

PROTEGO NATIONAL BLUE INNOVATION HACKATHON

What Is This?

Plastic is choking Nigeria's coastlines from Ajegunle in Lagos to Nsidung in Calabar. The PROTEGO Project (implemented by WASTE Africa, the Nigeria Climate Innovation Center, and adelphi, supported by the German government) is calling on Nigerian university students to design real solutions to marine litter.

This isn't a theory competition. You'll work on a real problem, in a real place, with real experts — and the best ideas walk away with a grant to actually pilot what they've built.

What You Get

- Hands-on experience solving a real marine litter challenge, not a hypothetical case study.
- A shot at a grant (USD 500 – 1,500) to pilot your idea if you place in the top 5.
- A free trip to one of the hotspot sites (Ajegunle, Lagos or Nsidung, Calabar) if you make the final round.
- National visibility through the PROTEGO platform and partner network.
- Direct access to environmental experts, investors, and potential mentors at the final pitch.
- A certificate of participation and for top teams, a co-signed letter of recognition from the consortium.

Who Can Apply

You must be a currently enrolled undergraduate at a recognised universities in Lagos and Cross River State.

Apply solo or as a team: team entries are encouraged.

No prior hackathon or coding experience required. We're looking for problem-solvers, not just programmers process-based and community-based ideas are just as welcome as tech ideas.

What We're Judging On

What we look for	What that means
Relevance	Does your idea clearly address marine litter at Ajegunle or Nsidung?

Innovation & Feasibility	Is it a fresh idea, and can it actually be built with realistic resources?
Problem-Solution Fit	Is the problem you're solving clearly stated, and does your solution actually solve it?
Scalability	Could this grow beyond your campus or pilot site if it works?

Application Portal Questions

(Application Deadline: 15th August 2026)

1. Section A - Eligibility

Field	Type	Required
Full name	Text	Required
Institution	Dropdown	Required
Student/matric ID	Text	Required
Currently enrolled undergraduate?	Y/N	Required
Level/year of study	Dropdown	Required
Department/faculty	Text	Required
Course of study	Text	Required
Expected graduation year	Number	Required

2. Section B - Contact & Demographics

Field	Type	Required
Email	Email	Required
Phone/WhatsApp	Text	Required
Date of birth	Date picker	Required
Gender	Dropdown	Required
State of origin	Dropdown	Required
Disability/accessibility needs	Text	Optional

3. Section C The Idea

Field	Type	Required
Target hotspot (where are you deploying/implementing your idea/solution?)	Text	Required
Idea title	Text	Required
Problem statement (250 words)	Text	Required

Field	Type	Required
Proposed solution (Please explain your solution in detail - 750 words)	Text	Required
Scalability plan (500 words)	Text	Required
Supporting file (upload any file that shows your idea/solution in action)	File upload	Optional
Number of team members	Text	Required
List the team members (Name, role, LinkedIn profile/about)	Text	Required

4. Section D - Reach Attribution

Field	Type	Required
How did you hear about this hackathon?	Dropdown [LinkedIn, Instagram, Website, Friend, Partner Organisation, Word of Mouth, Others]	Required

5. Section E - Consent & Safeguarding

Field	Type	Required
Data privacy consent	Checkbox	Required
Media/photo-video consent	Checkbox	Required
Code of conduct acknowledgment	Checkbox	Required
Guardian consent upload	File upload	Conditional based on age
Emergency contact (name & phone)	Text	Required