

Prospero

Beach cleanups in Aetolia-Arcanania



Thessaloniki, 2026

Suggested reference Doumbas, N., Kokkali, K., Charitou, A., Touzot M., Giovos, I. Beach Cleanups in Aetolia-Carnania. iSea, Greece, 2026. 19pp.

**Project Manager:
Nikos Doumbas**

**Graphic Design Editing:
iSea**

**Photos:
iSea, Tosidis Dimitris**

**License:
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)**

This interim report concerns actions implemented within the framework of the 23rd wave of Prosfero.

The actions in Aitolokarnania were implemented in co-organization with the organization Messolonghi By Locals. At the same time, we thank the Red Cross of Messolonghi, the Management Unit of the National Park of Messolonghi and Protected Areas of Western Central Greece, the 2nd Lyceum of Messolonghi, the Astakos High School, the volunteers who participated in the actions, the Municipality of Messolonghi and Xiromero, NECCA, the Land Service of Aitolokarnania and the Police Directorate of Aitolia.





Until now

326 beach & underwater
cleanups

>97 tons of litter have been
removed





Beach cleanups

1st Action (D1): Agalma Beach, Aitoliko

2nd Action (D2): Tourlida Beach, Messolonghi

3rd Activity (D3): Laspouloutra Beach of Agia Triada, Messolonghi

4th Action (D4): Astakos Beach, Astakos

Table 1: Data on beach cleanups in the context of the project, April 2026.

Action	Action date	Number of volunteers	Kilos of litter
D1	17-04-2026	7	35
D2	20-04-2026	9	116
D3	21-04-2026	30	144.3
D4	22-04-2026	101	218
Total		147	513.3



Results of beach litter recording

As part of the actions to study the abundance of marine litter in the area, the marine litter on the beaches we visited was recorded and counted, according to the protocol established by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

4 BEACHES

**513.3
KILOS**

**48.3²
ITEMS / m**

82.4% PLASTICS

These results are in line with the findings of the international bibliography, according to which plastics are the dominant type of litter in marine and beach ecosystems. Their high proportion confirms the need for targeted actions to prevent and reduce plastic pollution in the areas under consideration.

Litter categories

The average percentage of plastic recorded across all beaches was 82.4%. Across all beach cleanups, plastic was the most abundant of all litter categories.

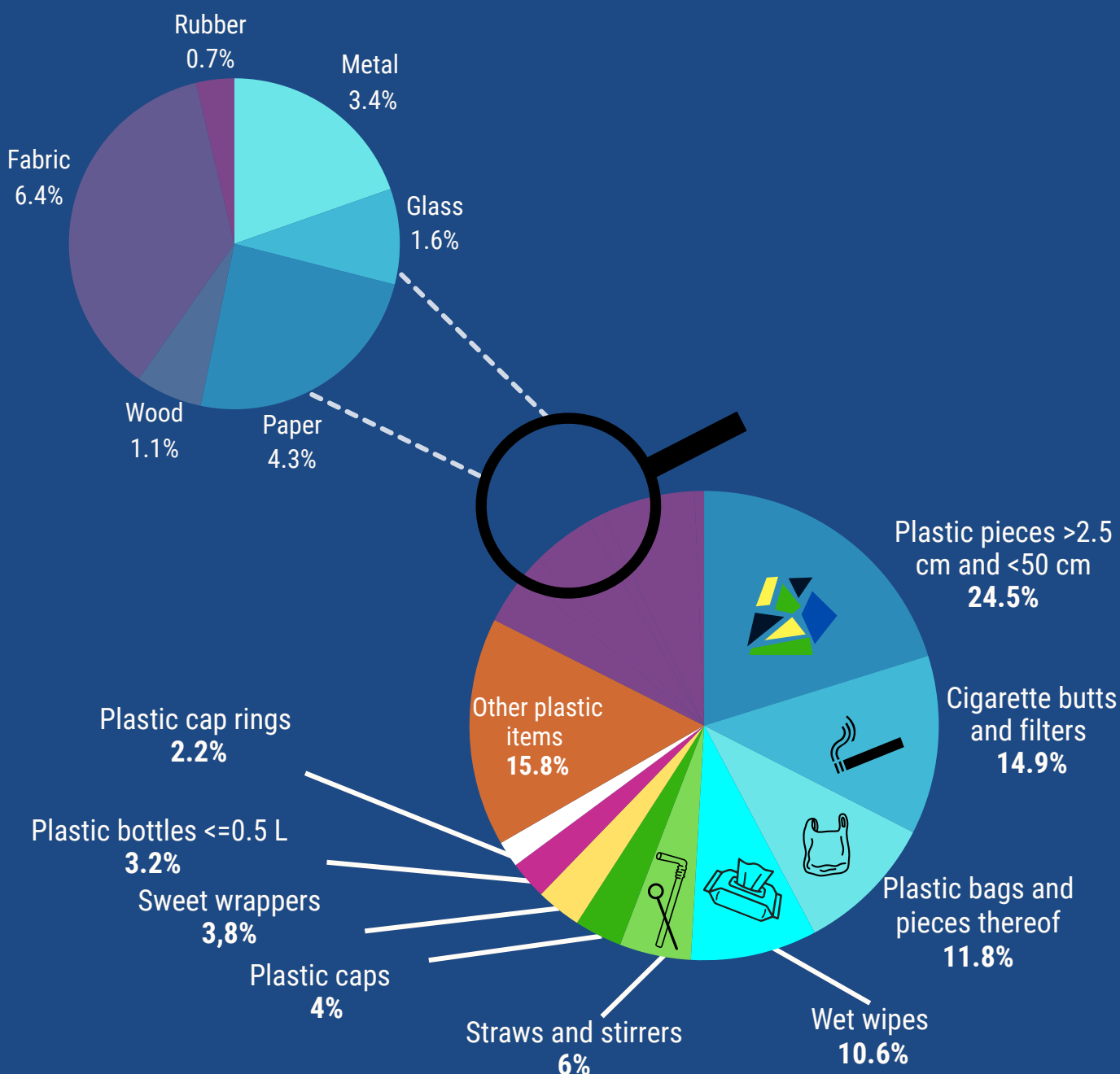


Figure 1: Waste categories in percentage (%), as derived from beach cleanups in Aitolioakarnania.

Litter categories

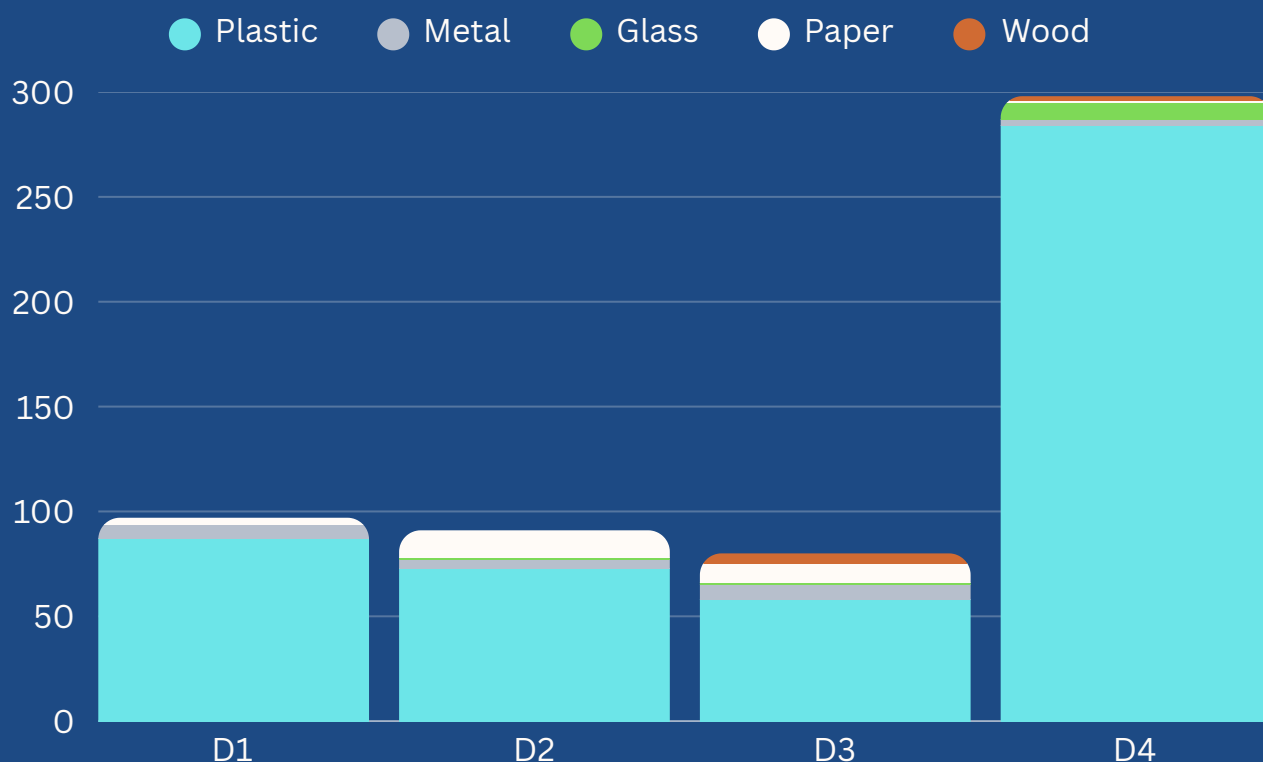


Figure 2: Total number of litter items per category for each beach.

On all the beaches we visited, plastic waste was the most frequently recorded category. Specifically, on Agalma beach 87 plastic items were recorded per 100 meters, on Turlida 73 per 100 meters, on Laspouloutra Agia Triada 58 per 100 meters and on Astakos 284 per 58 meters of coastline. These records accurately reflect the real picture of the areas. For example, on Astakos a particularly large number of plastics were detected, while bulky objects such as vehicle tires, sacks and tarpaulins were also found, which highlights the need for more systematic cleaning, better waste management and continuous environmental monitoring in this area.

Litter categories

Table 2: The most abundant beach litter in %.

ITEMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
Plastic pieces >2.5 cm and <50 cm	24.5%
Cigarette butts and filters	14.9%
Plastic bags and pieces thereof	11.8%
Wet wipes	10.6%
Straws and stirrers	6.0%



Beach conditions

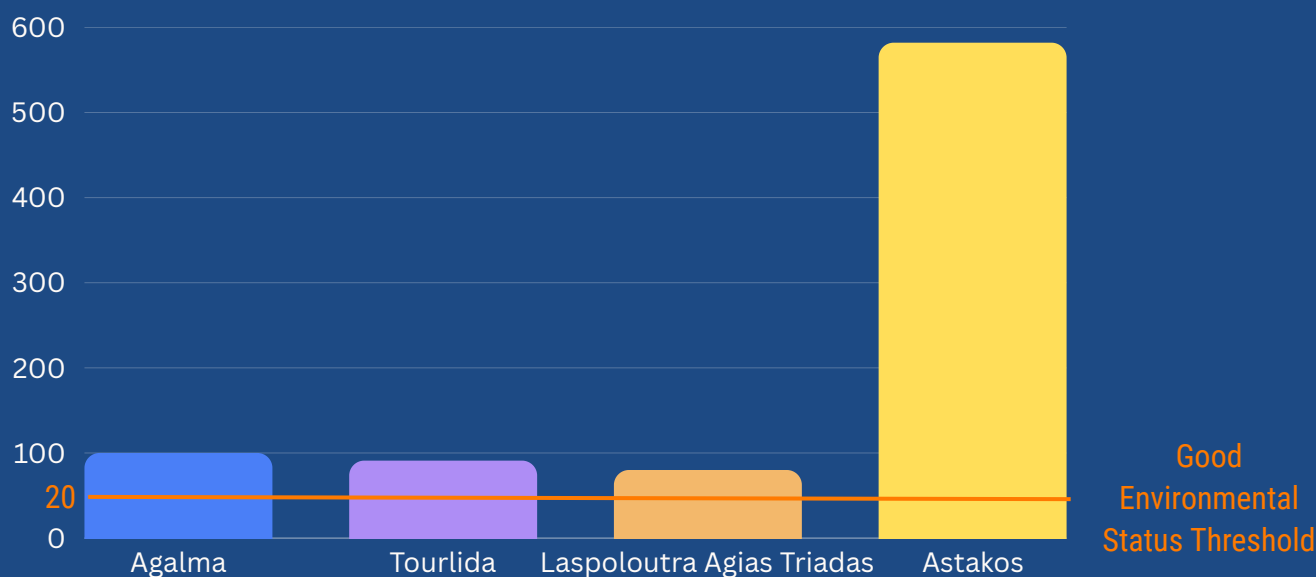


Figure 3: Total amount of litter per beach and comparison with the maximum litter limit per 100 meters to achieve Good Environmental Status.

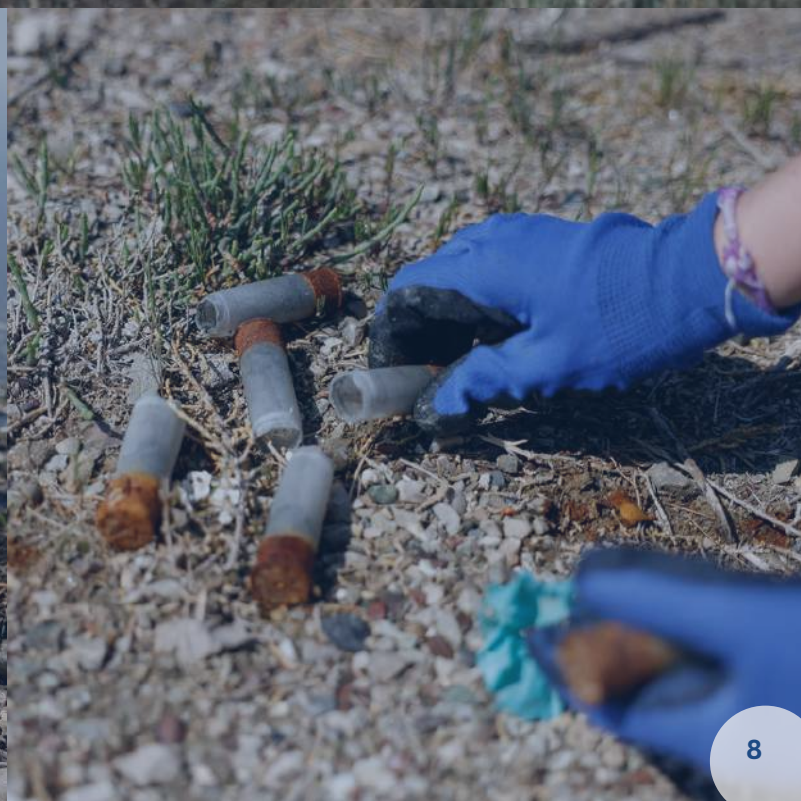
The figure shows the total amount of litter recorded on the four beaches where the actions were implemented. The horizontal orange line shows the maximum litter limit for achieving Good Environmental Status set by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at 20 items per 100 meters of coastline. As can be seen, all beaches far exceed the Limit Value set.

The beach in Agias Triadas records the highest total amount of litter (582 items per 100 meters). This increased concentration is mainly due to the morphology of the beach, as it is located in a cove, where litter is more easily trapped. At the same time, the presence of a stream and a fishing port in the area contributes significantly to the increased litter concentration.

Litter of local interest

During the clean-ups at Laspouloutra beach in Agia Triada, a significant presence of local waste was recorded, such as plastic nets from fishing boats and other fishing equipment. In addition, various festive decoration items, such as wreaths and flags, as well as cartridges, were found, which appear to be related to human activities taking place in the area.

At the same time, a large volume of litter directly associated with the presence of bathers was observed, such as cigarette butts and wet wipes. This type of litter, due to its small size and frequent use, easily accumulates in the beach environment and is difficult to collect completely.





Litter of local interest

During the beach cleanup at Astakos Beach, an increased presence of bulky litter was recorded, which are typical example of uncontrolled dumping. Specifically, large bags containing rubble and building materials, as well as tarpaulins, and a large number of car tires were found.

This litter is not related to the usual use of the beach by bathers, but indicates illegal dumping practices. Its presence significantly burdens the landscape, degrades the aesthetic and ecological value of the area and may have long-term impacts on the environment, as many of these materials decompose very slowly and release pollutants.



Suggestions

To effectively address the above phenomena, the following are proposed:

- Installation of appropriate litter collection infrastructure, such as bins and special containers for small litter (e.g. cigarette butts) on beaches and recreational areas.
- Installation of informational signage, aiming to raise awareness among visitors about the impacts of litter on the environment and the protection framework for these areas (beaches included in the Natura2000 network and Deserted Beaches)
- Systematic checks and surveillance, especially in areas where dumping of bulky items is observed.
- Strengthening cooperation with local professionals, such as fishermen, for the proper management and disposal of equipment (e.g. nets).
- Organizing regular cleaning actions and participatory initiatives, to strengthen the active participation of the local community.
- Promoting prevention practices, such as reducing the use of single-use products and proper waste management by citizens.



Informative event

As part of the "Prosfero" program, an informative event was held in the city of Messolonghi under the auspices of the Municipality of Messolonghi and in collaboration with the organization Messolonghi By Locals.

Through the information campaign, a total of 30 people were informed, many of whom subsequently took part in the clean-up actions. iSea representatives informed all attendees about the goals and actions of the program and distributed information material with information on marine pollution, as well as on proposed measures for its prevention and treatment.

Adults and children who participated in the information event had the opportunity to learn about the most common types of litter found on Greek beaches and to see up close indicative items that have been removed as part of underwater and beach cleanups.

The participation of children was particularly interesting, as they learned through the floor-based question game about ways in which they can adopt environmentally sound and responsible habits.

Participation

In total, 147 volunteers participated in the cleanup actions that took place in Aitolokarnania.

Members of the environmental organization iSea, as well as representatives of local organizations and educational structures, participated in the actions, contributing decisively to the success of the cleanups and raising awareness among the local community.



Agalma Beach-Aitoliko

- Messolonghi By Locals
- Red Cross



Tourlida-Mesolongi Beach

- Messolonghi By Locals
- Red Cross
- NECCA

Participation



Laspoultra Beach of Agia Triada-Mesolongi

- Messolonghi By Locals
- 2nd High School of Messolonghi
- Red Cross
- NECCA



Astakos Beach-Astakos

- Astakos High School

Communication

During the actions, a total of 14 stories were published on iSea's Social Media, aiming to inform the public about the actions and raise awareness about the problem of marine litter and its impacts on the marine ecosystem. The stories were posted on iSea's profiles, with a total reach of 8.772 on Instagram and 3.255 on Facebook.

With the aim of better informing the public about the actions, an event was created on Facebook with details about the program.

After the end of the actions, through 1 post on all iSea Social Media, the overall results of the actions in the region were presented.

	REACH	REACTIONS	LINK
Facebook	393	15	Link
Instagram	1.326	31	Link
LinkedIn	350	16	Link

Table 3: iSea Social Media Post regarding the actions

Communication

A Press Release was created and shared with local media and posted on the iSea website, inviting the local community to participate in the program and providing information about the planned actions. Also, 2 interviews were given to the Radio Stations of Messolonghi and Lepanto.

PRESS RELEASE

VISITS

We offer cleaner seas and
beaches in the Gulf of
Corinth

92

MEDIA

LINK

Lefkada Peak

[Link 1](#)

Lefkada Peak

[Link 2](#)

Karvasaras

[Link 3](#)

Mytika Press

[Link 4](#)

Aitoloakarnania best.gr

[Link 5](#)

Agrinio Culture

[Link 6](#)

Agrinio Report

[Link 7](#)

Agrinio News

[Link 8](#)

Table 4: Press articles regarding the program's actions in Aitoloakarnania.

Learn more about the
Prospero program



**Environmental Organization
for the Protection of Aquatic
Ecosystems**

Head offices
Kritis 12, Thessaloniki, Greece,
54645, +30 2313090696
info@isea.com.gr

**Research base Western
Greece**
Menidi, Aitolokarnania,
30016

Research base North Aegean
Panagia, Lemnos, 81401

[BECOME A SUPPORTER](#)

iSea.org



[isea_org](https://www.facebook.com/isea_org)



[iSea NGO](https://www.instagram.com/isea_ngo)



[iseango2016](https://www.linkedin.com/company/isea-ngo)

