

A Brief Introduction to the Scientists' Coalition

The Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty is an international network of diverse, independent scientific and technical experts seeking to contribute with scientific knowledge to decision makers and the public involved in the negotiations towards a global agreement to end plastic pollution.

About the Coalition

The Scientists' Coalition was formed in 2022, following the decision of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) to start the negotiations towards a treaty to end plastic pollution. The Scientists' Coalition currently has 400+ members from 70 different countries, covering a broad range of expertise.

The goals of the Scientists' Coalition

The goal of the Scientists' Coalition is to achieve an effective global plastics treaty based on robust evidence to inform decision-making aligned with the precautionary principle, pursuant to [UNEA Resolution 5/14](#) in the interest of protecting public and planetary health.

Our activities

- Participation in events and major milestones
- Engagement with governments and other stakeholders
- Scientific synthesis

Membership

Members of the Scientists' Coalition are independent scientists actively conducting and publishing research with relevance to plastic pollution. All members have signed the [Scientists' Declaration on the Need for Governance of Plastics Throughout their Lifecycles](#), and have declared all potential conflicts of interest. No member can be personally remunerated nor directly benefit financially from the plastics industry, or associated industries or organizations.

There are two categories of membership:

Core members: Independent scientists affiliated with or working in academic or other independent research institutions and actively conducting and publishing research on plastic pollution.

Observer members: Independent, academically trained scientists affiliated with or working for a non-governmental organization working in the public interest.

Organization

The Scientists' Coalition is led by a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is responsible for the direction of work of the Scientists' Coalition and approves outputs from the working groups.

A secretariat supports the flow of work, ensuring disclosures of interest are kept up to date, meetings, document management and membership outreach.

Steering Committee Members:

- Trisia Farrelly, Massey University and Cawthron Institute, Aotearoa, New Zealand (Coordinator)
- Bethanie Carney-Almroth, University of Gothenburg, Sweden (Co-Coordinator)
- Richard Charles Thompson, University of Plymouth, United Kingdom (Co-Coordinator)
- Andres H. Arias, National South University (UNS) and Argentinian Institute of Oceanography (IADO), Argentina
- Conrad Sparks, Centre for Sustainable Oceans, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), South Africa
- Costas Velis, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Florin-Constantin MIHAI, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania
- Hideshige Takada, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan
- Marie-France Dignac, French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE), France
- Martin Wagner, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
- Natalia de Miranda Grilli, University of Tasmania, Australia/Brazil
- Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden
- Susanne Brander, Oregon State University, United States of America

Funding

The Scientists' Coalition is a fully independent body.

The Coalition members and the Steering Committee are contributing in a voluntary manner with no dedicated funding. The Secretariat and Coordinators currently receive funding from the Paul M Angell Family Foundation (a philanthropic organisation). The Coordinator received funding in 2024 from the Clare Foundation (a philanthropic organisation).

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Contact information

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