



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Cover: Mound of posidonia just before sunrise on the shore at Pollensa bay, in the area of Alcúdia town (Mallorca).

Sebastià Torrens



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# 1

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## Marilles Foundation Conservation of the Balearic Sea

View from Formentor cape  
(Mallorca). Marilles Foundation



## WELCOME TO OUR PROJECT



Over three years ago, Adessium Foundation came up with the idea of launching an initiative to conserve the environment of the Balearic Sea. We spent more than two years carrying out research, holding workshops and consulting with experts and representatives from all sectors. The result, in the summer of 2017, was the launch of Marilles Foundation.

It has been very satisfying to see the project come to life, and to present this first annual report on our activities. In it, we detail our support for a range of organisations doing amazing work in the field. We describe our efforts to connect key players across the region, helping to co-ordinate the work of project funders and project implementers, and fostering essential dialogue between all parties.

Co-ordination and communication are critical to our ambitious, long-term goal: to make the Balearic Islands a world-leading example of marine conservation. To succeed, our project will need the participation of all sectors of society and the contributions of other foundations and generous individuals. But we believe that by working together, our common goal is entirely achievable.

Snorkelling in Alcalfar cove by the town of Sant Lluís. Cala de Alcalfar cove is a common summertime spot for Menorcans and has a very family atmosphere (Menorca). David Arquimbau

In our first year, I am particularly happy that our project has been embraced by MAVA Foundation, with its significant experience of conservation in the Mediterranean. I am convinced that in the coming years, numerous partners will join us.

We are at the start of a long process, and we hope to count on the support of all organisations and individuals that share our passion for the Balearic Sea. There are so many different contributors behind any success: come with us, and be part of ours.

**Rogier van Vliet**

*President of Marilles Foundation*

## A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT



One of the challenges of environmental sustainability is that changes are not immediately visible. The marine environment is no exception. Hard and soft corals and even seagrass recuperate slowly, and populations of fish such as sharks and rays may take decades to regenerate. Restoring the Balearics' marine ecosystems will take time, and that is why Marilles is a long-term project.

In our first year, we have taken the first steps towards our goal of making the Balearics a world leader in marine conservation. This has involved investing time in forging relationships, sharing and analysing information and devising strategies – unseen work



that is tremendously important to our effectiveness.

We have also helped to resource local projects and have created a fund to improve existing Marine Protected Areas. To establish a baseline for further work, we have brought scientific and government organisations together to report on the current condition of the Balearic Sea.

In 2019, we will consolidate this work, seeking to strengthen existing organisations in the third sector and sourcing hard data to reveal the importance of the marine environment to economic prosperity in the region.

The Balearics are well-placed to become a world-leading example of marine conservation: they have a growing network of Marine Protected Areas and one of the most diverse seabeds in the Mediterranean. Already, enclaves such as the El Toro Marine Reserve demonstrate that when the pressure from fishing is reduced, fish species such as groupers, dentex and meagres begin to flourish again.

Marilles is already planning for 2030 and beyond. However, we are confident of seeing results far sooner as the environment begins to respond to our efforts.

**Aniol Esteban**

*Director of Marilles Foundation*



Goldblotch grouper  
(*Epinephelus costae*).  
Manu San Félix

**€269.000  
INVESTED**

Boat at work in  
Sant Elm, by the town  
of Andratx (Mallorca).  
Sebastià Torrens



Ses Illetes (Formentera).  
Manu San Félix



## WHO

**Marilles** is a private, non-profit foundation that is working to **make the Balearic Islands a world-leading example of marine conservation.**

## WHAT

**We fund projects** that help to **improve the conservation of the coast and Balearic Sea.**  
To date, we have **invested €269,000 in eleven projects.**

## HOW

Our way of working is **positive, inclusive and solutions-based.**  
Our strategy gives priority to:

Our mission is to restore marine and coastal ecosystems to excellent health and contribute to the sustainability of the region.

We are leading the dialogue between experts and organisations that tackle the challenges faced by the Balearics' marine environment.

We help forge connections between those with the expertise to carry out projects and those who can fund them.

Reducing impact on the Balearic Sea from professional and recreational fishing, plastics and pollution, and the boating and tourism industries.

Improving Marine Protected Areas.

Raising awareness about the need to conserve the marine environment by engaging with people and educating them about the sea.



## We fund activities that protect the Balearic Sea and coast

To date we have invested €269,000 in eleven projects, mainly undertaken by third sector organisations. These projects have a common aim: to identify and make use of opportunities for improvements to the marine environment of the Balearic Islands.

Dusky grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*) among posidonia and rocky sea bed (Formentera). Manu San Félix

## Protecting whales and dolphins

### TURSIOPS

Tursiops is committed to the conservation of cetaceans in both coastal and deep sea waters, especially in the western Mediterranean, and to publicising research about them. Its projects are scientific with a social and educational emphasis.

Funding from Marilles has contributed to the budget for "*Els nostres dofins*" ("Our dolphins"), an ongoing acoustic research project in the waters around Ibiza and Formentera. We have helped the organisation to invest in equipment to digitise acoustic analyses, and to enable it to

obtain drone images that allow Tursiops staff to identify marks on large cetaceans caused by vessel collision. It has also enabled Tursiops day-to-day work to continue despite delays to its public funding.

Sperm whale tail in Balearic waters (the Balearics are home to a stable sperm whale population). Tursiops



**€10,000  
INVESTED**

Back of a sperm whale (a sperm whale's blowhole is on its left side, which helps identify it). Tursiops



*The greatest tool with which to defend nature is our knowledge.*

*For Tursiops, Marilles has been like a gentle breeze that has enabled the boat to keep sailing when it was in danger of drifting to a stop.*

*Txema Brotons, Tursiops*



## The sea: a shared responsibility

### GEN-GOB

GEN-GOB is an organisation located in Ibiza. It works to achieve an ecologically and socially sustainable environment by bringing human activity in line with natural conservation. Its project, "The sea: a shared responsibility", is intended to draw together the fishing, leisure and tourism industries – recreational fishing, scuba diving centres, the

boating sector – with NGOs and government to conserve and manage the marine environment.

In 2018, GEN-GOB used funds from Marilles to facilitate widespread stakeholder consultation and involvement in the process of drawing up management plans for local marine conservation areas, which form part of the European

Natura 2000 conservation network. It also collaborated with the Consell d'Eivissa (Ibiza's autonomous government body) and the fishing sector to draft the proposal for the new Tagomago Marine Reserve. Further, GEN-GOB is working with local government bodies to improve and implement comprehensive regulations for mooring around Ibiza and Formentera.

Ses Illetes, one of the areas with the greatest density of boats in summer (Formentera). GEN-GOB



€80,000  
INVESTED

Rockfish, always to be found in the markets. Marilles Foundation



*It is important to build up networks of trust for the future of our sea, which is a shared responsibility.*

*Joan Carles Palerm,  
President of GEN-GOB*

*Marilles' support for the GEN-GOB marine programme is proving decisive in keeping up the momentum needed to accelerate conservation in the short, medium and long term.*

*Marià Marí, Coordinator of GEN-GOB's Marine Area*



## More protection for the marine environment in Menorca

### GOB MENORCA

GOB Menorca is a non-profit environmental organisation that campaigns for a truly sustainable economy where the balance between human activity and environmental values is maintained. Thanks to aid from the Marilles Foundation, in 2018 it launched its marine environment programme along several lines. First, it was instrumental in ensuring that the Balearic

Islands Government upheld its commitment to allocate €200,000 to the protection of meadows of posidonia, the seagrass that oxygenates the Mediterranean Sea.

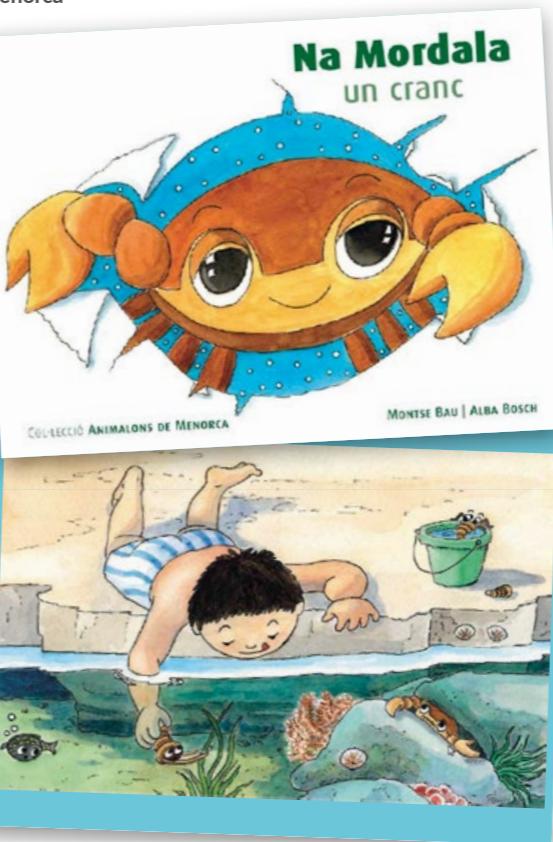
To reduce the use of plastics, the organisation led such initiatives as substituting paper bags for plastic in the markets in Maó and Ciutadella, and persuading local organisations to reduce

consumption of single-use plates and cutlery. GOB Menorca also developed new resources for educational activities in schools. Further, it has actively participated in the process of designating a new Marine Reserve – l'Illa de l'Aire Marine Reserve. It has revived the draft 2011 Island Coastal Plan, and is working on the future Territorial Island Plan for Menorca.

Binimel-là beach (Menorca). Marilles Foundation



Handing out biodegradable bags in Ciutadella's agricultural market (Menorca). GOB Menorca



Children's tale  
*Na mordala, Cranc,*  
Cranc! published by  
GOB Menorca. GOB  
Menorca



The Marilles Foundation's aid has enabled Menorca's GOB to open up a line of work that focuses on the marine environment.

Marilles brings to the Balearics modern conservation strategies, mirroring Northern Europe's successful models.

Miquel Camps, GOB's Territorial Policy Coordinator



## Empowering schools

### ONDINE

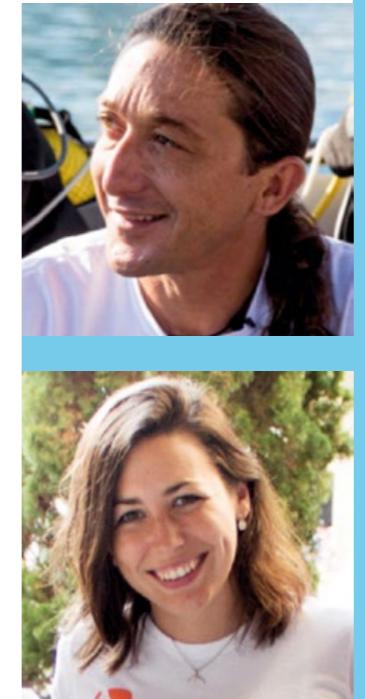
The Ondine association raises awareness of conservation among local people and works with them to proactively restore the Balearic Sea's biodiversity. In 2018, using funds from Marilles, it was able to employ a full-time co-ordinator to develop, circulate, implement and evaluate its "Dos manos" ("Two hands") programme on plastic

pollution in the sea. In Mallorca, 31 schools participated, with over 2,000 pupils taking part.

In the summer, in collaboration with Alnitak Marine Research and Education Centre, a group of pupils took part in the "Changemakers at Sea" project, learning about marine

conservation on board the research vessel, *Toftevaag*. Going forward, programmes have also been launched to empower the school community to protect the sea during the summer months.

Cleaning up the beach at Can Pere Antoni, Palma (Mallorca) with entry-level vocational education pupils. Ondine



**€25,000  
INVESTED**

School students discussing how to reduce pollution as part of the Dos Manos ("Two Hands") programme, Palma (Mallorca). Ondine

*The more we work in marine conservation, the more we realise that such conservation is not so much to do with the sea as with us. If we want to change things, change needs to start with ourselves.*

**Brad Robertson, Founder of Asociación Ondine**

*It's not about asking the next generation to solve the mess we've created. It's about changing habits and taking a community-based approach founded upon shared responsibility.*

**Mari Gotic, Head of Education and Outreach, Asociación Ondine**



## The fight against plastic pollution

### PLASTIC FREE IBIZA AND FORMENTERA

The Plastic Free Ibiza and Formentera movement began life at the end of June 2018 with the aim of keeping Ibiza and Formentera's natural, cultural and historic beauty free from plastic pollution. It works with other organisations in the field to find ways to substitute, reduce, reuse

and recycle plastic products in households, companies and public institutions.

Support from both Marilles and the Ibiza Preservation Fund enabled the organisation to hire coordinators for a year and, for the first time, carry out joint

activities in Ibiza and Formentera. These included: three screenings of the documentary film, *Out of Plastic*; organising World Clean Up Day activities; cleaning various beaches; co-ordinating the planning of future activities; and moving towards a fully developed common strategy.

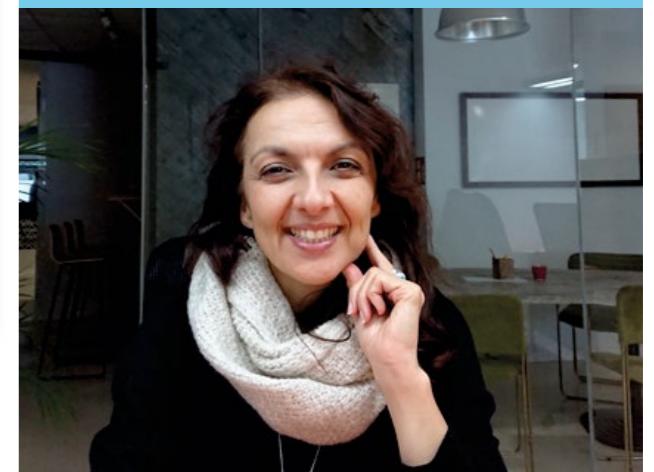
Consumers demonstrating for a reduction in single-use plastics (Ibiza). Plastic Free Ibiza and Formentera



*Citizens and local governments, as the custodians of the islands, can achieve the elimination of single-use plastics and a reduction in all non-essential plastic products.*

*The aid from Marilles has enabled us to lay the foundations and carry out the first activities of the Plastic Free Ibiza and Formentera movement.*

**Myrto Pispini, Coordinator, Plastic Free Ibiza and Formentera**



## Objective: zero waste

### REZERO

Rezero is a non-profit organisation that seeks to shift the model of production and consumption towards zero waste. Working as part of a network of social and economic players, it initiates activities and supports transformative policies that reduce or prevent waste. The high consumption of natural resources, massive waste generation and heavy presence

of plastics on the Balearic coasts (with concentrations up to thirty times higher than in the rest of the Mediterranean) make the introduction of measures for waste reduction, particularly of plastics and disposable objects, an urgent priority.

Thanks to support from Marilles, Barcelona-based Rezero has started work in the Balearics.

The organisation brings to the region extensive experience in carrying out innovative public campaigns and impacting on local policy. The climate for such changes is optimistic, given the new European Single-Use Plastics Directive and the new Balearic Law on Waste and Polluted Soils.

D.E.P. Plàstic ("R.I.P. Plastic") activity, Palma (Mallorca). Rezero



**€40,000  
INVESTED**



*Marilles and Rezero began working together to encourage zero waste in the Balearic Islands, with special emphasis on reducing plastic waste that pollutes and damages the Balearic marine ecosystem.*

*Rosa García, Director of Rezero*

**Rezero**

Fundació prevenció  
residus i consum

## Raising awareness about plastics

### CLEANWAVE

Cleanwave has been started by people who recognise the urgent need to provide sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic bottles in the Balearic Islands. Its ambition is to use Mallorca, Ibiza, Formentera and Menorca as the launch pad for a global movement that makes drinking water freely available and sells stainless

steel water bottles for reuse, to minimise plastic waste.

Funding from Marilles has been central to getting the organisation's message to the general public in the Balearics. Cleanwave used our support to offer free screenings of a documentary, *Out of Plastic*, at cinemas and

schools, by town councils and local environmental groups, and at corporate screenings and events for employees. The film has successfully raised public awareness of the issue, attracted members to Cleanwave, united people and opened up opportunities for further collaboration.

Cleanwave water refill point. Cleanwave



€10,000  
INVESTED

Out of Plastic  
documentary  
poster. Cleanwave



*If you blame others, you lose the power to bring about change. Cleanwave gives you the chance to ride the wave towards a world free of plastic.*

*Out of Plastic addresses a problem that is getting ever harder to ignore. Set in the Balearic Islands, the documentary presents us with the challenge of the great impact that plastic pollution is having on our lives and on the environment.*

*Line Hadsbjerg, Cleanwave*



## A conference about the environment of the Balearic Islands

### SOCIETAT D'HISTÒRIA NATURAL BALEAR

The Balearics Natural History Society (SHNB) is a cultural non-profit organisation founded in 1954 with the aim of fostering knowledge about nature from different perspectives, actively taking part in the islands' conservationist movements, and encouraging the creation of the Balearic Islands' Nature Museum.

Estany Pudent lagoon (Formentera). Manu San Félix



In November 2018, the seventh *Jornades de Medi Ambient de les Illes* (Conference on the Balearic Islands' Environment) was held. This takes place every four years, bringing together researchers from all the islands to present the latest work in many areas relating to the Balearics' environment. The funding from Marilles covered

the costs of organising the events held in Mallorca, Ibiza and Menorca – meetings that were very well attended. The 146 talks and presentations given at these events by 340 authors have been published.



Opening session of  
the 7th Conference on  
the Balearic Islands' Environment,  
Palma (Mallorca). Marilles Foundation



*The 7th Conference on the Balearic Islands' Environment brings the research closer to the public. It is science open to everyone.*

*The presentations focused more than ever upon the sea, since so many of them were about marine matters.*

**Guillem X. Pons, SHNB's Director of Publications**



## A fossil fuel-free Mediterranean

### ALIANZA MAR BLAVA

The platform Alianza Mar Blava is an alliance of more than 120 social, governmental, commercial and non-profit organisations. Its mission is to transform the Balearics' current energy system into a truly sustainable one that is carbon-free, efficient and 100% renewable – thereby

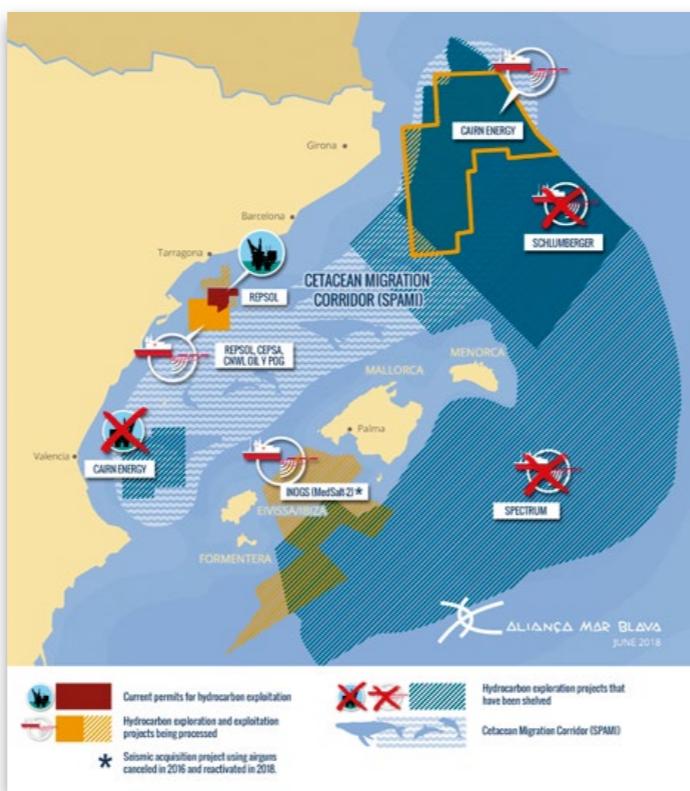
protecting the Mediterranean. Support provided by Marilles has alleviated cash-flow problems caused by delays to the payment of public grants. This has ensured continuity of structure and allowed the organisation to continue the work it has been doing since 2013 to protect the

Mediterranean against exploration and exploitation of fossil fuels and other mineral resources. Additionally, Alianza Mar Blava co-ordinates the wide social, business and political consensus in favour of a fast, effective transition to an efficient, intelligent and renewable energy system.

Striped dolphins (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) in the Balearic Sea. Manu San Félix



Map of the hydrocarbon exploration projects. Alianza Mar Blava



Diario de Ibiza newspaper gives the Environmental Protection Award to Alianza Mar Blava. **Alianza Mar Blava**

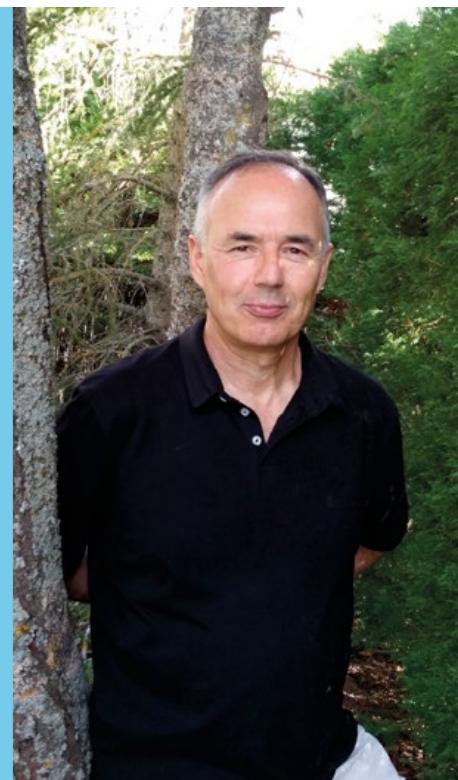


*One of our aims is to bring about a law banning exploration, research and exploitation of fossil fuels and other minerals in the Mediterranean marine environment over which Spain has jurisdiction.*

**Carlos Bravo, Alianza Mar Blava's Technical Coordinator**



**€10,000  
INVESTED**



## Citizen Science

### SEA WATCHERS

**Sea Watchers (Observadors del Mar)** is an exemplary citizens' scientific marine platform in the Balearic Islands. Since it was created in 2012, it has motivated thousands of citizens to get involved in marine research. Sea Watchers acts as a meeting point for all sectors and helps foster

dialogue between scientists and lay people about environmental and conservation problems related to the sea. The website platform is coordinated through the Institute of Marine Sciences in Barcelona (CSIC) and with input from experts based at other Spanish and international research centres.

Hidden cup coral (*Phyllangia americana*) in Formentera. Manu San Félix



Marilles has supported Sea Watchers' activities in the Balearic Islands, enabling it to improve its website and app (the focal point for the platform), and to progress its strategic planning for the medium and long term.

At the Posidonia Festival (Mallorca).  
Sea Watchers



€12,000  
INVESTED

Sea Watchers  
Exhibition: "Your view  
means change".  
Sea Watchers



*There are many people keen on getting involved in the conservation of our seas. Sea Watchers provides various options and participants choose the projects they like. Using adapted guidelines, ordinary people gather valuable evidence to help us assess our seas' state of health. We are working with Marilles to strengthen the*

*initiative and encourage citizen science in the Balearics.*

*Joaquim Garrabou, Institute of Marine Sciences (Institut de Ciències del Mar, CSIC)*



## Image as a catalyst for change

### VELLMARÍ ASSOCIATION

Vellmarí is an association and a scuba-diving centre located in the heart of the Port of La Savina in Formentera. It is headed by Manu San Félix who, in addition to being a marine biologist and professional diver, manages projects such as *Posidonia Maps*, an application to help boats avoid mooring in posidonia prairies. He also works as the director of marine image

in National Geographic's "Pristine Seas" project.

Funding from Marilles contributed to the production of a film documentary for National Geographic: *Let's Save Our Mediterranean*. This film narrates the transformation of the Mediterranean Sea over the last fifty years, during which it has

gone from being a spectacular territory full of sealife such as sharks, turtles, seals and lobsters to suffering from a loss of biodiversity and water quality. The film aims to inspire us to act now so that in the near future – by 2030 – marine protection projects will ensure that the Mediterranean Sea is restored to health and is full of life once more.

Migjorn beach (Formentera). Sebastià Torrens



School of jellyfish (*Pelagia noctiluca*) in waters around Formentera. Manu San Félix

*Let's Save Our Mediterranean shows how we are transforming, changing and degrading the sea, due to the rapid developments of recent decades. But by talking to experts who show us the way, it also communicates a positive message about how to change things for the better.*

*What I like about working with Marilles is their professionalism, reliability and long-term vision. Hopefully more funders will join this exciting project.*

*Manu San Félix, Vellmarí*



# 3

## A commitment to joint solutions

We all have a role to play in the conservation of the Balearic Sea. Co-ordinating effort is key to Marilles' approach to tackling the issues involved. We have made it a priority to instigate dialogue between NGOs, experts, government and the private sector to try and ensure that all their efforts are strategically aligned. Together, we are stronger in facing the sea's challenges.

Anglers at S'Oberta (Alcúdia bay), facing the S'Albufera Natural Park (Mallorca).  
Sebastià Torrens



### 3.1. GROUP CONVERSATIONS

To find solutions, we have created two multidisciplinary working groups we call LABs - one for each of the priority areas identified by Marilles. These are: to improve Marine Protected Areas and to educate the public about the sea. Meetings of each group take place on Majorca, Menorca and Ibiza / Formentera.

The starting point for the work of the LABs is a mutually-agreed analysis of the current situation, its causes and our goals.

The working group on Marine Protected Areas has identified two priorities: the need for an agreed set

of indicators to help us assess their condition and the need to raise public interest in and understanding of Marine Protected Areas.

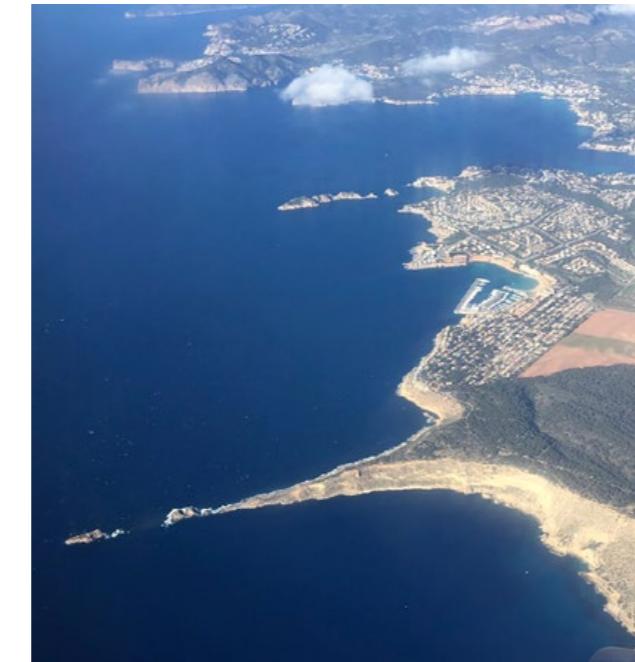
The working group on marine education has agreed to start with an audit of existing information about supply and demand for environmental marine resources in the Balearic Islands. This will form the baseline for a common strategy.

Both groups are open to any interested person or organisation that agrees with our approach and shares our goal.

Work group on Marine Protected Areas at CaixaForum Palma (Mallorca). **Marilles Foundation**



Aerial view of the El Toro and Malgrats marine reserves (Mallorca). **Marilles Foundation**



#### Fund for improving marine protected areas.

The work of the LABs is underwritten by a specially-created fund of €200,000. We invite further donations to this fund from international, national or local foundations. In the first instance, we have dedicated €100,000 to projects that seek to raise the profile of the Marine Protected Areas. Our aim is to increase the sense of ownership and pride in the Marine Protected Areas among local people, and demonstrate the relevance of these areas to life on the islands.

Work group on environmental marine education at PIMEEF (Ibiza). **Marilles Foundation**



#### Study on educational resources.

We have recruited a consultant on each island to identify existing educational resources and activities that promote engagement with marine conservation in the Balearics. Resources are classified according to the type of provision (public or private) and at whom they are aimed (children, young people or the general public). When this study is complete we will know in detail what the resources are, who supplies them, their quality and any barriers to uptake.

Cabrera National Park. **Marilles Foundation**



## 3.2. MEDITERRANEAN PERSPECTIVES

### Strategy for a plastic-free Mediterranean Zero Waste Europe

In October 2018, Marilles and Zero Waste Europe held a meeting with representatives from private foundations and the managers of civic projects from all over the Mediterranean. At this event we were able to:

- Share an analysis of the causes of plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, and knowledge about the problem
- Align many parties to implement a strategy to free the Mediterranean from plastic pollution
- Exchange experience of successful projects and draw up new initiatives
- Open a dialogue with the tourism sector as an essential party.

Participants in the Zero Waste Europe meeting, Palma (Mallorca). **Marilles Foundation**



### Funding for Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean MedPAN

For three days in November, managers of Marine Protected Areas met with fishermen in the Bay of Palma to discuss how to find a sustainable balance between marine resources and artisanal fishing in the Mediterranean. The meeting was organised by MedPAN, the network of Marine Protected Areas' managers in the Mediterranean, in collaboration with the Balearic Government, the Fundación Biodiversidad and many other Spanish public institutions. Marilles co-organised a session on funding for Marine Protected Areas and the steps that must be taken to achieve this.

Dragonera Natural Park (Mallorca). **Marilles Foundation**



### A marine strategy for the Mediterranean Sea MAVA Foundation

Marilles is a partner in MAVA Foundation's marine strategy for the Mediterranean. This allows us to exchange expertise with over 20 organisations, including the WWF and Birdlife International, which are working towards the same objectives. Being part of this project enables us to adopt ideas and solutions that are working in other parts of the Mediterranean and, conversely, to broaden the impact of projects and initiatives that prove successful in the Balearics.

Kayaking in Cala en Bosch cove, Ciutadella (Menorca). David Arquimbau



### Marine natural capital and its conservation Fundação Oceano Azul

In October 2018, along with other international organisations and experts, Marilles took part in the Blue Natural Capital workshop organised by the Fundação Oceano Azul in Lisbon. Participants shared knowledge and experience relating to the economic assessment of the marine environment and the development of mechanisms to facilitate funding for conservation.



## 4

### Generating knowledge about the Balearic Sea

Robust information and a solid scientific base are essential for planning effective action to improve our marine and coastal habitats. Despite the large amount of information available about marine conservation generally, there are still gaps in knowledge specific to the Balearics. Marilles is funding research to fill these gaps, enabling local organisations to share information and create a scientific consensus.

Traditional "llaut" boats in del Peix lagoon  
(Formentera). Manu San Félix

## HIGHLIGHTING THE RICHNESS OF BALEARIC WATERS

It is sometimes overlooked that the islands' prosperity depends on the great wealth of habitats and species present in the Balearic Sea. This wealth is under threat, making it economically necessary to invest more effort into research and conservation.

In 2018, Marilles published a study analysing the number of new species identified in the Balearic Sea over the last fifty years. The results showed that since 1996:

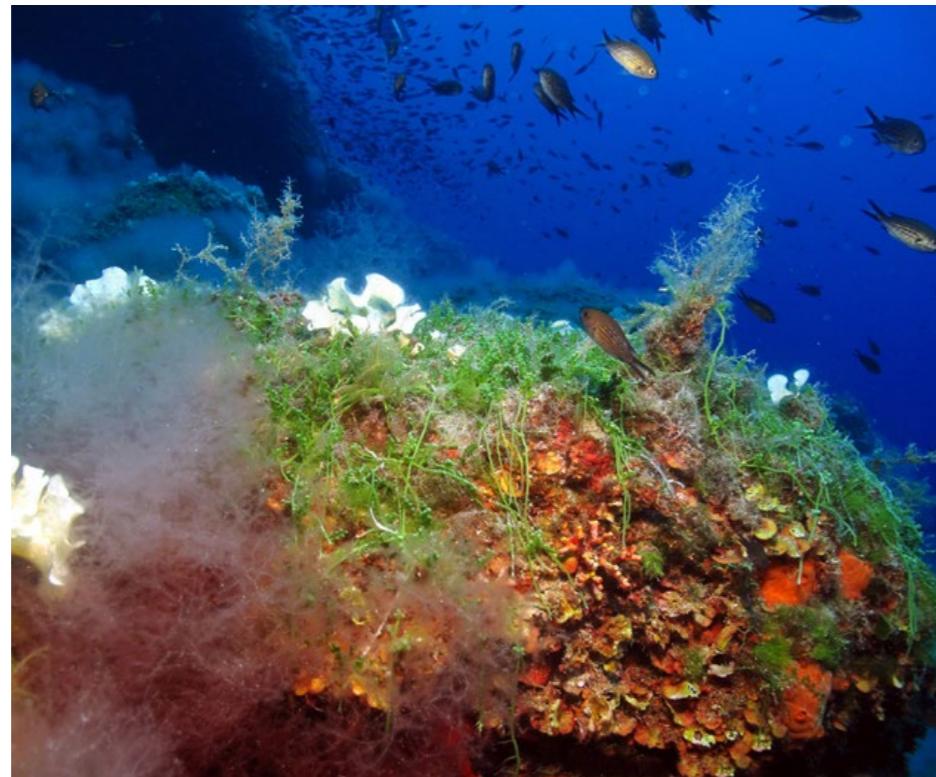
- 18 new species have been discovered, of which five are fish species
- 68 new species have been detected for the first time in the Mediterranean, many of them invasive
- Nine species have become extinct
- 78 species in the region today are endangered, critically endangered or vulnerable.

**18**  
NEW SPECIES  
DISCOVERED

**9**  
EXTINCT  
SPECIES

**78**  
CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED  
SPECIES

Invasive species: *Lophocladia* y *Caulerpa*. Maite Vazquez Luis / COB-IEO



## IS THE CONDITION OF THE BALEARIC SEA GETTING BETTER OR WORSE?

Marilles has initiated an assessment of the state of the Balearic Sea using the best available information about the current situation and how it is evolving. We invited representatives from local government bodies, scientific organisations in the region and potential donors to work together to research and compile the relevant information. "Report on the State of the Balearic Sea" will describe how the marine and coastal environment is changing and how threats to this environment are also evolving,

including from social and economic perspectives. The key indicators have now been identified and our partners are tackling the challenge of gathering information about each of them.

Marilles has dedicated  
€100,000 to this initiative  
to cover the cost of  
coordination, drafting  
and outreach.

**€100,000**  
ASSIGNED TO THIS  
PROJECT

Environmental inspectors during dredging, Port of Maó (Menorca). David Arquimbau



## HOW DO THE MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS BENEFIT US?

The marine environment is the source of numerous essential benefits, including food, climate regulation and a wide range of leisure activity. We need tools to assess the value of the sea and coasts to the Balearic economy in order to demonstrate their economic importance and argue for appropriate levels of investment to improve and protect them.

Together with the British consultancy firm EFTEC and the Universitat de les Illes Balears, we have

begun to create a system of “Natural Marine Capital Accounting” that will allow us to link changes in the marine environment to economic impact on each sector.

Marilles has committed  
€100,000 to the creation  
of this essential tool.



Posidonia meadow in Caló de s'Oli (Formentera). Manu San Félix



## HOW MUCH DO WE INVEST IN MANAGING THE SEA?

At present, underfunding is the most obvious reason why Marine Protected Areas in the Balearics are not working as well as they should. We need to assess the current level of investment, estimate how much is needed and identify possible sources of funding.

Marilles has commissioned a comprehensive analysis that sets out to answer these questions. This will enable us to progress towards better funding, and better functioning Marine Protected Areas.

Isla de El Toro marine reserve, seen from Rafaubetx, in the area of Calviá town (Mallorca). Sebastià Torrens



# 5

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## Seeking more financial resources



Lighthouse in the Es Freus Marine Reserve between Ibiza and Formentera.  
Marilles Foundation

*To make the Balearic Islands a world-leader in marine conservation will require the support of more foundations and private donors. One of the key aspects of our work is therefore to attract financial resources to fund the conservation of the Balearic Sea.*

Audouin's gull (*Larus audouinii*) on a rock in Alcúdia bay at Playa Grande beach in Alcúdia (Mallorca). **Sebastià Torrens**



Marilles works locally and internationally to achieve greater funding, inviting foundations from other countries as well as the Balearic Islands to join this initiative. The support of MAVA Foundation, with its impressive track record and experience in the Mediterranean, has been an important endorsement for this collective project. We hope to be able to count on many more in future.

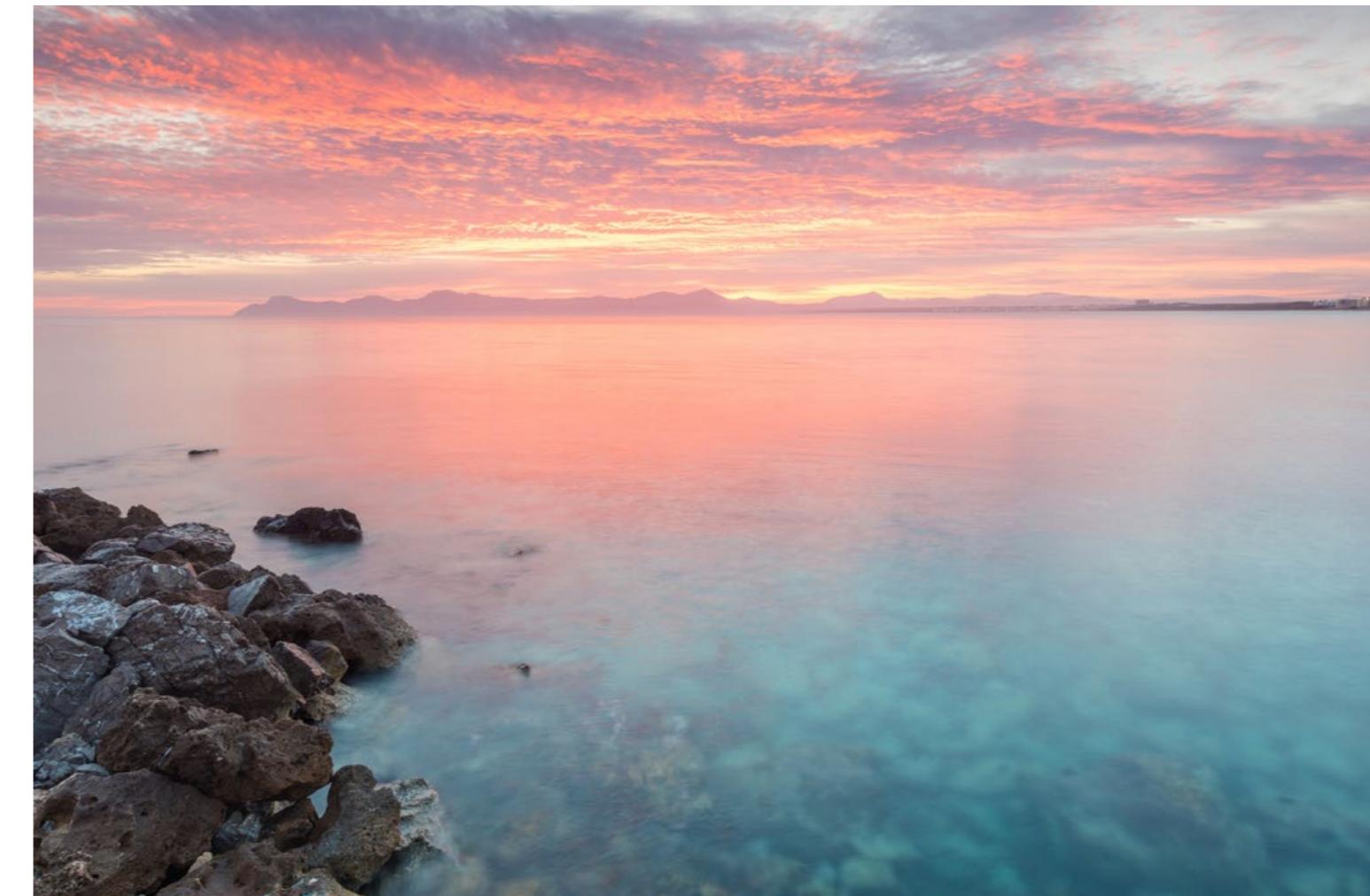
The outlook is promising: in recent years, there has been a burgeoning of local philanthropic initiatives concerned with the preservation of the Balearic Sea. Moreover, since we began, many other foundations

and individuals have expressed their interest in working collectively towards the same goal.

#### **Together we have greater impact**

Coordination is essential to maximise the impact of every euro invested. It is the perfect moment to create a network of donors to ensure effective exchange of information, work to jointly-agreed strategies and co-finance projects. Could you or your organisation form part of such a network?

View of Alcúdia bay from S'Oberta in the Muro town area (Mallorca). **Sebastià Torrens**



*If you are interested, please get in touch.*



## Publicising our work

In our first year, we developed Marilles' media profile, introducing our work to a wider audience. This presence has helped to establish Marilles as a source of expert opinion on marine conservation in the Balearics.

Mediterranean barracudas (*Sphyraena sphyraena*). David Díaz





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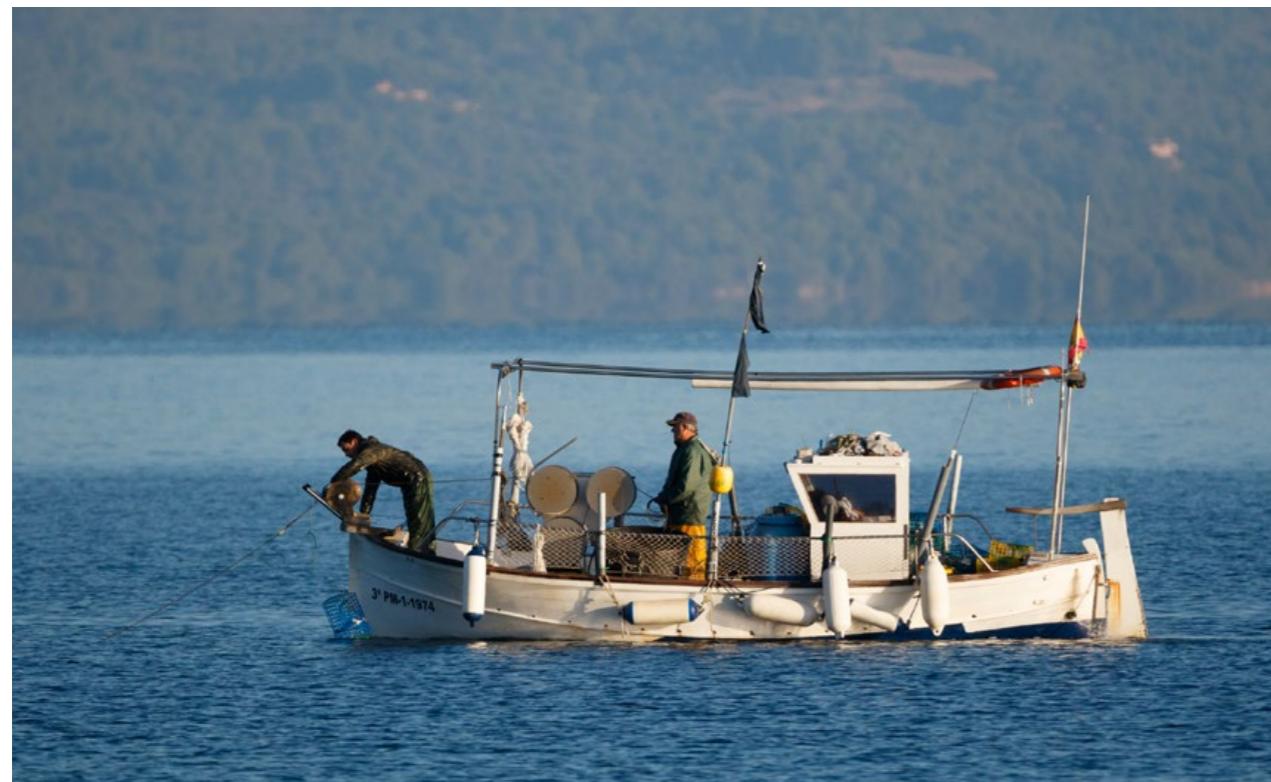
## Looking to 2019

Lighthouse at Cabo de Barberia  
(Formentera). **Manu San Félix**

## FISHING: A PRIORITY

We are working with representatives from the fishing sector to address one of Marilles' priorities: to reduce the environmental impact of fishing. Analysing the impact of both professional and recreational fishing will enable us to reach joint decisions about how to make the Balearics' fishing sector the most sustainable in the Mediterranean.

Small fishing boat off the area of Son Real by the town of Santa Margarita (Mallorca). **Sebastià Torrens**



## THE SEA AND THE ECONOMY

Are the Balearics' marine resources increasing or decreasing in value? Currently, we are mapping and assessing marine habitats in the region in order to set up "natural capital" accounts for each area. This medium-term project will enable us to publish a meaningful assessment of the goods and services provided by the marine ecosystems, paying special attention to fishing, beaches and posidonia.

## FLORA AND FAUNA GUIDES

We are creating a collection of attractive, small guides to the flora and fauna of the Balearics, designed to generate interest in the life of the sea. Distribution of this resource among school-age children and visitors to the islands will be facilitated by our work with various government bodies and the tourism sector.

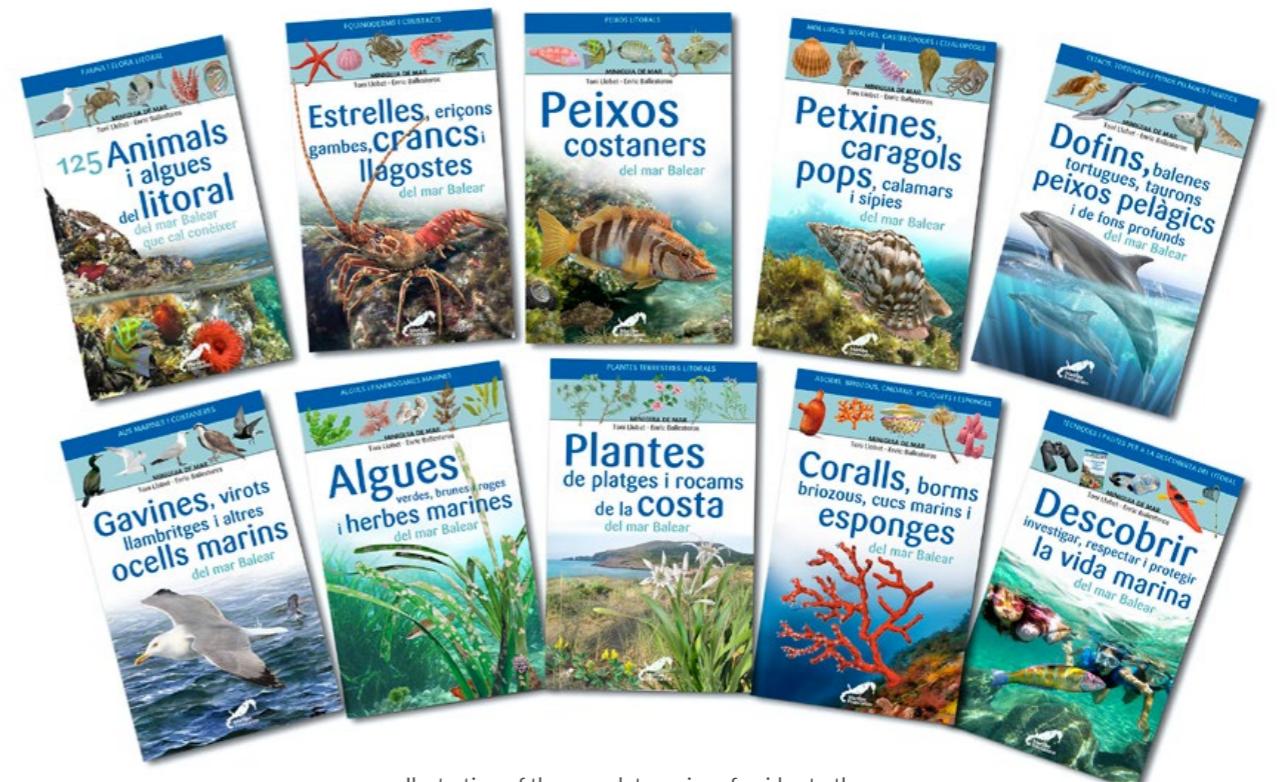


Illustration of the complete series of guides to the Balearics' marine fauna and flora. **Toni Llobet**

## STRENGTHENING THE THIRD SECTOR

Marine conservation NGOs in the region are already doing excellent work with very few resources. One of Marilles' key objectives is to strengthen this sector, providing strategic support in the medium and long term and helping to co-ordinate disparate efforts. We will also assist with training and education for relevant organisations, supporting the growth of a strong, unified marine conservation effort.

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## Financial summary

Between Na Clara and Es Caló,  
in the Artà town area (Mallorca).  
Antoni Febrer

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Marilles Foundation was launched with economic backing from Adessium Foundation, with whom it has a medium-term collaboration agreement. We also have the confirmed support of MAVA Foundation to back projects relating to Marine Protected Areas, sustainable fishing and natural capital.

Marilles' income in 2018 came from these two foundations. Approximate expenditure\* in 2018 came to €284,345, as follows:

- Scholarships for projects and organizations: €155,509
- Coordination and management: €106,298
- Studies and assessments: €22,538

Spending in 2018 was lower than expected because of delays in implementing some projects. Over €150,000 is earmarked for different projects in 2019 and the total expenditure for the year will be at least double the investment in 2018.

(\*) Data pending confirmation and auditing.



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## Team and contact info

### Team

Aniol Esteban  
Ana Peña

### Trustees

Rogier van Vliet  
Carles Tarancón  
Jaume Perelló

### Advisory board

Pere Oliver  
Xavier Pastor  
Manu San Félix  
Catalina Alemany  
Sandra Benbeniste  
Miquel Camps  
Brad Robertson  
Joaquín Tintoré

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Back cover: Common octopus  
(*Octopus vulgaris*) in shallow Balearic  
shore waters. **Miqui Rosa**



[www.marilles.org](http://www.marilles.org)

The background of the entire image is an underwater scene. A large, vibrant orange octopus is the central focus, resting on a sandy ocean floor. Its body is textured with numerous small, yellowish-orange spots. The octopus's head is turned slightly to the right, showing its mouth and tentacles. In the surrounding environment, there are patches of green algae and a few small, colorful fish, including some red ones, scattered across the seabed. The water is a clear, deep blue, providing a natural and serene setting for the octopus.