

GREENPEACE

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We are living through a defining moment for the planet, and the choices we make now will determine our collective future. From the depths of our oceans to the corners of our cities, plastic has infiltrated every part of our ecosystems. South Asia, with its dense populations and rising plastic waste and consumption, is at the epicentre of this crisis. That's why the Global Plastics Treaty is not just another international agreement; it is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to end plastic pollution at its source.

We cannot rely on empty corporate promises or minor packaging tweaks disguised as sustainability. As our latest report shows, people across the region are demanding real change: bans on single-use plastics and full accountability from corporations. Yet, even as people raise their voice, we are seeing growing threats to our freedom to do so. Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), like the recent \$660 million verdict against Greenpeace US, aim to silence environmental defenders and restrict our right to protest. But we will not be silenced. When activism and criticism are punished, we endanger the very fabric of civil society.

Our work in South Asia is a testament to the resilience of communities and movements, from calling for a Global Plastic Treaty to leaders backing the Global Ocean Treaty. Together, we can end the plastic crisis and protect the right to fight for a better world.



Binu Jacob

**Executive Director
Greenpeace South Asia**

LET'S END THE PLASTIC CRISIS – TOGETHER

Plastic pollution has become an overwhelming crisis across South Asia. We need international interventions and policies to tackle the issue on such a vast scale. The Global Plastics Treaty is a historic opportunity to tackle this crisis head-on. As negotiations take place, we must push for a strong, legally-binding agreement that addresses plastic's lifecycle—from production and use to disposal and pollution.

By supporting the call for a Global Plastic Treaty, you will support in creating a lasting change and protect the planet's future.

END THE PLASTIC CRISIS



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

END THE PLASTIC CRISIS

HOLDING FMCG CORPORATIONS ACCOUNTABLE FOR INCREASING PLASTIC POLLUTION

The new report by Greenpeace South Asia reveals how the general public of Colombo views plastic pollution and the pressing need for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) corporations to reduce their use of single-use plastics. The study, which is based in Colombo, examines usage trends, public awareness, and the pressing need for accountability and practical action, promoting concrete measures rather than merely declarations, with high support for a ban on single-use plastics and specific demands for corporate responsibility.

According to the report, 76.2% of respondents strongly supported a call for bans and restrictions on single-use plastics. 93.3% of respondents believed that FMCG companies should be held accountable for the environmental impact caused by their single-use plastic packaging.

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A HISTORIC FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE: VOICES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH ECHO IN THE HAGUE

In a powerful show of solidarity, voices from the Global South, including youth, Indigenous communities, and activists, were heard at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. They urged the Court to clarify states' legal obligations on climate change. Greenpeace International supported submissions from countries like India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, calling for justice, accountability, and stronger climate action. This historic advisory opinion process is a major step forward in the fight for climate justice.

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**CLIMATE
JUSTICE**



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WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED

A North Dakota jury has ruled against Greenpeace US, ordering it to pay over \$660 million to Energy Transfer, the company behind the Dakota Access Pipeline. The lawsuit, seen as a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP), targeted Greenpeace for its support of Indigenous-led protests at Standing Rock.

Despite the lack of evidence linking Greenpeace to illegal actions, the case sets a worrying precedent for activists and civil society groups. In response, Greenpeace has filed a countercase in the Netherlands under the EU's anti-SLAPP Directive, challenging the verdict and defending the right to protest.

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**A WORD
FROM
ACROSS THE
WORLD**



PLASTIC DESIGN CHANGES: A GREENWASHING TACTIC

Multinational corporations are increasingly promoting minor packaging modifications such as making plastics appear more “recyclable,” “reusable,” or “circular”, as solutions to the escalating plastic crisis. However, these superficial changes are often greenwashing tactics that fail to address the core issue: the overproduction of plastic.

With approximately 400 million tonnes of plastic produced annually, a figure projected to triple by 2060, such design tweaks are insufficient. Greenpeace emphasises that genuine solutions must focus on reducing plastic production at its source, rather than relying on cosmetic packaging changes that perpetuate environmental harm.

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**A WORD
FROM
ACROSS THE
WORLD**

A detailed photograph of a Peregrine Falcon perched on a dark, textured rock. The bird is facing right, with its head turned slightly towards the viewer. It has a dark grey head and back, a white underbelly with dark barring, and a yellow beak. The background is a solid, clear blue sky.

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ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CONSERVATION SPACE

- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, over 48 species, such as the Peregrine Falcon, have been saved from extinction in the last decade.
- Marine Protected Areas now cover over 8% of the ocean - up from less than 1% in 2000. (Source: UNEP)

**KNOWLEDGE
HUB**

RECYCLING IS COOL, BUT NOT THE SOLUTION

Plastic production is rising faster than ever, and it is hurting the planet. Recycling is just a temporary solution and not a permanent fix. Sri Lanka banned single-use plastics in 2023, but companies found loopholes. 37% of people still deal with plastics every day. Many corporations talk about sustainability, but their actions

still promote single-use plastics. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation warns that many companies won't meet their 2025 sustainable goals. And this needs to change. Hence, we need the Global Plastic Treaty to stop plastics at the source.

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**KNOWLEDGE
HUB**

A night photograph of the US Capitol building, illuminated by warm lights. In the foreground, a group of people is holding up large, red, illuminated letters that spell out "BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC". The scene is set on a grassy area with trees and other lights visible in the background.

**BREAK
FREE
FROM
PLASTIC**

SOUTH ASIA STATES TO LEAD ON GLOBAL OCEAN TREATY

On 3 February 2025, Greenpeace South Asia delivered a strong message on Ocean protection on the eve of Sri Lanka's National Day celebrations in Colombo, where regional States Leaders and representatives gathered to honour the country's Independence, declared on the 4th of February 1948. A large banner reading ***“South Asia: Lead on Ocean Treaty!”*** was deployed on one of the prominent high-rise hotels in Colombo to welcome the positive steps by regional leadership in favour of the Global Ocean Treaty that will allow the creation of large-scale sanctuaries on the High Seas.

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**ACTION
BOX**

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