



# PCIS' The Reefs

The aim of **PCIS' The Reefs** is to **restore and preserve** our community's **beaches** and to raise awareness of the urgent need for **climate change** to be addressed. We do our best to impact and benefit our community in areas that are important to our country.

## Who are PCIS' The Reefs?

PCIS' The Reefs is a team of seven young students from the **Puntacana International School (PCIS)**, looking to make an impact by **educating** and **volunteering** within our community. We educated students by giving classes about climate change underwater, volunteered to work at other local ecological foundations in our community, and raised awareness of the issue through social media and eco-friendly flyers.

Our project focuses on 4 main global development goals: **sustainable cities and communities**, **climate action**, **life below water**, and **life on land**. We practice these goals by spreading our ideas through ecological and **sustainable** methods; encouraging others to **take action** to protect our environment; focusing our project on **reefs** and their surrounding habitat; and aiming to **restore and preserve our beaches** as well as the species living in them.

As a team, we are all immensely grateful that we chose to sign up for the Global Social Leaders project. This activity was a life-changing learning experience for us, granting us new skills in responsibility, coordination, patience, time management, and planning, besides giving us useful expertise when it came to graphic design, photography, writing, video editing, and establishing a reliable social media presence.

## Involvement

- Surveyed over **204 students**
- Collaborated with local foundations: **Grupo Puntacana, Centro de Innovación Marina (CIM)**
- **70+ hours volunteering** at the CIM as a team.
- **210+ followers** on social media
- Contacted 2 other **local schools**
- Contacted 3 other GSL teams:  
**@ocean\_cleanup\_activist, @projectfoodtree, @mantafromthewave**
- Gave educational presentations to **110+ students**
- **40+ hours** spent during weekly meetings
- **32 students** wished to volunteer
- Put up over **20 flyers** made from **recycled paper**
- **230+ hours** working as a team.
- Reached over **300 people** in total

## Team Members\*

- **Laura Rodríguez**, Team leader
- **Mariely Isabella Ramírez**, Co-Leader
- **Nadia Kaspersen González**, Writing
- **Gabriella Sánchez**, Event organization
- **Camila Lovatón Ariza**, Social Media & Design
- **María Alejandra Luengas**, Social media
- **Isabelle Villegas Ventura**, Photography





### **Setbacks and how we conquered our obstacles**

The main challenge we had to face, just as all the other groups this year, was the Covid-19 pandemic. A great number of ideas which we would've implemented otherwise, such as bake sales, rallies, volunteering programs, exhibitions, collecting funds, and beach cleanups, were simply not possible. Not until April could we begin to even put up posters at our school. We therefore had to find a way to work around these setbacks. We hosted digital meetings with our team, gave classes and panel discussions through virtual conferences, raised awareness through social media, hosted surveys online and always maintained Covid safety protocols whenever we had volunteer work.

On the other hand, our group faced many other challenges, such as one of our members regrettably resigning, the integration of a new member and the time restrictions due to our team member's busy schedules, as well as having to carry out new activities that we had never done before. Faced with these problems, we had to come up with new ways to work around them, manage our situation, and divide the responsibilities within our group accordingly to use the experience we already had and adapt it to new situations.

While we are remorseful that we have been held back so much due to the pandemic and other issues, we are nevertheless convinced that we gave the best effort we had considering the circumstances.

### **Quotes**

"The Reefs have surpassed my expectations. It is an extraordinary group composed of young leaders who would definitely make a change in the future. I am so proud to see these young leaders' genuine concern about taking care of the environment and doing their best to make a change by raising awareness on environmental issues in the region. Great job to our Reefs!"

*Kristine Sargsyan, Senior School Coordinator at PCIS*

"They have been an excellent group that is eager to learn, help, and isn't afraid to ask questions. At the center, they have been involved in activities concerning ornamental fish and coral reef conservation. Their videos have also helped us reach out more people so that they can also learn more about the marine environment."

*Rebecca Garcia, Coordinator of Marine Conservation Operations*

### **Highlights**

- Team meetings at least once a week
- Gave classes to over 110 students in 4 different classes
- Wrote an article for and featured in the school newspaper
- Visited a contaminated beach
- Volunteered at the CIM on three different occasions
- Surveyed over 200 students aged 9-18 and created reports
- Collaborated with foundations and schools in our community
- Received over 200 followers on social media
- Submitted video for the Full Sail Creative Marathon
- Designed unique flyers and posts for social media



## **EVERY STEP COUNTS.**



*\*due to Covid restrictions not all members could be pictured at the same time, but all members are featured in at least one photo.*