

# Circular Seas



Year: 2020 Country: Spain/Portugal	
Action Area: Aquatic and coastal environments	
Action Line: Marine Litter	
Funding: The Coca-Cola Foundation Coca-Cola European Partners	
Main support: Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Food (MAPA) and Ministry for the Ecological Transition (MITECO)	

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

The exacerbated generation and inadequate management of solid waste causes several million tons to end up in the sea and on the coast each year, mainly from our activities on land, through different routes such as rivers and streams, sewage, runoff water, winds, among others, arriving from coastal and inland populations. Because of that, its impacts represent one of the main socioeconomic and environmental problems that human beings and the biological communities of the planet face at the local, regional and global levels.

The objective is to contribute to reducing and preventing the impact of waste that reaches the seas and aquatic environments, promoting the circular economy in Spain and Portugal. The Coca-Cola Foundation, Coca-Cola European Partners, Chelonia Association, Ecomar Foundation, Vertidos Cero, Liga para a Protecção da Natureza participates in this integral project, with the support of the MAPA. Chelonia, as a technical-scientific entity of the project, was responsible for coordinating the following activities:

1. Training and awareness of students and teachers and cleaning of seabeds, beaches and aquatic habitats in towns in the areas of influence of II Marine Reserves (RM) and 10 Natura 2000 Spaces (\*).
2. Evaluation and monitoring of solid waste in 87 beaches / aquatic environments twice a year (174 monitoring actions) within the Spanish and Portuguese territory.
3. Cleaning and awareness actions in 25 beaches / aquatic environments, reintegrating PET plastic into the value chain, with the support of municipalities, organizations, companies and educational entities (\*\*).
4. Training and awareness of secondary and high school students and teachers in 25 Spanish and Portuguese municipalities to become aware of the dimension of the problem and impacts (\*\*\*) .
5. Awareness-raising and training campaign about the impact of marine litter and its global dimension, sustainable consumption and circular economy, aimed at the Spanish and Portuguese Civil Society .
6. III Edition of the Circular Seas Contest that awarded a Start-up proposal and three Research Projects to help reduce impacts and provide solutions to the marine litter issue from Spain and Portugal.

Note: Due to the pandemic, the actions with volunteers and face-to-face that were possible to carry out were: (\*) 2 actions in 1 RM; (\*\*) 1 beach; (\*\*\*) 12 actions (4 municipalities), the rest being rescheduled for 2021. In addition, new virtual training options were offered and [Online Workshop](#) was created.