MODULAR EXTRACTION TOOL FOR RIVERINE PLASTIC WASTE DESIGN OF A PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE PROTOTYPE

Master Thesis

Author

Mentor Ir. Schermer, W. Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering | TU Delft Department of Human Centered Design

External mentor van Eijk, J. The Ocean Cleanup Rivers - Data & Engineering **ALLEY AVENUE**

Supervisory team Department of Sustainable Design Engineering

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MODULAR EXTRACTION TOOL FOR RIVERINE PLASTIC WASTE

DESIGN OF A PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE PROTOTYPE

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The Interceptor Classic stands as the flagship of The Ocean Cleanup's river operations. It's strategically anchored in the center of the river, capturing and extracting all incoming debris. Employing a substantial conveyor belt, this system efficiently transfers the collected waste from the water onto a designated shuttle trolley. Subsequently, the waste is discharged into one of six sizable container dumpsters positioned on a separate barge. In the event that all dumpsters are filled, the barge is relocated to the shore, where a crane hoists the containers onto the land. A forklift then empties them into additional containers that are subsequently transported to recycling facilities or landfills.

In contrast, the Interceptor Barrier is engineered to direct floating waste toward a dedicated extraction point, typically the Interceptor Classic. By deploying one or two of these floating barriers, a funnel-like configuration is created, significantly increasing the volume of captured waste. The barrier is meticulously designed, with its lower edge extending down to approximately 50cm beneath the water's surface. This design ensures that high buoyancy plastics and similar objects are directed toward the Interceptor Classic, while marine life can safely pass underneath. In Jamaica, these barriers are effectively utilized to contain waste at the entrances of gullies (drain channels) by forming a moored U shape.

APPENDIX 1: THE OCEAN CLEANUP CURRENT SOLUTION PORTFOLIO

However, the debris contained within Jamaican gullies requires removal before it reaches the open sea. This task is efficiently handled by the Interceptor Tender, a small manned barge designed for waste extraction and offloading at the harbor. Given the proximity of multiple gullies equipped with barriers, the Interceptor Tender serves as an offloading vessel for several gullies simultaneously.

Lastly, the Interceptor Barricade has been recently deployed in Rio Las Vacas, Guatemala. This resilient floating barrier is engineered to withstand formidable forces, effectively halting waste during large flash flood events. Similar to the Interceptor Barrier, the Interceptor Barricade functions as a containment method, necessitating a separate extraction approach. The interceptor Barricade is strategically positioned at an angle, directing waste toward one shoreline, where it can be efficiently extracted using an excavator.

At the time of this thesis, The River Team of The Ocean Cleanup possesses a solution portfolio comprising four distinct products. Among these, the Interceptor Classic and the Interceptor Tender are instrumental in waste extraction, while the Interceptor Barrier and the Interceptor Barricade are focused on containment.

In cases with large retention zones, entrapment isn't practical, and concentration alone contradicts the purpose of a mobile system. Therefore, the extraction mechanism should align with containment methods.

Containment methods often comprise a series of plastic buoyant objects filled with air or foam. Some versions include a metal or rubber bottom plate for improved penetration and debris capture. Wider versions prevent rolling over and twisting and also allow workers to walk on the barrier, facilitating waste redirection towards the extraction mechanism without entering the water.

$\prime\prime\prime$ **APPENDIX 2: EXISTING IN-WATER-WASTE INTERCEPTION TECHNOLOGIES**

The shape of the retention zone can be chosen based on the extraction mechanism. For instance, in Jamaican gullies, barriers are positioned in a U shape, directing waste to the center of the barrier, making it easy for extraction using the Interceptor Tender. Placing the barrier in a J shape would lead to waste accumulation near the shore, enabling easier direct-to-shore extraction. If the barrier is under high tension, a slashshaped configuration can be created, optimized for concentration like the Interceptor Tender but requiring more effort and robust materials and tools. Realistically, the extraction tool designed in this thesis will likely be used with a J-shaped barrier, which should be adequate for reaching waste from the shore. Flow direction is a more significant limiting factor, as the tool typically enters from the shore at close to a 90° angle in relation to the flow direction. While this can be mitigated in complex ways, the tool's human-operated nature suggests some manual labor may be required. This becomes more manageable if the design is combined with a walkable barrier. While walkable barriers exist, most have drawbacks. The incorporation of a walkable The Ocean Cleanup barrier would facilitate deployment at currently unsolved sites. Combining a mobile extraction mechanism with a walkable barrier would ensure seamless deployment and enhance the impact of both developments.

Table 1 provides an overview of various in-water waste interception technologies, although it doesn't cover all existing options identified in the analysis. Instead, it presents selected examples that represent broader categories of technologies. The fourth column offers a description of these categories, while the fifth column displays the number of solutions within each category. While this thesis primarily focuses on developing a specific extraction technology, it's essential to investigate the associated containment methods required to redirect and contain the debris before extraction. The comprehensive list of in-water waste interception technologies is available in Appendix 21.

These technologies can be categorized into three main groups: concentration, containment, and entrapment. Concentration involves redirecting waste to a specific location, containment prevents debris from flowing further downstream (although it may still return under certain conditions), and entrapment ensures waste cannot escape in any direction, providing a larger window of opportunity for extraction. For example, technologies in groups 1, 2, and 3 in Table 1 focus on concentrating debris for extraction, while those in groups 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are designed to trap waste. Entrapment technologies are often combined with concentration methods to increase the area over which debris is captured. Technologies in groups 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 primarily serve as containment barriers, stopping debris from flowing downstream. They can also aid in concentration, but their main advantage lies in creating a retention zone independently, preventing waste from passing the barrier.

Given that the objective of this thesis is to develop an extraction mechanism compatible with in-water waste interception technologies, it's crucial to assess compatibility. For mobile deployment strategies, a retention zone must handle significant waste quantities to maximize impact or extend time between extractions.

The DESMI Rise with elongation, built on top of a DESMI Rise, is likely to be more expensive. Conversely, commercially unavailable solutions tend to be more cost-effective. For instance, The Ocean Cleanup had a lengthy conveyor belt produced locally in Indonesia for transporting crates from the Interceptor Classic's offloading dock to trucks. Since this conveyor is solely a transport belt for buckets and doesn't extract waste from the water, it's not included in the analysis. However, its production and installation cost was approximately €5,000.

Chemolex's solutions fall in the €5,000 to €10,000 range. Notably, they deployed 12 machines at 12 different locations in May 2023 (Personal communication, May 12, 2023). In theory, if a single mobile solution or components of the solution could be utilized for multiple sites, it could significantly reduce investment costs.

Regarding mobility, it's important to note that there are currently no fully mobile solutions available. The Azure system, for instance, is designed to be mobile as it's built on top of a trailer. However, to ensure its proper functionality, a concrete ramp (as depicted in Figure 28) had to be constructed on-site. This requirement somewhat restricts the overall mobility of the device.

Description

Double conveyor system floating on a large raft. First conveyor extracts waste from the water, second conveyor transports it to high quey side.

Convevor lowered in the water with a truck via a constructed ramp. Camera at the top uses algorithm to identify different types of waste.

Small scale version of the River Recycle technology with second conveyor leaning on low quey so scaffolding is

Locally elongated version of the DESMI Rise. Same use case as River Recycle technology but cheaper. Keeps small raft while using the quay as support for the second conveyor.

Small locally produced conveyor to move the waste from the water to the shore. Used for low riverbank

Baskets connected to a single chain turn around to scoop out the waste from above. Long arm used to walk over and move the waste to the shore.

Turning seesaw mechanism to scoop the trash out of the water and drop it on the shore by rotating it around the

Basket on a manual pully and slider to lift the trash out of the water and drop it on the shore.

Metal barrier contains waste, once full, the complete arm lifts up including a conveyor belt that was

Waste that flows underneath a structure like a bridge or dam is stopped by a large metal screen. This screen is cleaned by a large mechanical rake, dropping the waste on the top of the structure.

This screen is used in similar situations as the Hydro rake. However, instead of a static screen in combination with a mechanical rake, the screen is a conveyor, turning o move the waste to the top of the structure.

Excavators are often used to extract the trash from the contained area of a large log boom.

APPENDIX 3: EXISTING EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGIES

Table 2 provides an overview of operational direct-toshore extraction technologies, with one technology chosen to represent multiple similar ones in the table. Non-operational and non-direct-to-shore extraction technologies are examined to ensure a comprehensive industry overview but are not further discussed in the main report. The complete list of technologies, along with detailed notes and sources, can be found in Appendix 22.

The most common working mechanism, as shown in Table 2, involves the use of a conveyor belt in the majority of existing direct-to-shore extraction solutions. Some alternatives employ a rake (11), seesaw (7), or lift mechanism (8).

Solutions 11 and 12 are specifically designed to filter debris from water before it enters power plants or processing facilities. This is essential to prevent turbine or pump clogging. In such cases, water flows beneath a perpendicular structure that serves as an offloading site above the water level. In contrast, other mechanisms offload waste at the river's edge, making them suitable for a wider range of sites and cost-effective because they don't require structures built above the water for offloading.

Regarding pricing, most companies are not particularly transparent about the cost of their technologies, and specific numbers cannot be disclosed in this thesis. However, the commercially available extraction mechanism with the lowest price still exceeds \$40,000, which appears relatively affordable compared to some other available options. Some systems can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, including high installation expenses.

land and flooding risk of the offloading site are excluded since The Ocean Cleanup is only interested in deploying systems at one end of the range. There is enough impact to be made at sites that are accessible by land and have a low flooding risk of the offloading site for example, so for now, these characteristics can be assumed to be at one end of the range for the development of a new system.

This leaves the following river site characteristics that affect the functional requirements of a direct-to-shore extraction mechanism:

A correlation matrix (see Appendix 20) is filled out by multiple employees of The Ocean Cleanup in order to find what characteristics are completely separate or unpredictable and what characteristics could be correlated and therefore grouped in one overarching characteristic. This grouping leads to the following overarching characteristics for deployment site categorization:

APPENDIX 4: SITE SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS DEFINITION

Besides technologies, the different situations and use cases have to be analysed. Since every river is different, it is important to focus on a certain type of site. Developing a system that can be used at all sites is unrealistic and would be more complex and expensive than it needs to be for most. Some characteristics that might make a system good for one site would even make it worse for others.

> Natural riverbanks are formed or made with a shallow angle in relation to the water surface (10-50°) [f], which makes it easier to access the water's edge on foot [d]. Natural shores are often made of softer natural materials like sand or clay [j] and have shallow water near the water's edge [i]. The horizontal [g] and vertical [h] distance from the water to the offloading site differs per site, however, the vertical distance is often smaller since the water does not only get higher but also wider due to the angle of the shore. This results in a much larger difference in volume with a relatively small vertical distance

Every potential deployment site can be described with certain parameters. In cooperation with engineers of the river team of The Ocean Cleanup, a list of river site characteristics is compiled. This list consists of characteristics that would affect what kind of system is needed if any. The full list can be found in appendix 19. Since this project focusses on extraction from a pool of already contained waste, the characteristics that only impact containment like river width and amount of traffic can be excluded. Next to that, there are some characteristics like land ownership or exposure to public opinion that might affect if a system is placed at a site, but won't affect the functional requirements for a direct-toshore system. Lastly, characteristics like accessibility by

Tidal/rainfall effects

Some characteristics are connected to each other with few to no exceptions, like tidal range [n], flow direction [o] and salinity [m]. These can all be grouped under tidal effects. Tides also effect flow speed [k] and consistency [I] since the direction and speed is constantly fluctuating. However, these characteristics can also be impacted by rainfall resulting in completely different situations. These characteristics [k,l] are part of tidal effects, but should also be considered outside of the tidal point of view.

River bank construction and total distance from the water to the offloading site

Other characteristics can be grouped together under river bank construction, which consists of two subgroups; constructed channels with steep shores and natural rivers with sloping shores.

Constructed channels with a steep angled shore in relation to the water surface (50-90°) [f] are made of hard materials like concrete or stones [j], have a small horizontal distance from the water to the offloading site [g], and relatively deep water near the water's edge in relation to the overall depth of the river [i]. The vertical distance from the water to the offloading site [h] depends on tidal effects or rainfall but is often large to prevent flooding which makes it harder to reach the water's edge on foot [d].

There are some exceptions, but based on the experience of The Ocean Cleanup, these groupings of characteristics can be made for a lot of streams. The river bank inclination and the horizontal/vertical distance from the water to the offload site can differ greatly, but the combination of these two can be used as an indication for the other characteristics.

River bank occupation [e] is also expected to be correlated with the riverbank construction since constructed channels are almost exclusively found in urbanised areas, while there are mainly natural shores in rural areas. However, there are a lot of natural shores in urbanised areas as well. The field research in Malaysia (Appendix 6) shows some prime examples of this. Due to the large amount of exceptions to this division, this characteristic does not seem to be a main indicator for other characteristics.

Amount and type of waste

The last group of characteristics all have to do with the waste. Amount of waste [a], waste composition [b], size of waste [c], and water quality [p].

The size and composition of the waste are often hard to estimate on the basis of other characteristics. The size of waste that reaches a barrier is partially impacted by flow speed and width of the stream but this can change with rainfall or per season. The waste composition can also change per season. A high percentage of plastics is preferable since a business model could be built around it. However, other anthropogenic waste (waste caused by humans) should also be extracted. So, only if there is a lot of natural organics mixed in with the waste, a more manual approach might be beneficial. Ultimately, it is best to design for as much variation in size and composition as possible and make changes in operations to accommodate for the site specific situation and seasonal differences.

Chemical waste or water quality is not clearly correlated with other characteristics. However, with the choice of materials it should be assumed that the water will contain some chemical pollution. Therefore it will not create different categories in the deployment sites.

The design should take these unpredictable characteristics into account no matter what. The amount of waste however, is an important factor to take into account since this could have a large impact on the use case.

Main characteristics for site categorization

All characteristics mentioned above impact the design requirements. However, the most important characteristics that can be used to classify sites in categories that might benefit from different solutions are the following:

- *Tidal/rainfall effects*
- *River bank inclination*
- *Total distance from the water to the offloading site*
- *Amount of waste*

a larger or faster mechanism, however, it could also lead to more frequent extraction with the same mechanism. This makes it harder to categorize external existing technologies based on these characteristics. The first step in categorization of existing technologies will rely on the characteristics that have the most direct and obvious impact on the physical appearance or technical aspects of a design, which are river bank inclination and distance from the water to the offloading site.

In Figure 29, the existing technologies are categorized based on river bank inclination and total distance from the water to the offloading site. The commercially available technologies have a blue circular border while the locally made/improved technologies have a yellow octagonal border.

APPENDIX 5: CATEGORIZATION OF EXISTING DIRECT-TO-SHORE EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGIES

As mentioned above, river sites can be categorized based on the four main characteristics. From these four characteristics, 24 different categories can be derived (3×2×2×2). Every characteristic is defined with two options, for example, high and low amount of waste. The only exception is tidal/rainfall effects since there are tidal rivers, non-tidal rivers, and rain dependant rivers. Of course, both tidal and non-tidal rivers can be heavily impacted by rainfall but in order to keep the smallest amount of categories, only the extremities are included. The differences in situation due to the amount of waste and tidal/rainfall effects can be addressed by changes in the design, but might also be addressed by operational changes. For example more waste can be extracted with

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If the locally developed/improved technologies are excluded, all existing direct-to-shore technologies are focussed on shores with a steep angle in relation to the water surface. When excluding locally developed solutions, there is a clear opportunity as visualised in Figure 30. The fact that there are only locally developed technologies found in this category during the analysis phase of this thesis shows that there is a need for it but that there are no commercially available solution that fits the use case or budget.

When looking at the amount of waste that can be extracted with the existing direct-to-shore technologies, all the commercially available technologies are physically capable of extracting large amounts of waste. The limiting factor is operational efficiency. If they are capable of extracting high amounts of waste, they can theoretically also be used to extract less. However, these technologies are too expensive to use on sites with a lower amount of waste. In order to be appealing for locations with less waste per site or an inconsistent waste stream, the price should be low or the mechanism should be able to service several sites in order to spread the cost. In Figure 31, the correlation between price and amount of waste they are deployed for is visualised. Since not all data is publicly available, some estimations had to be made.

The idea of developing a mobile extraction technology that can be used at multiple sites was received well within The Ocean Cleanup. There was no existing commercially available solution found in the analysis phase, meaning that it could be an interesting opportunity for The Ocean Cleanup.

Later on in the project, when researching solutions from other industries, there were some companies discovered that produce aquatic weed harvesters and weed cutters. Some of them also make pier/shore conveyors that can transport cargo from their weed harvesters to a truck. These conveyors are mobile and able to get wet, however they are not meant to extract water plants from the water. The weed harvester extracts the water plants and drops it on the pier/shore conveyor to transport it to the truck. This is most likely the reason why they are not used for waste extraction directly from the water.

APPENDIX 6: MALAYSIA RIVER SURVEY RESULTS

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TRIBUTARIE #1 PERSIARAN SERI JUNJUNG

What is the size of the trash? 5-50cm (polystyrene boxes are the largest items).

PET, Polystyrene foam, soft plastics, footballs, wood, water hyacinths, coconuts.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)?

About 50%.

What kind of vegetation is there?

Grass and low shrubbery.

Recommendations:

There is already a log boom deployed at this site. Currently they take it out by hand, however, the site would be perfect for a DTS system. Since there is not that much trash per tributary, this system could be driven around and used at different tributaries where trash is contained.

- 5. What is the width of the river at low tide? 17 meters.
- 7. What is the width of the river at high tide? 22 meters.
- 8. What is the flow speed (estimate) $0 m/s.$
- 9. Describe the flow of the river?

The location of the log boom could be improved to include one more water way. However, to do so it needs to be places on one shore where we don't know who it belongs to. It is a bit further away from the stairs, but with a DTS this is not that important anymore. The RORO bin can also be placed closer to the flood gate without issues.

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What kind of trash is there?

1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed?

Semi constructed. The shape is natural, but it is reinforced with stones and a metal mesh.

- 2. What material is the shore made of? Rocks and mesh on top of silty clay.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? Around 15°.
- 5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

No flow. Still slow flowing when flood gate is opened. Only after heavy rain will the flow speed be significant.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

Yes, verry good. The container standing there was about 8 meters from the water. Next to the container there is a road and a patch of flat ground.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

There is a well-maintained dirt road leading to the offload site. The site can be accessed by a small RORO truck (shown by the RORO bin that is placed at the site).

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Yes, quite a large build up.

TRIBUTARIE #2 JALAN KERAPU

- 1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed? Constructed with a natural mouth to the Klang.
- 2. What material is the shore made of? Concrete and hard reeds at the natural end.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Not visible, but probably silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? 90°.
- 5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed? Unknown.

6. What is the width of the river at low tide?

4 meters at the flood gate fanning out to about 20 meters natural shore before flowing into the Klang.

7. What is the width of the river at high tide?

4 meters at the flood gate fanning out to about 20 meters natural shore before flowing into the Klang.

8. What is the flow speed (estimate)

 $0 m/s.$

9. Describe the flow of the river?

The area before the flood gate is residential and hard to get to, so collecting it behind the flood gate at the connection to the Klang seems the best solution. There can be flow from the tributary if the flood gate is opened. Otherwise, there can be fast flowing water flowing past in the Klang resulting in some turbulent current in the section between the main river flow and the flood gate.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

No. Hard to get close to the water and there is no room for proper offloading.

- 11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment? Yes.
- 12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Mainly on the shore which seems to be washed up from the Klang with high high tide.

13. What kind of trash is there?

PET and some small foam takeout boxes.

14. What is the size of the trash?

10-20 cm.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)? No.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Dense bushes and trees with reeds at the waterside.

18. Recommendations:

If a Jamaican gully style solution can be placed in this river, this would be the best solution for this tributary. It is hard to get access at another way then from water, so collecting it at the junction would be preferred.

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TRIBUTARIE #3 JALAN PALEMBANG

Situation sketch **Situation sketch** Overview in relation to the Klang

1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed?

Semi constructed. One side is natural (the side with the JPS letters) and the other side is a straight drop supported with metal mesh. Behind the flood gate it's all natural.

- 2. What material is the shore made of? Silky clay and metal mesh on top on one side in front of the flood gate.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silky clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore?

15-20°.

With low water, the beginning can be steeper. On the other side the shore is about 90°.

5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

6. What is the width of the river at low tide?

20 meters before the flood gate and might be as low as 10 meters behind the flood gate (not every situation is observed). The flood gate itself is about 4 meters wide.

7. What is the width of the river at high tide?

21 meters before the flood gate and about 30 meters behind the flood gate.

8. What is the flow speed (estimate)

0 m/s when the flood gate is closed. Flow speed is dependent on rainfall and timing of opening the gate.

9. Describe the flow of the river?

Mostly static, only flowing when flood gate is opened and with heavy rain. Behind the flood gate, it is impacted by the high and low water from the river. However, current seems to not impact the area between the Klang and the flood gate a lot.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

There is a reasonable offloading location. Good road access and some semi-flat ground at 10 to 19 meters from the water. Dependant on muddiness the bin can be dropped 10 meter from the water or right next to the road at about 19 meters.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

Yes.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

It seems quite clean. Trash flux will probably be higher with rain. The area around the water seems well maintained and probably often cleaned.

13. What kind of trash is there? Mainly some PET bottles floating around.

14. What is the size of the trash?

10-20 cm.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)? No.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Grass and some low reeds at the water side.

19. Recommendations:

This site seems to be quite clean, but if it turns out it would be beneficial to contain and extract trash here, there are multiple options. A DTS system can be deployed before the flood gate. There is a basin where the 3 streams collect in where a barrier can be placed. Behind the flood gate, there is also a location where you can get to the water with the same system which is also good to reach with a truck. It could be treated as a gully and offloaded from the water. Finally there could be done some experimental technique to collect from the tributary and Klang at once. With a diagonal barrier behind the flood gate the trash from the tributaries could be directed to the right where it could be taken out with a DTS system. However, When trash flows from the Klang towards the flood gate, trash can be directed towards the other side. Here you can also collect it with the same modular DTS system.

TRIBUTARIE #4 JALAN MUHIBBAH

1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed?

Mixed. Natural at two access points and constructed at the centre drain and around the flood gate.

- 2. What material is the shore made of? Silty clay with some stones (10-100 cm).
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? 20-30° close to land. With low water the steep ending to the water could be around 60°.
- 5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

6. What is the width of the river at low tide?

4 meters (low low tide is a stream of 30 cm wide or even no water at all but the vegetation on the side of the riverbed stops at 4 meters wide suggesting water flowing there quite often).

7. What is the width of the river at high tide?

6m wide.

8. What is the flow speed (estimate)

When we were visiting the first time about 0.2 m/s. Second visit with a bit more water (about 0.4 m/s).

9. Describe the flow of the river?

Rain dependant (drainage). Only enough flow to move plastic after heavy rain.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

No obvious offloading location. There is room to place a container close to the road, but it is about 20-25 meters from the optimal containment location, crossing one of the streams completely. Small size offload would be possible with modular DTS system, however, it's a complex location.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

5m wide asphalt with small but annoying bumps. Light heavy like small RORO trucks can access the area.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Not that much since the visits were low tide, however, there was definitely some trash that was flooded through the second time we visited.

13. What kind of trash is there?

Polystyrene foam, PET, soft plastics, water hyacinths.

14. What is the size of the trash?

5-30cm (polystyrene boxes are the largest items).

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)?

About 30%.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Bushes and trees at river access. High grass and bushes at the tributaries.

20. Recommendations:

My recommendation for this site would be to not tackle it. It is a verry complex site with a lot of streams and poor access to the water. A trash fence and rake could be places just before the flood gate, however, the access needs to be improved to offload on top of the flood gate. The main access to the side is on the other side of one of the streams, meaning you have to cross a lot of water and land to offload. If this site needs to be tackled, it could be done on the Jamaica gully way.

TRIBUTARIE #5 KANDIS 1

- 1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed? Natural.
- 2. What material is the shore made of? Silty clay loam.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore?

10-15° at the water side, goes up to about 20-25° near the road.

5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

unknown

- 6. What is the width of the river at low tide? As low as 3 meters (estimated) before the flood gate and about 10 meters behind it.
- 7. What is the width of the river at high tide? 8 meters before the flood gate and up to 14 meters behind it.
- 8. What is the flow speed (estimate) Between 0 and 0.3 m/s.

9. Describe the flow of the river?

There is only flow from the tributary if the flood gate is opened. Otherwise, there can be fast flowing water flowing past in the Klang resulting in some turbulent current in the section between the main river flow and the flood gate.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

Yes. The river is quite far from the road so there needs to be a long-distance transportation method towards a container. Shortest distance is 10 meters but the optimal place to get access to the water is 26 meters from the road. A RORO truck could drop the bin from the road but the gras besides the road is not verry flat so it cannot be placed far from the road without some changes to the landscape. It would be quite inexpensive to regrade the area and create a location closer to the water where the truck can drop the bin off.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

Yes. The only way to get there is an unpaved road which is quite bumpy. However, the road is used for the large RORO trucks that collect the trash from the large log boom next to the tributary, so it doesn't seem to be an issue.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

There is no trash in the water. On the shore there is some trash but that could be washed up from the Klang or dumped at that location by locals.

13. What kind of trash is there?

PET, soft plastics like plastic bags, and polystyrene foam.

14. What is the size of the trash?

10-30 cm.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)? No.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Grass, weeds, and a few low bushes.

21. Recommendations:

This site could be tackled gully style. However, the access from land is also good. This means an angled barrier/boom can also be placed and the trash can be extracted on the side. Since there is a distance of 10 to 26 meters between the water and a place where a container can be placed (dependant on the location of extraction and route to the road), a long distance DTS can be used. This could be the same system as used at Persiaran Seri Junjung and Kandis 2 (the next chapter). Since all these locations are on the same side of the river and Kandis 1 and 2 are even next to each other. This system could be deployed in turn at these sites.

TRIBUTARIE #6 KANDIS 2

- 1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed? Natural apart from the concrete around the flood gate.
- 2. What material is the shore made of? Silty clay.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? 40-50°, quite steep but short drop-off.
- 5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

- 6. What is the width of the river at low tide? 8 meters.
- 7. What is the width of the river at high tide? 10 meters.
- 8. What is the flow speed (estimate) 0 m/s.
- 9. Describe the flow of the river? Static until flood gate is opened. Flow is dependent on rainfall.
- 10. Is there a good offloading location? Yes. Verry close to the road (you can place a RORO bin as close as 3 meters from the water)
- 11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

Yes.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

No, it seems quite free from trash before the flood gate. Behind the flood gate there is more trash which can also originate from the Klang.

13. What kind of trash is there?

PET bottles, plastic bags and polystyrene foam take out packages.

14. What is the size of the trash?

10-20 cm.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)?

No.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Grass and reeds.

22. Recommendations:

This site is quite easy to solve since the access is verry good, you can get verry close to the water and the infrastructure could even be linked in that of the Kandis log boom. The DTS system that can be used at Kandis 1 can also be used here. The barrier needs to be connected to the start of the concrete wall, leaving enough room for an extraction method on the patch of grass just before that.

TRIBUTARIE #7 JALAN MAT RAJI 1

- 1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed? Natural.
- 2. What material is the shore made of? Silty clay.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? 40-50°.
- 5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

6. What is the width of the river at low tide?

2 meters.

7. What is the width of the river at high tide?

4 meters in the tributary before the merge of the last flow, 7 meters wide 'basin' before the flood gate.

8. What is the flow speed (estimate)

0 m/s.

9. Describe the flow of the river?

When we were there, it was quite dry so no current at all. However, it might flow with rain and the flood gate opened.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

At the beginning there is. Later, one extra water way merges so if you want to catch as much trash as possible you want to contain and extract there. However, then the truck needs to drive over grass for about 200 meters. It is verry flat and seems meant for a car, but some road upgrades might be necessary.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

For the first possible offload site it is. The second needs some work to make it suitable. Maybe a small RORO truck can drive there as it is, but with rain or ware it seems best to lay down gravel for example.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Yes. Since it's quite small, it seems unlikely that a lot of trash flows through this tributary, but there was quite some washed up trash on the banks.

13. What kind of trash is there?

Plastic bottles, plastic bags, and polystyrene take out containers.

14. What is the size of the trash?

10-20 cm.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)?

No.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

(High) grass and reeds.

23. Recommendations:

This tributary is not verry easy to access at the end. You can reach it with a DTS in the beginning at the side of the road, but further from the road and closer to the Klang it might be difficult to get to with a truck when the grass is wet. Since there is another tributary joining close to the Klang it seems strange to extract the trash before that. Besides that, Jalan Mat Raji 2 is right next to this tributary while there is probably another DTS technology needed for this one (see next chapter). This would make it way more logical to solve both tributaries at the same time with one Jamaican gully style barrier at the connection to the Klang.

TRIBUTARIE #8 JALAN MAT RAJI 2

- 1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed? Constructed. High quay.
- 2. What material is the shore made of? Concrete.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Concrete.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? 90°.
- 5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed? Unknown. Probably squared off concrete at the constructed portion. After that it transitions in an unknown natural shape.
- 6. What is the width of the river at low tide? 9 meters.
- 7. What is the width of the river at high tide? 9 meters.
- 8. What is the flow speed (estimate) 0.2 m/s.

9. Describe the flow of the river?

Will flow faster with rain. There is no flood gate since the whole tributary is constructed of concrete to be able to handle the high and low tide.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

The same location as Jalan Mat Raji 1 can be used. However, since there is a large vertical difference between high and low water, the steep quay needs a specific direct to shore solution. Another option might be closing off the mouth (Jamaica gully style) and get it out with an interceptor tender from the Klang.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

Same roads as Jalan Mat Raji 1.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Only some small bits and pieces. Might be a lot after heavy rainfall.

13. What kind of trash is there?

Some bottles and plastic bags.

14. What is the size of the trash?

5-20 cm.

- 15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)? No.
- 16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Grass.

24. Recommendations:

Since there is no flood gate at the end of this tributary, there is a large height difference between low and high water. This makes it not verry suitable for a DTS system even though you can get really close to the shore with the road. The vertical drop is just quite large. Catching it at the connection to the Klang seems more logical. Both Jalan Mat Raji 1 and 2 can be contained with one barrier. Tis barrier is however only accessible from the water.

TRIBUTARIE #9 JALAN SENANGIN

1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed?

Constructed around the drain exits. It flows through a natural riverbed before meeting the flood gate. This natural bank is very uneven and jagged.

- 2. What material is the river bed shore made of? Concrete and loam.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Silky clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore?

90° (at least on the constructed sides where the drain exits. This location has the most potential for containment and extraction which will be explained in the recommendation).

5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

Concrete squared off in the relevant location.

- 6. What is the width of the river at low tide? 5 meters.
- 7. What is the width of the river at high tide? 5 meters.
- 8. What is the flow speed (estimate) 0 m/s at the time of visit.

9. Describe the flow of the river?

It is the exit of a storm drain so it only flows after heavy rain.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

Yes. Above the drain exits, there is a good spot on the side of the road to park a truck that can lift trash up and load it onto the truck.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

Yes.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Yes, there is some trash.

13. What kind of trash is there?

Plastic bottles and bags.

14. What is the size of the trash?

10-30 cm.

15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)?

No.

16. What kind of vegetation is there?

Grass, bushes, and trees around the natural riverbed.

25. Recommendations:

This tributary would be perfect for drain trash nets.

There is a good location above the drains to lift them out. Easy access and cheap to install. Going another route on this location would be illogical.

TRIBUTARIE #10 JALAN SELUANG

- 1. Is the riverbed natural or constructed? Constructed before the flood gate and natural behind it.
- 2. What material is the shore made of? Concrete or silty clay.
- 3. What material is the riverbed made of? Concrete or silty clay.
- 4. What is the angle of the shore? 90° before the flood gate and 10-40° behind it.

5. What is the estimated cross section of the riverbed?

The bottom is made from concrete so it is probably quite flat. Some broken off slabs were lifted up that could be seen sticking out at low water so nothing can be assumed.

- 6. What is the width of the river at low tide? 28 meters.
- 7. What is the width of the river at high tide? 28 meters before the flood gate and there are parts behind it that widen to 40 or even 70 meters.

8. What is the flow speed (estimate)

0 m/s. The Flood gate was closed. Behind the flood gate there also seemed to be little flow. The rise and drop of the water level in the river influences the flow, however, the current in the river seems to have little effect on this area close to the flood gate.

9. Describe the flow of the river?

It is made for a lot of drainage, so the current can be high when there is a lot of rain.

10. Is there a good offloading location?

Yes. Wide flat grass areas on each side before the flood gate. Behind the flood gate it is harder to get to and will need to be done some construction/changes to the area in order to access it.

11. Are the roads suited for heavy equipment?

The roads are large and relatively well maintained. To get to the offload side there is a ramp down from the road. However, around the river there is grass which might not be optimal for heavy vehicles. With some easy changes it could be very suited. Behind the flood gate there is no clear route to the water side, so this should be constructed if there needs to be extracted on that side.

12. Is there trash in the tributary?

Barely. Some plastic bottles on the surface of the water.

13. What kind of trash is there?

PET bottles.

- 14. What is the size of the trash? 10-20 cm.
- 15. Is there a lot of biological trash (plants)? No.
- 16. What kind of vegetation is there? Well maintained grass.

26. Recommendations:

An angled barrier can be placed before the flood gate in this tributary to direct the trash towards one shore. A system like the DESMI rise can be used to get it on the shore where a RORO truck can get to via the ramp to drop and pick up a bin.

Another option might be to place a system that can trap the trash from both sides behind the flood gate. This could be a location to test systems that can catch up and down stream trash. However, my advice would be to stay before the flood gate since this area is already quite good for extraction and offloading.

 $\prime\prime\prime$

Placing the bin further away from the water is rarely an issue, closer to it is not always possible. The bin can sometimes be placed right next to the water, only needing to transport the trash 3 to 4 meters. More often, the trash needs to be transported about 8 to 10 meters and for some locations even up to 28 meters. Some distances might be too large to cover in the scope of this project, but if longer distances than 10 meters need to be accommodated for, other solutions may be advantageous.

Keep the concept as low tech (but high impact) as possible. More moving parts means more points where it can break down. Issues with interceptor belt shows harsh circumstances.

Keep it cheap to keep the entry threshold low. Makes it more attractable for third parties to clean the rivers using this technology.

Local manufacturing would keep cost down and stimulate local involvement and economy.

APPENDIX 7: MAIN FINDINGS FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH (EX)-OPERATORS IN MALAYSIA

- *Since there are a lot of tributaries, the extraction device needs to be easy to transport, set up, and break down in order to use the same device for multiple tributaries. This saves a lot of cost and reduces the risk of being stolen or vandalized. The system is only deployed when extraction is needed. This can be once a week or once a month depending on the rainfall and amount of waist.*
- *Every situation is different so the more modular/ adaptable the better.*
- *In order to set up an efficient infrastructure the extraction needs to be executed by a company that does not contract out different parts of the operations but does it all in-house.*

APPENDIX 8: SELECTION CRITERIA SURVEY

Name:

The extraction technology is meant for small scale extraction of contained waste. It is to be used by local operations in small streams (think around 20 meters wide) with a natural shore that has an angle between 10 and 50 degrees relative to the water surface. Due to the relatively low amount of waste per extraction site, a single device will be developed to be used at multiple sites (like the Interceptor Tender but than on land), thus it needs to be easy to transport between sites and suitable for different sites with varying angles.

The following criteria will be used to select what extraction methods have the most potential in the following use scenario:

The first criterium is used as example. Since it is of high importance in order to make the final design desirable and viable in the intended use case, it scores a 5 out of 5.

In the right column you can tick the box if the criteria was especially difficult to rate importance.

APPENDIX 9: RESULTS OF SELECTION CRITERIA SURVEY

APPENDIX 10: FINAL IMPORTANCE SCORE OF SELECTION CRITERIA

In order of importance:

-
-
-
-
-

In alphabetical order:

MATRIX FILLED IN FOR FINAL CONCEPTSCORE OF SELECTION

CRITERIA

In the matrix on the on the next two pages, the green combinations could be solved with the final design and could therefore be included in the final deployment options. Some scenarios require an add-on, like the semipermanent stand, which allow for more versatility without compromising the design for other deployment scenarios. The orange scenarios are theoretically possible but are not included in the scope for this thesis in order to focus on the most realistic scenarios to start with.

 $\prime\prime\prime$

APPENDIX 12: WASTE COMPOSITION AND WEIGHT-VOLUME RATIO DEFINITION

The weight per $m³$ of waste is highly dependent on the composition of set waste. If there is a lot of organic waste it is much heavier than if it mainly consists of plastics. The interceptor classics weigh their waste when dumped in the dumpsters to not overload the system. The limit each dumpster can hold has to be monitored and altered in the first weeks of use in a certain area since volume can also be the limiting factor of the system. The top conveyor should not be able to hit the waste when moving over the dumpsters. So for areas with a lot of light but voluminous objects this maximum weight per dumpster needs to be adjusted. In the interceptor 2.0, the barge with containers has a total volume of 42m3 and is filled up to about 38m3. This 38m3 weighs around 6,75 metric tonnes resulting in an average weight of 178kg/m3. (Personal communication, 2023) However, when the waste would consist of only PET bottles filled with air it would weigh around 30-35kg/ $m³$. This is never the case since about 40% of the PET bottles extracted are partially filled with mud or other dirty substances making them ineligible for recycling (Personal communication, 2023). Next to that, there is a lot of different kinds of waste mixed. When operators are present and able to separate part of the natural organic waste from the other waste before it gets extracted the weight per cubic meter would go down but for this design case, the weight that needs to be extracted is estimated to be between 100 and 200kg/m³. When designing an extraction mechanism, the design should be able to handle the worst case which is the heaviest load of 200kg/m³.

Sungai watch operates in rivers where a mobile extraction technology could be useful. It is stated in their 2022 impact report (source) that their barriers catch 2 to 200kg of non-organic waste per day. This is dry waste but the waste that needs to be extracted is wet. At the Interceptor 004 in the Dominican Republic for example,

the wet weight of the extracted waste is 10 times the weight of the dry plastic waste after sorting (Personal communication, 2023). With this in mind, in a use case like Sungai Watch, the total weight of wet waste can vary between 20 to 2.000kg per day.

The first criteria to look at if a river site could benefit from a modular extraction mechanism is the amount of waste that flows by. A site with a large amount of waste (>5.000kg per day) would benefit from daily clean-up or even 24/7 extraction. In this case it might be worth the time and money to install a permanent extraction mechanism that is designed for that specific site. For sites with a small amount of waste flowing through (<500kg per day), manual clean-up will be advantageous to placing mechanical extraction mechanisms. In this case the cost of the machine or the time to set it up would not be worth the possible impact. It would be cheaper and easier to buy good quality protective gear and clean it manually. The sites with a medium amount of waste (500-5.000kg a day) could benefit from a mobile extraction mechanism. Since the interval of extraction can be based on the amount of waste, all these sites can be serviced when between 5.000 and 20.000kg has accumulated.

5.000kg of waste with a weight of 150kg/m³ is approximately 33m³. Since the waste is spread out over the surface of the water it can also be expressed in m² with a height of 15cm. 15cm is taken as an average height of the floating waste since some objects create a floating layer of 10cm thick while other objects are 20cm high. There is an occasional polystyrene box of 50cm high but overall 15cm would be a good estimate. This 5.000kg of waste would accumulate to a waste patch of around 220m². 20.000kg of waste would float on the water as a patch of around 900m².

Adding a PP plate of 2mm thick adds vertical rigidity but buckles sideways to a total distance of 8.8mm as can be seen in the following figure.

APPENDIX 13: FRAME CONSTRUCTION COMPARISON

Appendix 13: Frame construction comparison

Sides and bottom from one plate of sheet metal with tubes around the edges for reinforcement After making a representative SolidWorks model, it quickly became apparent that this construction becomes very heavy in order to get the required s�ffness, therefore it was eliminated.

Two ladder trusses with welded connection braces in the middle and bottom In order to get the required stiffness and height for the whole belt including flights with off the shelf components, a ladder truss seemed like a good solution. It was expected to be cheaper than welding something from scratch, however a 4m long ladder truss generally costs somewhere between the 180 and 300 euro. The cheapest found was €155 excl. BTW while the materials on its own cost around the €100 excl. BTW. Depending on where it is manufactured, the welding costs would make the difference. Since off the shelf trusses need to be modified with all the cross braces, axis mounting plates, and accessories, it seems to make a minimal difference. Thus making a completely custom frame would be similar in price but allows for extra design freedom.

Aluminium construction profiles connected with angle brackets These aluminium extrusion profiles are available in several different standardized sizes. Through an iterative process of *Finite Element Analyses in SolidWorks, each type of profile* was *analysed in order to find a balance between cost, strength, and weight.*

A snippet of this iterative process is added below.

Starting at 20x20 profiles different constructions were tested in order to find one that is as light as possible while being strong enough to carry multiple trash bags of 30kg. Even with 9 vertical standers and just one trash bag in the middle, the deflection is 17mm.

The post of the country in the company of the

Doubling the top and bottom stretcher would almost double the weight (from 4.6kg to 8kg) while still deflecting 7.9mm as can be seen in the next figure.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

51 52

By adding the 2mm PE plate again, the displacement is deflected sideways with a maximum of 2,2mm. By adding bracing between the two sides, the outwards deflection is minimized to 0,5mm as can be seen below.

Depending on the type of belt it will be supported by a fully closed plate, rollers, or sliding strips. The closed plate and sliding strips would be supported by the cross braces. A more realistic scenario would be a force distributed over one of the braces since they support the belt. By placing a force of 350N on the centre cross brace (50N is added due to the weight of the belt itself) the displacement is as follows:

ame: 20x20 aluminium ladde
me: Static 1(-Default-)
:: Static displacement Displa s Static displacem
Thomacale: 470.370

 $\mathcal{P} \mathcal{P} \not\cong \mathcal{C} \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P} \otimes \mathcal{P} \mathcal{P} \oplus \mathcal{P$

centre cross brace displaces 0,9mm and the rest of the construction displaces 0,6mm or less. vever, when it is exposed to sideways forces, the frame buckles 1.5mm inwards.

e this is still with the minimum weight scenario of one trash bag, it was chosen to explore one) up, 30x30 aluminium profiles. In this case, when the same test is executed as the initial test for 20x20 profiles and 300N is placed in the middle vertically down, the displacement is 6.3mm ead of the 17 of the 20x20 profiles.

ame: 30x30 constructie
me: Static 1{-Default-)
: Static displacement Displacement1
ition scale: 64,0057

By using a 30×60 profile at the top and botom, the displacement is reduced to 3mm. However the ght increases up to a point where it's comparable with the 40×40 structure. Each side becomes when 7 vertical profiles are used. The complete structure with 7 vertical profiles per side and 10 is braces weighs 33kg. While the 40×40 structure is 12.4kg per side with 5 vertical profiles just 5 is braces have to be added to create a stiffer structure resulting in 28.7kg in total.

is manner, a lot of different options were tested against each other. Also with triangles at the is for example. In that case the decision has to be made if the inconvenience of having angles in design, which propagate throughout the whole structure, is worth the extra stiffness. Especially 1 aluminium construction profiles, it will affect all the cross braces and therefore belt support e the profiles can only be connected in one way with the available brackets.

se considerations were done until the 40x40 profiles were chosen in a ladder fashion as can also been in the final design. It could handle more force than required but for such a prototype, it's ter to go too strong than too weak, which seems to be a good decision since the overall weight t increasing during the process, resulting in the need for an extra strong structure.

APPENDIX 14: BELT TYPES COMPARISON

Plastic linked conveyor

fablink-md25.4PR^%48 \rightarrow Weight: 4,2kg/m² \rightarrow 4m long (about 8,5 back and forth) and 60cm wide \approx 5,1 m^2 ≈ 21kg

Ashworth prestoflex 55% open \rightarrow Weight: 3,27kg/m² \rightarrow 4m long (about 8,5 back and forth) and 60cm wide ≈ 5.1 m² ≈ 16.67 kg

FabLink-EC25.4.PR%16: 5,1×4,7≈24kg FabLink-MD50.8.FG: 5,1×7,2≈36,7kg

Advice on specific belt type is required to make a proper dicision. There are reasonably light versions, but are they strong enough.

Weight: 6,98 kg/m at a width of 813mm $\rightarrow \pm$ 59,3kg (8,5×6,98) for a full 4 meter long conveyor of Ashworths omni-flex belt

Pros and cons

- + Allows water to flow through
- + Low maintenance
- + Easy repair
- Modularity with attachments like flights
- + Misalignment is less of a problem
- − Weight
- − Strength (dependant on the belt stype)
- − Clogging (sides need tob e property closed off to prevent clogging)
- + Allows for drainage with laser cut holes (this reduces the strength and stability and increases the price)
- − Stops water flow if no holes are cut
- − Misalignment or dirt build up causes belt to dri� and wear down fast
- One piece means once it gets damaged, the whole belt needs to be replaced

Metal mesh conveyor

- + Allows for drainage
- + Allows for water to flow through
- + Weight
- − Strength
- No repairability options

Initial belt requirements

Pros and cons

- + Strength
- + Modularity with atachments like flights
- − **WEIGHT**
- − Not easy to repair
- − Price
- − Clogging same issue as modular plas�c belt

Rubber conveyor

Pros and cons

- − Does not allow for drainage
- − Stops water flow
- − Misalignment or dirt build up causes belt to dri� and wear down fast
- − One piece means once it gets damaged, the whole belt needs to be replaced

Fabric conveyor

PE, PU, PVC, or silicone, coated belts.

Different types of layered or coated materials to reach certain requirements.

Pros and cons

Gauze belt

Pros and cons

- Waterproof
- UV-resistant
- Water permeable?
- ±60 cm wide 4 meters long
- Can carry 30kg on a 40×40cm surface (so should be able to carry 300 kg spread out over the whole belt)
- Can transport large variety of waste including branches (puncture resistance)
- Does not add a lot of weight
- Price reasonable for added value
- Repairable or cheap to replace

Taking all the information and advise from experts into account, the modular plastic link belt seemed like an interesting idea to test.

APPENDIX 15: MOTOR POWER CALCULATIONS

The sprocket has a diameter of 107.37mm and the belt modules are 16mm thick. This means that if we want to calculate the speed of the top of the belt, we have to calculate with a radius of $\frac{107.37}{2}$ + $16 = 69.7$ mm.

A full rotation of the motor would mean that the belt moves 0.438m (69.7 $*$ 2 π). For the speed of 0.1m/s as stated in the requirements, the motor should turn at approximately $\frac{0.1*60}{0.438} = 13.7$ RPM.

RPM motor

If 4 trash bags of 30kg are simultaneously transported the total weight will be 120kg. If the conveyor is used at its minimal angle of 10° the normal force is calculated as follows: $Fn = m * g * \cos(\alpha)$

 $120 * 9.81 * cos(10) = 1.159N$

This speed is chosen to be the same as used on the Interceptor Original to allow for water drainage during transportation. Ideally the motor can be set to different speeds from 10 up to 50 RPM (or even up to 100RPM) in order to test different speeds. This would result in a belt speed of 0.1m/s to 0.3m/s.

The situation where most force is exerted on the belt instead of the cross braces is with the maximum angle of 50°. At this situation the tensile strength of the belt is of importance. If these same 4 bags are placed on the conveyor, the total force - the normal force is pulling on the belt.

 $120 * 9.81 - 120 * 9.81 * cos(50) = 1,177 - 756 = 421N$

Maximum normal force

Tensile stress

As first estimation, 912N can be taken as maximum force against the direction of the motor rotation due to gravitational pull. Due to friction between the belt and the support strips, a total force of around 1,000N can be estimated. With an arm of 0.0697m, this results in a torque of 69.7Nm (since τ=r×F).

A motor that can handle a torque of **80Nm** should be able to handle all situations in a realistic use scenario.

These calculations are compared with the results of a belt conveyor motor sizing tool from Oriental Motor which can be found in Appendix 25. The results are relatively close with a torque of 76Nm. However with an added safety factor of 1.5 it becomes 114Nm.

For the proof of principle prototype a motor rated for 80Nm is used since this was readily available. However, in the case of further development or production, a motor that can handle more is advised.

In case a bag rolls over a flight and lands on the next one, we can assume it falls over a distance of 0.5m. If the deformation distance of the bag is 10cm and the flight deflects about 2cm while absorbing the force, the average force exerted on the belt during the crash can be calculated as follows:

$$
F_{avg} = \frac{m * g * h}{d}
$$

$$
\frac{30 * 9.81 * 0.5}{0.12} = 1,226N
$$

In the static scenario, about 60% of the force is absorbed by the cross braces as can be seen in the calculations earlier. If the same can be said about falling objects, the tensile stress on the belt is in this scenario $1,226 * 0.4 = 491N$.

If both scenarios are combined the total tensile strength of the belt should be above $421 + 491 =$ $912N$.

Torque

For the torque we combine the force with the radius of the sprocket. For the maximum torque we have to assume all the force is placed on the ends of the flights increasing this radius with 50mm.

Required motor power

Belt length = $4.0m$ Radius sprocket + belt thickness = 69.7 mm (see RPM calculations) Total length = $2 \times 4 + 69.7 * 2\pi = 8.4m$ Belt width $= 0.6m$ Belt density = $8.4kg/m^2$ Belt weight = $Total length * Bell width * Bell density = 8.4 * 0.6 * 8.4 = 42.3 kg$ Load weight = $120.0kg$ Total weight = $load$ weight + $belt$ weight = 120.0 + 42.3 = 162.3 kg Friction coefficient $PE - \text{Alu} = 0.2$ Required belt pull = Total weight + Friction coefficient = $162.3 * 0.2 = 32.5$ kg Linear speed = $0.1m/s = 6.0m/min$ Height = Belt length \ast sin(α) = 4 × sin(50) = 3.06m Gravity pull = $Total weight/Bell$ length $* Height = 162.3/4.0 * 3.06 = 124.2 kg$ Total pull = Required belt pull + Gravity pull = $32.5 + 124.2 = 156.7$ kg Required power = Total pull $*$ Linear speed = 156.7 $*$ 6.0 = 940.2kg $*$ m/min Required power in Watts = Required power/60 = $15.7W$

APPENDIX 16: BUOYANCY FORCE CALCULATIONS

Wheels

Beach wheels

The beach wheels (as shown on the right) closely resemble the shape of a torus, so for these calculations the following equation can be used.

 $V = 2 * \pi^2 * r^2 * R$

 $V =$ volume r = radius of the red circle $R =$ radius of the pink circle

To calculate the buoyancy of wheels, the volume of air that is contained in these wheels needs to be calculated. Wheels can be simplified to either a flat cylinder with a cylindrical cut-out in the centre or a torus.

This can be rewritten to an equation that is dependent on the inner radius (R_i) and outer radius (R_o) of the torus:

$$
V = 2 * \pi^{2} * (R_{o} - R_{i})^{2} * \left(\frac{(R_{o} - R_{i})}{2} + R_{i}\right)
$$

Two possible sizes of beach wheels are 42 and 49 cm in diameter. The inner diameter is estimated with the following pictures. Since these pictures are not taken perfectly straight on from the centre and there is most likely camera distortion, it's a rough estimate. However, it gives an indication for the buoyancy. The figures are shown on 1/10 scale where the outer diameters (green) are 4.2 and 4.9 cm. The inner diameters (blue) are 1.23 and 1.17. It is not unlikely that the wheels are produced with the same inner diameter, resulting in an average of 12cm In full scale.

Using these measurements as input for the equation the volume of the 49cm wheel is approximately 0.026 m^3 and the volume of the 42cm wheel is around 0.015 m^3 .

The buoyant force can be calculated with the following equation:

$B = \rho * V * q$

B = buoyant force ρ = density of the liquid V = volume of displaced liquid $g =$ gravitational acceleration

Water has a density of approximately 1kg/m^3 . Since the river water will not be pure water, it will be slightly heavier (sea water for example has a density around 1.025kg/m3). For these calculations 1kg/ $m³$ will be precise enough. For the gravitational acceleration 9.81 is used.

If buoys /fenders are added on the sides instead (cylinders with a diameter of 15cm and a length of 50cm filled with air), it would result in an extra buoyancy force of 693N resulting in a max total weight of 70kg extra. Having two on each side would result in a maximum total weight of 140kg. Since the conveyor is also supported on the shore, this should be enough during operation.

When the complete wheels are submerged, the buoyant force will be 255N for the 49cm wheel and 147N for the 42cm wheel. Since the conveyor will have two wheels, with the 49cm wheels, the maximum total weight is around 52kg. With the 42cm wheels it is 30kg.

Wheelbarrow wheels

In contrast to beach wheels, large wheelbarrow wheels are 40cm in diameter and 10cm wide. In this case, the torus shaped inner tube has a volume of around 0.0074 $m³$ which results in a buoyant force of 73N. This would mean that with two wheels, the maximum total weight of the conveyor is approximately 15kg. However, these wheels are widely available around the world and cost around €20 per tire. For that reason it is better to double up these wheels than choose for the 42cm beach wheel. When two are mounted on each side of the conveyor, the maximum total weight of the conveyor would be 30kg, just like the 42cm beach wheels.

Extra floaters

Polystyrene blocks

Blocks of polystyrene can be added between the frame to make it more buoyant. If a 80×30×4cm block is added on either side, it adds a buoyancy force of 188N resulting in a max total volume of 19kg extra.

Fenders

Inflatable

Smaller fenders of 12cm and a height of around 35cm would allow for a maximum weight of 15kg per fender. Four of these fenders can keep 60kg afloat.

Foam

Flat foam fenders can be used for a cleaner look. A block of 65×24×8cm is 767 gram, meaning it has a density of approximately 61.5kg/m³. According to Archimedes' principle, this would add a buoyant force of 122N per plate. With four of these plates in total, it can keep around 48kg afloat which is not enough. Even after adding 8, it's enough for the belt alone, but it might dip under too much when waste is extracted.

APPENDIX 17: MATERIAL AND PRICE LIST OF FINAL PROTOTYPE

APPENDIX 18: ORIGINAL PROJECT BRIEF

Procedural Checks - IDE Master Graduation

Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

Please state the title of your graduation project (above) and the start date and end date (below). Keep the title compact and simple. Do not use abbreviations. The remainder of this document allows you to define and clarify your graduation project.

start date $\begin{array}{ccc} 07 & - & 11 & - & 2022 \end{array}$ 22 05 - 2023 22 05 2023

project title

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INTRODUCTION **

Please describe, the context of your project, and address the main stakeholders (interests) within this context in a concise yet main opportunities and limitations you are currently aware of (cultural- and social norms, resources (time, money,...), technology, ...).

space available for images / figures on next page

Design of a direct-to-shore modular extractor of plastic from rivers

The ocean is polluted with a large quantity of plastic waste, resulting in a negative impact on people and planet in the short and long term. Most of this plastic gets into the ocean by the means of rivers that flow through highly polluted areas around the world. The Ocean Cleanup aims to get the ocean plastic free again by actively removing it from the ocean and by filtering it out of the rivers before it flows into the ocean.

One of the technologies that The Ocean Cleanup uses for this is the Interceptor Original; a solution that filters and extracts the plastic in the middle of a river where the containers are picked up and brought to the shore by smaller boats. This offloading method is highly dependent on the tides, meaning that the Interceptor Original can only be offloaded on specific moments which greatly reduces the overall collecting capacity. Besides the limitations of the offloading method, the current Interceptor Original can only collect on certain large rivers that are accessible via the water from a harbour nearby.

Another technology from The Ocean Cleanup is called the Interceptor Tender, which is a human controlled boat with which they can collect trash from behind a barrier at the mouth of smaller rivers or gullies and offload at the harbour. This leaves the opportunity for a technology in smaller rivers that can transport the trash directly onto the shore where it can be taken away. Reducing the need for a harbour nearby since there are no boats needed to pick up the trash. If it can be lowered in the river from the shore it can be used in locations where access from the sea is limited by low bridges, shallow areas, or height differences. Besides that, it allows for less downtime in between offloads, increasing efficiency.

 $\frac{1}{2}$ dv overview /// 2018-01 v30 $\frac{1}{2}$ Page 4 of 7 Design of a direct-to-shore modular extractor of plastic from rivers

The Ocean Cleanup has developed two solution spaces in cooperation with Spark Design and Innovation where they want to move forward with. One is similar to solutions other companies use, with a long rigid conveyor belt which works well in certain situations. The other one, which is used as starting point for this project, is the idea of segmented conveyor belts that can be connected to whatever length needed and lowered into the water from the shore. These segments can float on the water or lay on dry land, giving it a lot of versatility and flexibility with tides.

The main stakeholder for this project is The Ocean Cleanup. However, since Spark Design and Innovation will eventually be working on the other solution, so it might be interesting to also stay in contact with them in order to make the most impact with these two new technologies. Other stakeholders to keep in mind are collaborative organisations, manufacturers, local municipalities, and residents of the neighbourhoods where the design could be deployed. For example, since The Ocean Cleanup is a non-profit foundation, the technology should not only work but also attract some positive attention. Attention to get more funding, but also to show the world that structural changes need to be made. Getting this attention should however not make it intrusive for the residents that live nearby.

As with a lot of The Ocean Cleanup's projects, it is easier to get local cooperation and permits if it is advertised as a temporary installation. This means that the design should be for example anchored down with a system that is minimal invasive. The system itself should be designed to function under harsh conditions like high forces and salt or even toxic water. However, the weight should also be taken into account in order to make the user scenario as pleasant as possible when it is deployed or while in use. Next to all these considerations, environmental impact of the materials, manufacturability, and recyclability should be taken into account. The aim of the project is creating an integral design by finding a balance between the factors mentioned above and more.

introduction (continued): space for images

image / figure 1: Current extraction and containment solutions for rivers from The Ocean Cleanup

Solution spaces

Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

image / figure 2: Two new solution spaces for The Ocean Cleanup's portfolio (the right one is the focus of this project)

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PROBLEM DEFINITION **

Limit and define the scope and solution space of your project to one that is manageable within one Master Graduation Project of 30 EC (= 20 full time weeks or 100 working days) and clearly indicate what issue(s) should be addressed in this project.

ASSIGNMENT **

State in 2 or 3 sentences what you are going to research, design, create and / or generate, that will solve (part of) the issue(s) pointed out in "problem definition". Then illustrate this assignment by indicating what kind of solution you expect and / or aim to deliver, for instance: a product, a product-service combination, a strategy illustrated through product or product-service combination ideas, In case of a Specialisation and/or Annotation, make sure the assignment reflects this/these.

In the introduction, the limitations of the current solutions have been discussed. During the project I will be focusing on designing a system that can fill this gap in the market and The Ocean cleanup's portfolio of River solutions; a solution for smaller hard to access rivers, to extract trash from the water and offload onto the shore.

The scope of the project will be designing the conveyor-belt elements for rivers with a natural riverbank with a slope up to 50 degrees. Quaysides (high vertical shores) are not within the scope of this project since there are already solutions out there that seem to be a better fit. Containment of the trash before extraction can be done with different types of barriers, upstream or downstream, but this project focuses on extraction itself from the place that the plastic is already concentrated in the water.

Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

Research on potential locations where it could be deployed will be done to get knowledge about the possible use cycle of the design including setting up, extracting plastic in different scenarios, and repairing/removing the device. The research about setting up or removing the device and the infrastructure after the plastic gets on the shore will be limited. For example, how wires or barriers should be pre-tensioned can be made into a whole research on its own and differs per deployment location. For this project, it will be taken into account to make sure the concept is plausible but the final development and testing of details can be done once the proof of principle seems to have enough potential. Besides the contextual and technological research, the goal is to design an extraction intervention and make a prototype to test with.

Design a proof of principle for a small direct-to-shore plastic extraction solution while keeping usability of the design, technical transportation solutions, stability, and efficiency with currents and tides in mind.

The ideation will focus on the conveyor-belt system, floaters, and anchoring method, after which concepts will be made to execute tests based on factors like function, usability, or manufacturability. After working out the final concept, a proof of principle prototype will be made to test in scale or full size. The research and proof of principle design will show if such a solution is feasible in the context of small rivers with parameters like natural/slow rising shore lines.

PLANNING AND APPROACH **

project, deliverables you have in mind, meetings, and how you plan to spend your time. Please note that all activities should fit within the given net time of 30 EC = 20 full time weeks or 100 working days, and your planning should include a kick-off meeting, mid-term meeting, green light meeting and graduation ceremony. Illustrate your Gantt Chart by, for instance, explaining your approach, and please indicate periods of part-time activities and/or periods of not spending time on your graduation project, if any, for instance because of holidays or parallel activities.

I will be working on the project for four days a week in order to work as student assistant on the fifth day. I split up the project in several phases. I will be diverging in the discovery phase, converging in the Definition phase, diverging again during the ideation phase, and converging in the conceptualization and validation phase. I end with the finalization phase to finalize the design and the prototype, finish the report, and prepare for the final presentation. I planned several reporting weeks spread out over the course of the project and three buffer weeks for if something takes longer than expected.

Personal Project Brief - IDE Master Graduation

MOTIVATION AND PERSONAL AMBITIONS

Explain why you set up this project, what competences you want to prove and learn. For example: acquired competences from your MSc programme, the elective semester, extra-curricular activities (etc.) and point out the competences you have yet developed. Optionally, describe which personal learning ambitions you explicitly want to address in this project, on top of the learning objectives of the Graduation Project, such as: in depth knowledge a on specific subject, broadening your competences or experimenting with a

FINAL COMMENTS

My goal was to find a graduation project with which I can create something meaningful. The Ocean Cleanup is the perfect company to achieve this. I believe that the project is perfectly suited for a graduation project because I can showcase a lot of skills I have learned during my studies. The final goal is an integral design to show a brief but comprehensive overview of all these skills. Ending with a physical prototype gives me the opportunity to further develop and show my existing prototyping abilities.

Besides showing what I have already learned, I would like to further develop a structured working method. Including reporting, planning and managing project stakeholders. I expect this to be the main hurdle in such a large individual project. Besides that, I have the tendency to overdo things, focus too much on the details, ignore signs of exhaustion and just keep going in order to get the best result. So, that would also be a reason to prioritize the work and stick to the schedule as much as possible. Not only the global schedule, but also stick to the daily allocated hours, keeping mental health in mind.

Part of the structured working method entails keeping up with reporting. With a project this size, you can't wait with writing the report until the end. This is why I allocated one week after the discovery and definition phase and two weeks before the green light meeting to reporting. At the end of the project I also have two weeks to finalize everything and make the presentation next to the weeks I can spend on making the final prototype as showcase.

Lastly I would like to improve my skills in making quick but commutative visuals to use in conversations with my supervisory team or other stakeholders. These visuals can be digital sketches, but also the 3D files should be structured and parametric to allow for quick changes.

With special thanks to Hidde Coehoorn for leading the brainstorm session and compiling everyone's input into the final list of river site characteristics.

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APPENDIX 19: COMPLETE LIST OF COMPILED SITE CHARACTERISTICS

$\mathcal{U}\mathcal{I}$ **APPENDIX 20: COR MATRIX OF SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

Strong/definite correlation

Significant correlation

Suspected or indirect correlation

No suspected correlation

[unidirectional < > reversing]

With special thanks to Hidde Coehoorn for compiling all the data after the brainstorm.

III **APPENDIX 21: FULL LIST OF EXISTING IN-WATER-WASTE INTERCEPTION TECHNOLOGIES**

into litter trap.

/enviro-clean.aspx

boom-debris-

boom/river-trash- Jbin I.S.I.A. Group S.r.l. Stash trap seabin style. https://proactiontransh

75 76 Floating Litter Trap

75

III **APPENDIX 22: FULL LIST OF EXISTING EXTRACTION TECHNOLOGIES**

River waste cleaning 78

 \mathcal{H}

79 80 $\overline{}$

83 84 Cataglop

85 86 Marine Debris Sweeper

https://mms-

https://mms-

$\prime\prime\prime$ **APPENDIX 23: RESULTS OF BELT CONVEYOR MOTOR SIZING TOOL FROM ORIENTAL MOTOR**

DRY DOCK CO. LTD

shiprepair.co.uk/enviroc

at/

DRY DOCK CO. LTD

oundation

shiprepair.co.uk/enviroc

Nonautomated DTS

There are a lot of projects where plastic is contained with barriers or traps and taken out manually like Sungai Watch, Pangea Movement , and Plastic Fischer.

Envirocat Harbour MMS SHIP REPAIR AND

Envirocat Marina MMS SHIP REPAIR AND

Cleaning Boat JC France Industrie

The Collector **Race For Water**

 Most solutions in the containment methods analysis are also manually extracted.

 \rightarrow NO

 \rightarrow YES

 V_1 = 100 [mm/s] V_2 = 300 [mm/s]

 $^{\prime\prime\prime}$

 $=$ 0.4866 \times (6.53.55 / (9.55 \times 10)) = 0.2728 [N·m]

89 90

Stopping accuracy $ΔI = 20$ [mm]

Load Torque

F = $F_A + (m \times 9.8)$ (sina + μcosa)

 $=$ 0 + (162 × 9.8) (sin 50 + 0.2 × cos 50) = 1420 [N]

 $=$ $(\underline{\hspace{1cm}} 1420 \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} 107 \times 10^{-3}) / (2 \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} 100 \times 0.01)$ $=$ $[\underline{\hspace{1cm}} 75.98 \times \underline{\hspace{1cm}} [N \cdot m]$

 $Δθ = Δl (360° / π D_p)$

 $=$ 20 \times (360 / (3.14 \times 107))

Required Stopping Accuracy

 T_L = (F × D_p × 10⁻³)/(2 η × 0.01)

Safety factor $S \cdot F = 1.5$ - calculated result -

 $t_1 = 10$ [s]

 J_m = m ×((D_p×10⁻³) / 2)² $=$ 162 \times ((107 \times 10⁻³) / 2)² $=$ 0.4637 [kg·m²]

 J_{Dp} = (1/8) m_p (D_p × 10⁻³)² n

 $= (1/8) \times 8$ \times $($ 107 \times 10⁻³)² \times 2

Acceleration / deceleration time

 J_L = $J_m + J_S$

Other requirement(s)

Holding Torque

- end of the report -

Stopping accuracy

Safety factor

Load Inertia

 $=$ $($ $0.4867 + 2.2898e-2)$ $=$ 0.4866 $[kg \cdot m^2]$

Required Speed

 V_{m1} = V_1 (60 /(πD_p))

 $=$ 100 \times (60 / (3.14 \times 107))

 V_{m2} = V_2 (60 / π D_p)

 $=$ 300 \times (60 / (3.14 \times 107))

Required Torque

 $T = (T_a + T_L)$ (Safety Factor)

 $=$ $($ $0.2728 + 75.98) \times 1.5$ $=$ 114.4 [N·m]

Acceleration Torque

 $T_a = J_L (V_m / (9.55 \times t_1))$

MODULAR EXTRACTION TOOL FOR RIVERINE PLASTIC WASTE DESIGN OF A PROOF-OF-PRINCIPLE PROTOTYPE

APPENDICES

Master Thesis MSc. Integrated Product Design Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering University of Technology Delft

> **Author** Joep van Stijn

Supervisory team Chair Prof. Dr. Ir. Diehl, J.C. Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering | TU Delft Department of Sustainable Design Engineering

Mentor Ir. Schermer, W. Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering | TU Delft Department of Human Centered Design

> External mentor van Eijk, J. The Ocean Cleanup Rivers - Data & Engineering

> > **September 2023**

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