

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



*Transforming the Balearic Islands
into a world-leading example of marine
conservation*



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Rogier van Vliet
President of
Marilles Foundation

Over fifteen years ago, our family founded the Adessium Foundation out of a desire to put our resources to work for the benefit of society. Deciding how to “do good” for society was not straightforward. It took a lot of thinking, discussion and practical experience to learn how we could best deploy our resources. Eventually, we established the Adessium Foundation as a professional organisation through which we could realise our wish to contribute to a better world, and to do it well.

Establishing the Marilles Foundation three years ago has allowed me to relive those years. Marilles faces exactly the same challenges, but with one big advantage: we have a clear mission to turn the Balearics into a world-leading example of marine conservation. As a philanthropic initiative our goal is to ensure that every euro spent translates into maximum impact in terms of improvements at sea. Tapping into the know-how and experience of Adessium and other funders such as Mava is invaluable. But we are aware that we are at the start of a long journey and have lots to learn.

I am delighted to see how quickly Marilles has taken root in the Balearics. With the support of other foundations such as MAVA and Flotilla we’ve doubled our funding, bringing the total amount invested very close to 1 million Euros. Yet this is still a drop in the ocean. To succeed, our project will need the contributions of more foundations and generous individuals. Marilles is a fund for the long-term conservation of the Balearic Sea. Let’s make it grow. The Balearic Sea deserves it. Join us!



Aniol Esteban
Director of
Marilles Foundation

What a busy year this has been! After a two-year preparatory phase before our official launch in 2018, Marilles is now in full motion. We have lots of ongoing projects and many more in the making, and this report gives a good account of them. Some of the most important things we have funded are, however, invisible. They are like the foundations of a house: no one sees them, but without them you can’t build. It can be hard to attract other funders to such low-profile activities, but long-term projects require solid structures and this necessity had guided our strategy in the initial phase of Marilles.

In 2019 we have worked collaboratively with scientific and government organisations to compile information on the current condition of the Balearic Sea, and we have published a unified cartography of Balearic marine habitats. This is critical information that will inform future decisions on the management of our seas. Revealing how the marine environment contributes to our well-being and economic prosperity also remains a core priority, and will help release additional funding sources for marine conservation.

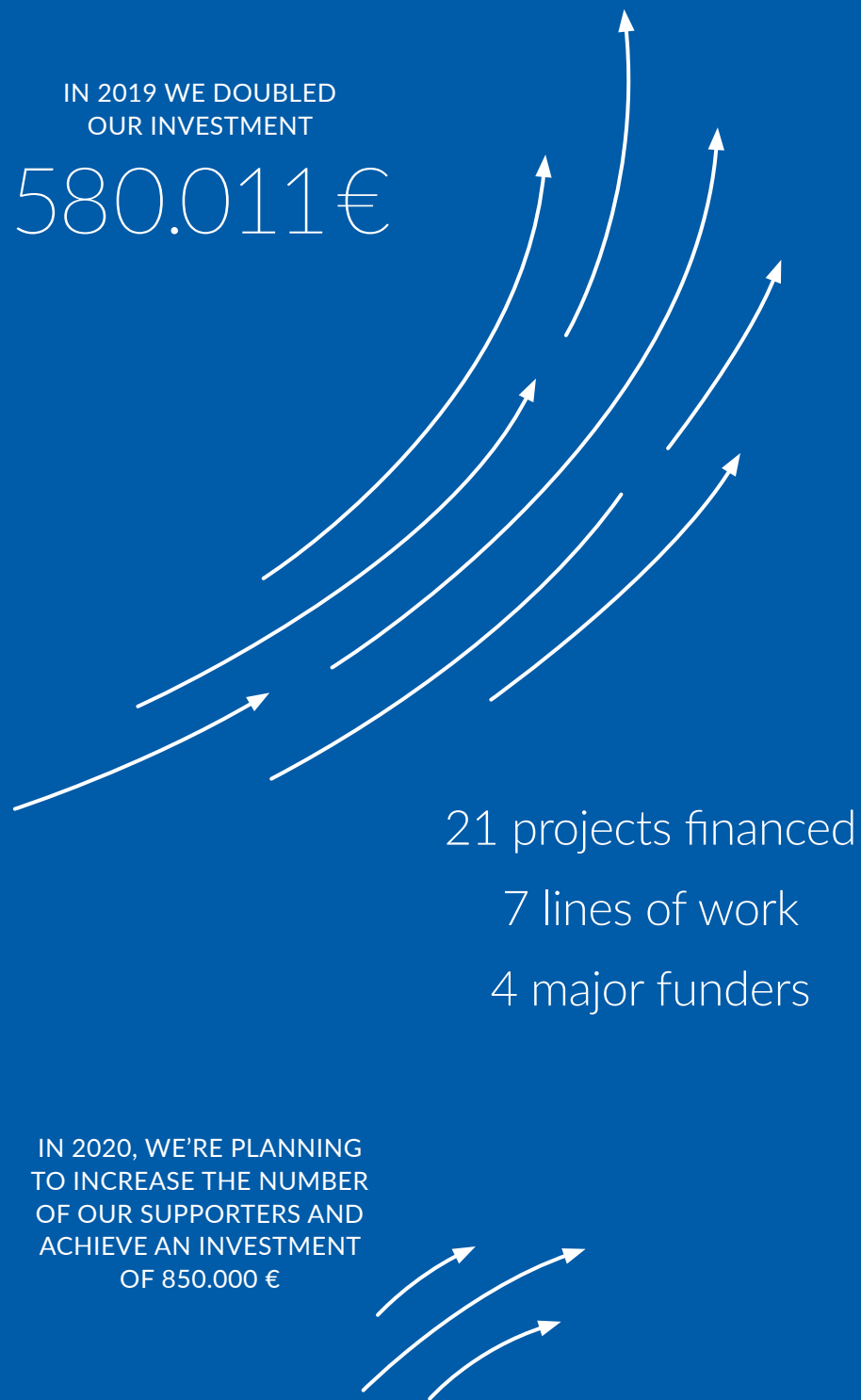
In 2020 we will consolidate this work. We are developing a marine citizens’ science programme; establishing a new initiative to transform the Balearic fishing fleet into the most sustainable in the Mediterranean; and speeding up progress towards ensuring that Marine Protected Areas deliver at their full potential.

None of this would be possible without the support of committed individuals in public, private and third sector organisations. They are the backbone of every success. We have an opportunity to turn the Balearics into a world-leading example of marine conservation, and it’s an honour to work with so many knowledgeable and committed people to make it happen.

MARILLES FOUNDATION

Detail of sea snail, giant triton (*Monoplex parthenopeus*).
Photo: Xavi Mas.

Who we are



Marilles is a non-profit foundation working to transform the Balearic Islands into a world-leading example of marine conservation.

Our mission is to work to restore the marine and coastal ecosystems of the Balearics until we achieve an excellent level of conservation.

We finance projects and local organisations to improve the Balearic Sea and coastline.

We design solutions to address the challenges that the marine and coastal environment face.

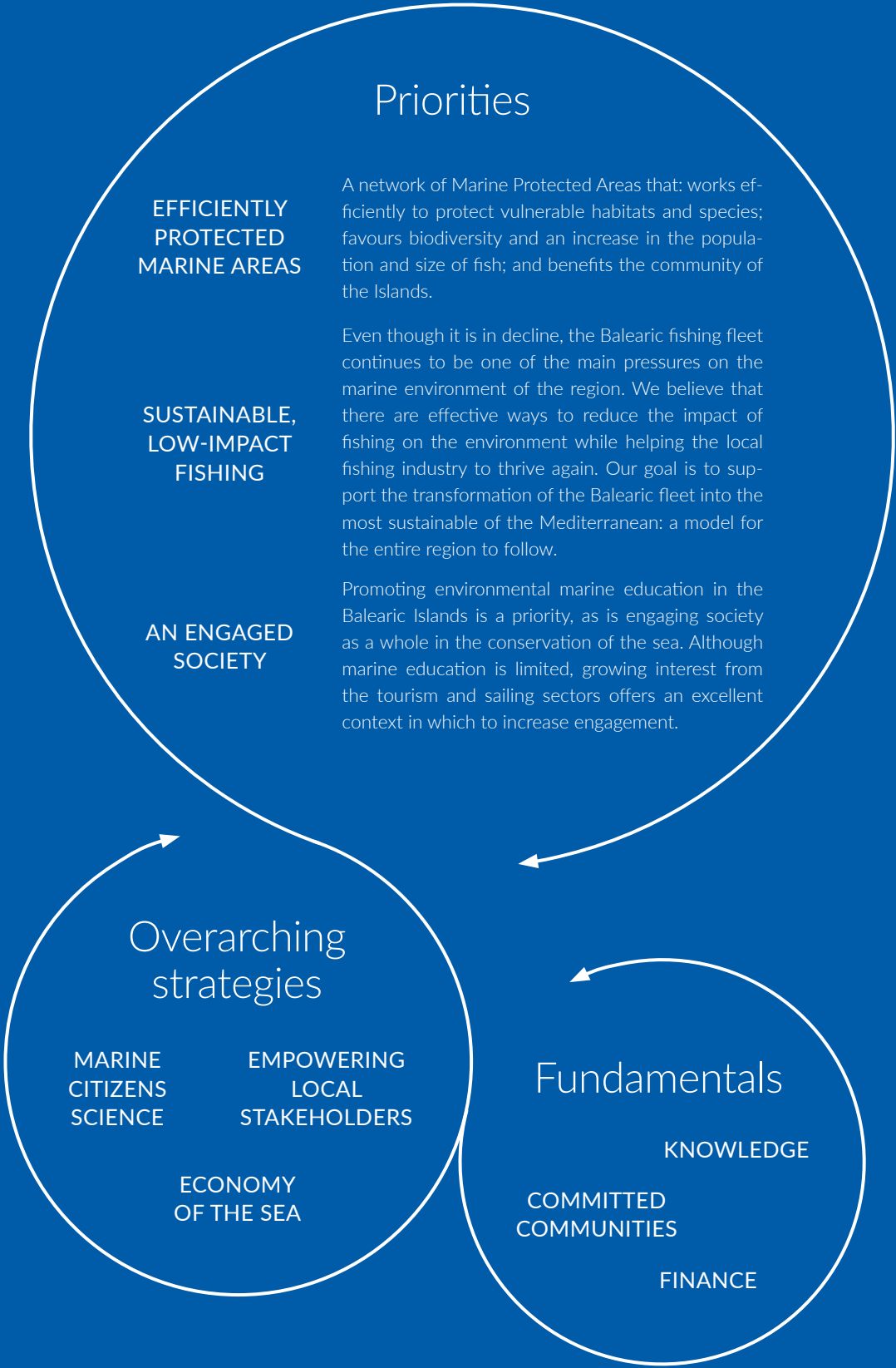
We attract financing to guarantee long-term conservation of the Balearic Sea.

Our priorities

When we imagine the Balearic islands in 2030, we envisage excellent marine and coastal ecosystems, with an abundance of marine life and fishing resources that contribute to the economic growth of the region. In order to achieve this, however, we need:

- efficiently protected marine areas
- sustainable, low-impact fishing
- an engaged society

These three lines of work are our priorities. But we're also working to reduce other pressures on the marine environment, such as pollution.



How we work

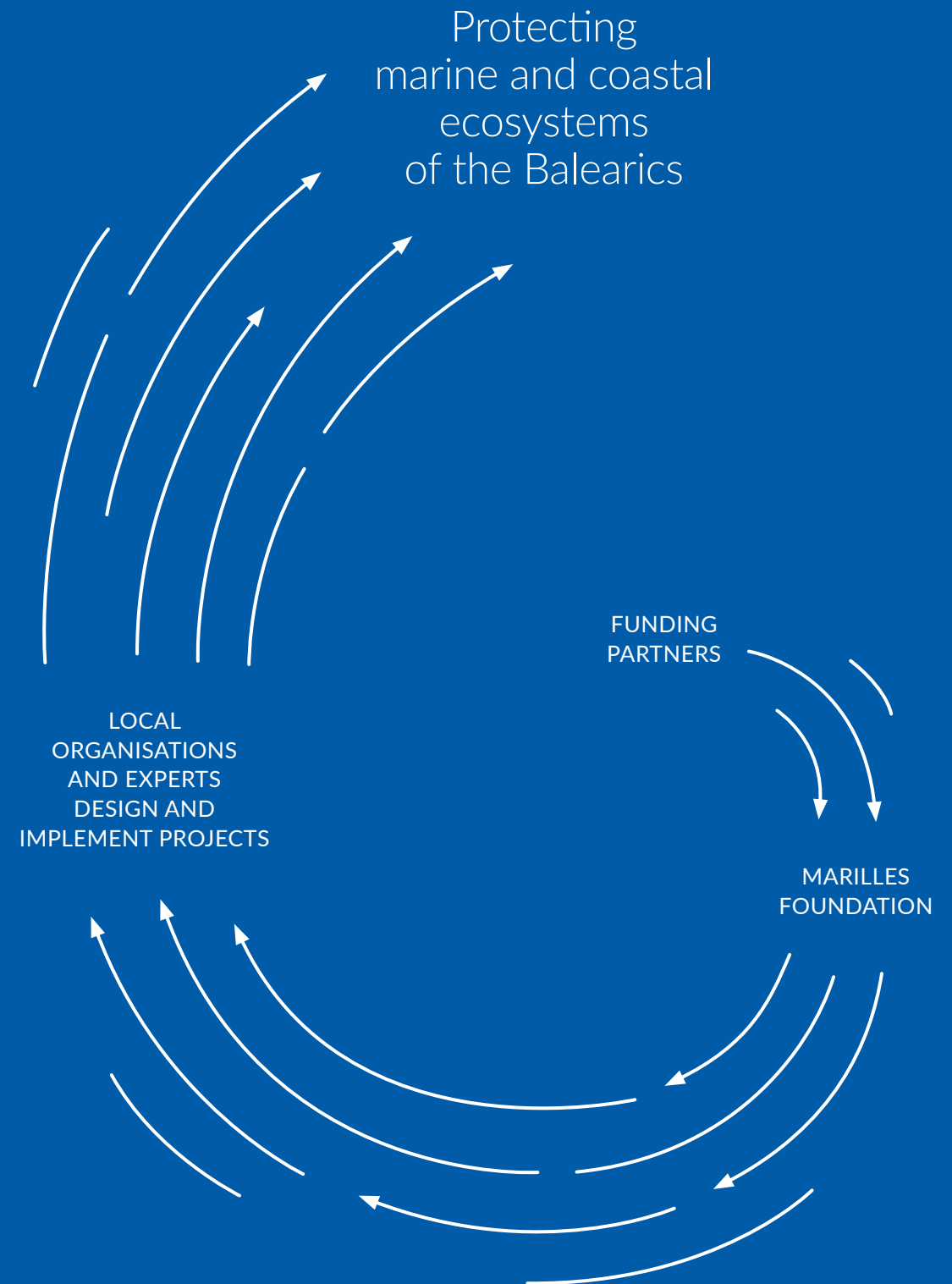
Our starting point is a positive approach that is inclusive and, above all, focuses on identifying solutions.

We collaborate with an extensive network of local experts and organisations to design projects that enable us to address the challenges faced by the Balearic Sea and its coasts.

We work alongside other foundations and private donors to maximise the impact of every euro donated for the conservation of the Balearic Sea.

We mediate between those with the tools and ideas to develop projects, and those with the capacity to finance them.

We all have a role in the conservation of the Balearic Sea. Together, we're stronger.



OUR TEAM



ANIOL ESTEBAN. *Director*

Aniol is a marine biologist and environmental economist who has devoted most of his career to reconciling the economy and the environment. Before joining Marilles, he worked for 15 years in the UK. He has expertise in such diverse fields as education, economics, running campaigns and project design.



ANA PEÑA. *Communications*

Ana leads all our communications and media work. She is an audiovisual professional who has developed her career working with the media sector in the Balearics and supporting smaller organisations with an environmental and social purpose.



RAQUEL VAQUER-SUNYER. *State of the Balearic Sea*

Raquel coordinates the State of the Balearic Sea project, an initiative that brings together research institutions and local government bodies to assess the condition of the marine environment, and threats to it. She has a PhD in marine sciences and many years of research experience, with a particular focus on marine biogeochemistry and Posidonia.



NATALIA BARRIENTOS. *State of the Balearic Sea*

Natalia is the other key worker for the State of the Balearic Sea project. She works closely with Raquel to gather existing data and information into user-friendly content. Natalia has a PhD in marine geology and, to date, has spent most of her career in Sweden. She moved to the Balearics and joined Marilles to use her knowledge and skills to drive positive change in her homeland.

ADVISORY BOARD

Marilles' Advisory Board is made up of eight respected professionals, representing all the Balearic Islands.

Xavier Pastor

Pere Oliver

Sandra Benbeniste

Miquel Camps

Catalina Alemany

Brad Robertson

Joaquim Tintoré

Manu San Félix

TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees has extensive experience of philanthropic initiatives and the management of foundations. Our Trustees are:

Rogier van Vliet

Carles Tarancón

Jaume Perelló

Sonia Castañeda

The knowledge and experience of our Advisors and Trustees, all of which is donated to Marilles for free, represents a truly valuable resource for the foundation.



SANDRA ESPEJA. *Marine Citizen Science*

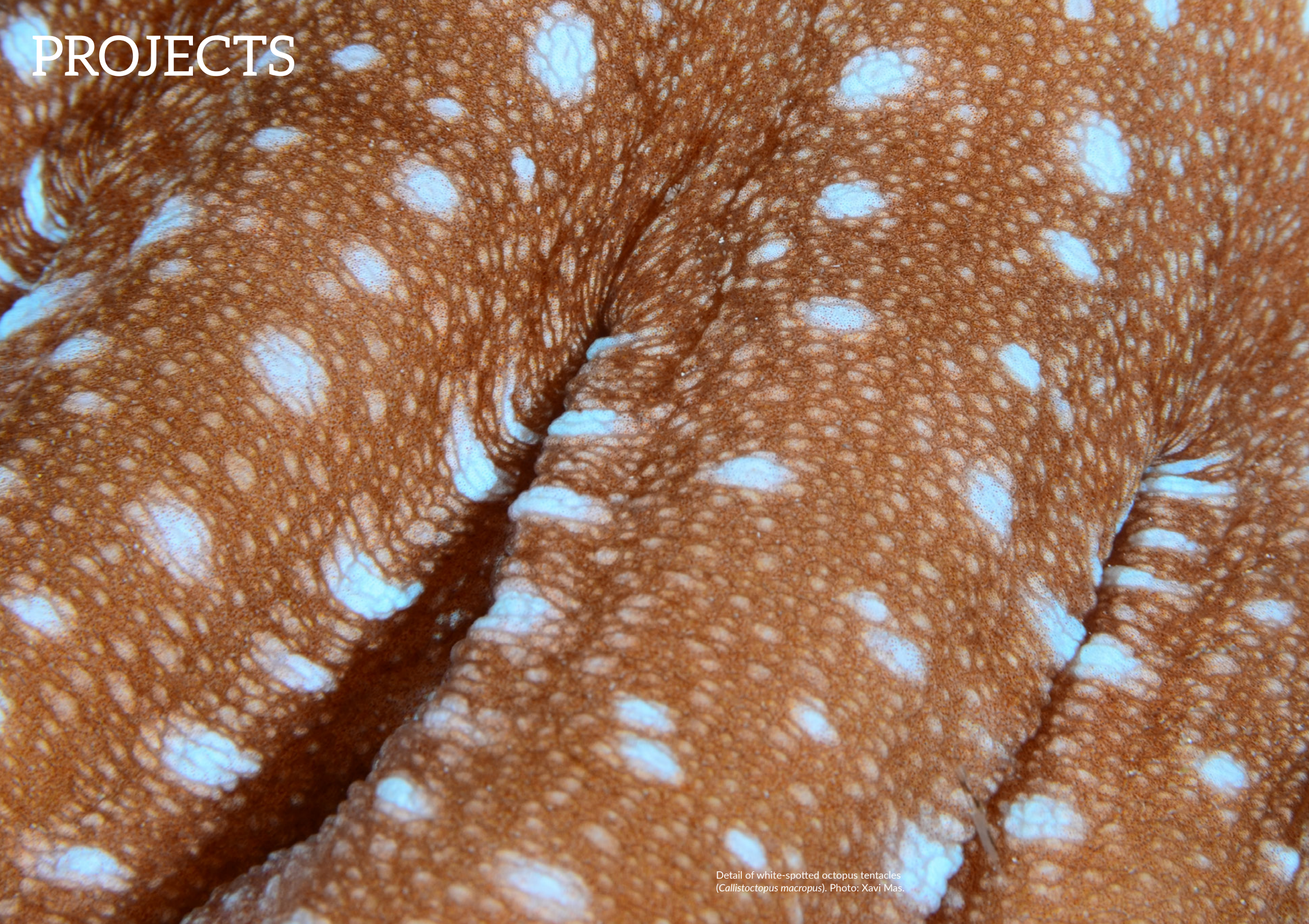
In collaboration with Observadores de Mar (Sea Observers), Sandra coordinates the Marine Citizen Science programme in the Balearics, promoting dialogue between society and the science community. Sandra is a positive and enthusiastic environmentalist with a master's degree in Integrated Management of Coastal Areas. Her multidisciplinary talents and experience encompass several areas of science and business, as well as public and third sector management.

Marilles is run and managed by a small, highly-dedicated team of professionals and experts.

PROJECT CONSULTANT

TONI FONT. *Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*

Toni coordinates the MPAs Lab and represents Marilles in the MPAs Network Interreg Project. He is a biology graduate, consultant and environmental activist who has a background in planning and managing MPAs. Toni is deeply involved in the conservation and environmental improvement of the islands, and tirelessly explores the coast year after year to better understand the processes affecting the coastal communities of the Mediterranean.



PROJECTS

Detail of white-spotted octopus tentacles
(*Callistoctopus macropus*). Photo: Xavi Mas.



About 20 % of Balearic waters benefit from legal protection, including Cabrera – the largest national park of the Western Mediterranean – and 12 fishing reserves. Environmental protection measures have had a positive impact, but their potential is far greater. We want to improve the reach and impact of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in order to increase biodiversity, fish populations and the benefits to the entire community.

Thanks to our Fund for the Improvement of MPAs, in 2019 we sponsored pilot projects which will help us replicate in the Balearics the successes of marine reserves elsewhere. This fund remains open to contributions from other donors.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Funding	€75,000
Year	2019 -2020
Region	Mallorca

CONNECT WITH SA DRAGONERA

Save The Med, based in the Balearics, works for the regeneration of the Mediterranean. Thanks to their team and a wide network of volunteers, they develop and implement marine conservation projects and community initiatives.

Their programme, *Conoce tu Área Marina Protegida de Sa Dragonera* (Get to Know your Marine Protected Area, Sa Dragonera) promotes the Sa Dragonera marine reserve and its benefits to the community. The project gives residents opportunities to understand more about their MPA, and invites them to feel proud of it and ready to help protect and improve it. The programme's first campaign involved neighbours and locals in contributing photographs of the MPA, and culminated in an exhibition by artist Emma Glinski.

"Save the Med" is also working with schools in the Andratx area to develop projects focusing on the reserve. The aim is for pupils to get to know Sa Dragonera's habitats and species, learn about threats to the reserve and consider protective measures.



Poster for the project, created by illustrator Javier Pérez de Amezaga Tomás.

Right, photographs donated by participants in the Photo Collab campaign: Moray, by Javier P. Atero Cano; sponges (blue), cnidarians (yellow) and calcareous algae (red) on rock face, by Darek Darul.



«I'd like to thank the Marilles Foundation for this unique opportunity to work on what we believe will be the first MPA Pride campaign. Sea issues aren't just about the sea – they're about people, which is why this initiative is so important.»

Brad Robertson, founder of Save The Med



COMMITTED FISHERMEN

The Guild of Ibiza Fishermen (Cofradía de Pescadores de Ibiza) centralises the sales, labelling and conservation of the product captured by the local fleet. It also works tirelessly to promote local products and marine environmental education. Its support was key to the creation of the Tagomago and Es Freus marine reserves in Ibiza and Formentera.

The *Reserva de Futuro* (Reserve of the Future) Project focuses on the provision of activities that will draw the people of Ibiza to the marine reserves of Tagomago and Es Freus. The aim is to promote the social, economic, touristic and nautical benefits of these reserves, as well as the environmental benefits.

A variety of educational activities started in 2019, with workshops, teaching units and a photography competition for students. The guild also organised information sessions in which fishermen, technicians and scientists analysed the current condition of the fishing industry and its prospects, reinforcing the commitment towards responsible fishing as a guarantee for sustainability and food safety.



«This project allows us to educate students, the general public and even the fishermen. With marine reserves as a context, we give all of them tools to fight the challenges that the Balearic Sea faces.»



Funding	€70,000
Year	2019 -2020
Region	Ibiza



Group of pupils working on an activity about marine reserves on Ses Illetes beach in Formentera. Photo: Marilles Foundation.

Right, Es Codolar with Cape des Falcó in the background, in the Marine Reserve of Es Freus, Ibiza. Photo: Sebastià Torrens.

Marga Serra, coordinator of environmental projects, Cofradía de Pescadores de Ibiza



HOW MUCH DO WE INVEST IN MPAS?

Funding	€7,500
Year	2018-2019
Region	Balearic Islands

Better funding is crucial to improve the efficiency of MPAs in the Balearics, so Marilles has created the MPA Expenses Report to clarify how much we invest in them. The report identifies and quantifies the major costs of and investments in local MPAs in recent years.

More than 60 professionals collaborated on this report and it has been validated by the MPA managers on all the islands. We all worked together to improve information systems and ensure that in future we are able to collect robust data efficiently. This gives us a firm basis to calculate jointly how much funding is needed to improve the running of the MPAs, and to identify where this finance will come from.



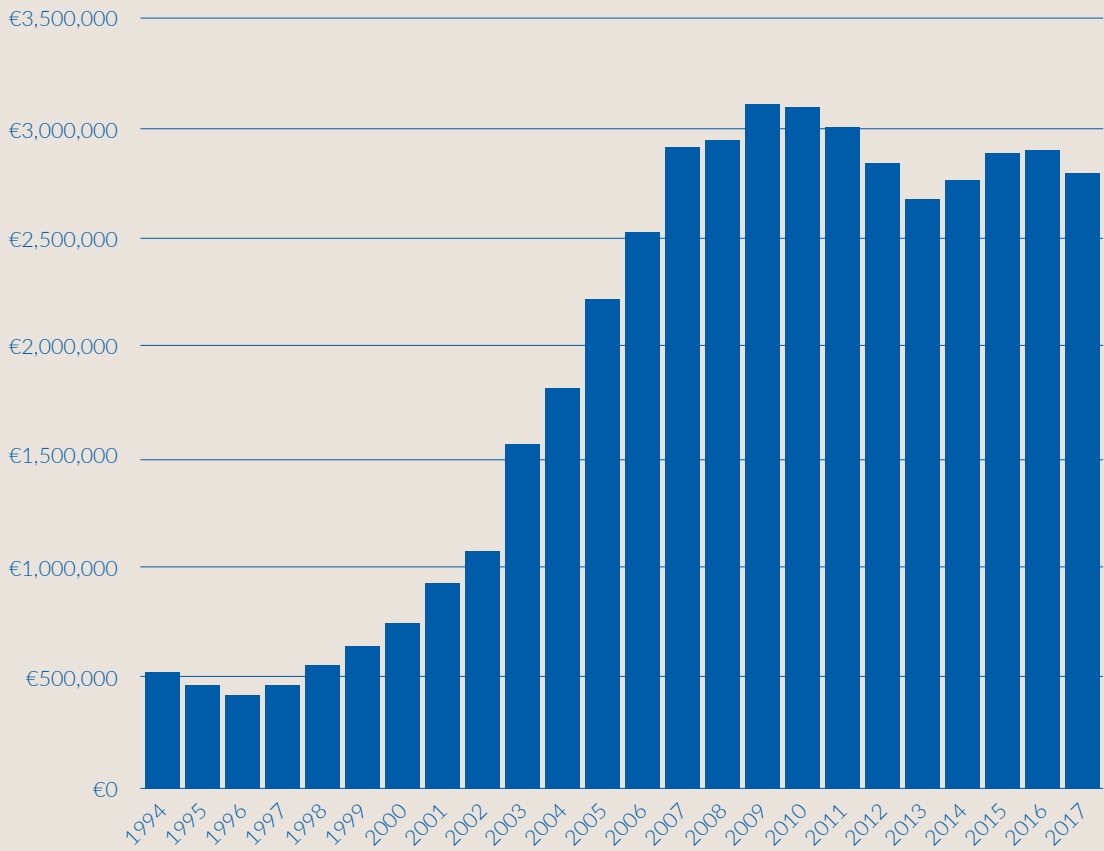
Near the Sa Font Salada beach in Artà, in the Marine Reserve of Llevant, Mallorca. Photo: Sebastià Torrens.



«This study is a first step towards evaluating how much financing is required to equip MPAs with the necessary human resources and materials to run well.»

Toni Font,
author of the study

INVESTMENT IN BALEARIC MPAS



The results of the study show that past investment in Balearic MPAs amounts to 3 million euros per year.

The graph illustrates how in recent years investment levels have ceased to grow. Because the area covered by MPAs has increased during this period, this static level of investment has meant a significant decrease in expenditure per Km².

MPA LAB

The MPA Lab is a multidisciplinary working group that meets on each island periodically to find solutions to improve the condition of MPAs in the Balearics. This group is open to all organisations that share this goal.

The Lab schedules three meetings a year on each island, except Ibiza and Formentera, which meet jointly. It provides a great opportunity for exchanging information, defining strategies and identifying interventions to make the MPAs better managed and more effective. The stimulus provided by MPA Lab has encouraged an increasingly proactive, solutions-focused approach among all members of the working group.

Funding	€6,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands



CREATING POSITIVE LINKS

During summer 2019, SOS Posidonia Menorca and the La Ciència al teu Món (Science in your World) organisation ran a series of initiatives in public spaces. The aim was to raise awareness and increase the engagement of citizens with marine protected areas. A touring interactive station, set up in public spaces in Ciutadella and Fornells, was designed to reach as many families and tourists as possible during the summer season.

Visitors took part in a host of creative and thought-provoking activities such as SeaDance, an installation in which, through music and dance, young people explored the workings of species and organisms of the coastal ecosystem; and the Posidonia Day Care area, a children's play area mimicking a playschool for marine babies of the posidonia meadows.

Funding	€17,000
Year	2019
Region	Menorca



Painting the sea floor (*Pintando el fondo del mar*), workshop in Plaça dels Pins in Ciutadella, Menorca. Photo: Francisca Godoy.

MPA NETWORK

Marilles is a partner in the European Interreg Med MPA Networks project, which aims to improve the effectiveness of MPAs in the Mediterranean by proposing solutions in four areas: efficient management; managing small-scale fishing; conservation of mobile species; and, sustainable funding. All these aims are in line with the strategic priorities of Marilles.

The project – 85 % of which is funded by the Interreg MED programme – is coordinated by MedPAN. It brings together 10 Mediterranean associates, the majority of which are the MPA management bodies of seven countries: Albania, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia and Spain.

Marilles will report on the experiences of the Balearics and Spanish regions to this group, and feed back relevant examples and experiences from other parts of the Mediterranean to help develop best practice, tailored to local needs. Marilles will also develop a financial evaluation project in a yet-to-be-determined MPA in the Balearics.



«Managed efficiently, MPAs are one of the best tools to preserve marine biodiversity and fishing resources. The MPA Networks Project is born from the intention to work together, discuss problems and share solutions among the managers of the MPAs in the Mediterranean.»



Funding	€34,500
Year	2019-2022
Region	Balearic Islands



Albarca Tower, in Artà, in the Marine Reserve of Llevant, Mallorca. Photo: Sebastià Torrens.

Marie Romani, executive secretary for MedPAN



1. Marilles Foundation

2. MedPAN

3. Port-Cros National Park

4. Portofino National Park

5. Strunjan Landscape Park
6. Brijuni National Park

7. MPA Torre del Cerrano

8. Torre Guaceto Nature Reserve

9. Albania Nature Conservation Institute, INCA

10. Zakynthos Marine National Park



We generate information about the Mediterranean Sea but there are still large gaps in our knowledge. We know that a solid scientific basis is essential to finding the measures that will help us to improve our marine and coastal habitats. Our priority, therefore, is to increase and expand our knowledge and add value to what we already know, promoting a better circulation of available information and favouring scientific consensus.

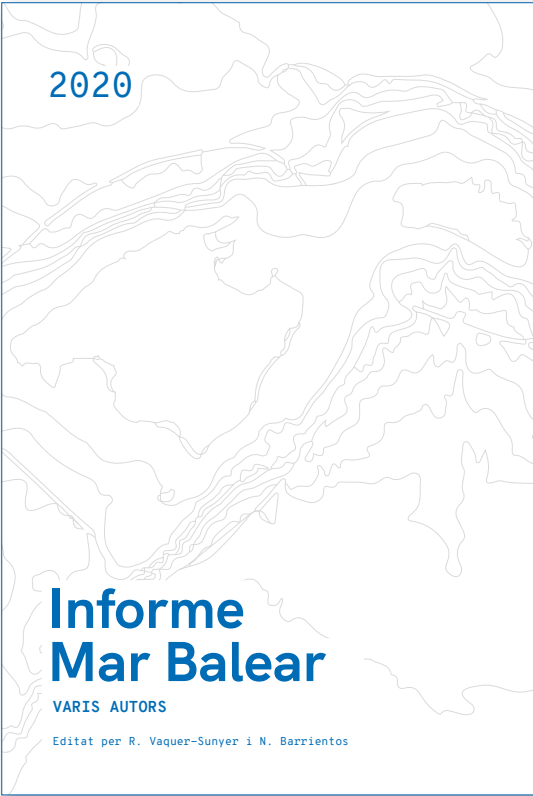
KNOWLEDGE AND CONSERVATION

FIRST BALEARIC SEA REPORT

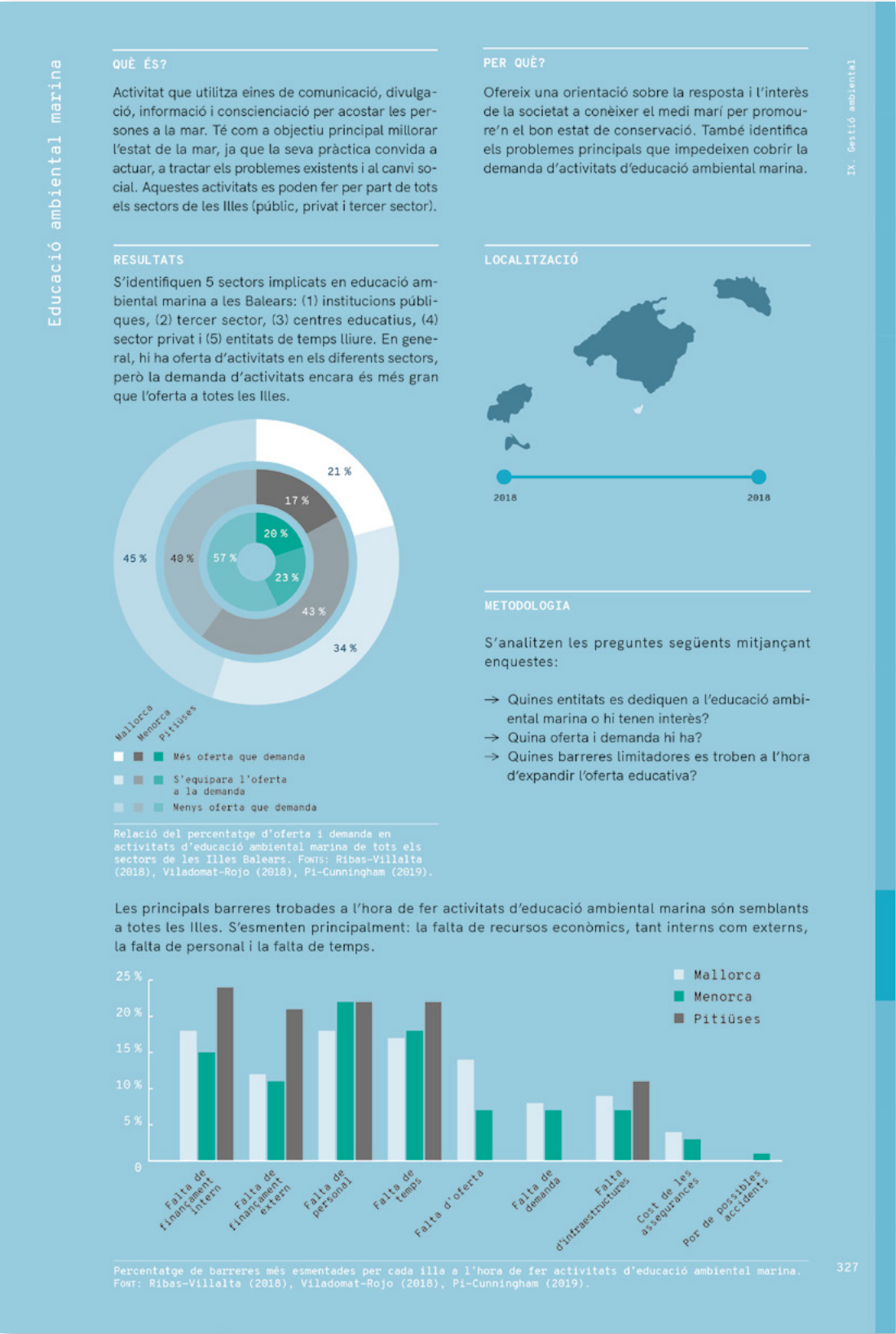
Funding	€100,000
Year	2019-2020
Region	Balearic Islands

The Balearic Sea Report (Informe Mar Balear) endeavours to evaluate objectively the environmental status of the Balearic Sea and how it has changed over time. To ascertain environmental health, the report looks at physicochemical and ecological variables of the main marine ecosystems, the increase or decrease of fish stocks, and other prominent ecological markers (algae, plants, fish, birds and cetaceans). It also provides information about beaches, the quality of swimming water, plastics and other types of pollution; the impact of invasive species, indicators of climatic change and other pressures on the sea and its resources derived from human activity, especially tourism and fishing.

To guarantee a solid scientific basis, the main research centres of the Balearics and the public administration have contributed to the information collected in this report. The document is public and accessible, and will be updated regularly to keep track of changes to the various indicators of marine health.



Front cover of the 2020 edition of Informe Mar Balear. Right, Summary sheet of the «Environmental Marine Education» indicator of the 2020 edition of Informe Mar Balear.



Funding	€30,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands

MAPS OF THE SEA FLOOR

Good cartography of the marine and coastal habitats of the Balearics and an accurate evaluation of their condition are essential tools for creating strategies to improve their management and conservation.

Because of this, the Menorca Institute of Studies (Institut Menorquí d'Estudis, IME), working with the Socio-atmospheric Observatory of Menorca (Observatori Socioambiental de Menorca, OBSAM) and the Natural History Society of the Balearics (Societat d'Història Natural de les Balears, SHNB) has compiled and collated all existing maps to create a new cartography. This new collection allows us to visualise the large diversity of habitats that exist in the islands, as well as revealing those areas for which less information is available.

This information will support our progress towards a system of natural accountancy that makes apparent the relationship between the state of marine habitats and the benefits and services they offer the community of the Balearics.



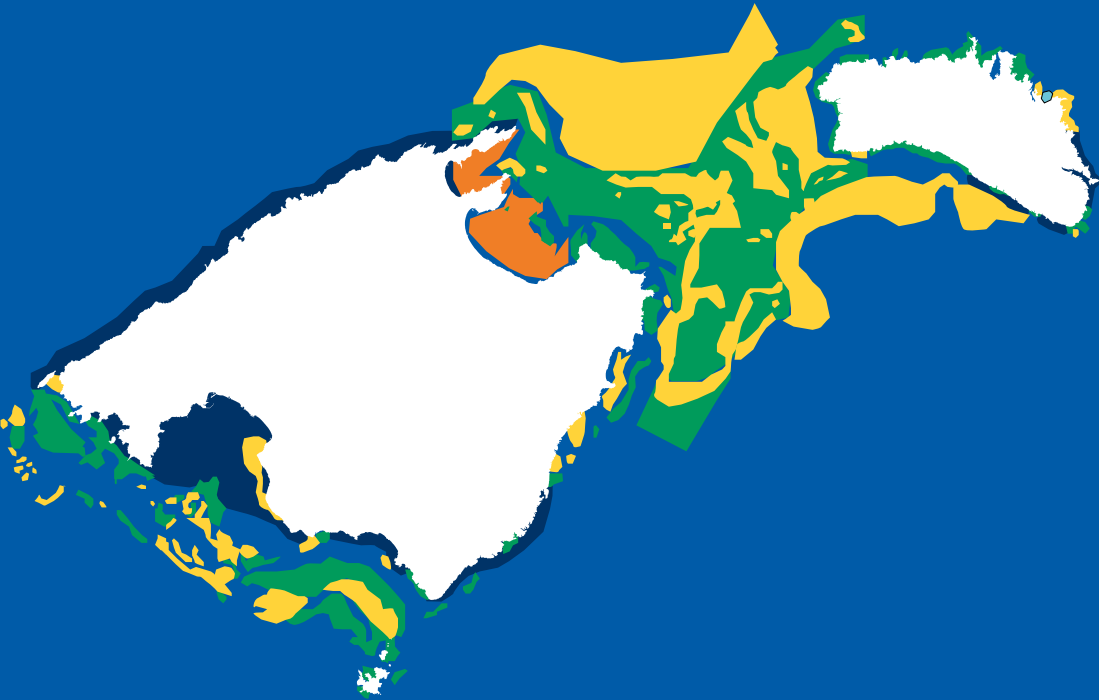
Aniol Esteban, Marilles Foundation; Eva Marsinyach, OBSAM; Laura del Valle, SHNB; Marina Bagur and Marc Julià, OBSAM, and Guillem X. Pons, SHNB, during the presentation of the new «Cartography of marine habitats in the Balearic Islands.» Photo: Marilles Foundation.



«For decades, the habitats of the Balearic sea floor have been the subject of studies and cartography by various research teams. This project has allowed us to combine all these fragmented and biased views and offer a unified, group vision.»

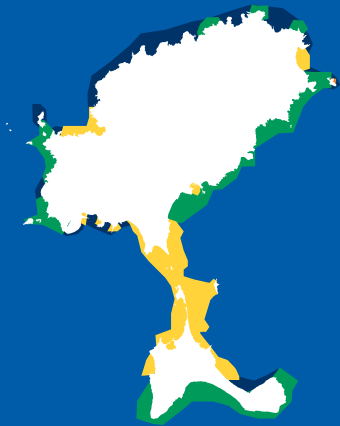
David Carreras,
director of OBSAM

CONSERVATION STATUS OF MARINE HABITATS IN THE BALEARICS



The cartography describes 55 marine habitats and covers 4,395.95 km sq of sea floor.

The state of conservation is known for 57% of the mapped area. Of this, only 17% is in good condition.



- Favourable
- Inadequate
- Unfavourable
- Not assessed

BLUE ECONOMY

Funding	€14,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands

The sea is the basis of the islands' prosperity, and understanding this supports good decision-making. The term "Blue economy" describes businesses that are both directly linked to the sea and have adopted environmentally sustainable practice. Such organisations play a key role in conservation, because they recognise the role of a well-preserved sea habitat in their economic success.

We worked with Impulsa Balears Foundation to find out more about the Blue Economy of the islands. The results show that sectors linked to the sea generate an added value of 5.124 million euros per year in the Balearics, via 6.511 companies that employ 88.441 workers. However, not every business in the study complied with the true definition of Blue Economy: all relied on the sea, but some did not yet demonstrate sustainable practice. An important next step for encouraging genuinely sustainable practice would be to ascertain from within this wider group those businesses that contribute to the islands' true Blue Economy.



Aniol Esteban, director of the Marilles Foundation, during the presentation of the «Reviewing the creation of the value arising from the sea» study, by the Impulsa Balears Foundation. Photo: Marilles Foundation.

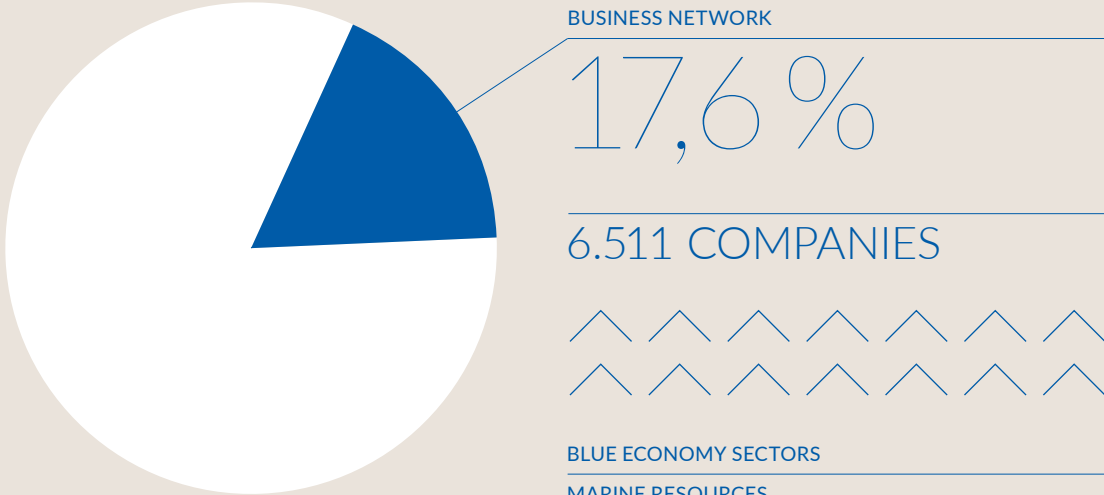


«Blue Economy is key to making the Balearics competitive at a global level. It opens new opportunities for sea-linked sectors to explore, while acting as a lever for sustainable change through their relationship.»

Antoni Riera, technical director of the Impulsa Balears Foundation

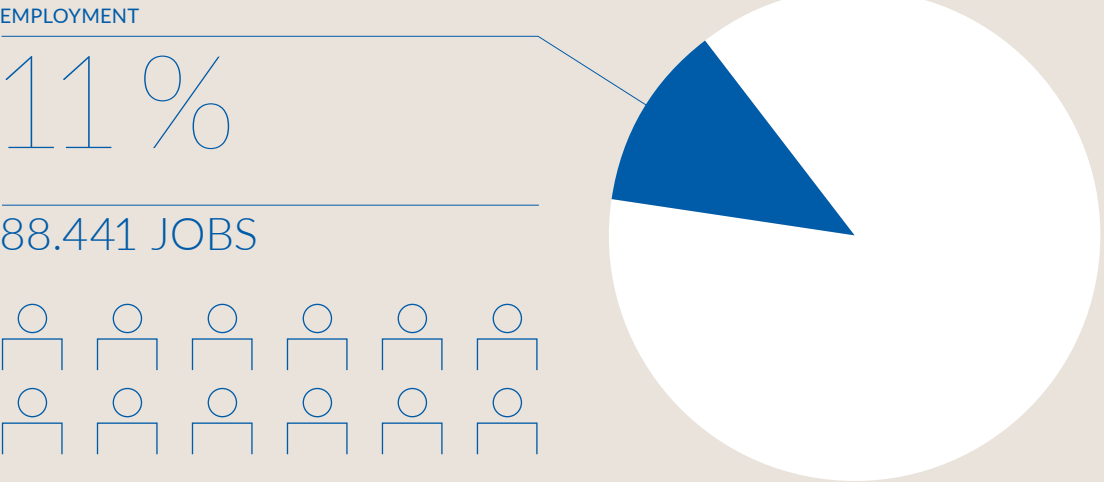
BLUE ECONOMY IN THE BALEARICS

The Blue Economy provides a platform from which to advance the sustainable competitiveness of the Balearics at a global level.



BLUE ECONOMY SECTORS

MARINE RESOURCES	
Living marine resources	1,8 %
Mineral and energy resources	0,6 %
SAILING AND TRANSPORT	
Port-related activities	1,6 %
Boat building and repair	3,2 %
Maritime transport	2,2 %
LEISURE AND TOURISM	
Coastal tourism: accommodation	69,4 %
Coastal tourism: other activities	21,8 %





Funding	€5,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands

A PLAN FOR SHARKS AND RAYS

Sharks and rays are the groups of species which have suffered the most regression in the Balearics and Mediterranean in recent decades. Some of them, such as the angel shark and the sawfish, have practically disappeared from our waters. These species reproduce slowly and are very vulnerable to such pressures as fishing and pollution.

From 4-7 November 2019, the UICN-Med Centre (Centro de Cooperación del Mediterráneo de la UICN) and Marilles organised a conference of international marine conservation specialists, NGOs and other organisations to reconsider the current level of threat to these species in the Mediterranean, and identify actions to protect them. The last day was completely devoted to the Balearics and involved beginning a conservation action plan for sharks and rays around the islands.



Workshop on ray and shark conservation in Balearic waters. Photo: Marilles Foundation.

Right, Stingray or angel shark (*Dasyatis pastinaca*), one of the most common rays in the sea floor of the Balearic coast. Photo: Miquel Gomila.

30 species of sharks and 25 species of rays have been sighted in the Balearics.

Species which were once common, such as the hammerhead, angelshark, guitar-fish or sawfish, are on the brink of extinction in the Mediterranean.

The increase in fishing in the Mediterranean over the past five decades is the main reason for a 90% decline in shark and ray populations.

It is estimated that 53% of sharks, rays and chimaeras of the Mediterranean are at risk of extinction (IUCN Red List).

The majority of sharks and rays have low fecundity rates, lay few eggs or hatch few pups.

Sharks and rays play a key role in maintaining the equilibrium of marine ecosystems in the Mediterranean.





Funding	€15,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands

RESEARCH INTO WHALES AND DOLPHINS

Tursiops is an organisation dedicated to the research, conservation and protection of cetaceans in the Balearics and Western Mediterranean. For this, it develops scientific projects alongside social and educational ones, both on the coast and at sea. Tursiops' projects include Our Dolphins, which explores the impact of marine noise on the dolphin population, and a project to monitor the sperm whale population in the Balearics.



Txema Brotons, Science Director of Tursiops, installing a hydrophone in Ibiza waters. Photo: Rubén Casas.
Right, tail of a sperm whale (above) and different perspectives of a bottlenose dolphin. Photos: Tursiops.



«It's time people realised that the Balearics have a resident population of sperm whales. If we prioritise their conservation, sightings will become the norm rather than the exception.»

Marga Cerdà,
Tursiops Association





Funding	€50,000
Year	2019 - 2020
Region	Balearic Islands

CITIZENS' SCIENCE

Citizens' Science offers a double opportunity. It enables us to generate information and data about our marine environment, and it promotes the involvement of the community and such relevant sectors as fishing, tourism and the marine leisure industry in scientific investigation. Through adapted protocols and carefully designed projects, volunteers collect data and make observations that are then scientifically validated by a respected research centre.

Observadores del Mar (Sea Observers) is a citizens' marine science platform that has become an example of best practice for the Balearics and the rest of Spain. Since 2012 it has involved thousands of people in marine research, and it has become a meeting point for scientists, divers and representatives of a large variety of sectors. Marilles has joined forces with the organisation to strengthen and expand the marine science programme in the Balearics: a vital step to enhance both the knowledge and protection of our sea.



Diver noting down information about white gorgonian formations for the *Atención Corales* (Look out for Corals!) project. Photo: Observadores del Mar.



«As well as generating new knowledge, Citizens' Science has a very high component of awareness and the democratisation of information. We're working towards consolidating and expanding the initiative, and for this we have the invaluable support of the Marilles Foundation.»

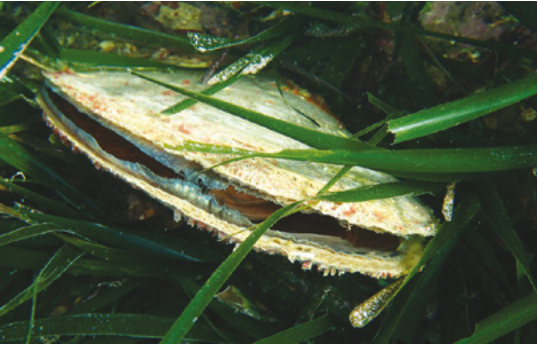
Joaquim Garrabou,
coordinator of
Observadores del Mar



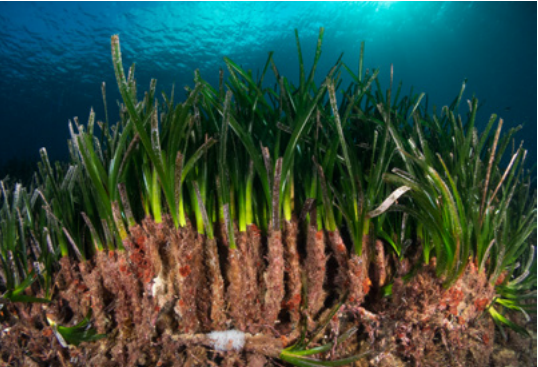
MICROPLASTIC WATCHERS. The accumulation of plastics in seas and oceans is a global problem affecting many habitats and species. Join this collective sampling effort to quantify microplastics on beaches, and shine a spotlight on the problem. Plastics collected on the beach. Photo: Observadores del Mar.



INVASIVE SEaweEDS. Invasive species can displace indigenous ones and affect the balance of ecosystems. Raise the alarm about the presence and spread of invasive species and help us to track them. Invasive seaweed, *Asparagopsis*. Photo: Manu San Félix.



FAN MUSSEL. Across the Mediterranean, a parasitic protozoan is wiping out the population of fan mussels (*Nacre*): species already endangered by pollution, fisheries and habitat loss. Find nacras in their habitat and report on their health status. *Nacre* (*Pinna nobilis*) Photo: Enric Badosa.



SEAGRASS PRAIRIES. Marine plants such as *Posidonia oceanica* form prairies which play a crucial role in coastal ecosystems. Help us monitor their state, track their life cycle and observe human impact. *Posidonia oceanica* meadow with rhizomes in sight. Photo: Miquel Gomila.



SYNGNATHIDS. Seahorses and pipefish are very sensitive to changes in their environment. Help us report on their presence and the conservation status of their habitat so we can track their vulnerability levels and inform conservation efforts. Seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) above a peacock worm (*Sabella pavonina*, a marine filtering polychaete, common in the Mediterranean). Photo: Xavier Salvador.



We all have a role in the conservation of the Balearic Sea. One of our most important tasks is to facilitate dialogue between organisations, experts, public administrations, private companies and every sector of society to coordinate strategies, share information and design solutions. Together we are stronger to face the sea's challenges.

THE SEA IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

Rezero, Fundación para la *Prevención de Residuos y el Consumo Responsable* (Foundation for the Prevention of Waste and for Responsible Consumption) campaigns at political, economic and community levels. In 2019, the organisation focused on lobbying and raising support for the Balearics' new Waste Law. Now that the law has been passed, Rezero is publicising and encouraging wide-ranging buy-in for the implementation of the strict new rules on the use of plastic products, particularly single-use plastics, which come into force next year.

Powerful campaign design and profile-raising activities have been key to achieving media coverage of the new legislation and creating critical mass in favour of its implementation. For example, at the end of 2019, Rezero presented *Salud de plástico* (Plastic Health), a pioneering campaign to raise awareness of the impact of plastics on human health. Urine samples were taken from 20 well-known people in Catalan and Balearic society and analysed. Plastic was found in every sample - a consequence of the plastification of food in both distribution and consumption.



«Rezero works to make progress together towards a society where waste ceases to exist and the sea is filled only with fish and other marine life.»

REZERO	
Funding	€40,000
Year	2019 - 2020
Region	Balearic Islands



Poster for the Salud de Plástico campaign. Photo: Rezero.
Right, Image taken from the Salud de Plástico campaign. Photo: Rezero.

Roser Badia,
coordinator of Rezero
in the Balearic Islands

SALUD DE PLÁSTICO CAMPAIGN IN THE BALEARIC ISLANDS



21 single-use plastic substances, most of which are present in food packaging, were traced in the urine samples of well-known people in the worlds of culture, science, medicine, arts and environmentalism in the Balearics and Catalonia.

THE SEA BELONGS TO EVERYONE

Based in Ibiza, GEN-GOB's goal is to harmonise human activity with nature preservation in order to achieve ecological and social sustainability. Its project, *La Mar, una Responsabilidad Compartida* (The Sea, A Shared Responsibility) tries to involve all stakeholders – fishermen, diving centres, the nautical sector, NGOs and government – in working together to manage and conserve the marine environment.

2019 saw the culmination of a project that has taken place over several years and has contributed to the progress of management plans for Natura 2000, MPAs in Ibiza and Formentera, and plans for anchoring areas. A number of well-attended workshops were organised over the year, representing all relevant sectors. This kind of collaboration is essential for progress towards the conservation of the Balearic Sea.



«It's an absolute pleasure to work with the social agents linked to the marine environment — fishermen, diving centres, the nautical sector, local government, scientists — and search for ways to reduce impact and improve the environmental state of the sea's ecosystems. The result is a fantastic road map which will help us navi-gate new legislation that will improve the marine environment.»

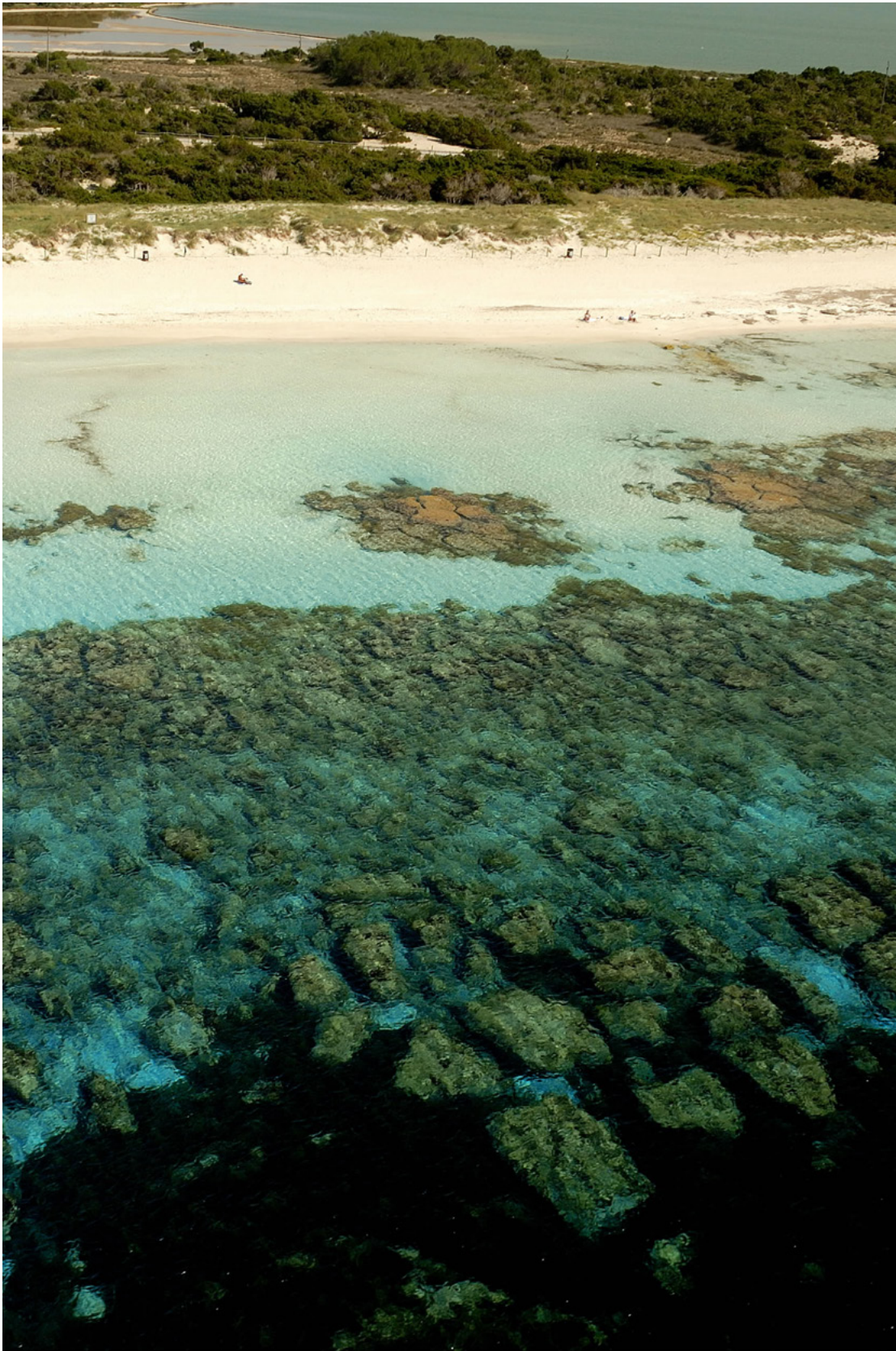
GEN-GOB



Funding	€80,000
Year	2017 - 2019
Region	Ibiza and Formentera



Workshop on marine strategies. Photo: GEN-GOB.
Right, Cavall d'en Borràs beach, on the West coast of Formentera. Photo: Manu San Félix.



MARINE PROGRAMME IN MENORCA

GOB Menorca is a non-profit conservation organisation whose objective is to help achieve a truly sustainable economy, making human activities compatible with environmental values. The funding provided by Marilles supports its marine programme, which includes multiple areas of activity. Important examples are its political lobbying for more support and better protections for Menorca's marine ecosystems, and the incorporation of marine activities and education in its summer camp programmes.

In 2019, GOB Menorca attracted dozens of new adherents to its plastic reduction campaigns. These helped build a critical mass of organisations taking steps to avoid waste ahead of the implementation of the new Waste Reduction legislation.



«The sea is asking for urgent help, and we must respond by rising to the responsibility.»

GOB MENORCA



Funding	€17,500
Year	2019 - 2021
Region	Menorca



Àngel Ruiz and Pablo d'es Castell signing the CEIP agreement in Menorca, in which they commit to use biodegradable or reusable tableware instead of single-use plastic at school events. Photo: GOB Menorca.

Right, Mongofra beach, where the summer camps organised by the Environmental Education Service of the GOB (the Ornithological Association in the Balearics) in Menorca take place. Photo: David Arquimbau.

Miquel Camps, territory policies coordinator for the GOB Menorca



TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FLEET

Professional fishing continues to be one of the main pressures on the Balearic marine environment, even though the sector itself is in decline. The regional fishing industry is also an important partner in marine conservation, and has supported the creation of marine reserves. A strategic priority for Marilles is to reduce the negative impacts of fishing while improving the sustainability of the sector. These goals are shared by Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE).

LIFE works to reduce the impact of professional, artisan fishing at a small scale, a category to which most of the fishermen and boats in the Balearics and on the Mediterranean belong. During 2019, Marilles and LIFE carried out field research and met up with fishermen on the four islands to set up a project to help transform the Balearic fishing fleet into one of the most sustainable in the Mediterranean. The first phase of the project begins in 2020 and will continue for three years.



«We want to add our grain of sand to empower the small-scale fishing fleet in the Balearics so it can be the most sustainable in the Mediterranean. We're working to support its economic viability, help with the issue of generational replacement, and increase social recognition of the industry's worth.»



Funding	€50,000
Year	2019 - 2020
Region	Balearic Islands



Fisherman in the Port of Alcúdia. Photo: Sebastià Torrens.
Right, fishermen at Cales Fonts, Menorca.
Photo: David Arquimbau.

Marta Cavallé, coordinator
of the Mediterranean
for LIFE organisation





We want people to fall in love with the sea; to bring them closer to it so they get to know and enjoy the diversity of species and habitats that exist on the Balearic coasts. This objective is fundamental to generating popular support for the measures necessary to return our seas and coastlines to a state of excellent conservation.

GETTING PEOPLE CLOSER TO THE SEA

Funding	€50,000
Year	2019
Region	Ibiza and Formentera

DIVING CAMPS IN FORMENTERA

Vellmarí is a diving centre and association in the heart of La Savina port, in Formentera. The brain-child of inspirational photographer Manu San Félix, the centre organises activities to do with marine conservation, and raises environmental awareness. With support from Marilles, it has devised one of the most innovative environmental education activities in the Balearics: Dive Camps.

These are daytime camps for young people between 8 and 17 years old, in which every activity is dedicated to the sea. These include diving techniques, underwater photography and marine ecology workshops. The week-long courses are based on the Princesa del Mar schooner, where participants work together alongside a team of professionals.



Children from the Dive Camp. Photo: Manu San Félix.
Right, A girl from the Dive Camp about to jump into the water. Photo: Manu San Félix.



«I’m convinced that the educational programme of Dive Camp is a fantastic tool for children to get to know and enjoy the sea. Strengthening human and ecological values in young people is the best way to achieve the conservation of our seas.»

Cristina Ozores,
director of the Vellmarí
Environmental Education
Programme



A SEA OF SCIENCE

The *La Mar de Ciencia* (A Sea of Science) Awards aim to involve the youngest members of society in marine science and make them aware of the importance of scientific research to preserve oceans. It is a competition for children and young adults, 5-17 years old, from all over Spain, inviting them to use a range of creative media (video, drawing, storytelling) to express themselves on subjects related to the sea.

Marilles supported the competition's third year, which took the theme of "Clean seas: turn the tide of plastic" (*Mares limpios. Cambia la marea del plástico*). It attracted 929 participants, and 576 projects were presented. The six winners were brought to the Balearic Islands to find out about the research that the CSIC and the SOCIB have developed here.



«Thanks to the collaboration of organisations like the Marilles Foundation, we foster initiatives such as *La Mar de Ciencia* (A Sea of Science). Through this competition, the organisers, scientists, educational community and families give value to the role science plays in the conservation of oceans, as well as encouraging young peoples' interest in scientific careers.»

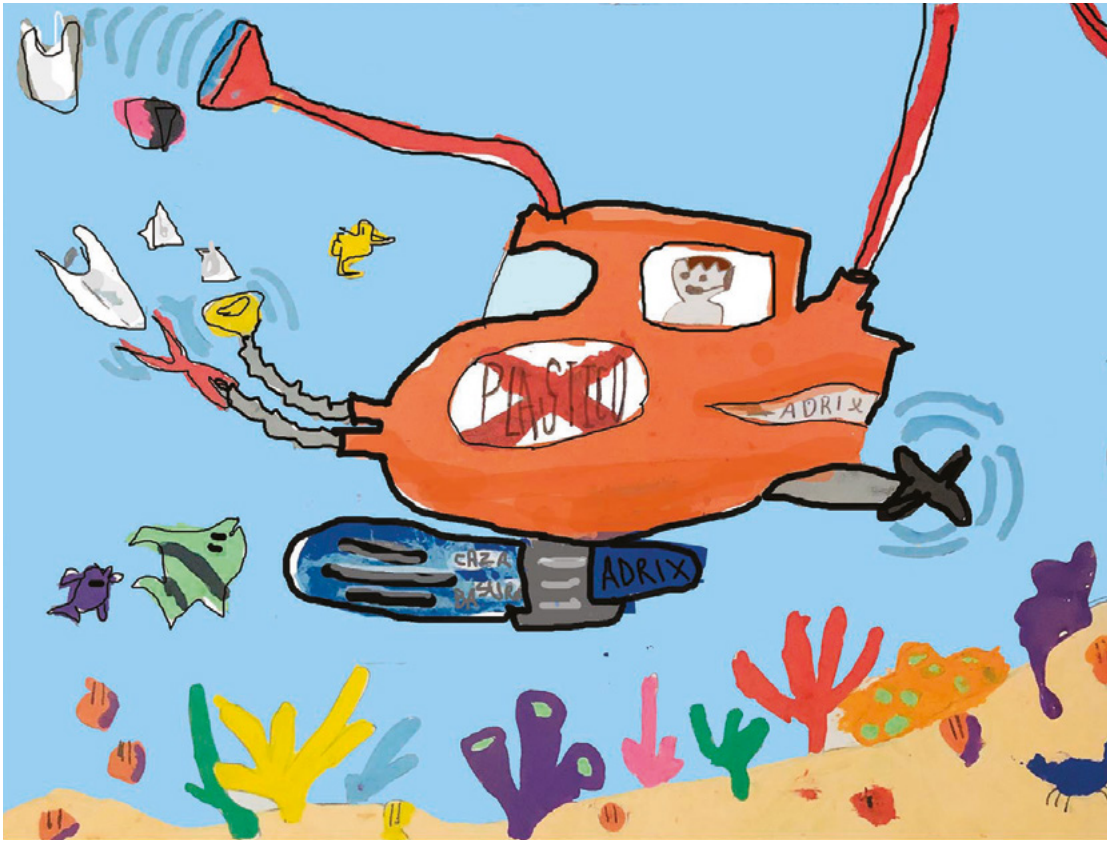
Funding	€15,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands



The winners of the third Sea of Science competition on the SOCIB Oceanographic ship, during the science weekend.

Right, Two of the winning projects in the third Sea of Science competition.

Rosa María Rodríguez,
communications and
scientific culture, Balearics
CSIC delegation.



MARINE FAUNA AND FLORA MINI GUIDES

For more than a year, Marilles has been working with naturalist illustrator Toni Llobet and publishing company Cossetània on the production of a series of ten mini guides about marine fauna and flora in the Balearics. These guides present each species illustrated in detail for ease of comparison and identification, promoting the incredibly rich variety of the Balearic Sea. They are a resource to inspire and encourage us to dive head first into the water, to rediscover and love the sea, and to participate actively in its preservation.

Over the course of 2020, we plan to publish the first five titles of the series, which will be distributed in educational centres and associations wishing to promote marine environmental education. They will also be on sale in the Balearics with no direct benefit to Marilles.



«Illustrating means drawing, but in Spanish it also means “to give light, meaning; to educate, civilize” – it even says so in the dictionary! With these mini guides, thanks to the commitment of Marilles and the expert contributors who have made them possible, we have generated a great little tool – attractive, entertaining, thorough, and also powerful – to help illuminate people in the Balearics about the fabulous marine diversity with which they share the place where they live.»

OWN PROJECT

Funding	€30,000
Year	2018 - 2019
Region	Balearic Islands



Front covers of three of our “Marine fauna and flora in the Balearics” mini guides.
Right, Inside page of the mini guide.

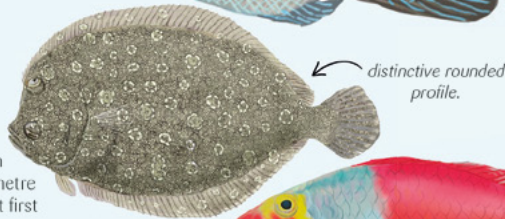
Toni Llobet,
naturalist illustrator

MISCELLANEOUS FISH

Grey Triggerfish
Balistes caprisus ▶
Small sturdy mouth, with strong prominent teeth. Makes nest in sand and is curious and aggressive, especially when protecting its eggs.
ES *Pez Ballesta* CT *Surer*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 1000 m



Wide-eyed Flounder
Bothus podas ▶
The most common flatfish on sandy bottoms around the Balearics. When threatened, it buries itself in the sand, always hiding a metre behind the point at which it first dives in.



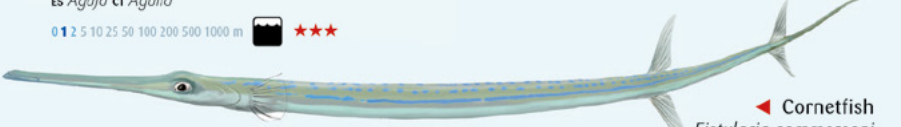
ES *Podas* CT *Pedaç*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 m



▶ **Parrotfish**
Sparisoma cretense
A southern species, the two sexes are very differently patterned, with the female being more striking. Feeds mainly on algae. Very rare around the Balearics but could become more common if seawater temperatures rise.

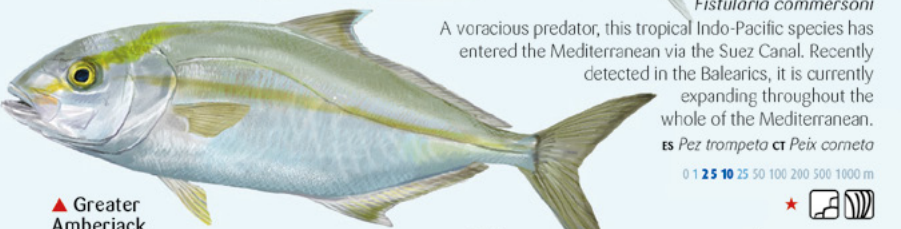
ES *Vieja colorada* CT *Peix lloro*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 1000 m

▶ **Garfish**
Belone belone
Common predator in the water column in summer near coasts. Swims in schools just below the water surface.
ES *Aguja* CT *Agulla*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 1000 m



▶ **Cornetfish**
Fistularia commersoni
A voracious predator, this tropical Indo-Pacific species has entered the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal. Recently detected in the Balearics, it is currently expanding throughout the whole of the Mediterranean.
ES *Pez trompeta* CT *Peix corneta*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 1000 m

▶ **Greater Amberjack**
Seriola dumerili
Fast, powerful open-sea (pelagic) predator. Juvenile fish known as *verderols* appear near coasts at the end of summer.
ES *Pez limón/Serviola* CT *Cerviola*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 1000 m



▶ **Pompano**
Trachinotus ovatus
Gregarious species that moves along sandy coastlines, often very close to the wave-break zone.
ES *Pámpano blanco* CT *Palomida blanca*
0 1 2 5 10 25 50 100 200 500 1000 m



GETTING PEOPLE CLOSER TO THE SEA

FINDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

IBIZA PRESERVATION FUND



Funding	€15,000
Year	2019
Region	Ibiza and Formentera

GETTING PEOPLE CLOSER TO THE SEA

MARINE EDUCATION LAB

OWN PROJECT

Funding	€3,000
Year	2019
Region	Balearic Islands



The Ibiza and Formentera Marine Forum aims to become an essential annual event for matters of marine conservation, a platform for discussion and solutions to alleviate the pressures faced by the sea. The first Forum set three specific objectives: to raise the ambitions of marine protected areas in Ibiza and Formentera; to increase awareness of the need for urgent reduction in the release of uncontrolled waste into the sea; and, to co-

llaborate on the implementation of the new Waste Law on both islands.

Marilles is part of the group of organisations promoting the Forum, along with The White Angel (OD Real Estate), Be Blue-Trasmapi, the Vellmarí Association, the Pacha Foundation and the Foundation for the Conservation of Ibiza and Formentera who coordinates the initiative.

Group photograph of the team of promoters and collaborators of the first Ibiza and Formentera Marine Forum.

The Marine Education LAB is a multidisciplinary work group aiming to promote environmental education in the Balearic Islands. In 2018, one of the LAB’s tasks was to commission a study about the current supply and demand of marine environmental education on the islands. The results, presented early in 2019, delivered a very clear conclusion: the demand is far higher than the offer at present, with a very limited number of activities available during school terms and even fewer when the schools are closed.

For these reasons, Marilles is evaluating the best way to offer marine environmental education in the Balearic Islands and is considering re-activating the Marine LABs during 2020.



Boy taking notes during the *Identification of Sea Floors and Species* workshop of the Formentera Dive Camp. Photo: Manu San Félix.



As well as encouraging people to dive into the sea, we must bring the sea closer to people. And how better than through inspiring images and events?

INSPIRATION AND AWARENESS

Award-winning photograph of a diver (underwater photography competition in Sóller). Photo: Jaime Serra.



Funding	€843
Year	2019
Region	Mallorca

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

For years, Club Nàutic de Sóller (Sóller Nautical Club) has been organising an underwater photography competition. Its aim is to bring to light the natural richness of the Balearic Sea and promote the impressive marine habitats of our coasts and the species that inhabit them. Participants can compete in two categories (Reflex and compact cameras) and present up to five photographs, with free subject matter. The jury evaluates skill, originality and spontaneity.

Marilles has covered the organisational expenses of the 11th competition, in which 30 divers took part, and which also aimed to raise awareness of the need for a new marine reserve on the North coast of Mallorca.



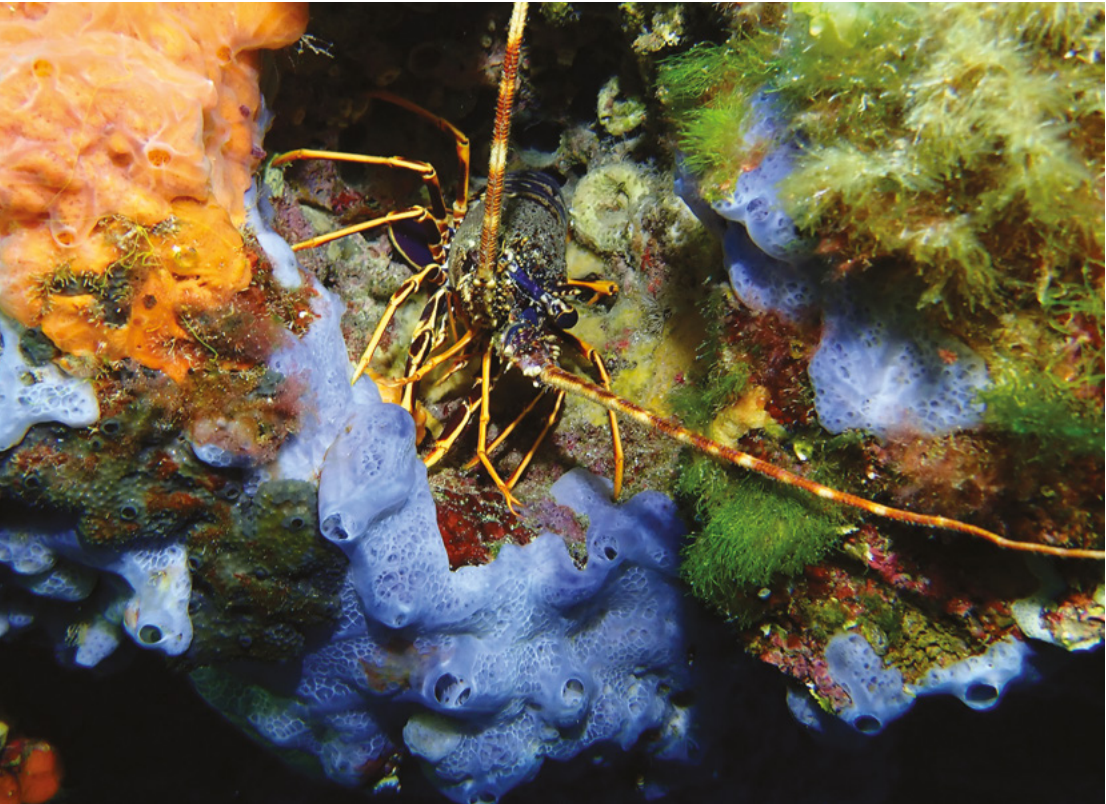
Black-faced blenny (*Tripterygion delaisi*) in shallow, rocky seabed. Photo: Jaime Serra.

Right, Award-winning photographs (underwater photography competition in Sóller): detail of a painted comber (*Serranus scriba*), very common in the Balearic coastline. Jaime Serra; spiny lobster (*Palinurus elephas*). Juan Garí.



«Thanks to organisations like Marilles we can carry on fighting to achieve more protection in these magnificent islands.»

Rafel Solivellas, president of Club Nàutic de Sóller





Funding €4,000

Year 2019

Region Mallorca

EXHIBITION: SECOND CHANCES

Fundación Palma Aquarium (Palma Aquarium Foundation for the Protection of the Environment) is dedicated to environmental education, conservation and scientific investigation. One of its aims is to educate children so that they are aware of the main threats faced by marine ecology today and feel empowered to get involved. Marilles' funding has supported two exhibitions and the publication of a book about the recovery of marine turtles. One exhibition will be on permanent display at Palma Aquarium, while the other is designed to tour and is available to organisations offering relevant activities, such as nautical clubs, ports or festivals.



"Second chances", permanent exhibition at Palma Aquarium. Photo: Palma Aquarium.



«The Second Chances Project has enabled us to witness the rescue and recovery of damaged and sick marine turtles, and their reintroduction to their natural environment. It's a very complex project, which often goes unnoticed.»

Deborah Morrison,
director of Palma Aquarium



The loggerhead turtle is the most common turtle in the Mediterranean Sea, but it is an endangered species catalogued as vulnerable by the UICN. Its main threats are fishing, pollution and the destruction of the coastline. Photos: Néstor Carda.



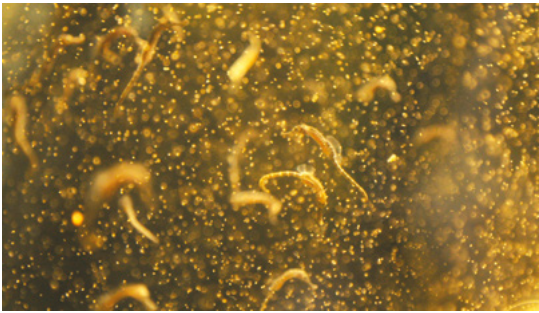
DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN

Funding	€50,000
Year	2017 - 2019
Region	Balearic Islands

The documentary *Let's Save our Mediterranean* – produced by National Geographic and directed by photographer and explorer Manu San Félix, who also presents it – shows the challenges that the Mediterranean faces, and solutions that are within our reach. Most of the film has been shot in the Balearics. Among other issues, it shows the impact of untreated waste water and of anchoring on the sea floor. It includes interviews with experts in marine conservation such as Pierre Yves Cousteau, Enric Sala and Carlos Duarte who, as well as describing the sheer magnitude of the challenge we're facing, offer solutions for urgent implementation.



Poster of the National Geographic documentary *Let's Save our Mediterranean*.
Right, Frames of the National Geographic documentary *Let's Save our Mediterranean*.



CINEMAR

Funding	€1,500
Year	2019 - 2020
Region	Mallorca and Menorca

The Cinemar marine film cycle is an initiative by Marilles and Fundació Sa Nostra, consisting of monthly screenings of films with the sea as a theme. The aim is to inspire, to promote awareness of the problems faced by the marine environment, and to offer some possible solutions. Screenings are followed by a panel discussion with audience contributions.

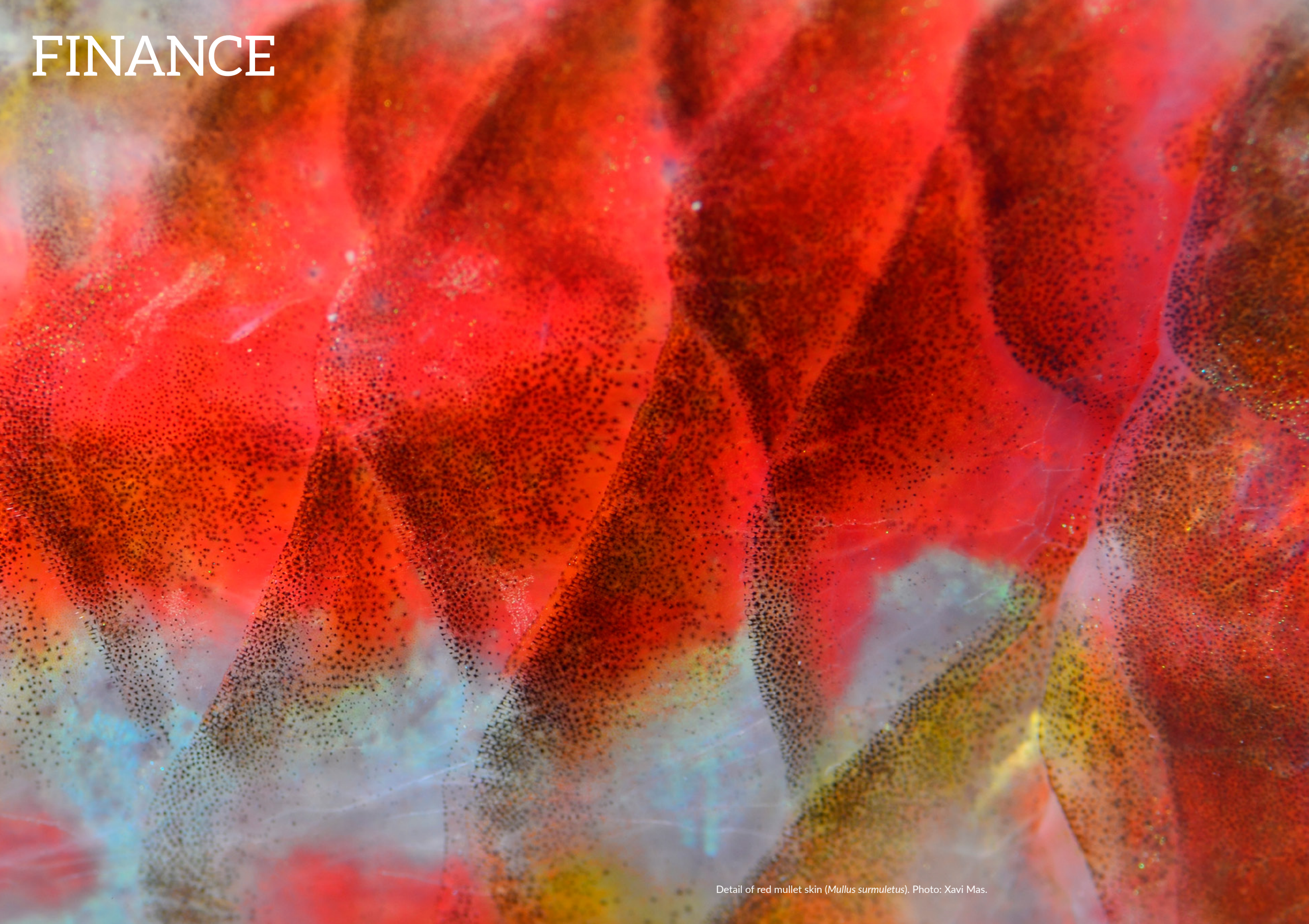
To date, Cinemar has shown *Out of Plastic*, a documentary by Line Hadsbjerg about the impact of the wasteful consumption of plastic in the Balearics; *Let's Save our Mediterranean*, by National Geographic; *Chasing Coral*, which illustrates the impact of global warming on coral reefs, and an episode of the BBC series *Blue Planet*.



Graphic image of the Cinemar cycle.
Right, Images of the two first marine documentary Cinemar sessions. Photo: Marilles Foundation.



FINANCE



Detail of red mullet skin (*Mullus surmuletus*). Photo: Xavi Mas.

Transparent accounting

In 2019, all our funding has come from three foundations. The Adessium and Mava Foundations, both with vast experience in philanthropy, have supported Marilles from its beginnings. More recently the Flotilla Foundation, which supports projects for the improvement of marine protected areas, has also come on board.

The total costs incurred in 2019 are 580,011 euros*, distributed as follows:

GRANTS AND AID TO ORGANISATIONS	PROJECTS AND RESEARCH	COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT
€268,511	€100,286	€211,214

* Data pending confirmation and audit.

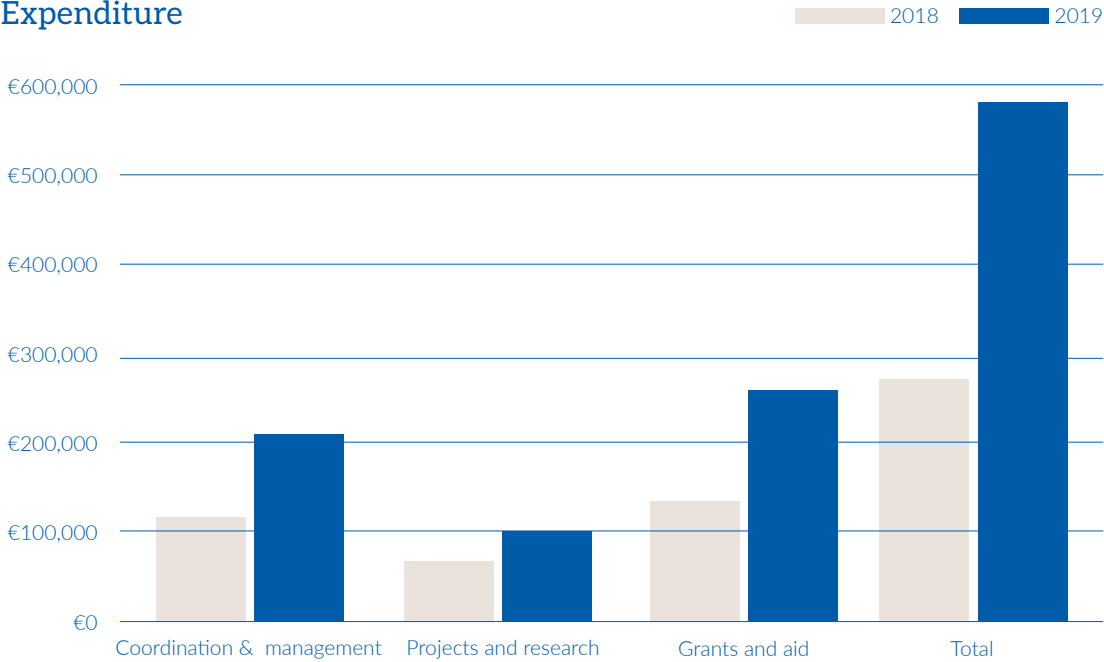
In 2019, our total expenditure was double that of 2018.

Expenditure on grants and projects increased by 212,297 euros compared to 2018. In 2020, we are committed to spending 305,000 euros in grants and aid. In 2020 we hope marine conservation investment grows even more.

EXPENSE	2018	2019	DIFFERENCE
Coordination and management*	€116,055	€211,214	€95,159
Projects and research	€17,000	€100,286	€83,286
Grants and aid	€139,500	€268,511	€129,011
Total	€272,555	€580,011	€307,456

* Includes project expenses.

Expenditure



Help us preserve the beauty of the Balearic Sea!

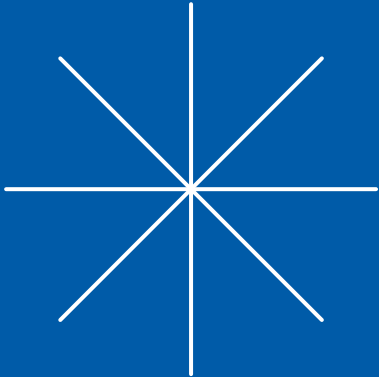
If you want to make a donation to Marilles, contact us info@marilles.org or visit www.marilles.org/donate

We need funds



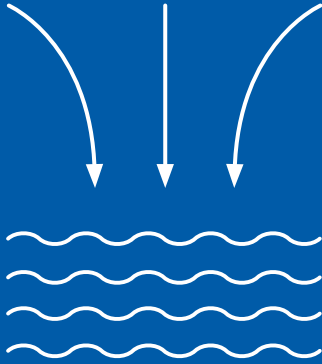
We want to turn the Balearic Islands into a world-leading example of marine conservation. But we can't do it on our own. To achieve it, we need the help of other foundations, patrons and private donors.

We are experienced in philanthropy and conservation



We have the funding and experience of prestigious international foundations with an impressive background in marine conservation, in the Mediterranean and beyond.

Every euro is spent on the sea



Thanks to the support of the Adessium Foundation, our core costs are completely covered. Every euro Marilles receives from other sources is destined entirely for projects to preserve the Balearic Sea.

We're seeking maximum impact



When foundations work together, great things can be achieved. That's why we collaborate with other foundations to avoid duplication and maximise the impact of every single euro on the conservation of the sea.

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info@marilles.org

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Marilles is a non-profit foundation working to make the Balearics a world-leading example of marine conservation. Every euro donated to us is spent on projects to preserve the Balearic sea.