**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00:01 BST 29th September \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Suggested title: {insert names of NGO} joins global plastic pollution survey**

**Alternative: volunteers set to take part in global plastic pollution survey in {insert location} ahead of UN Global Plastic Treaty negotiations**

**A global search for plastic pellets called nurdles is underway with thousands set to take part to uncover the extent of industrial plastic pollution.**

This October, environmental charity Fidra launches the annual [Great Global Nurdle Hunt](https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/great-global-nurdle-hunt.html), an international plastic pollution survey to map a little-known form of microplastic pollution, nurdles.

Fidra who run [The Global Nurdle Hunt](https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk), is urging groups across the world to take part by heading to beaches, rivers or ports and looking for these small plastic pellets between 1st-31st October 2023 and logging finds their ‘nurdle hunt’ finds at [www.nurdlehunt.org.uk](http://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk) to help build a global map of this microplastic pollution.

[In last year’s](https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/media/attachments/2022/12/01/ggnh_report22_a4_spreads.pdf) Global Nurdle Hunt, over 1,300 people took part in 317 nurdle hunts , finding an estimated 1.2million nurdles. More than 79,000 plastic pellets were found in just 20m2 during a nurdle hunt in Tarragona, Spain, whilst 16kg of pellets were collected on a single beach in Sri Lanka.

Last year over 90% of nurdle hunts were finding nurdles and with more plastic pellets produced and further spills recorded already in 2023 organiser warn this year volunteers could find even more nurdles.

Quote from Jamie Clarkson, Project Officer, Fidra

“The Global Nurdle Hunt provides not only provides crucial evidence of nurdle pollution but is also shows decision makers that people really care and want to see further action. Results from this year will be used to inform and influence the Global Plastic Treaty negotiations so it a great time to get involved by logging your finds at [www.nurdlehunt.org.uk](http://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk) “

**Suggested addition: {insert text about your NGO, event, and why you are taking part}**

**Nurdles**

Nurdles are small plastic pellets, the raw material of our plastics industry, which are melted down to make almost all our plastic products

Every year, across the world, an estimated 445,970[[1]](#footnote-2)

tonnes of raw plastic material, in the form or plastic pellets (also known as nurdles), are spilled into the environment.

This form of industrial pollution occurs across the plastics supply chain; at each industrial stage where pellets are moved or handled. Once spilt (either because of inadequate storage containers/packaging material, human or mechanical error) and if not cleaned up effectively they can be washed, blown or swept into the environment.

Once in the environment they are almost impossible to remove and can adsorb toxins present in the water. Easily mistaken for food by many animals, nurdles and their toxins can enter the food chain.

More than [220 marine species](https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2017/AY/C6AY02415G#!divAbstract) have been shown to ingest microplastic debris. Nurdles have been found in the stomachs and digestive tracts of a variety of species, from seabirds in the [North Sea](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21737191) and [Australia](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749113006532) to [green turtles](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19931101) and [fish](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0025326X15302393?via%3Dihub) off the coasts of Brazil.

**Solution**

This is a global problem that calls for [globally co-ordinated solutions](https://hub.nurdlehunt.org/nurdle-solutions/).

From trialling solutions with the Scottish government and industry close to home, to raising awareness with [EU decision-makers,](https://rethinkplasticalliance.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/bffp_rpa_pellets_paper.pdf) [the United Nations](https://hub.nurdlehunt.org/resource/mircoplastic-working-group-inc-3-pre-session-submissions-part-a-and-b-2/) and global trade associations, Fidra are pushing for solutions that work at an international scale.

Fidra are calling [for industry to take responsibility of the pellets they handle](https://hub.nurdlehunt.org/nurdle-solutions/land/) and ensure that effective best practice measures are implemented at all stages of the supply chain where pellets are handled to stop this loss at source.

Evidence from our Global Nurdle Hunt is vital for this work, and Fidra are asking people across the globe to join in this October and help be part of the solution.

**Suggested addition:** Quote from your organiser /CEO / famous supporter

**Insert:** The {your organisation} Nurdle Hunt takes place at {location} on {time, date}, and everyone is welcome.

- ENDS –

**Contact:**

For more information please contact {**Insert** your contact details]

For contacts at Fidra (The Great Nurdle Hunt): Tel: (+44) 07483441534

**Notes to editors:**

1. [The Great Global Nurdle Hunt](https://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/take-part/the-great-global-nurdle-hunt.html) will run from 1th-31th October 2023.
2. **Fidra** set up and runs The Great Nurdle Hunt to support our aim of preventing plastic pellet pollution. Fidra is an environmental charity working to reduce plastic waste and chemical pollution in our seas, on our beaches and in the wider environment. Fidra shines a light on environmental issues, working with the public, industry and governments to deliver solutions which support sustainable societies and healthy ecosystems. We use the best available science to identify and understand environmental issues, developing pragmatic solutions through inclusive dialogue. We aim to stop further plastic pellet pollution of our seas and beaches using a combination of public and industry engagement. The online [nurdle map](http://www.nurdlehunt.org.uk/take-part/nurdle-map.html) www.nurdlehunt.org.uk pinpoints hundreds of locations where pellets have been found across the world. Fidra is a Scottish registered charity and SCIO (SC043895).

**Social Media:**    
Hashtag: #GreatGlobalNurdleHunt

Twitter/ X:  
@greatnurdler

@fidratweets

**Images can be found here. :** <https://hub.nurdlehunt.org/resources/media-library/>

**Participant Packs can be downloaded here**: https://hub.nurdlehunt.org/resource/fidra-organisation-pack-to-effectively-run-a-nurdle-hunt-2023/

1. https://hub.nurdlehunt.org/resource/oracle-mapping-the-global-plastic-pellet-supply-chain/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)