of information on the subject of marine debris.



A Report by Eva Barretto

Brazil

On 27 June 2013, in São Paulo, there was the merger of Associação Brasileira do Lixo Marinho (official name) / ABLM (phantasy name), founded on 1 December 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, and Associação Praia Local Lixo Global (offizieller Name) – Associação Global Garbage Brasil (Phantasiename), founded on 8 December 2012 in São Paulo.

The newly founded association is called Global Garbage Brasil (official name) / ABLM – Associação Brasileira do Lixo Marinho (phantasy name), with offices in São Paulo (headquarters) and Rio de Janeiro (branch). The opening of new offices (branches) is planned in the cities of Brasília, Salvador and Florianópolis.

Portugal

In March 2013, Global Garbage started in Portugal a dialogue with 3 universities (Nova de Lisboa, Aveiro and Porto) with the objective of founding a Portuguese Marine Litter Association (APLM – Associação Portuguesa do Lixo Marinho) and a Marine Litter programme in the Countries of Portuguese Language (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe as well as East-Timor).

In April 2013, during the International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas (Berlin), Global Garbage started a dialogue in the same sense with the Portuguese Environmental Agency and with Docapesca, both of which were also participating in the Conference. In September, Global Garbage organized in Lisbon a meeting of all above named stakeholders. On 25 November 2013, APLM

– Associação Portuguesa do Lixo Marinho (Portuguese Marine Litter Association) was founded in Lisbon with the above named stakeholders and a number of other invited stakeholders.

Cooperation between Global Garbage and GPA UNEP

(Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities - United Nations Environment Programme) Middle of 2013, Global Garbage agreed with GPA UNEP on establishing a cooperation including Global Garbage Brasil and the Portuguese Marine Litter Association. The Agreement on this cooperation has already been drafted on will be signed at the beginning of 2014.

With regards to Brazil, the cooperation comprises the preparation of the following 5 documents:

- “Terms of Reference” of the Brazilian Marine Litter Partnership;
- “Discussion Paper” for the 1st Brazilian Marine Litter Conference;
- “Terms of Reference” for the hubs of ABLM - Associação Brasileira do Lixo Marinho;
- “Draft” of the National Marine Litter Action Plan;
- Methodology for the Brazilian Marine Litter Monitoring Programme.

Besides the preparation of the above mentioned documents, the cooperation also provides for the organization of 18 consultation meetings, which will be held in the 17 federal states along the Brazilian coast, in order to discuss the above mentioned documents.

For the 1st Brazilian Marine Litter Conference, which will take place in March or April 2015, the following five theme days are planned:

Day 1: Guanabara Bay

Day 2: Brazil

Day 3: Countries of Portuguese Language (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé e Príncipe as well as East-Timor)

Day 4: South-America (and some guests from Central America and the Caribbean)

Day 5: International guests (UNEP, European Commission, German Federal Environ-

ment Agency, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, NOWPAP, etc.)

The objective of the fourth day of the Brazilian Conference is to reach an agreement on the establishment of a Marine Litter Programme in the framework of the South-American countries, as well as an impulse for the foundation of national organizations in these countries and of a regional (continental) association with participation of all South-American countries.

The cooperation between Global Garbage and GPA UNEP is supported by the Coastal Agency of the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

With regards to Portugal the cooperation comprises the preparation of the following 4 documents:

- “Terms of Reference” for the Portuguese Marine Litter Partnership;
- “Discussion Paper” for the 1st Portuguese Marine Litter Conference (with participation of all member states of CPLP);
- Project of the Marine Litter Programme for the Countries of Portuguese Language.

The objective of involving the Countries of Portuguese Language in the Portuguese Conference is to reach an agreement on the establishment of a joint Marine Litter Programme in the framework of the Countries of Portuguese Language, as well as a regional association with participation of all Countries of Portuguese Language.

The project for the Marine Litter Programme for the Countries of Portuguese Language will be submitted to CPLP – Community of Countries of Portuguese Language, with the objective of having the Programme officially incorporated by CPLP.

Besides the preparation of the above mentioned 4 documents, the cooperation also provides for the payment of costs related to the registration of APLM – Associação Portuguesa do Lixo Marinho.

Second Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC-2)

2 to 4 October 2013, in Montego Bay, Jamaica
Upon invitation by GPA UNEP, Global Garbage participated in GLOC-2 and explained during the presentation the national associations (Brazil, Portugal and Germany), the national Partnerships (Brazil and Portugal) and the regional Partnerships (South-America and Countries of Portuguese Language).



On November 28, 2013 several representatives of organizations and associations as well as individuals met in Hamburg Environmental Institute to found the German „Federal Association Marine Debris“. The aim of the association is to coordinate German interests in the prevention and elimination of waste in the sea. Local Beach- Global Garbage is also founding member.

Third Global Conference on Land - Ocean Connections (GLOC-3)

March or April 2015, Niterói, Rio de Janeiro
Upon the initiative of Global Garbage, the city government of Niterói sent a letter to GPA UNEP communicating their interest in hosting the next conference (GLOC-3).

Since Niterói is one of the 15 municipalities around Guanabara Bay and the since the key topics of GLOC are Marine Litter, Nutrients and Wastewater, Niterói would be the perfect venue for the conference, even more so because the sailing competitions of the Rio Olympic Games will take place in Guanabara Bay.

GPA UNEP received the letter by the city government of Niterói with lots of enthusiasm and it is highly probable that the next GLOC will take place in Niterói. Thus also the 1st Brazilian Marine Litter Conference will be held in Niterói, in the week before GLOC-3.

Dissemination Information on Marine Litter

Global Garbage has continued its work of disseminating information for the marine litter community (via mailing lists and social networks) and is worldwide acknowledged as the main source of information on the topic of marine litter. Global Garbage is working on the establishment of a Marine Litter News Centre.

Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) Pollution Working Group

Following the recommendation by GPA UNEP, Global Garbage Brasil was invited by the World Bank to participate in the GPO Pollution Working Group. The first meeting of the working group took place in Jamaica on 4 October 2013 during GLOC-2.

Consultation Meeting “Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)”

9 April 2013, Berlin, Germany

Global Garbage was invited by GPA UNEP to participate in the Consultation Meeting. Participants of the meeting were both European stakeholders as well as NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Marine Debris Program der USA, a total of 16 participants.

Recommendation of Brazilian sailor Torben Grael as UNEP Patron for Marine Litter

Global Garbage recommended to GPA UNEP the name of Torben Grael (sailor with most Olympic medals worldwide) as Patron for Marine Litter. So far, UNEP does not have any Patron for Marine Litter. The procedure is still going on and it is highly probable that UNEP will make the announcement in the first half of 2014.

International Conference on Prevention and Management of Marine Litter in European Seas

Berlin, 10 to 12 of April, 2013

Global Garbage was invited by the organizers to

give a presentation on the first day of the Conference during the plenary. The topic of the plenary was: “State of the art” at the global and regional level regarding the issue of marine litter. The topic of the presentation by Global Garbage was NGO view on Rio + 20 outcome and other global and regional efforts to tackle the issue.

Germany

Upon the initiative of Global Garbage, the German Marine Litter Association was founded in Hamburg. The first meeting in this sense took place at Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, on 10 September 2013. The founding assembly took place at EPEA Showroom on 28 November 2013.

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