

- Problem: The amount of plastic waste on Thailand's island is enormous, as the country is lacking a reliable waste management system. This has tremendous negative consequences for natural habitats and the local population
- Aim of the project: We tackle plastic waste at the root of the problem by establishing a business for distributing recyclable glass water bottles instead of plastic ones

In just a few years, the amount of plastic waste in the worlds' oceans will equal the amount of all fish living in the waters. Every hour, about 675 tons of plastic waste are emitted into the oceans destroying the natural habitats of our planet. This situation is especially dramatic on Thai islands. On Koh Samui, an island smaller than Munich, 250.000 tones of waste are emitted. Therefore, Thai islands are literally drowning in plastic waste.

We – team glassic. – have set it our goal to find a sustainable solution for this problem that is also scalable in whole South-East Asia.

Our team directly tackles the root of the problem, the emergence of waste by exchanging plastic water bottles with glass bottles. We will utilize reusable glass bottles that will be distributed through a local business. The implementation of these glass bottles will permanently reduce the use of plastic bottles, hence prevent further plastic waste to reach the oceans. Hotels, restaurants and bars can profit in two ways: First, our water can be bought for a cheaper price. Second, our model will create jobs in the local community. Additionally, our business will serve as the basis for projects around education and awareness for environmental pollution and recycling.

We will establish our first business on the island of Ko Kut. Here, we will purify rain and groundwater to produce drinking water and fill it into glass bottles. These water bottles will then be delivered to hotels, restaurants and the local police station, while the empty ones will be collected, cleaned and then reused. This guarantees a sustainable cycle. By using glass bottles, the number of plastic bottles in circulation will be reduced, which will eventually relieve the environment. The economic benefit for the customers is the price, as our water will be cheaper than the regular water, as these need to be shipped to Ko Kut from the mainland.

Our first partner is the hotel chain Soneva which runs a 5-star resort on Ko Kut. Soneva is committed to a sustainable concept of their hotels. Since our first trip in August 2017, we have the final approval that they will support our project. Next spring, we will perform a testing run on the island, where we aim to convince the first customers of our concept. While having the opportunity to use Soneva's machine in the testing phase, in the following months in 2018, we aim to build up the business with our own machine, to start production during the main season in October.

Our project team consists of nine students from the TU and LMU in Munich. We are eager to use our knowledge about logistics, finance, marketing as well as our creativity and our entrepreneurial spirit to have a lasting effect on people and nature:

glassic. – shaping a sustainable world

Proudly supported by: