

Nepal attempts record with a Dead Sea of plastic bags

December 5 2018



Over 150 volunteers worked for months to collect and sort used plastic bags from schools and public areas in Nepal

Young Nepalis created a map of the Dead Sea with used plastic bags Wednesday in a bid to set a new international record and raise awareness about the vast volumes polluting the world's oceans.

Volunteers tied 100,000 colourful used [plastic](#) bags on a metal grid 20 metres (65 feet) long and five metres (16 feet) tall, shaped like the Dead Sea, on open ground in Kathmandu's city centre.

The record attempt was organised with a slogan "One Dead Sea is enough for us".

"We decided to tie plastic bags and make a sculpture of the Dead Sea to spread awareness over the world to minimise waste of plastic," Surgeon BC of Stem Foundation Nepal, the group that organised the event, told AFP.

Global plastic production has grown rapidly, and is currently more than 400 million tonnes per year.

It is estimated that two to five percent of plastics wind up in the oceans, where much of it breaks down into tiny particles that harm marine life.

"We hope this effort will help to keep seas clean and not let them become another dead sea," he said.

Over 150 volunteers worked for months to collect and sort used plastic bags from schools and public areas.

Among the participants was 20-year-old environment student Prakriti Pandey.

"I had heard news that plastic was found inside a dead whale, so I felt I should join this initiative to spread awareness around the world and in my country," she said.

The current record for the world's largest sculpture of plastic bags was set in April 2012 when over 200 Singaporean [volunteers](#) shaped 68,000

[plastic bags](#) in the shape of an octopus, according to Guinness World Records.

The Nepalese group said it will now submit its claim with [video evidence](#) for a new record to Guinness.

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Citation: Nepal attempts record with a Dead Sea of plastic bags (2018, December 5) retrieved 12 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-12-nepal-dead-sea-plastic-bags.html>

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