

LiA: Fighting Against Coastal Pollution with Rudda Føroyar

I removed 14.5kg of rubbish from one beach in Torshavn with 1 hour of work each week for 5 weeks. I then separated all of the rubbish into 25 different categories each week; I saw that household/personal waste was the biggest polluter with construction not far behind. I would find plastic bottle caps, cigarettes, wood from barbeques and building materials every week. Using this information, I created a poster to communicate the value of cleaning the environment. Imagine how many kilos could be removed if everyone reading this dedicated only 1 hour a week to helping the environment.

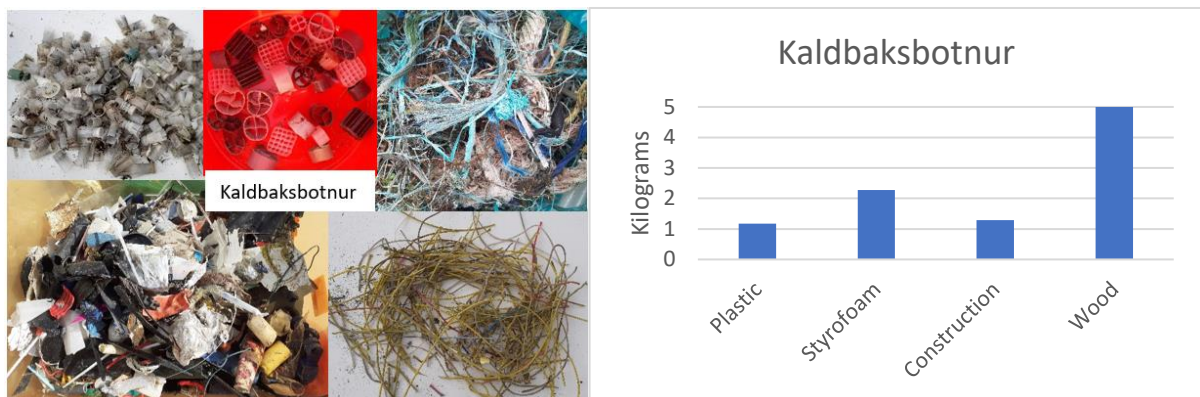
14.5 kilos

1 hour

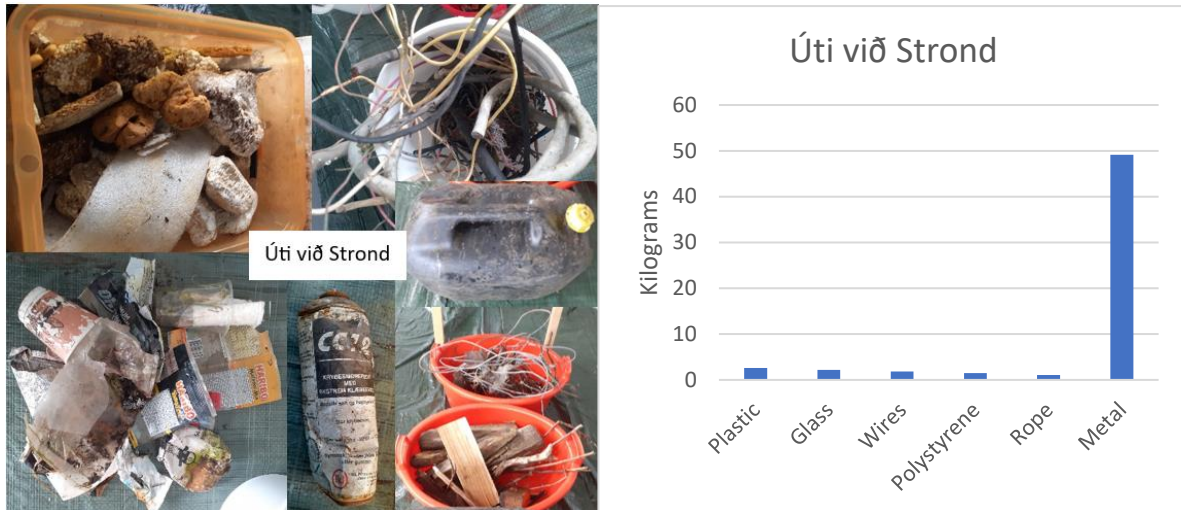
5 weeks

On top of this I participated in three other clean ups; these were a part of the Nordic Coastal Cleanup day. During these three clean ups 158kg of rubbish was removed from the environment.

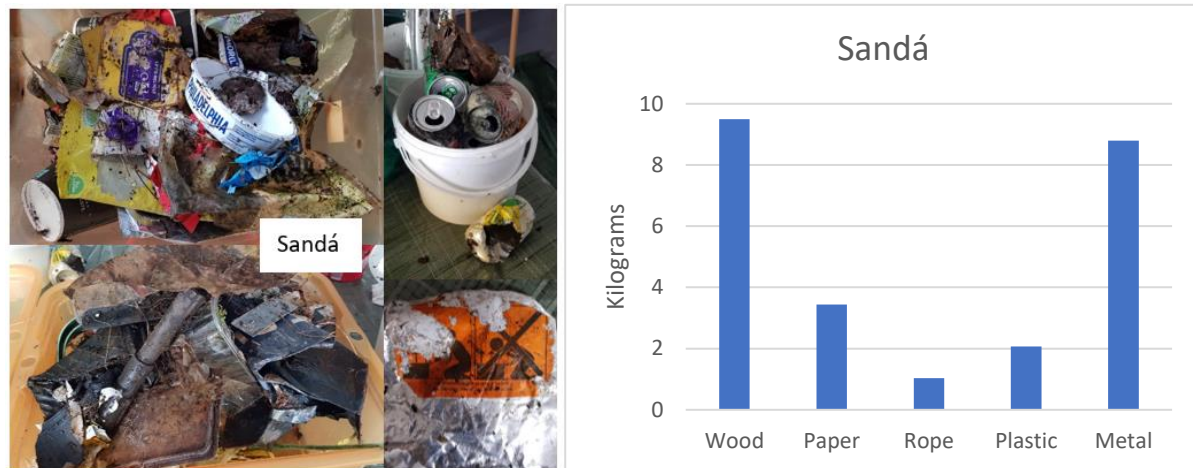
The first was a beach called Kaldbaksbotnur; three of us spent two and a half hours cleaning and we removed 12kg of rubbish. We separated this and saw that the biggest polluter was wood but plastic, Styrofoam/polystyrene and construction materials were also very high.



Next, I helped to clean the beach Úti við Strond with eight other people for three hours; we removed 109kg. We separated this as well and saw that metal was the highest category by far but we also found lots of glass and plastic.



A group of eight people cleaned the river Sandá in Tórshavn and removed 37kg over two hours. After separating this rubbish, we saw that wood and metal were the biggest polluters with paper and cardboard not far behind.



These cleanups are clearly very effective at removing rubbish from nature but they are also a great way to spread information about the issue of coastal pollution. They inspire individuals and companies to be more mindful of their waste production and how they are disposing of it.

How do we get more people involved?

I conducted three interviews to inspire people to get involved and to improve the reach of Rudda Føroyar. I interviewed the founders of Rudda Føroyar, Sigrún and Elin, to learn more about the organisation and how coastal pollution affects the Faroe Islands. I also interviewed a local politician and teacher, Kristianna, to learn more about how we can get young people involved and the initiatives the government is working on.

On top of this, I interviewed a fisherman, Ólavur, to understand how this issue affects the community. I learnt that the fishermen have a strong connection to the sea and take care not to pollute it however, this is not enough to prevent rubbish from washing up on the shores. If we want to solve this issue, we need to harness the passion of locals to effectively remove and prevent pollution.

I also translated some aspects of Rudda Føroyar's website into English so that the important message of the organisation can reach an international audience. This can be seen here: <https://ruddaforoyar.fo/en/>.