



Implemented by



In coordination with



Prevention of plastic waste in the Central America and Caribbean Sea (Circular Caribbean)

The project "Prevention of plastic waste in the Central America and Caribbean Sea (Circular Caribbean)" is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in coordination with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMA) of the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico. It is financed by the European Union (EU) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany.

Through cross-sectoral cooperation and regional interchange, the project makes a fundamental contribution to the "G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter" adopted in 2017 by the G20 states and to the legal framework of its member countries. The project's support for the transition to a sustainable circular economy makes an important contribution to environmental and climate protection, to the economic recovery of the region and creates new jobs for the future. The Circular Caribbean project is part of the Regional Program for Solid Waste Management in the Caribbean promoted by the European Union within the framework of the agreement signed with CARIFORUM.

CONTEXT

Plastic waste in Central America and the Caribbean:

The pollution with plastic waste is contributing to the increasing destruction of the Mesoamerican Reef, the second largest reef in the world. 89% of marine litter in the Caribbean comes from land-based activities. In turn, half of the plastic waste comes from packaging that has often been used only once. The ecosystem of the Caribbean Sea has many functions of vital importance to nature and humans.

Degradation of marine ecosystems and river basins is having an increasingly negative impact both ecologically and

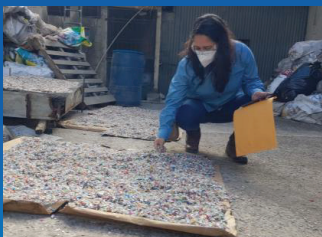
Project title	Prevention of plastic waste in the Central America and Caribbean Sea CIRCULAR CARIBBEAN
Commissioned by	European Union (EU) and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany
Project region	Belize, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico
Partners	Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMA) of the State of Quintana Roo
Duration	2020-2024

economically. For example, fishing and tourism are very important economic sectors for all Caribbean countries, which struggle with the negative consequences of litter.

Problems of recycling systems in the region:

In order to preserve the coral reef and the ecosystem functions associated with it, plastic waste must be reduced and its dumping at sea prevented. This would also avoid the enormous costs of subsequent removal from the sea that would otherwise be necessary.

Recycling systems are often underdeveloped: Often, only high-value materials (e.g. metals) are reused in the subsequent process, while low-value plastics end up in landfills, as the processing and reuse of recycled materials is not cost-effective. Furthermore, the private sector still does not have enough capacity to manage plastic waste. Companies, which are responsible for the production of a large part of the total plastic generated, lack (digital) skills and tools for waste and environmental management. The business models of the





recycling industry, which could be used to pre-vent and recycle plastic waste, are also not yet sufficiently developed. In addition, garbage collection and sorting are carried out by people without employment contracts and who work in vulnerable hygienic conditions. In general, the lack of awareness of the plastic waste problem in both civil society and the private sector is a challenge.

OBJECTIVE

The framework conditions for preventing plastic waste from entering the Caribbean Sea have improved.

PROCEDURE

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the CCAD, the eight SICA member countries and Mexico. Through its advice, the necessary reform measures can be implemented to prevent the discharge of plastic waste into the Caribbean Sea. This involves both the private sector and civil society.

AREAS OF ACTION

Promotion of regional exchange:

To this end, Caribe Circular develops effective networking and event formats for various stakeholder groups. Regional and national processes are introduced with the aim of improving exchange on the project theme. In addition, relationships are established with global alliances and initiatives.

Strengthening the private sector:

The business models of industries, mainly in the tourism sector and the packaging industry, must be improved. The project promotes business models that improve the balance sheet of plastic waste through innovative approaches and closed value chains. Systematic capacity-building measures are implemented in order to train companies in finding and deploying effective solutions.

Development of pilot projects:

Within the framework of the Circular Caribbean, pilot projects will be launched in which plastic waste prevention models and procedures will be used and evaluated. The pilot regions and the project partners involved will be carefully selected and the models used will be evaluated based on relevant and measurable criteria.

Raising awareness among the population and the private sector:

The project develops and applies innovative methods to raise awareness of the issue, especially through social media. This includes measures to implement local education programs and regional awareness campaigns, for example, to reduce the generation of plastic waste or to ensure its correct separation.

The project focuses on strategic approaches at regional level to prevent plastic waste. To this end, it promotes discussion on mandatory measures and supervision in areas such as increased producer responsibility, plastic waste legislation and regulation, and legal harmonization. In addition, cooperation with various industries, the tourism sector, start-ups and non-governmental organizations generates synergy effects.

Supporting the transition to a sustainable circular economy makes an important contribution to environmental and climate protection and also to economic recovery in the Central American region, for example by creating new and secure jobs.

Scan to learn more about the project



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