



# CoAct. Ciencia Ciudadana para la Justicia Ambiental en la Cuenca Matanza Riachuelo (Science for Environmental Justice in the Matanza Riachuelo Basin)

Environmental justice; sanitation.



## Objectives

### Overall goal

Organize, systematize, and share the knowledge acquired over the years about the basin.

### Specific goals

Contribute towards environmental justice, which is defined as the equitable distribution of environmental burdens and benefits by promoting citizen participation in decision-making on environmental issues.

### Description of citizen participation

An online platform is developed on the basis of new insights and ideas contributed by the communities living in the Matanza Riachuelo basin and by other stakeholders from the scientific and public policy fields. Through the development of key definitions, data collection and subsequent analysis by the communities this platform will enable the following:

- Build knowledge to find solutions to these issues.
- Give visibility to their significance for different community groups.
- Facilitate specific actions for transformation.

### Type of citizen science project

- Co-created project: Citizens participate in all stages of the scientific process

### Participating parties.

- Research Center for Transformation (CENIT, in Spanish) of the National University of San Martín (UNSAM, in Spanish).
- Environment and Natural Resources Foundation (FARN, in Spanish).

Status. In progress.

Time frame. 01/04/2020 - 01/01/2023

Frequency of project execution. Over the 3 years of the project, a digital platform will be co-designed together with the communities to generate citizen data that will function permanently to record the experiences and knowledge of the people on three environmental justice issues. See map.

Participation period. Sustained over time.

Scope of the initiative. Local (city, province).

Geographic scope. Matanza Riachuelo basin Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (for its national and environmental chapter).

Project development members. Collaboration between members of the academic community, civil society organizations, and communities of the

Number of participants. From 51 to 100.

### Action/s involving citizen participation.

- Data collection.
- Data analysis.
- Phenomenon monitoring.
- Design of the citizen science tool.

Technological device/tool required. Electronic devices with Internet connection (mobile or not).

Recruitment methods. Convening through personal contact and through the networks of participating social organizations.

Replicability. The co-designed tool is open source and can be reused for other initiatives.

Scalability. As of July 2022, the use of the tool depends on the social media of those who participated in co-designing. It is expected to be scaled up to other areas of the basin.

Open access to data. The data generated in the platform are open access and available in Zenodo. They can be downloaded in formats that allow their use, modification, and redistribution.

Feedback. At the current stage of development, feedback is provided at each stage of co-design and implementation with its participants.

### Linkage with state agency/government.

- Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority [ACUMAR, in Spanish].
- Provincial and municipal officials.
- Towards the end of the project, a workshop for public policy actors will be organized.



Institutional funds. They have been obtained from Horizon 2020, the European Union's programme that provides monetary support for the development of science, innovation, and technology.

Awards/distinctions. The project has won an international competition within the framework of the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme.

Comments. The platform that is co-designed under this project (CoAct) is a re-launch of the platform ¿Qué Pasa, Riachuelo? [What's up, Riachuelo?] (QPR, in Spanish); this project is also part of the mapping and co-designed with a social citizen science approach.

### Knowledge areas/disciplines (OECD)

Natural and Exact Sciences / Earth and Environmental Sciences

Social Sciences / Sociology

Social Sciences / Law

Social Sciences / Political Science

### Leaders.

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