



مؤسسة محمد السادس لحماية البيئة
FONDATION MOHAMMED VI
POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
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CLEAN BEACHES REPORT 2021



#Bharblaplastic

All for the environment

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PART ONE

CLEAN BEACHES



Moroccans returned to beaches in summer 2021 while observing health measures, including social distancing, barrier gestures and the use of masks. The Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment, chaired by **Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa**, launched the 22nd edition of the Clean Beaches Program on 106 beaches against this backdrop.

This year's edition focused again on combating sea and ocean pollution from plastic waste, with a second edition of operation #b7arblaplastic deployed on all beaches of the program.

This noteworthy awareness-raising action received **two-fold international accolades**, being listed by UNESCO's Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), spearheaded by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Global Steering Alliance of which the Foundation is a founding member. The Foundation also received the FEE Best Environmental Education Practice award for 2020, from 4,425 Blue Flag beaches worldwide.

The flagship sustainable development education and awareness-raising operation continued the three key events from the first edition last summer. Objectives revolved around **(i) rallying one million young people over the summer, (ii) conducting 10,000 sustainable**

development education and awareness-raising activities with these young people, and (iii) collecting 10 tons of plastic per beach over the summer. An additional fourth highlight was added this year as #b7arblaplastic 2021 included actions **(iv) to recycle and recover plastic waste collected.**

Reprocessing the plastic waste collected on beaches is the next natural step for a circular economy: after preventing ocean pollution by recovering the plastic waste, it is then given a new life by partner recycling facilities volunteering for the operation.

Social networks, now essential tools for raising awareness, were used to promote the project. Publications sought to rally public opinion, particularly among young people, around Operation #b7arblaplastic.

Young people got actively involved in #b7arblaplastic. Diving associations raised awareness on plastic waste in ocean beds among the youth of Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment and the Green University Network.

Operation #b7arblaplastic 2021 again turned out to be a great success thanks to the commitment of partners and the motivation of participants.

1.1. COUNTRY CONTEXT: HEALTH RESTRICTIONS

Slowing COVID-19 infection rates going into the summer and advances in national vaccination efforts enabled an easing of health restrictions on June 1.

Beaches thus opened to all, provided physical distancing and barrier gestures were observed. The Beach Planning and Management Guide for Covid 19 produced by the Foundation in 2020 served again as a guideline for local beach planning and management.

Twenty-one of a total 105 Clean Beaches in 2020 were not fully open to the public over the summer because of Covid-19.



1.2. GLOBAL CONTEXT

On February 3, 2021, UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) officially launched **the United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development** at the «A Brave New Ocean» high-level ceremony, attended by **Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa**, President of the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection.

Her Royal Highness accepted UNESCO Director General's invitation to become a «**Patron of the Alliance**» for the Ocean Decade, and for the Foundation to be an active member.

The Foundation thereby became a founding member of **the Alliance** that manages and promotes the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences **for Sustainable Development**.

This initiative is designed to advance knowledge of oceans to better preserve them. It builds on the commitment of States, UN agencies, private sector and civil society.

The collaboration between IOC-UNESCO and the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment is part of a framework partnership with UNESCO signed in 2016. A number of exchanges and cross-participations between the Foundation and IOC have since occurred from November 2019 to October 2020

The Foundation and the IOC: ongoing exchanges

5

Madrid - December 9, 2019

COP 25

Foundation presentation at a side-event on Ocean and Climate Literacy



December 12-13, 2019

Italian Research Council, European Commission, United Nations Environment Programme, Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean, Venice, Italy
Foundation presentation at the Mediterranean Regional Workshop

Nairobi, Kenya - January 27-29, 2020

Africa-West Indian Ocean Regional Planning Workshop,
Foundation representative presentation

New York, USA - February 3, 2020

United Nations Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development,

Foundation involvement in the brainstorming meeting

New York, USA - February 5, 2020

Ocean Decade preparatory meeting,
Foundation presentation

Copenhagen, Denmark - February 27-28, 2020

Foundations Dialogue on the Decade,

Presentations by the Foundation and two African Youth Climate Hub Ambassadors.



March 2020 - online meeting

Foundation attends Second Global Planning Meeting for the Ocean Decade.



June 8, 2020- Sommet virtuel

Commission (IOC) in partnership with Ocean Wise, Euro-GOOS and Experiential
Foundation involvement in the workshop



February 3, 2021 - online Conference

A brave new ocean,

Speech by HRH Princess Lalla Hasnaa at the high-level event celebrating the end of preparations for the launch of the Alliance for the Ocean Decade.

1.3. FOUNDATION ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE DECADE

The Foundation mobilized early to preserve oceans and seas from the continuous attack of anthropogenic activities (pollution, climate change effects...), most notably along the coastline. The United Nations General Assembly called for accelerated ocean science research and exchange to mitigate risks to ocean ecosystems.

The **UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)**, initiated by the General Assembly, brings together scientists and stakeholders from all walks of life to produce scientific evidence in support of sound policy-making for productive, resilient and sustainable oceans. Ocean Decade aims to provide real-time data on ocean health and articulate scenarios for sustainable development.

The Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment rallied to publicize the Ocean Decade across the Kingdom, hosting a series of seminars in partnership with UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). These webinars are to be held online at the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training and introduce the Decade's seven strategic and societal objectives.

The first Webinar entitled «Oceans for All» was held on June 28, 2021. The Foundation used this webinar to rally partners to the Decade of Ocean Sciences at local, regional and national levels, in close collaboration with stakeholders on the ground.

Institutional and private sector stakeholders thus came into contact with the scientific community (academics, researchers), to discuss common contributions to the Decade of Ocean Sciences.

The Foundation and its Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training also focused on the dissemination of basic ocean science knowledge to the younger generation.



PART TWO

CLEAN BEACHES 2021



1. INTRODUCTION

Extensive plastic pollution

This year's Covid 19 pandemic exacerbated pollution problems because of increased plastic utilization for masks, personal protective equipment, and single-use packaging not always being disposed of through proper channels. Waste volumes stockpiled especially as recycling operations were temporarily disrupted by pandemic health restrictions. Images of plastic waste invading oceans, threatening marine life and soiling beaches, were impossible to escape this year. The Foundation therefore rolled-out the #b7arblaplastic operation, which could not be implemented in 2020 because of health restrictions on gatherings.

A slow return to normal

All beaches of the «Clean Beaches» program were open to the public in the summer of 2021, with social distancing measures, barrier measures and masks remaining mandatory. Coastal municipalities in charge of beach

management followed the beach management and utilization guidelines published by the Foundation in collaboration with the General Directorate of Territorial Authorities (DGCT). Economic partners and civil society associations carried out on-site environmental education and awareness-raising activities this year, which Covid-19 had prevented in the summer of 2020. Education and awareness-raising actions are the most effective means of putting a dent in marine pollution, as clean-up actions have limited impact in the face of this blight. The Foundation further strengthened citizen engagement as part of its «Seas and Oceans» strategy this summer, through virtual outreach on social networks. #b7arblaplastic set-up its own social media Facebook and Instagram accounts to be more visible to young Moroccans.

2. CLEAN BEACHES 2021 PARTNER WORKSHOP

As in 2020, the Foundation held a technical workshop for Clean Beaches program partners prior to campaign launch. The workshop was an opportunity for dialogue and collective reflection. It enabled participants to jointly define #b7arblaplastic operations, which the Foundation, along with its partners, offered to extend for three months from June 15 to September 15, 2021. The workshop also strengthened commitment and effective and practical mobilization of all partners in this major operation of special relevance to the Foundation's Seas and Oceans strategy. It notably enabled agreement on clearly defined joint objectives, operational methods and tools designed for effective coordination of various actions envisaged throughout the summer of 2021. The workshop agenda addressed:

- Global structuring of operations (planning, expected impacts, success indicators, etc.);
- Operational methods to enable optimal synchronization and coordination of all stakeholders;
- The exchange of partner proposals on environmental awareness and education activities and beach management methods in the context of Covid-19 health conditions; and
- Recycling and recovery mechanisms for plastic waste.



3. OPERATION B7ARBLAPLASTIC



- A new milestone was already reached in 2019 in collectively acquiring the means for ambitious, synchronized, better equipped and more effectively coordinated action.
- Better synchronized, as the diversity of target audiences, communication channels, operations and partners mobilized requires agreement on concerted objectives, to give greater meaning, «connection» and visibility to collective action, while minimizing risks of dispersion. It is also about better identifying possible gaps (for example, if certain actions are

over-represented in relation to others), to better guide partner action, while accounting for specific constraints and operating contexts.

- **Better equipped**, because the complexity of any kind of communication on oceans and plastics, in all its scientific and socio-economic dimensions, requires standardizing specific contents, clearly defining action typologies and developing shared tools. This facilitates the job of communication partners and ensures optimal understanding and appropriation of key messages by all target audiences.
- **Better coordination**, because conducting a large-scale national campaign requires collective efforts in governance, planning, steering, and key indicator reporting, as well as leveraging feedback to ensure effective dissemination of best practices. Coordination also refers to the ad-hoc need for arbitration and decision support, to encourage optimal allocation of campaign resources.

The Foundation built its **role as facilitator** around three lines, to create a driving effect and rally all partners towards the common interest.

The #b7arblaplastic 2021 operation is built on three fundamental pillars:

- **One priority target: young people**
- **One objective: eliminate plastic pollution**
- **One priority vector: digital**

These pillars translate into practical targets and indicators, with all stakeholders combining efforts towards attaining them:

- **1 million young people mobilized over the Summer.**
- **10,000 actions undertaken by young people.**
- **700 tons less plastic on sponsored beaches.**

In 2020, the Foundation stayed the course set in 2019, focusing on innovation both in organization and management as well as in communication. The Foundation adjusted operations to pandemic circumstances, taking action to:

- Develop tools and information materials to support partners on the ground (Edition of the Beach Management Guide in the context of COVID-19);
- Digitize environmental awareness and education activities on the ANABOUNDIF platform;
- Improve stakeholder education through theme-based webinars.

In this second #b7arblaplastic campaign, the Foundation sought to take things with its partners one step further by integrating the circular economy.

The new plastics economy covers the full cycle, from oil extraction, production and utilization to recycling and re-entry into the economy as secondary raw material.

The Foundation thus carried out actions for recycling and recovery of plastic waste collected on beaches and created a fourth indicator to monitor: Percentage of plastic waste recycled.



4. B7ARBLAPLASTIC OUTCOMES

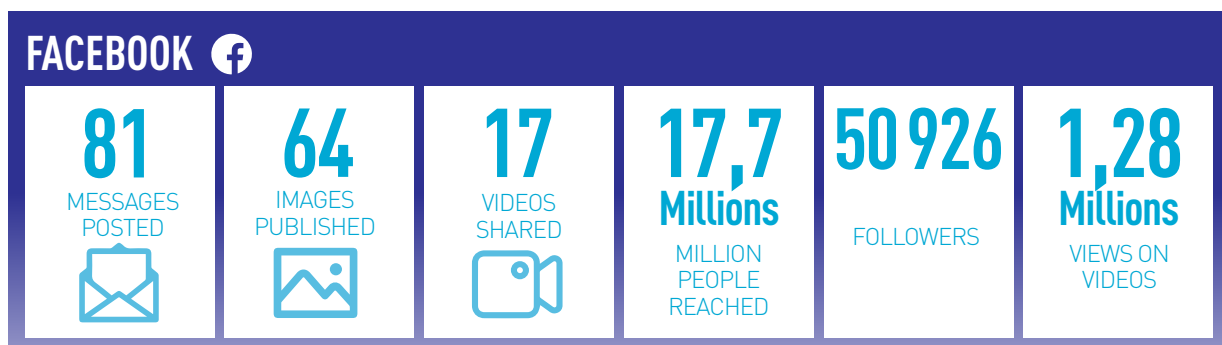
4.1. Digital Communication

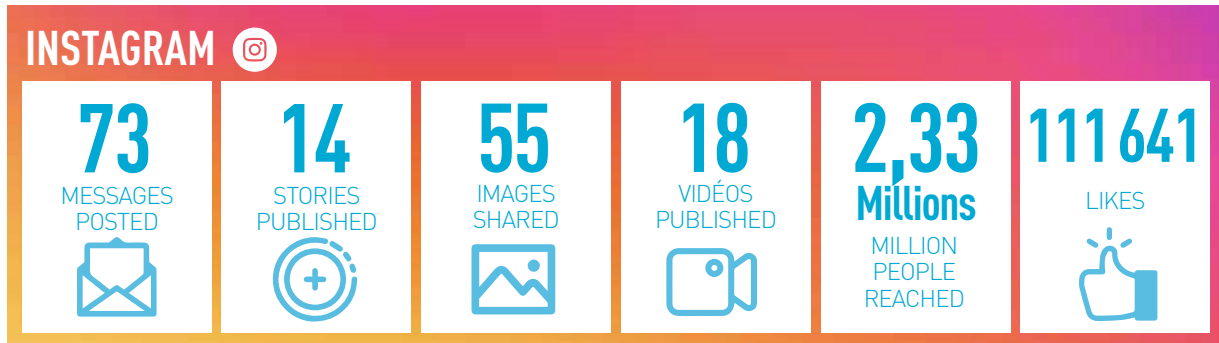
Environmental education and awareness-raising activities took place on-site this year, in compliance with social distancing. Digital channels were also used for environmental education and outreach efforts. Facebook and Instagram pages were created and updated with

educational and awareness content, videos and stories, and best practices posted by Clean Beaches program partners.

Digital communication generated significant results (see figure 1).

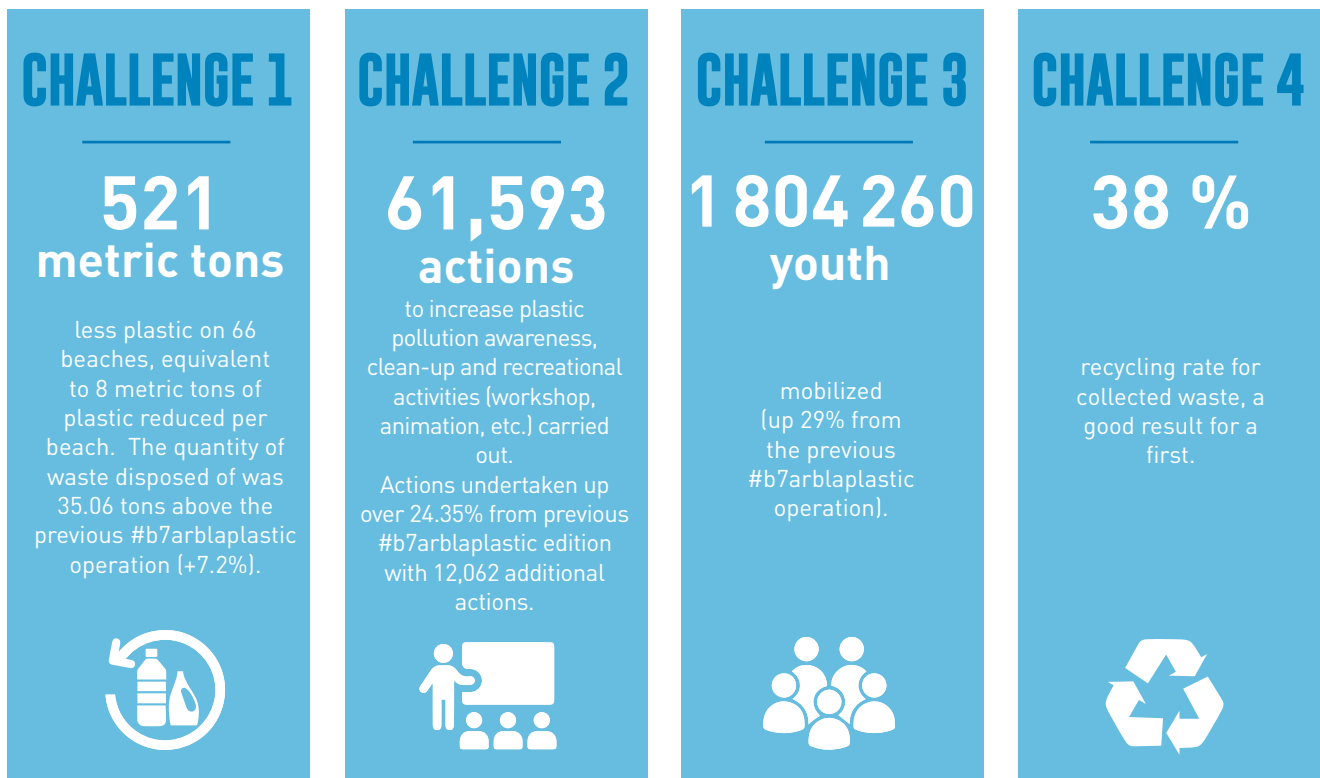
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4.2. Operational Actions: Assessment of the Four Challenges

97 % of partners initiated actions on the ground to address the three challenges, achieving positive results.



#bharblaplastic embraces the circular economy

The Foundation rallied partners to evacuate, transport and recycle the waste collected on beaches as part of the #bharblaplastic operation.

9 private companies for recycling

Nine companies handled the collection, transportation, recycling and recovery of waste collected by partners on the beaches.

3 COVAD-member companies (Coalition for Waste Valorization/Recovery): Casa Fibre Fama-color, Serp Recyclage and Kilimanjaro.

6 companies mobilized by partners: Ozone, Mecomar, Usine Lafarge Holcim, Macarpa, Majdi Son SARL and Promotic.

8 associations

Eight associations contributed to the collection, recycling and recovery of waste:

- Man and Environment

- Basma Association
- Zero Waste Association
- Al Mountada Association
- Foundation Region Marrakech Safi Climate Change
- Association ABIR SABIL
- Association Partage
- Assahil Association for Development and Culture

3 cooperatives

Three cooperatives contributed to recycling and waste recovery:

- Biosphere cooperative for the sorting and recycling of waste
- Ain Béni Mezala Cooperative for the sorting and valorization of waste (Fnideq)
- Cooperative Anfass New

4.3. Man – Ocean Action

The Voluntary Carbon Offset (VCO) program partnered with the plastic waste elimination initiative and engaged in pilot actions with local diver associations, also active in the "Trophées Lalla Hasnaa du Littoral Durable". These actions took place on a number of sites, including:

- Marchica Lagoon in Nador,
- Beach of Rifaine of M'diq-Fnideq,
- Beach of Sablettes of Mohammedia,
- Beach of El Haouzia in El Jadida,
- Moussafir Beach in Dakhla;
- Marina of Bouregreg in Salé

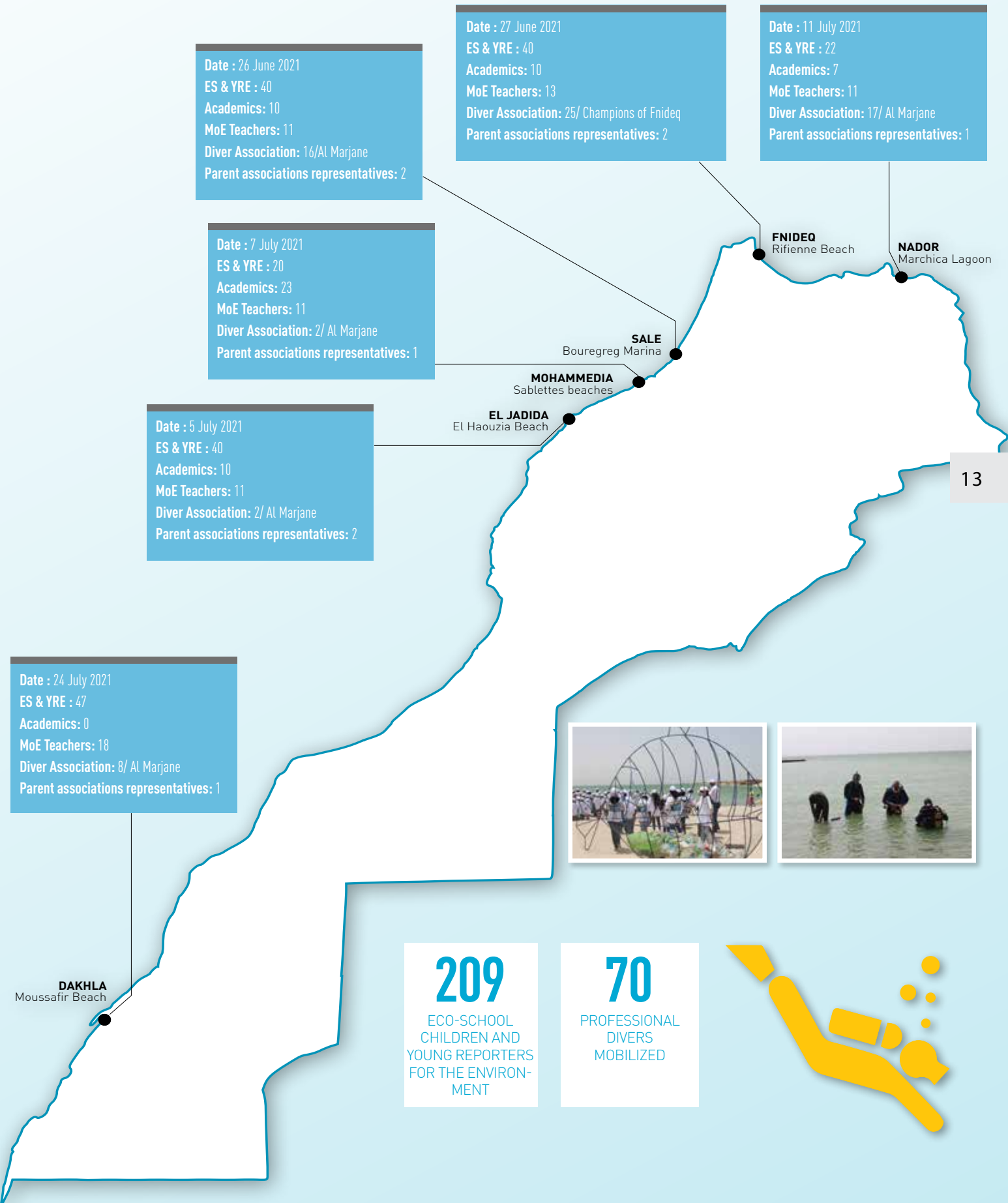
This action conducted jointly by the Foundation, the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research and the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE), in partnership with the «Champions of Fnideq» divers association and the Al Marjane association of diving and water sports.

Thematic workshops on marine environment protection were held and others on bathing water quality were conducted by ONEE's Water Branch.

These activities benefited **209 Eco-Schoolers and Youth Reporters for the Environment and 60 students from the African Green Universities and Youth Education Network**. Participants also took their first scuba diving lessons.

70 professional divers were also enlisted to remove plastic waste from the seabed.

MAN OCEAN ACTION



PART THREE

BLUE FLAG 2021





The Blue Flag was awarded by the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment and the International Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to **27 beaches and one marina** for the summer season 2021

This is one beach more than last year: municipalities in charge of labeled beaches kept up efforts despite summer 2020 Covid-19 health situation.

This rigorous international label not only requires excellent bathing water quality, but also looks at safety, beach and backshore development, and environmental awareness.

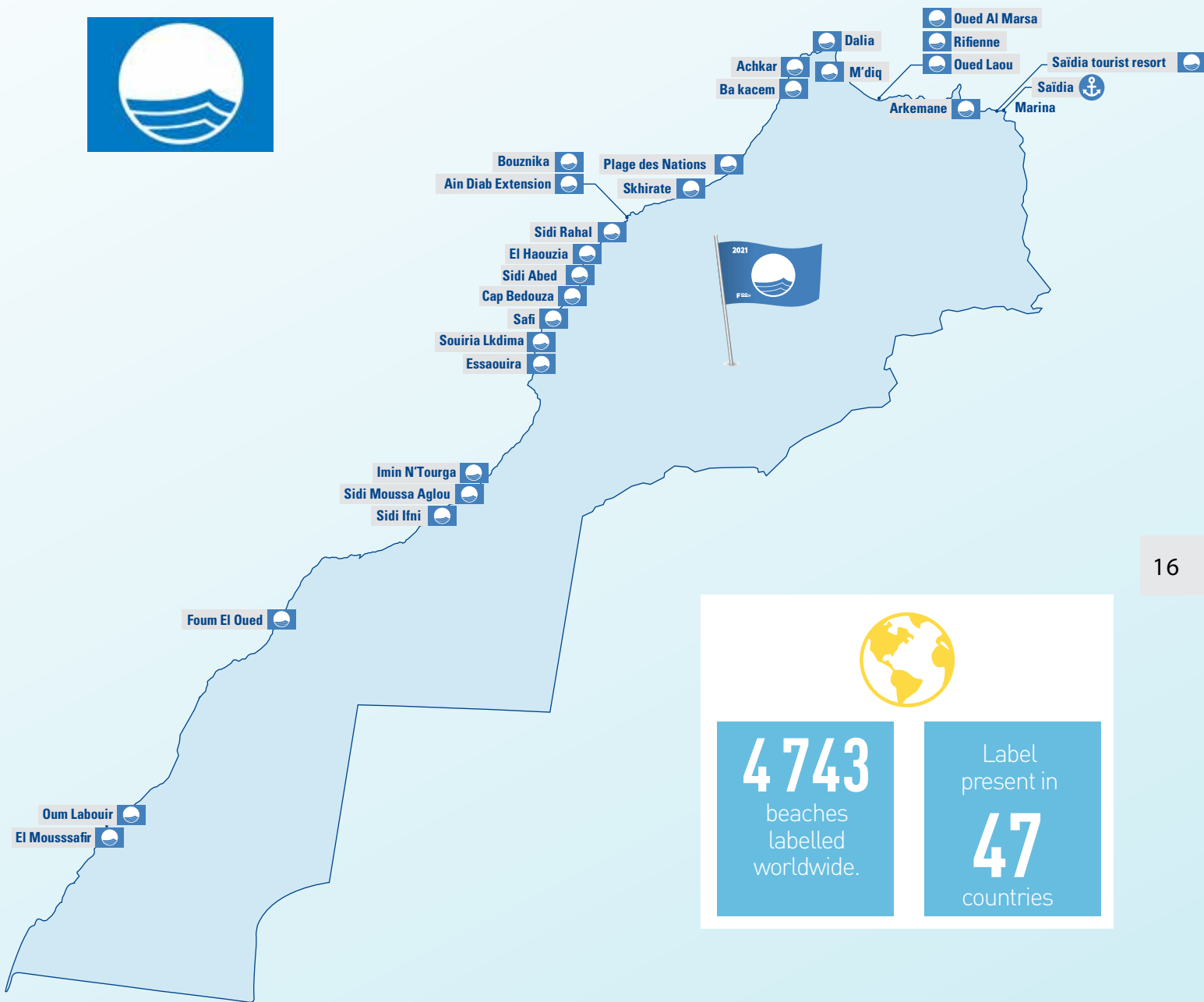
The Blue Flag label leads to improved beach management and prepares municipalities in charge of beaches for additional organizational efforts.

In 2020, the Foundation produced a beach management guide for municipalities in the context of a pandemic. Recommendations covering issues such as social distancing, compliance with barrier measures and distribution of hydro-alcohol gel were maintained on beaches open to bathing.

The Foundation, with support from the Directorate General of Territorial Collectivities and relevant ministerial departments and economic partners, provided municipalities with training and management tools enabling them to offer a safe environment to vacationers, as in the case of the Saidia marina. The labeled marina is a site where the protection of the environment and marine habitats is a priority. Boaters have access to careening areas with no discharge into the natural environment, boat wastewater recovery systems, as well as special waste collection areas. Like municipalities, Blue Flag marinas offer environmental activities to educate boaters and visitors on the fragility of the environment.

The Foundation annually awards the international Blue Flag label developed by the International Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) since 2002. The Blue Flag hangs over on 4,743 beaches and marinas in 47 countries across Europe, Africa, America, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It is awarded to coastal communities in charge of beach management annually, after extensive preparation and evaluation.

BLUE FLAG 2021



16



4 743
beaches
labelled
worldwide.

Label
present in
47
countries

IN MOROCCO
SINCE
2002

27
BEACHES
LABELLED IN
2021

1
MARINA

40
CANDIDATES
BEACHES

PART FOUR

CLEAN BEACHES 2021 ASSESSMENT



The Foundation and its partners managed, as every year, to implement the following actions with the support of ministerial departments.

- Monitoring of Bathing Water Quality,

- Safety, health coverage,
- Development and Management, and
- Environmental awareness and education.

A. MONITORING OF BATHING WATER AND SAND QUALITY

• 1 - BATHING WATER QUALITY



The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment's Department of the Environment's National Laboratory for the Study and Monitoring of Pollution (LNESP) is in charge of monitoring bathing water quality. This is implemented in collaboration with the Public Testing and Research Laboratory and its Center for Studies and Research on the Environment and Pollution (CEREP/LPEE).

Beaches whose bathing water is monitored went from 79 in 2002 to 175 in 2020, in 9 coastal regions.

a. Bathing Water Quality Monitoring (BWQ) according to NM 03.7 199

Beach bathing waters are monitored from May to September, with two sampling and analysis campaigns per month. Sites are chosen according to visitor traffic, site characteristics (topography, shape of the shoreline, etc.) and pollution risks (wastewater discharges, river mouths, ports, etc.).

The laboratories (LNESP, CEREP/ LPEE) are equipped with high performance means, including mobile analysis units enabling on-site testing of all beaches, regardless of geographical location.

Evaluation and classification of bathing waters is performed in accordance with the NM 03.7 199 standard for bathing water quality management.

Only 425 of 461 stations were sampled enough to qualify for classification. As a result, **370 stations (87.06%)** were found to be microbiologically compliant with **NM.03.7.199 requirements**.

The 55 sites declared **non-compliant for bathing, i.e., 12.94%**, are impacted by wastewater discharges or river inputs, along with inadequate sanitation facilities.

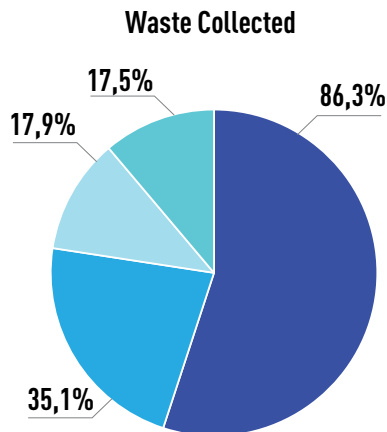
b. Monitoring of beach sand quality

Beach sand quality monitoring is also managed by the National Laboratory for the Study and Monitoring of Pollution (LNESP) of the Department of the Environment of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Environment. It is conducted by Public Testing and Research Laboratory and its Center for Studies and Research on the Environment and Pollution (CEREP/LPEE).

This year, the Department of the Environment added marine waste typology to the list of chemical and fungal elements likely to contaminate vacationers.

60 beaches from nine coastal regions, including 23 Mediterranean coast beaches and 37 Atlantic coast beaches were monitored.

² This standard was progressively implemented starting in 2014 and generalized to all beaches meeting classification criteria in 2019. It consists in instituting proactive management based on bathing water classification and the drawing of vulnerability profiles decision-support tools.



The following subcategories top national rankings: «cigarette butts and filters», «plastic caps and lids» and «potato chip and candy wrappers/sticks», together accounting for 60.7% of all waste collected.

Sand chemical quality:

Heavy metals were detected without exceeding benchmark thresholds.

No contamination of hydrocarbons was recorded.

Mycological sand quality:

Results obtained over two monitoring campaigns detected presence of:

- Dermatophytes of the Trichophyton Rubum type at El Haouzia beach station S1 on the second campaign (fall 2020); and
- Non-pathogenic Fungi, except for allergic persons (Chrysosporium Keratinophylum, Alternaria Sp, Penicillium Sp) present in 52% of stations monitored over both campaigns.



c. Development of bathing water vulnerability profiles

Bathing water vulnerability profiles are essential to identify pollution sources with an impact on bathing water quality and the health of bathers and define management measures to ensure vacationer health protection and actions to eliminate pollution sources, where a risk of pollution is identified. Development of these profiles began in 2013. They now follow Moroccan Standard NM.03.7.199.

A total 161 profiles were produced between 2013 and 2020, 26 of which have been updated as required by the standard.

d. Public information

In accordance with Article 35 of Law 81-12 on Coastal Areas and Moroccan standard NM.7.03.199 on bathing water quality management, the Department of the Environment informs the public on bathing waters through the following channels:

- The National Laboratory for Pollution Studies and Monitoring website: <https://labo.environnement.gov.ma>
- Downloadable BWQ bulletins from municipalities and prefectures, updated every two weeks throughout the summer season (partner space)
- The «iPlages» application (Android and iPhone version) downloadable by all.

B. SAFETY

• 1. BATHER SAFETY

In 2021, the Foundation along with its partners undertook a number of actions to improve bather safety and organize water sports activities on beaches.

1.1. ENHANCING BATHER SAFETY:

The General Directorate of Civil Protection, a member of the national Clean Beaches Committee, is committed to improving public safety year after year. In 2021, it recruited 3,243 seasonal lifeguards, supervised by 204 professional lifeguards. The DGPC deploys rescue and relief means and equipment on the ground (see table hereunder). In order to improve seasonal lifeguards working conditions, the DGPC, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Territorial Collectives, subscribed to an insurance policy covering the months of August and September.

Specific actions were undertaken on beaches, taking into account the sanitary context, including:

- Coronavirus screening of seasonal and professional lifeguards;
- Distribution of individual protection masks;
- Distribution of hydro-alcoholic gel;
- Cleaning and disinfection of rescue equipment;
- Awareness campaigns on Covid-19 behavior;
- Human resources and equipment;

- Human resources and rescue equipment provided by Civil Protection on beaches in 2020.

A. Human resources (see figure 5)

B. Rescue materials and equipment

MOYENS HUMAINS

204

PROFESSIONAL
LIFEGUARDS

3 243

SEASONAL
LIFEGUARDS



1.2. WATER SAFETY:

The Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Logistics and Water's Directorate of Ports and Public Maritime Domain supports the Clean Beaches program by marking beaches open to bathing.

121 beaches marked in 2021, broken down by province in the table below:

20

MATÉRIELS ET ÉQUIPEMENTS DE SAUVETAGE

120

CIVIL
PROTECTION
STATIONS

1 440

TUBE
LIFEBUOYS

309

LIFE
JACKETS



1 132

PAIRS OF
FINS



146

BOARDS



15

QUAD BIKES



56

ZODIAC
DINGHIES

242

MIRADORS



67

PAIRS OF
BINOCULARS



39

PARASOLS



52

PERSONAL
WATERCRAFT
(JET-SKI)

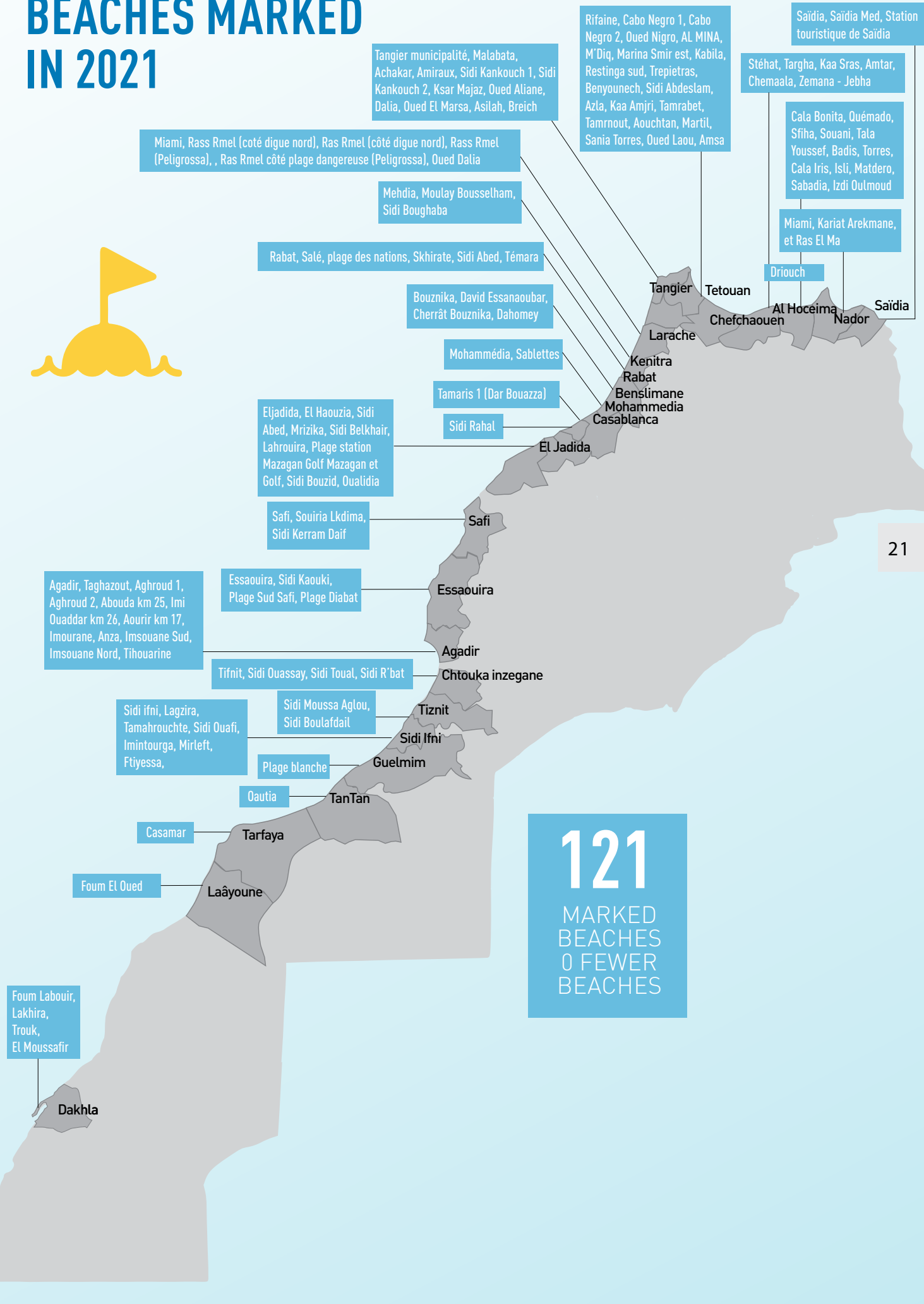
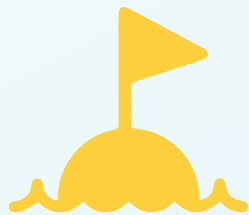


16

AMBULANCES



BEACHES MARKED IN 2021



C. COUVERTURE SANITAIRE



• A unique context

Beach health coverage of beaches is an ongoing activity of the Ministry of Health, as part of Clean Beaches, steered by the Mohammed VI Foundation for the Protection of the Environment.

Every year, Ministry of Health delegations are called upon to perform specific health and hygiene actions on beaches. This summer, due to exceptional Covid-19 conditions, Ministry of Health delegations were called upon for a second consecutive year to operate under the aegis of Walis and Governors.

A circular was addressed to them in June 2021, calling for coordinating the following actions:

1. Health coverage of beaches with Civil Protection, Moroccan Red Crescent and Communal Offices of Hygiene, within Provincial Beach Commissions.
2. Means of intervention available on beaches.
3. Arrangement of intervention team work spaces.
4. Intervention team compliance with the health protection and hygiene rules,
5. Medical first aid teams deployed on beach consisting of a doctor or a nurse (public or private), and an ambulance driver.
6. Transfers of emergency cases by Emergency Medical Assistance Services (SAMU), where operational toward referral hospitals.
7. Elaboration of premises and equipment cleaning and disinfection schedules, as well as a reception procedure for first aid stations.
8. Disinfection, both of first aid premises and other beach equipment, to be carried out by hygienist teams from Ministry of Health Delegations or Communal Hygiene Offices.

COUVERTURE SANITAIRE

52

FIRST AID CENTERS



284

HEALTH PERSONNEL PROVIDING BEACH HEALTH COVERAGE



5 102

FIRST AID INTERVENTIONS



768

SAMPLES FOR DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS



815

CONTROLS OF SANITATION FACILITIES AND DISINFECTION OF PREMISES



358

CONTROL OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS



3 465

SESSIONS



16 254

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES



• Achievements 2021

A provisional assessment (72% of reports received) of Ministry of Health means and resources deployed and results of programmed activities is summarized in the following table:

Covid-19 cases increased significantly over the summer of 2021. A number of vaccinating centers were opened across all provinces and prefectures, thereby impacting health professionals' deployment to health services on beaches.

D. AMÉNAGEMENT ET GESTION

The Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Logistics and Water's Directorate of Ports and Maritime Public Domain supports the Clean Beaches program on two key aspects:

1. Allocation of beaches to municipalities

As of June 23, 2021, allocation of beaches to municipalities was as follows (table in appendix):

- 182 beach agreements signed (+ 6 from 2020);
- 68 beach agreements pending signature: (- 22 beaches from 2020)
- 49 signed conventions pending approval (+ 31 beaches from 2020)
- 65 Conventions signed and approved (- 3 beaches from 2020)
- 37 AOTDPMs (Authorization for Temporary Occupation of Public Maritime Domain) in signature (- 14 beaches from 2020)
- 28 AOTDPMs signed (+11 beaches from 2020)

Allocation of beaches to municipalities encountered the following constraints:

- Financial and technical difficulties for a number of municipalities in preparing the technical files required for issuing AOTDPMs (beach layout plans, detailed plans identifying areas included in fee calculations, etc.);

- Financial and technical difficulties in implementing PUGPs by municipalities;
- Some municipalities consider the allocation of lightly frequented beaches as financially unprofitable and request an exemption from AOTDPM fees;
- Some urban municipalities have not yet followed up on agreements signed, including for very popular beaches;
- Some municipalities request an extension of areas covered by the agreement to include parking lots and cornices;
- Some municipalities condition agreement signature on expiry of existing authorizations already issued.
- Some municipalities in the Tetuan-M'Diq area, while taking possession of beaches in their territories, are unwilling to pay the fees for lack of financial means;

2. Allocation of beaches to municipalities

Sixty-four PUGPs (beach use and management plans) are available. Forty-four PUGPs were developed by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Logistics and Water and 20 by the municipalities.

Only 22 PUGPs are validated by Provincial and Prefectural Beach Commissions.

E. AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education and awareness of sustainable development and the environment are essential to partner efforts on beaches. Supported this year by over thirty local associations, awareness campaigns were rolled-out throughout the summer for vacationers, especially the young. Economic partners and local associations widely answered the Foundation's call to fight marine pollution, and plastic in particular. **61,593 actions took place on the ground, mobilizing 1,804,260 young people.**

Due to local authority restrictions and the health context, environmental education activities and awareness campaigns, planned on-site at a number of beaches, did not take place. Partners set up beach radios, produced posters, and used virtual media to compensate for these restrictions.



F. BEACH MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

Beach evaluation is based on four Blue Flag qualification criteria:

1. Bathing Water Quality;
2. Development, Equipment and Management;

3. Safety and sanitary coverage;
4. Awareness and environmental education.

G. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Random inspection of Clean Beaches 2021 beaches by the National Committee were compiled for national and regional review. This assessment highlights both progress made and shortcomings to be addressed.

Technical evaluation sheets attached to this report provide an overview of beaches open to the public. They underline efforts undertaken, shortcomings noted in equipment, management, hygiene and safety, as well as in terms of awareness raising and education on development and the environment.

1. General Findings:

Assessment of the state of 106 beaches in the Clean Beaches Program enables a classification of beaches into three categories:

• BLUE FLAG BEACHES

No major problems reported on Blue Flag beaches. All criteria were met throughout the Summer.

Monitoring of Blue Flag beaches was enhanced this year, following a letter from the Minister of Interior on 13 July 2021 to Walis and Governors. It established local commissions at wilayas and prefectures in charge of monitoring and daily supervision of beaches throughout the summer.

All 27 2021 blue flag beaches have toilets, showers and first aid centers. Cleaning is provided by private companies mandated by economic partners.

• SPONSORED BEACHES

This group consists of 64 beaches supported by an economic partner.

- 94% of beaches have toilets and showers, i.e., 60 out of 64 beaches.
- 80% of beaches have showers;
- All beaches (beach and backshore) are cleaned by partners and municipalities
- 60% of sponsored beaches, i.e., 40 beaches, have first aid centers equipped and managed by medical and/or paramedical personnel.

• NON-SPONSORED BEACHES

These beaches do not have an economic partner and operate on their own resources during the summer season.

- 65% of non-sponsored beaches have toilets, i.e., 26 beaches.
- Most toilets are poorly maintained
- All beaches are cleaned by municipal staff.
- Only 20% of non-sponsored beaches, i.e., 8 beaches, have first aid facilities on the beach.

2. Regional evaluation of beaches in the program

A regional assessment was conducted for the first time in 2021 to more accurately determine scope for improvement.

ORIENTAL REGION



Beaches in the Oriental region are adequately managed as far as development, equipment, services, security and entertainment are concerned.

Beaches in the municipality of Saïdia, with strong tourist potential, experience greater flows of vacationers in summer and therefore encounter mild difficulties in spatial and organizational management during the peak season (parking, use of sanitary facilities and services).

TANGIER-TETUAN-AL HOCEIMA REGION

AL HOCEIMA

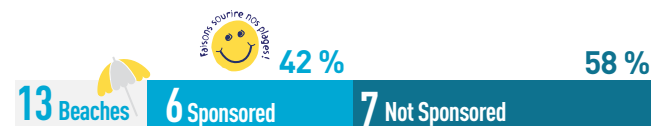


Beaches in the Al Hoceima area can accommodate summer vacationers in a properly developed setting complying with standards of development, hygiene and cleanliness.

However, given that beaches in the region are not sponsored, they often lack services usually provided at beach level (first aid centers, display, entertainment).

Implementation and management of services are performed by municipalities that often lack the financial and human resources to manage the beach.

TETUAN



Beaches in this area improved in terms of infrastructure and services.

No apparent anomaly was observed for sponsored beaches, including labeled ones.

Some shortcomings were observed at the beaches of Kaa Asrass, Taghra, Stehat, Ras Rmel, Rifenne, Amsaa, Azla - not sponsored for services and maintenance.

The region, known for its strong attractiveness in summer, requires more resources to cope with summer crowds.

TANGIER



Sponsored beaches meet Blue Flag criteria. Non-labeled sponsored beaches meet requirements in terms of development, safety and cleaning. Nonetheless, some shortcomings were observed with respect to maintenance of services provided (toilets, showers) on the beaches of Forêt Diplomatique, Sidi Kassem, Rmilat, Sidi M'ghit during peak season.

Beaches of this very touristy region attract more visitors than they can accommodate. Services (parking, toilets) are insufficient. Beaches of Aqwass Breich, Tahardat, Chatii Al Azrak (blue city), Jbila, Admirals, lack generally provided services (first aid centers, display, entertainment, etc...).

RABAT-SALÉ-KENITRA REGION



The majority of beaches in the Rabat-Salé-Kenitra region are managed with respect to development, equipment, services, security and entertainment.

Some shortcomings were observed on non-sponsored beaches mainly caused by closures or redevelopment works in progress.

SKHIRATE-TEMARA REGION



The eleven beaches of the Skhirate-Temara region are sponsored. They have improved significantly in terms of management and services provided.

However, sanitary facilities were closed on some beaches for lack of maintenance, connection to sewage systems or septic tanks, or in some cases for health safety reasons.

The absence of a first aid center was also noted, as a result of insufficient human resources due to the health crisis.

CASABLANCA-SETTAT REGION



Management of the region's 14 beaches improved significantly.

On the beaches of Dahomey, Essanaoubar, Plage du Centre, Manesman, sanitary facilities were closed, either for lack of maintenance or for absence of connection to sewage systems or septic tank, and/or sometimes for health safety reasons.

MARRAKECH-SAFI REGION



Six sponsored beaches of the Marrakech-Safi region have all required infrastructures and services.

Non-sponsored beaches of Tafedna, Bhibah, Moulay Bouzerktoune, Sidi Kaouki need improved management, maintenance, and equipment.

SOUS-MASSA-DRAA REGION



Sponsored beaches of the Souss-Mass Drâa region are very popular and have all the required infrastructure and

services to accommodate such flows.

GUELMIM-OUED NOUN REGION



Beaches of the Guelmim-Oued Noun region, only one of which is sponsored, have adequate infrastructure and services. Sanitary facilities of Sidi Med Ben Abdellah, Tamhroucht and Loutia beaches were not in satisfactory condition.

LAÂYOUNE-SAKIA EL HAMRA REGION



The beach is very well managed and has all required infrastructure and services.

DAKHLA-OUED EDDAHAB REGION



Sponsored beaches are in very good condition, have all required infrastructure and services, and are very well managed.

Trouk Beach Km 25, which is not sponsored, does not have basic facilities, its management is uncoordinated, and it receives very little traffic because of its geographical location.

General Recommendations

- Equipment and management should be enhanced at non-sponsored beaches. An action plan for equipment, maintenance and management needs to be drawn up by municipalities in consultation with the DGCT.
- Enhance management during weekends and holidays;
- Strengthen beach control and monitoring mechanisms; and
- Improve coordination between the Ministry of Health, Civil Protection and the Moroccan Red Crescent, for better implementation of first aid centers.