

# 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



AFRICA.

# About GAIA

GAIA is a global network of grassroots groups, NGOs, and individuals, in over 90 countries. The organisation envisions a just, zero waste world built on respect for ecological limits and community rights, where people are free from the burden of toxic pollution, and resources are sustainably conserved, not burned or dumped. GAIA works to catalyse a global shift towards environmental justice by strengthening grassroots social movements that advance solutions to waste and pollution.

Cover image courtesy of the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA).

## MEET THE TEAM

# ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE 2021?

**KENZA ELAZKEM | NORTH AFRICA OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

**Rewarding!** I am choosing this word to describe 2021 because as challenging of a year as it was, we were able to push through and overcome. It was also the year I joined the GAIA Africa team, and I am grateful to have learned so much from my colleagues at GAIA and in member organizations throughout the year.

**AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATOR | NIVEN REDDY**

**Inspiring!** 2021 has been a difficult year for everyone, and despite the challenges that the world faced, there is so much to look back at and smile about. We've seen our team grow and it was pretty amazing to see the new team members bring in fresh perspectives and settle into their roles with enthusiasm and excitement.

**DESMOND ALUGNOA | MEMBER SUPPORT PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**Insightful!** 2021, despite COVID-19 offered us the opportunity to expand the team and members, learning from the work of members made it really insightful.

**AFRICA COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | CARISSA MARNCE**

**Resilience!** Despite the roadblocks in 2021, we were able to recover and progress towards achieving the goals we set at the beginning of the year as a movement and regional team. Nelson Mandela once said, "Do not judge me by my success, judge how many times I fell down and got back up again."



## OVERVIEW

## KEY INSIGHTS

- 5 new member organisations
- 26 member groups received small to medium-sized grants
- 2 new case studies on plastic & zero waste
- 11 regional newsletters
- 13 regional blogs and member op-eds
- 4 sub-regional meetings in North, East, Southern and West Africa

VIDEOS  
PROJECTS  
FOR 2021:

[One four-part video series](#) on the benefits of waste pickers organising themselves into cooperative and democratic associations.

[One mobilisation video](#) to call for all countries to take responsibility for producing and managing their waste, featuring 15 member and ally organisations from Africa and translated to French, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish and Swahili.

4.3K

Our waste colonialism campaign video had a reach of 4.3K on GAIA Africa's Facebook!



# 2021 NEW MEMBER PROJECTS

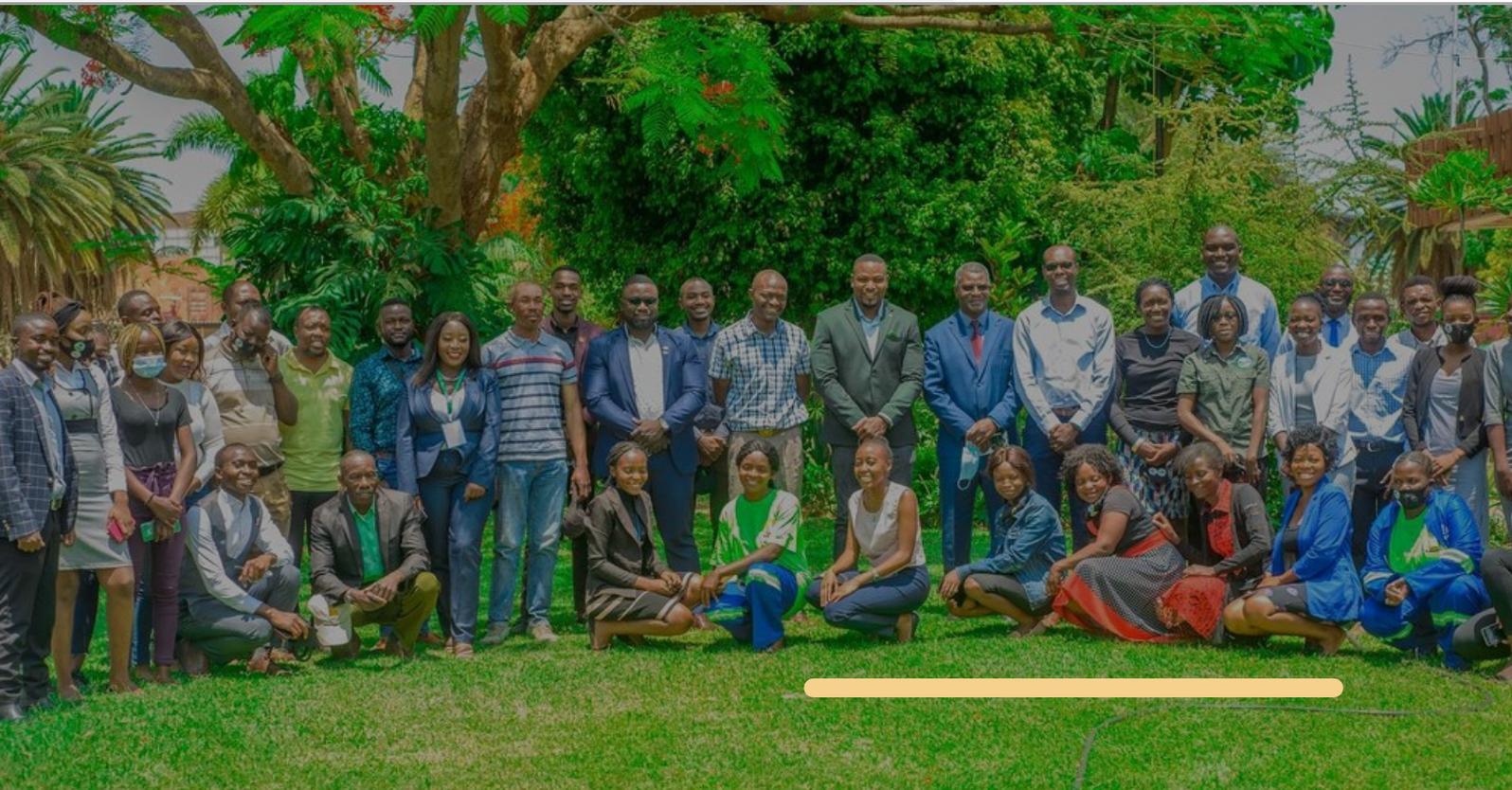
9

Nine members from Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Zambia Senegal, Tanzania, Morocco and Kenya, have started zero waste projects.

8

Eight member led cross country campaigns, in Nigeria, Tunisia, Zambia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa.

# JOINT MEMBER CAMPAIGNS



## MEMBER FEATURES

# CELEBRATING THE MOVEMENT

## AEEFG

Association de l'Éducation Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG) has been working on several projects during 2021. This includes managing waste in Radès City, Tunisia, where they have been engaging with six schools and the municipality.

They were also pleased to collaborate with Zero Waste Tunisia on a waste picker COVID-19 relief project, where they provided much-needed equipment to groups. Furthermore, AEEFG has been doing ongoing work around the Basel amendment.



## CEJAD

Last year, the Centre for Environmental Justice and Development (CEJAD) hosted various stakeholders in Kenya's waste management sector to form a unified stance on plastic pollution elimination. During the meeting, groups decided that they would form a coalition, where it would act as a watchdog and speak as a collective on the plastic industry and plastic policies needed to protect the rights of the public. Producers, manufacturers and consumers will be the targeted entities for advocacy work for the coalition. Moreover, it was decided that any faith-based organisations, community advocacy groups, youth initiatives, individuals advocating against plastic pollution, academia, NGOs, policy-makers, media, and grassroots representation such as waste pickers, could form the coalition's membership.

# CFEW



Centre for Earth Work (CFEW) has been engaging with waste pickers by arranging a series of activities on zero waste. The organisation has also been active on social media; they have a running #Youth4Land campaign to engage various stakeholders and create awareness on environmental topics.

CFEW is an organisation passionate about securing the earth and empowering communities about sustainable strategies for solving environmental challenges.



# DION

After the oil spill caused by M.V. Wakashio, where about 800 tons of oil spilt into the ocean in and along the South-East Coast of Mauritius, all fishing activities have been temporarily banned in the region. The fishermen along this coast have gone into forced unemployment.

Development Indian Ocean Network (DION), together with the Pesticide Action Network and other partner organisations, started a food self-sufficiency programme for the fishermen community of the South East coast. This 12-month activity aims to educate the region's fishermen on agriculture and farming as an alternative.

## FCEEP

Through GAIA's COVID-19 relief and advocacy funds, the Front Commun Pour La Protection De L'environnement Et Des Espaces Proteges (FCPEEP), were able to provide support to community members and waste pickers in the South Kivu in Kavumu and North Kivu in Goma, who have no access to medical care and have lost their livelihoods.

"During the pandemic, waste pickers were unable to provide for their families, because of the restrictive lockdown measures in the DRC. When they could return to work, they were at risk of being exposed to the virus without the necessary protection.

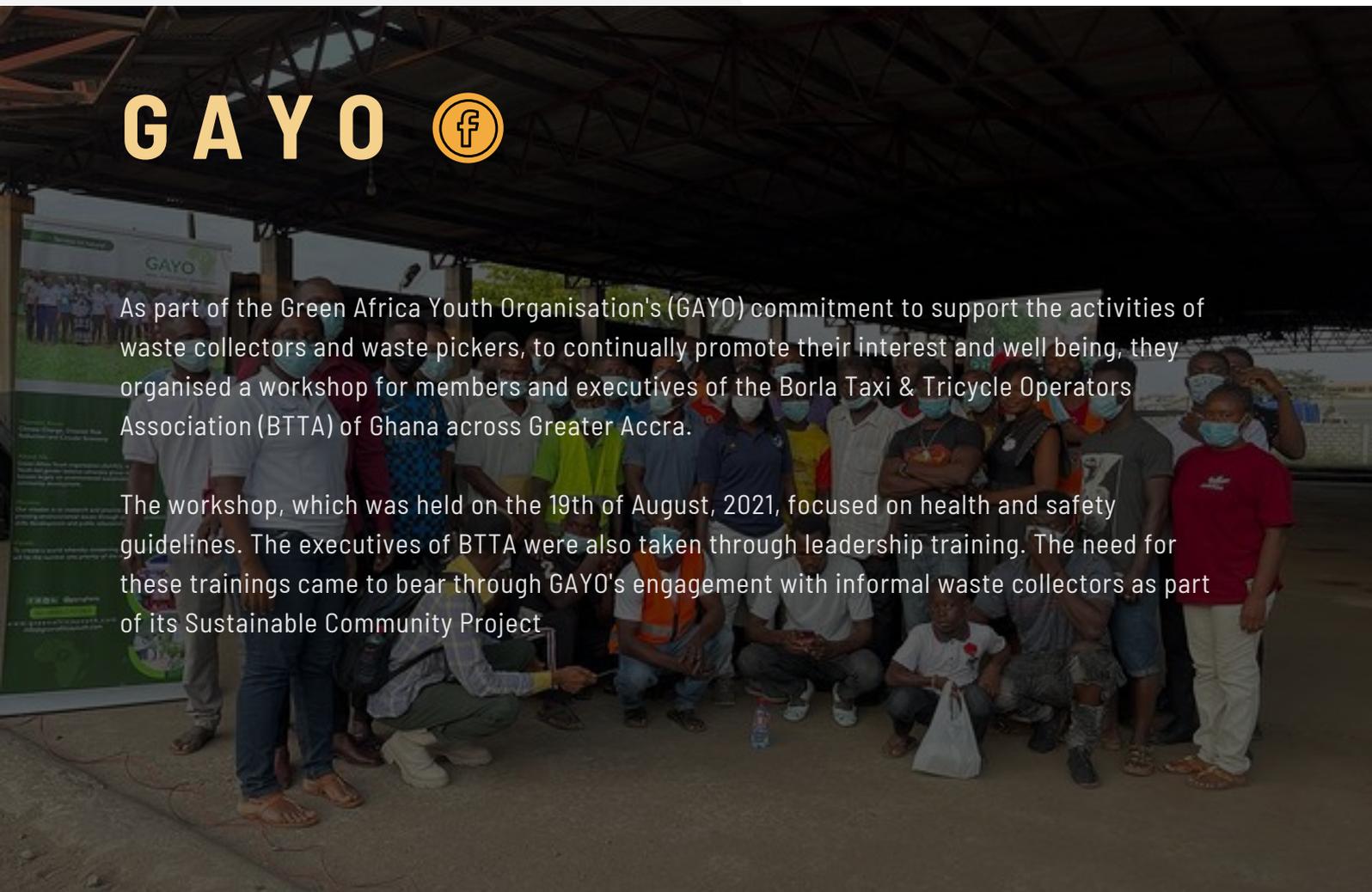
This has negatively impacted households. With the COVID-19 relief funds, we were able to support waste pickers in challenging circumstances," said John Ciza, National Coordinator for the FCEEP.

The organisation also distributed sanitary kits, as well as food and medical supplies for those impacted by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo. This support reached 25 waste pickers, 50 hospital patients, 30 women who gave birth to newborns, as well as other vulnerable individuals like the elderly.

## GAYO

As part of the Green Africa Youth Organisation's (GAYO) commitment to support the activities of waste collectors and waste pickers, to continually promote their interest and well being, they organised a workshop for members and executives of the Borla Taxi & Tricycle Operators Association (BTTA) of Ghana across Greater Accra.

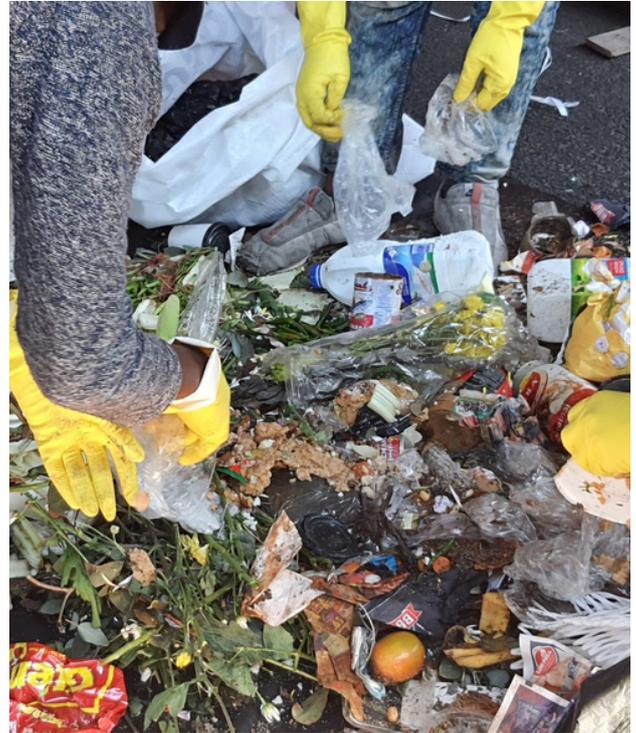
The workshop, which was held on the 19th of August, 2021, focused on health and safety guidelines. The executives of BTTA were also taken through leadership training. The need for these trainings came to bear through GAYO's engagement with informal waste collectors as part of its Sustainable Community Project



# groundWork

In 2021, the Urban Movement Innovation (UMI) Fund launched a new project titled, Waste Management, Urban Informality and Climate Change: Innovative zero-waste solutions from the informal market streets of Warwick in Durban. The partners of this project include groundWork, Asiye-eTafuleni and the Urban Futures Centre from the Durban University of Technology.

This project aims to create an inclusive zero waste case study that can be potentially replicated in other marketplaces in Africa and other places worldwide. The UMI zero waste project intends to show how informal workers can demonstrate zero waste models for cities globally whilst mitigating climate change.



# NIPE FAGIO



Nipe Fagio, in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania has implemented a zero waste model that combines separation at source, organic waste management and recycling into a decentralised framework.

This model will aim to generate jobs for vulnerable groups, increase waste collection and waste management in low-income communities, reduce open burning of waste and dumping, increase the rate of waste being diverted from landfills - at no additional cost to municipalities and create awareness on the improved benefits of improved waste management.

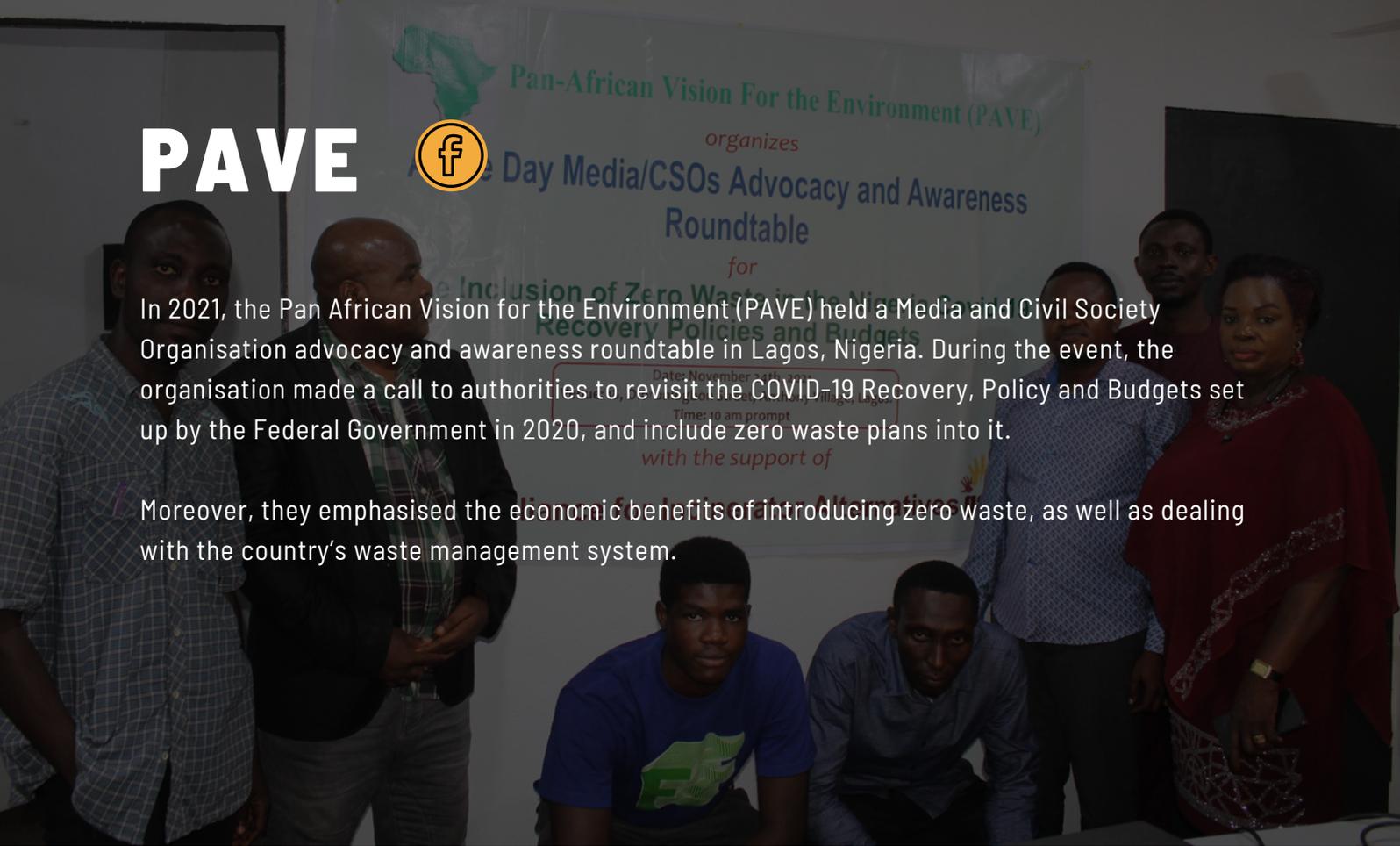
# PAVE



Pan-African Vision For the Environment (PAVE)  
organizes  
Day Media/CSOs Advocacy and Awareness  
Roundtable

In 2021, the Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE) held a Media and Civil Society Organisation advocacy and awareness roundtable in Lagos, Nigeria. During the event, the organisation made a call to authorities to revisit the COVID-19 Recovery, Policy and Budgets set up by the Federal Government in 2020, and include zero waste plans into it.

Moreover, they emphasised the economic benefits of introducing zero waste, as well as dealing with the country's waste management system.



# SEDI

Sustainable Environment Development Initiative (SEDI) worked on a number of projects during 2021. These include their project 'Pathway to Municipal Waste Management in Edo State', where they campaigned for anti-incineration policy for waste on landfills.

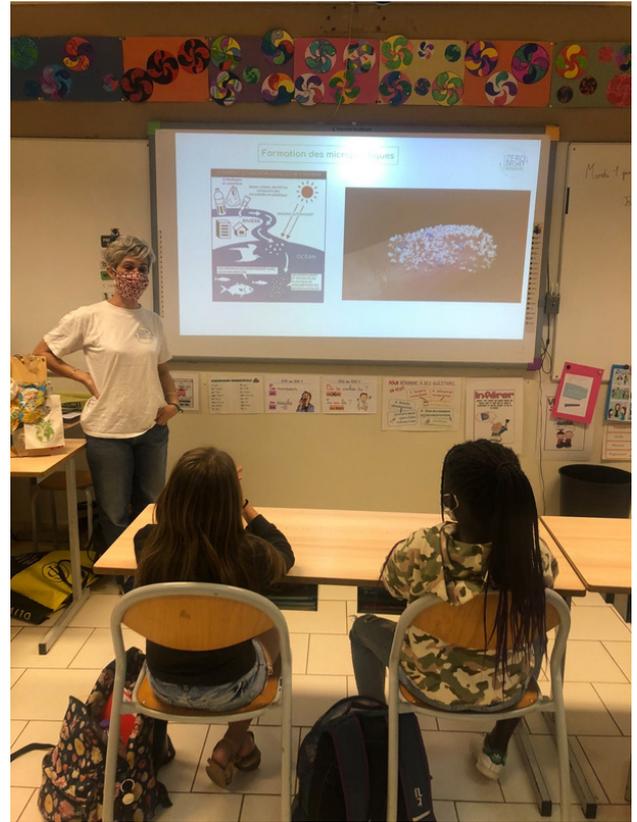
They also facilitated the Otofure Dumpsite waste pickers constitution for waste pickers. Furthermore, they participated in the 2021 BFFP brand audit in Nigeria and identified Coca-Cola as the most popular brand.



# ZERO WASTE SENEGAL

2021 was an exciting year for Zero Waste Senegal! Some of their highlights for the year include: collaborating with primary schools to spread awareness on waste management issues.

They have also worked with 19 restaurants to obtain their "Mon restaurant Zéro déchet" label. This project promotes Senegalese restaurants to commit against plastic pollution of the oceans.



# ZERO WASTE TUNISIA



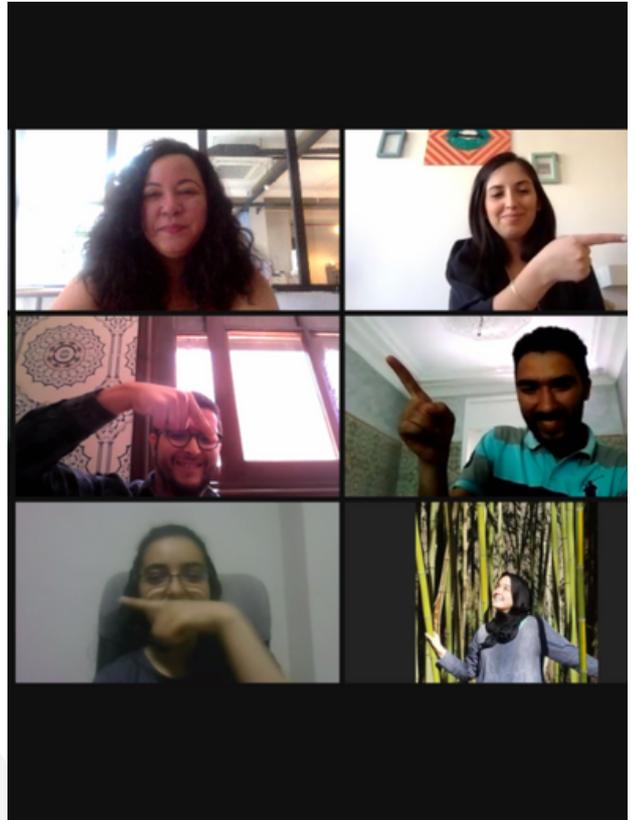
In 2021, Zero Waste Tunisa collaborated with fellow GAIA member Association de l'Éducation Environnementale pour les Futures Générations, on a COVID-19 relief project.

They brought together a group of waste pickers to understand their needs during the project. They were also able to provide waste pickers with safety equipment to carry out their work.

# ZERO ZBEL

The fourth Zero Zbel Academy took place in June 2021. The academy's objective is to introduce youth and young professionals to the world of waste management in Morocco. Some of the topics that were covered during the event included: sustainable development, the circular economy, waste management in Morocco, true and false solutions on plastic pollution, recycling, the informal sector, incineration and zero waste models around the world.

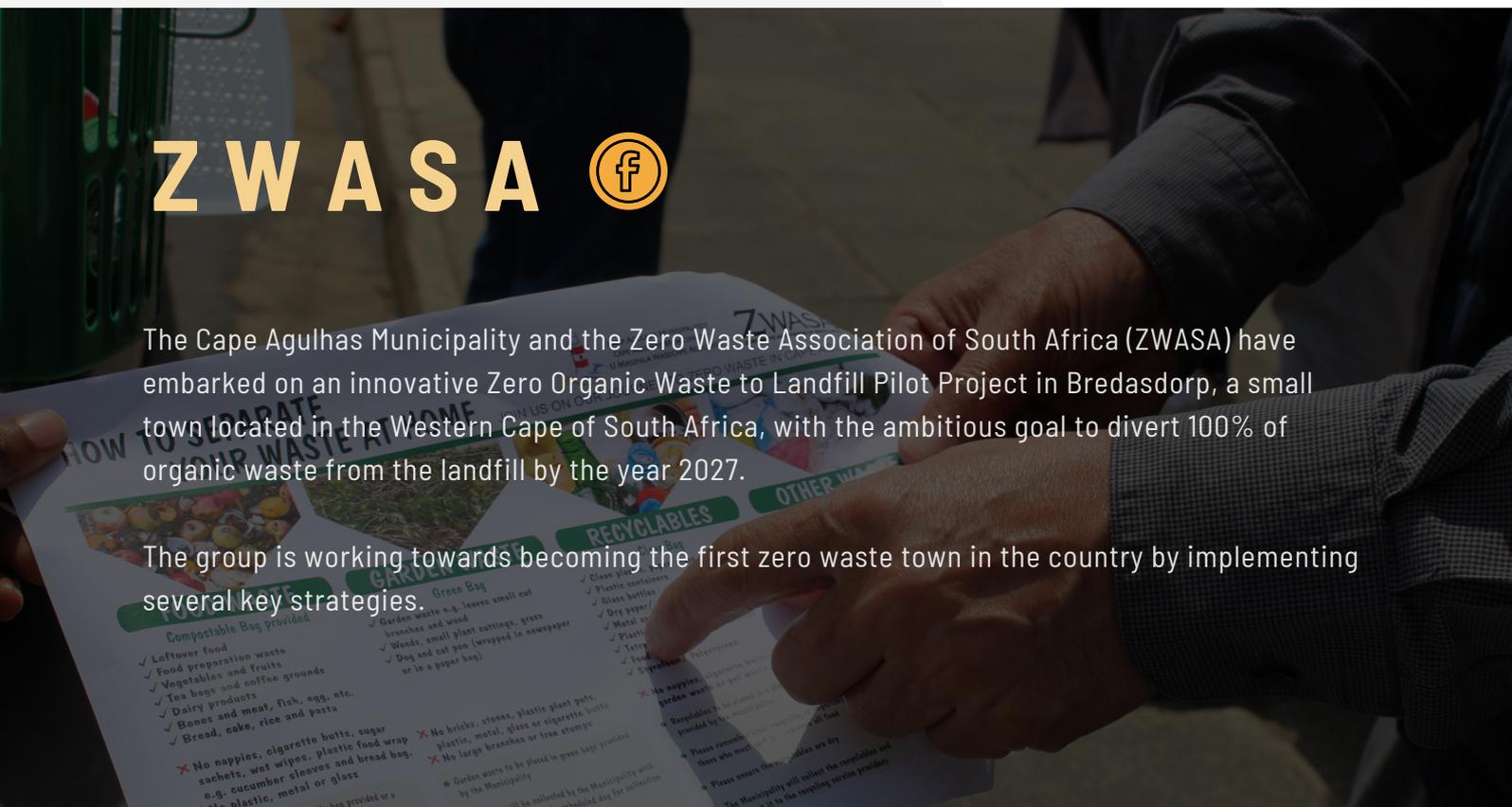
This year the academy hosted 12 participants. Participants were able to connect and are now helping each other in their various projects, such as edible utensil branding and zero waste campuses. All sessions had to be held online due to the pandemic.



# ZWASA

The Cape Agulhas Municipality and the Zero Waste Association of South Africa (ZWASA) have embarked on an innovative Zero Organic Waste to Landfill Pilot Project in Bredasdorp, a small town located in the Western Cape of South Africa, with the ambitious goal to divert 100% of organic waste from the landfill by the year 2027.

The group is working towards becoming the first zero waste town in the country by implementing several key strategies.



**HOW TO SEPARATE YOUR WASTE AT HOME**

**COMPOSTABLE BAG PROVIDED**

- ✓ Leftover food
- ✓ Food preparation waste
- ✓ Vegetables and fruits
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Dairy products
- ✓ Bones and meat, fish, eggs, etc.
- ✓ Bread, cake, rice and pasta

**NO** nappies, cigarette butts, sugar sachets, wet wipes, plastic food wrap e.g. cucumber sleeves and bread bag, elastic, metal or glass

**GREEN BAG**

- ✓ Garden waste e.g. leaves small cut branches and wood
- ✓ Woods, small plant cuttings, grass
- ✓ Dog and cat poo (wrapped in newspaper or in a paper bag)

**NO** bricks, stones, plastic plant pots, plastic, metal, glass or cigarette butts, No large branches or tree stumps

**RECYCLABLES**

- ✓ Clean glass bottles
- ✓ Plastic containers
- ✓ Glass bottles
- ✓ Dry paper
- ✓ Metal cans
- ✓ Plastic
- ✓ Tins
- ✓ Food tins
- ✓ Spent printer cartridges

**OTHER WASTE**

- ✗ No nappies, cigarette butts, sugar sachets, wet wipes, plastic food wrap
- ✗ Recyclables in the green bag are not accepted
- ✗ Recyclables in the green bag are not accepted provided by the Municipality
- ✗ Please remember that the Municipality will collect the recyclables and those who must sort their own waste
- ✗ Please ensure that the bins are dry

The Municipality will collect the recyclables and those who must sort their own waste in the recycling service provided.

# THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN **QUARTER ONE, 2022**

- Regional Climate Working Group
- Regional Communications Working Group
- North Africa Strategy Meeting
- UNEA 5.2
- Waste Picker Awareness Month
- Earth Day Member-Led Actions



*“CELEBRATE ENDINGS –  
FOR THEY PRECEDE NEW  
BEGINNINGS.”*





**2021 YEAR IN REVIEW**