

# Consolidating regional capacities for the prevention and reduction of marine pollution- including plastic marine debris- in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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***REMARCO is a cooperation network in science and communication that connects 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate decision making on common challenges and vulnerabilities present in marine environments: marine chemical pollution, ocean acidification, eutrophication and microplastics.***



REMARCO has been created with the support of the IAEA and ARCAL, a regional intergovernmental cooperation agreement concluded between IAEA Member States in LAC for the promotion of nuclear science and technology in LAC.

REMARCO provides a framework for South-South collaboration among the Member States with the support of the IAEA and other international partners.



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency



**CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEA AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**TARGET 14.1**



**REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION**

**TARGET 14.A**



**INCREASE SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY FOR OCEAN HEALTH**



## IAEA Technical Cooperation Project RLA7025 “Strengthening Capacities in Marine and Coastal Environments Using Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques”

Expected outcome: Improved regional capacities for science based strategies and policies for the sustainable conservation and management of coastal areas and marine resources in LAC.

Target: at least 16 countries in the region present reports on SDG indicators 14.1.1: Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density.

Participating countries: 18 Member States of LAC – ARG, BRA, BEL, CHI, COL, CR, CUB, DOM, EC, ELS, GUA, HOND, MEX, NIC, PAN, PERU, URU, VEN.

Duration: 2020-2023

Total budget: 1,435,327 Euros (IAEA Technical Cooperation Funding)





Expected output:

Member States capacities to monitor microplastic in coastal zones from LAC and report on SDG14 indicator 14.1.1b strengthened



#### ACTIVITIES

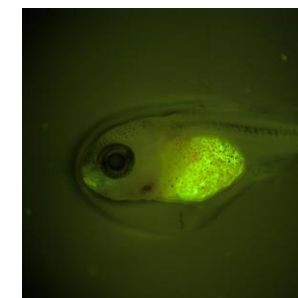
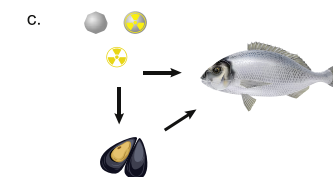
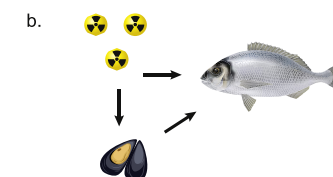
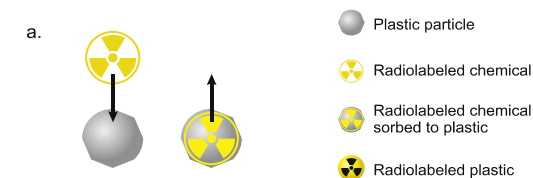
- Training of technicians and specialists for sampling, separation, identification and classification of microplastics in environmental samples.
- Scientific and technical exchange (workshops, technical meetings)
- Knowledge transfer

## Results achieved/ to be achieved

- Monitoring programmes on marine plastic debris are set in place in 18 MSs with harmonized protocols between MSs (ongoing)
- Acquisition of kits for sampling of MP (ongoing)
- Acquisition of equipment for the chemical analysis of MP (micro FTIR)
- Guide for the design and implementation of microplastic monitoring programs (5mm-20  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in water, sediment, beach sands and marine organisms. Reported indicator 14.1.1b, SDG14.
- Reconstruction of plastic pollution trends in coastal areas through nuclear and isotopic techniques (by 2023)
- Compile data in the Repository of data. (ongoing)

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of management actions implemented to reduce plastic pollution. Pilot projects with demonstration cases.

- Improved knowledge of the impact of nano and microplastic on marine ecosystems and the food chain, using laboratory experiments (radiolabelled microplastic), in collaboration with the IAEA Environmental Laboratory in Monaco (unique laboratories in the United Nations system)





# Conclusions

- REMARCO has capabilities to monitor microplastics in coastal areas of 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- REMARCO can help decision makers and support studies and research on sources, distribution, transport, effects and final destination of microplastics in the coastal areas of LAC.
- REMARCO has a regional platform for information exchange and repository of data generated on microplastics in LAC.
- REMARCO can contribute to the Global Action to Protect the Marine Environment from Land-Based Pollution and become a **Regional Partnership on Marine Litter**

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