

PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental groups in Davao join global brand audit 2020

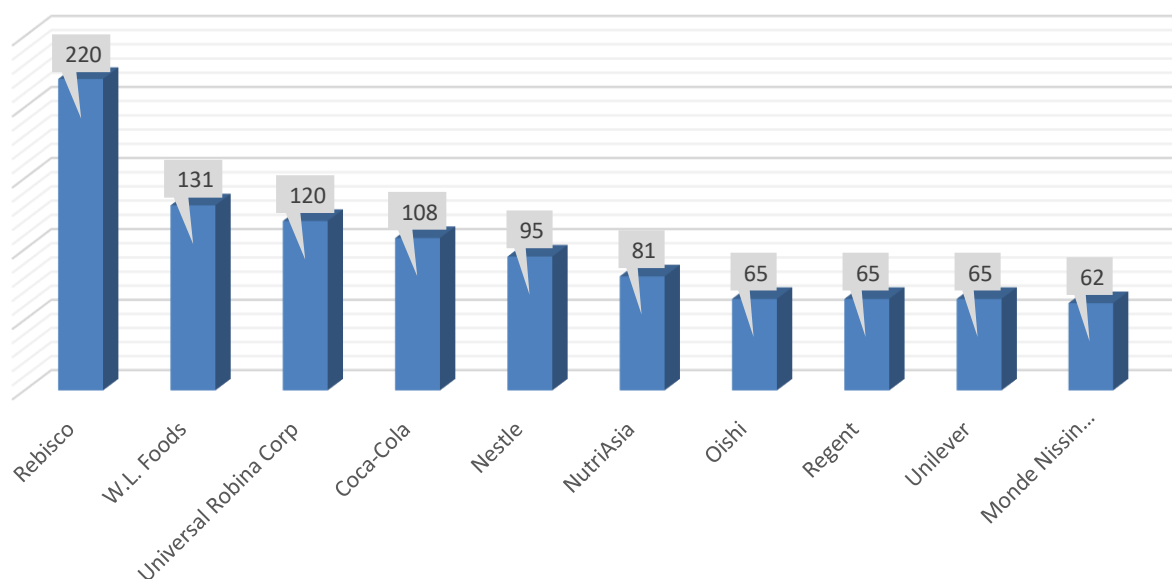
The Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) Inc., together with other environmental non-government organizations like Break Free from Plastics, Ecowaste Coalition, and Sustainable Davao Movement, Bantay Bukid and Bantayo Aweg volunteers, and barangay officials of Tawan-Tawan joined the river clean-up and global brand audit last September 26, 2020 at Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District, Davao City.

Brand Audit involves counting and documenting the brands found on plastic waste collected during the cleanup to help identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution. Such brand audits are a powerful tool for holding consumer good companies accountable for their role in the global plastic waste problem, revealing just how widespread and damaging their throwaway plastic business model has become.

During the clean-up drive, a total of 1, 713 pieces of different types of solid wastes such as plastics, cans, bottles, glass, cigarettes, face masks were collected. Most of it were food packaging, plastic bottles, and household products packaging.

To know further about the result of the audit, here are the charts and analysis:

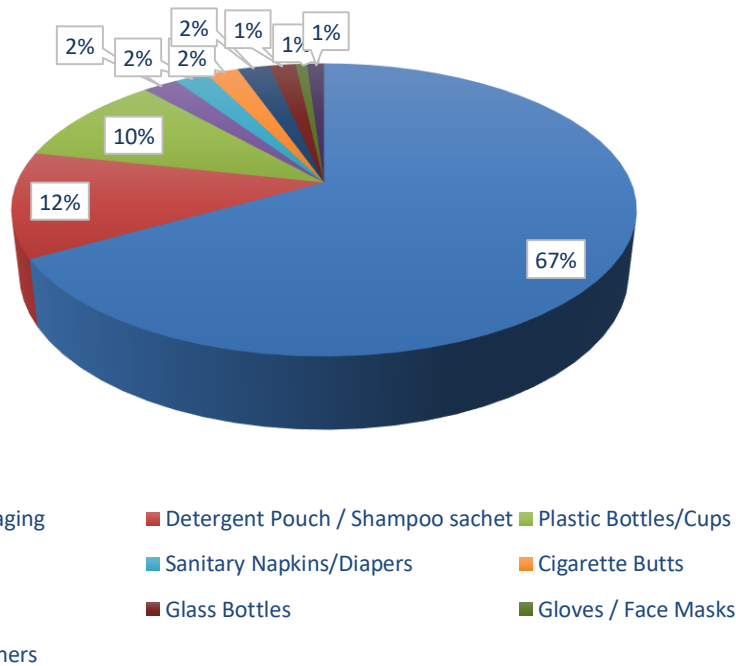
Top Brands found during the Solid Waste Audit in Panigan-Tamugan Watershed



The diagram shows the top 10 manufacturing companies during the waste brand audit. From the total 1,713 pieces, the highest among these companies is Rebisco (13%) or 220 pieces. W.L Foods, Universal Robina Corporation, Coca-Cola, and Nestle follow next in rank within the percent range of 8%-6%. While NutriAsia, Oishi, Regent, Unilever, and Monde Nissin (81-62 pieces) were found in the lower ranks (5%-4%).

However, in the total audit, the middle to low percentile range still includes known companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Zest-O, Colgate-Palmolive, Philip Morris, San Miguel Corp, Selecta, Johnson & Johnson. These were found to have less than 60 pieces (4% & below). Others/Unknown brands build-up 11% in the total audit.

Types of Solid Wastes found during the Waste Audit in Panigan-Tamugan Watershed



The diagram shows the Typologies of Wastes collected. Food wraps and packages has the highest amount of 67%, overthrowing more than half of the other wastes. At a large gap, the Detergent, Shampoo and Chemical sachets/pouch follows by 12%. Plastic Bottles and cups comes next at 10%. The lower percentile amounts (2%-1%) are found residual wastes that include cans, sanitary napkins, diapers, cigarette butts, plastic bags, glass bottles, gloves, face masks, slippers, straws and others.

ANALYSIS

Types of Wastes Collected and Brand/Manufacturer datasets show that majority of the wastes found are from food packaging and related sources. Through a Cross-Check Analysis of both datasets, 9 out of the Top 10 manufacturers are food packaging and production-related companies that include junk food, candies, soft drinks, biscuit wrappers.

At top 1 Rebisco's products include *Rebisco Sandwich, Hansel, Bravo* mostly on crackers and biscuits, while at Top 2 W.L Foods focuses on junk food snacks e.g *Cornbits, Yahoo, Munchers*, etc. Both of these companies use individual snack plastic packaging. At Top 3 Universal Robina, one of the leading junk food e.g *Chippy, Piatos, Mang Juan, V-cut*, etc. producers in the country. Unilever at Top 9, is the only company with most products on health and personal care found to be in the top percentile.

The Waste Typology dataset also supports the claim, that detergents, shampoos, and soaps amounted only at 12% as compared from food wrapping/packaging at 67%. Cigarette industry is also found to have low ranks for both brand and typology data. Hence, both food packages and the tracked manufacturing companies contributed the highest amount of wastes in the overall brand audit.

The result of this brand audit shows that there is an alarming increase of wastes in one of the most important watersheds in Davao City, the Panigan-Tamugan Watershed. We urge the local government authorities to enforce regulations and ensure proper waste management in the area but most importantly, we urge for the enactment and implementation of environmental policies. For the enactment of policy, the City Council should enact the Banning of Single-Use Plastics in the city and for the full implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Ordinance in accordance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act to address the waste concerns not just in PTW but in the whole area of Davao City.

We would like also to call the attention the companies of the above-mentioned products especially on the food packs/wrappers to shift to sachet material alternative, biodegradable, or paper-based sachet. And to those companies who produce personal care products like shampoo or conditioner, they can have programs on bulk selling such as refilling stations or refilling *sari-sari* stores.

IDIS and other NGO's also urge the public to properly dispose of their garbage and avoid using single-use plastics. Such small efforts are a big help to conserve and protect the environment.



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