

ZEGAMA-AIZKORRI MOUNTAIN RACE

Environmental Report · 25th Edition · 2026

The 2026 edition of the Zegama-Aizkorri Mountain Race marked a milestone: for the first time, the event underwent the official audit of the Kilian Jornet Foundation's Green Trail Concept programme. This report summarises the environmental work of the 25th edition, held on 17 May 2026 in the surroundings of the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park.

The event in figures

Item	Value
Event date	17 May 2026
Participants (three races)	Marathon, Vertical Kilometre and Junior Trail
Countries of origin	25 countries (87% from Spain, 27% from Gipuzkoa)
Environmental volunteers	21
Aid stations along the course	14
Waste collected on the mountain	115.57 kg
People using free collective transport	~25,000
CO ₂ emissions avoided (shuttles)	~425 tonnes

Waste management

During the day, 115.57 kg of waste was collected at the mountain aid stations, with plastic being the predominant material (48.9% of the total). The behaviour of runners and spectators on the mountain was generally responsible, and the most frequent waste —fruit peels and gel wrappers— is typical of a race of these characteristics.

The mountain course was left clean after the passage of runners and spectators. With future editions in mind, the organisation will work towards a more structured waste management system in the village area, with a greater focus on recycling, zoning, clear signage and more effective selective separation before municipal collection.

Liquid waste was managed by a specialised company, in accordance with applicable regulations, ensuring environmentally safe management and avoiding any risk of contaminating the natural environment.

State of the natural environment

The day passed without serious incidents. The passage of runners and spectators left noticeable surface erosion on the most heavily used sections, within reasonable limits for an event of this scale.

Public behaviour was positive: cyclists and hikers kept to the existing paths. Closing vehicle access to the Natural Park in the days before the event encouraged many people to travel on foot or by bicycle, reducing the impact on the environment.

Water management

Water consumption was monitored through meter readings at eight points in the village of Zegama between 15 and 18 May. The total verified consumption was 108 m³ over the three-day period, establishing a baseline for water management in future editions.

Mobility and transport

Managing the access of more than 10,000 people to a protected environment with limited road capacity is one of the event's main environmental challenges.

Free shuttles

The organisation offered a completely free shuttle service over the three days of the event, moving approximately 25,000 people across 444 trips. It was the most far-reaching sustainable mobility measure, avoiding an estimated 425 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Lurraldebus GO01 public line

In coordination with Lurraldebus, the regular GO01 line was reinforced with special services on 16 and 17 May. It is estimated that around 1,500 people used this service over the weekend.

Carbon footprint of participant transport

The average carbon footprint per runner was 173 kg, below that of internationally recognised trail events, thanks to 87% of participants coming from Spain and 27% from Gipuzkoa itself. The total footprint of participant transport was estimated at 161 tonnes of CO₂.

Actions and good practices

- Gorse clearing at Sancti Spiritu, fostering the regeneration of natural pasture and the balance of the Natural Park's pastoral ecosystem.
- Ongoing maintenance of the Aizkorri shelter, shared infrastructure that forms part of the Park's natural and cultural heritage.
- Introduction of the reusable cup in bars.
- Replacement of plastic tape with reusable rope and iron stakes for signage in key areas of the course such as Aizkorri.
- Free shuttle service, the measure with the greatest climate impact of the edition.
- Elimination of the printed leaflet, with all information in digital format.

Carbon footprint offsetting

Having quantified the carbon footprint of participant transport (estimated at 161 tonnes of CO₂), the organisation is evaluating an offsetting mechanism through the planting of native trees in the surroundings of the Natural Park.

Following the criteria of forestry management experts, this line will be developed in direct coordination with the Aizkorri-Aratz Natural Park, to ensure local, verifiable offsetting, managed with technical criteria and aligned with conservation objectives: selection of suitable native species, ground preparation and subsequent monitoring.

Looking to the next edition

The 2026 edition confirms that Zegama-Aizkorri is moving along the right path, and also points to where work must continue:

- Reduce promotional plastics and move towards a single-use-plastic-free event.

- Redesign waste management in the village area, with a greater focus on recycling.
- Reduce and ensure the collection of course signage tape.
- Improve the logistics of the reusable cup system.
- Set up a dedicated, safe and signposted bicycle parking area.
- Integrate new environmental commitments into the rules of the three races.
- Strengthen capacity control and crowd management in high-attendance areas.

Conclusion

The 2026 edition closes with a positive environmental balance and one certainty: the path is set. Carrying out the first official audit of the Green Trail Concept programme is not a point of arrival, but the start of a formal commitment to sustainability, with a long-term outlook.

Twenty-five thousand people accessed the event by free collective transport. The mountain course was left clean. Environmental volunteers covered every section and every aid station. Pupils from the Zegama school cleaned the mountain. Ropes were used where there had once been plastic. Water was measured, waste was weighed, trips were counted.

Zegama-Aizkorri does not want to be just a beautiful race on a beautiful mountain. It wants to be a race that, every time it passes through Aizkorri, leaves that mountain a little better than it found it. That is the goal.

Zegama-Aizkorri Mendi Lasterketa · Environment Group · Zegama, 2026