



CLIMATE DETECTIVES 2021 – 2022



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RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the residues, solid or others, that we can find more frequently in Canidelo and Madalena's beaches?

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Water pollution harms animals, people and plants. The pollution of water and beaches is a concern for the population of Canidelo and Madalena. There were several news reports of pollution and bacteria in the water, which means that there could exist microorganisms that cause diseases.

MAIN RESULTS

Data obtained in the field

Fieldwork was carried out at Lavadores beach, on March 31, from 2 pm to 3 pm, where samples of solid waste found on the sand was collected and the pH of the sea water was measured.

The strategy for solid waste collection was: in a sampling square measuring 0.5 meters on a side, that is, with an area of 0.25 square meters, existing waste was collected at four different locations on the beach. In total, one square meter of waste was collected (figure 1).

The main residues found were (figure 2 and 3):

- Plastic;
- Wood;
- Metal;
- Paper;
- Organic waste;
- Styrofoam;
- Cigarettes;
- Fishing yarn;
- Plastic strings;
- Disposable masks;
- Dog feces.

On the same day that the residues were collected, the pH was measured. The measured value was between 6 and 7 as indicated on figure 4.

Conclusions

Water quality is a set of physical, chemical and biological characteristics that it presents, according to its use. The most used classification standards aim to classify water according to its potability, the safety it presents for humans and the well-being of ecosystems.

We have found a lot of plastics and wood which are solid residues that are capable of suffocating, deforming and injuring animals that accidentally ingest or drag them. The garbage that is endlessly floating around in the sea has a great impact on animals that have done nothing to deserve the fate they end up having.



Figure 2: Sampling square

ACTIONS TO HELP LESSEN TO THE PROBLEM



Figure 3: Figure 2 - Examples of solid residues observed.

- Place more recycling bins at the beach so that people can put their waste in their respective bins.
- Sensitize people not to put garbage on the beach as it puts the lives of others and ours in danger.
- Sensitize family and friends not to throw trash on the beach as it mainly harms animals.

Figure 1: