



05



Plastic pollution reduces the resilience of communities and the natural world to cope with climate change

A significant amount of plastic waste has accumulated in the environment, disrupting ecosystems and causing harm to human and animal health. Recent estimations indicate that plastic leakage to the environment is set to double between 2019 and 2060.¹ The degradation of plastics in the environment contributes directly to greenhouse gas emissions.

Plastic pollution exacerbates and compounds climate change impacts via multiple pathways, including flooding, air pollution, the spread of disease and social and economic wellbeing.² Plastics governance must consider the impacts of plastic pollution in conjunction with climate change and biodiversity loss.

Plastic pollution is making the impact of climate change worse. Plastic action is climate action.

1. OECD 2022b
2. Ford et al., 2022; Kumar et al., 2021; Lavers, Bond, and Rolsky, 2022

*Want to
learn more?*



Photo by James Wakibia: Two boys look towards a section of Njoro River in Nakuru County in Kenya that is heavily polluted with plastic drinking bottles. The river that originates from Mau Forest collects plastic waste and other debris as it flows through residential areas in Nakuru, finally emptying all its contents in Lake Nakuru.