

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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

Grouper (*Epinephelus Costae*) in the Isla del Toro marine
reservation, Mallorca. Photo: Miquel Gomila.





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A healthy marine environment is key to the prosperity of Mediterranean economies and the wellbeing of coastal communities. The Balearic Islands are no exception, even though the critical roles that the sea and the coast play in our lives often go unnoticed. The global pandemic that shook the world in 2020 has made evident the links that exist between the health of our natural environment and the stability of our economic and social systems. It also exposed the vulnerabilities of our economies and helped us to appreciate nature more, including the beauty of the unique Balearic archipelago.

Although the Covid pandemic reduced human activity at sea, this did not lead to a significant change in the Balearic Sea. Yes, dolphins came closer to the shore because of the lack of noise, reduced disturbance improved water transparency allowing seaweed to grow in new places, and seabirds nested in new areas. But these small improvements were anecdotal and short-lived. Our research shows that pressures on the Balearic Sea and its beautifully diverse marine environment remain high and that we will need to keep working hard to make long-lasting improvements.

Fortunately, the Covid crisis has not stopped us. In the current context, our mission remains more important than ever and we are even more convinced that the Balearic Sea can become a world reference for marine conservation. During this critical year, we have continued and expanded our work, reaching a total expenditure of €1 million for 2020 and adding new donors. We are very happy to say that in 2020 we received support from local foundation Fundatur and from a few families on the islands. Marilles is a collaborative initiative open to everyone's input and financial support. Join us and be part of the movement!

Rogier van Vliet, president



Since 2018 we have invested more than €2 million, supported 30 organisations, and funded 49 projects to improve the marine environment of the Balearic Sea. This report recounts the excellent work our partners are doing on the ground, as well as the collaborative initiatives we have put in place. The *Balearic Sea Report*, the MARE underwater photography initiative, and the Marine Citizen Science programme lay essential foundations for the long-term change we want to see.

Our 2018-2020 strategy helped us to establish Marilles in a very short time. We are happy but not complacent. We know that in order to increase our impact we must focus and concentrate our efforts.

From 2021 onwards we will continue to invest heavily in improving and expanding marine protected areas, transforming professional and recreational fisheries into sustainable management role models, and protecting vulnerable species such as sharks and rays. We will also work to improve the quality of our waters to restore vulnerable habitats and bays.

Investing in marine conservation is essential if we want to ensure that the economic recovery of these islands is stable and sustainable. Improving the state of our seas and coasts can help us to move out of the post-Covid economic crisis. For example, a solid, well-funded network of marine protected areas will strengthen and improve our tourism and fisheries industries, key to both the Balearics and Spain. Public and private funding needs to point in this direction.

We remain hugely impressed by the commitment of the individuals and organisations we are working with, and are confident that by joining forces and working together we can deliver our shared vision.

Aniol Esteban, director



MARILLES FOUNDATION

Detail of *Spirographis spallanzani*, a type of marine worm. Photo: Antonio Menor.

2018

€272,555 invested
14 projects financed
2 donor entities engaged

2019

€580,011 invested
21 projects financed
4 donor entities engaged

2020

€1,072,514 invested
30 projects financed
6 donor entities engaged



ABOUT US

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

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

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

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

We attract funding to guarantee its long-term conservation.

When we imagine the Balearic Islands in 2030, we envisage thriving marine and coastal ecosystems, with an abundance of marine life and fishing resources contributing to the economic growth of the region. To achieve this, however, we need:

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

Our projects prioritise these three lines of work. But we're also working to reduce other pressures on the marine environment, such as pollution; and to establish the building blocks of long-term change by ensuring that more information on the Balearic Sea is available, and by strengthening the third sector, citizen science, and philanthropy.

CORE OBJECTIVES

EXPANDING AND IMPROVING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND NO-TAKE ZONES

- A minimum of 30% of MPAs and 10% of Integral Reserve by 2030
- Complete monitoring system for MPAs

PROTECTING VULNERABLE HABITATS AND SPECIES

- Conservation plan for rays and sharks
- Approved management plans for Natura 2000 areas

DEVELOPING FISHING

- Co-management plans
- Certification
- Low-impact fishing gear
- No more illegal fishing and trade

BRINGING THE SEA CLOSER TO PEOPLE

- Posters and mini-guides of marine fauna and flora
- A series of documentaries on the Balearic Sea
- MARE underwater photography and audiovisual competition: www.marebalear.org

CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVES

BALEARIC SEA REPORT

- 150 indicators
- www.informemarbalear.org

MARINE CITIZEN SCIENCE

- 15 projects
- www.observadoresdelmar.es

NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

- Balearics – Ibiza and Formentera
- MPA Llevant – Cala Ratjada

STRENGTHENING THE THIRD SECTOR

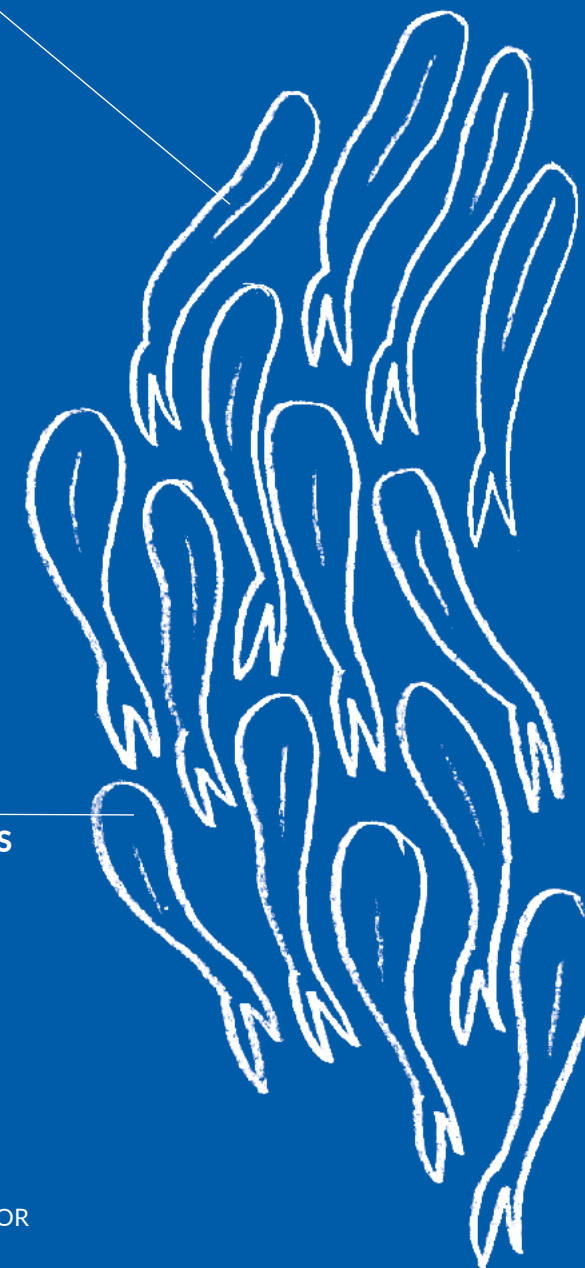
- Training and mentoring

FINANCING MARINE CONSERVATION

- Promoting philanthropy
- European Recovery Funds

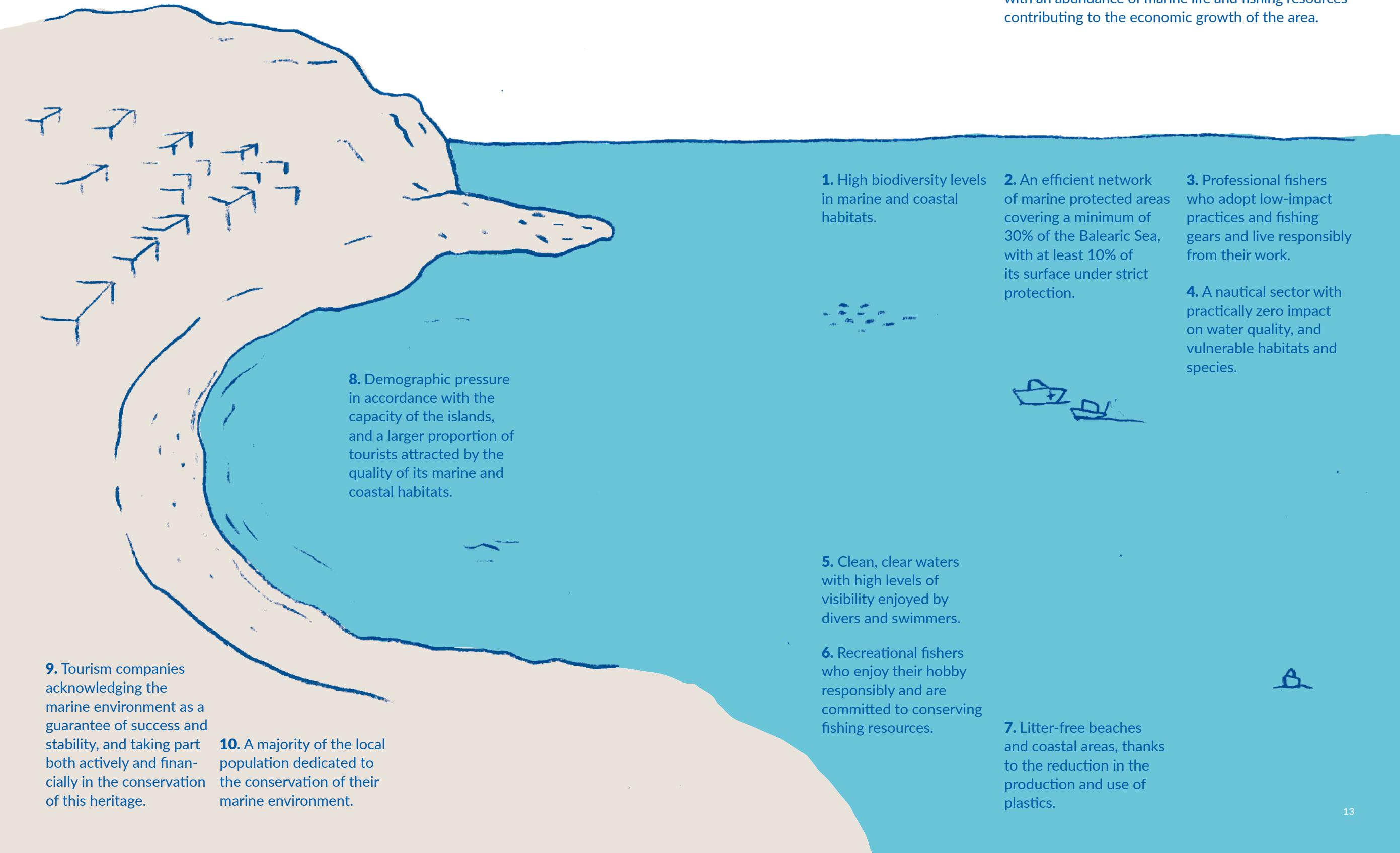
INVOLVING KEY SECTORS

- Active commitment from tourism
- Sustainable tourism model



OUR VISION FOR THE BALEARICS IN 2030

When we imagine the Balearic Islands in 2030, we envisage thriving marine and coastal ecosystems, with an abundance of marine life and fishing resources contributing to the economic growth of the area.



8. Demographic pressure in accordance with the capacity of the islands, and a larger proportion of tourists attracted by the quality of its marine and coastal habitats.

9. Tourism companies acknowledging the marine environment as a guarantee of success and stability, and taking part both actively and financially in the conservation of this heritage.

10. A majority of the local population dedicated to the conservation of their marine environment.

1. High biodiversity levels in marine and coastal habitats.

2. An efficient network of marine protected areas covering a minimum of 30% of the Balearic Sea, with at least 10% of its surface under strict protection.

3. Professional fishers who adopt low-impact practices and fishing gears and live responsibly from their work.

4. A nautical sector with practically zero impact on water quality, and vulnerable habitats and species.

5. Clean, clear waters with high levels of visibility enjoyed by divers and swimmers.

6. Recreational fishers who enjoy their hobby responsibly and are committed to conserving fishing resources.

7. Litter-free beaches and coastal areas, thanks to the reduction in the production and use of plastics.

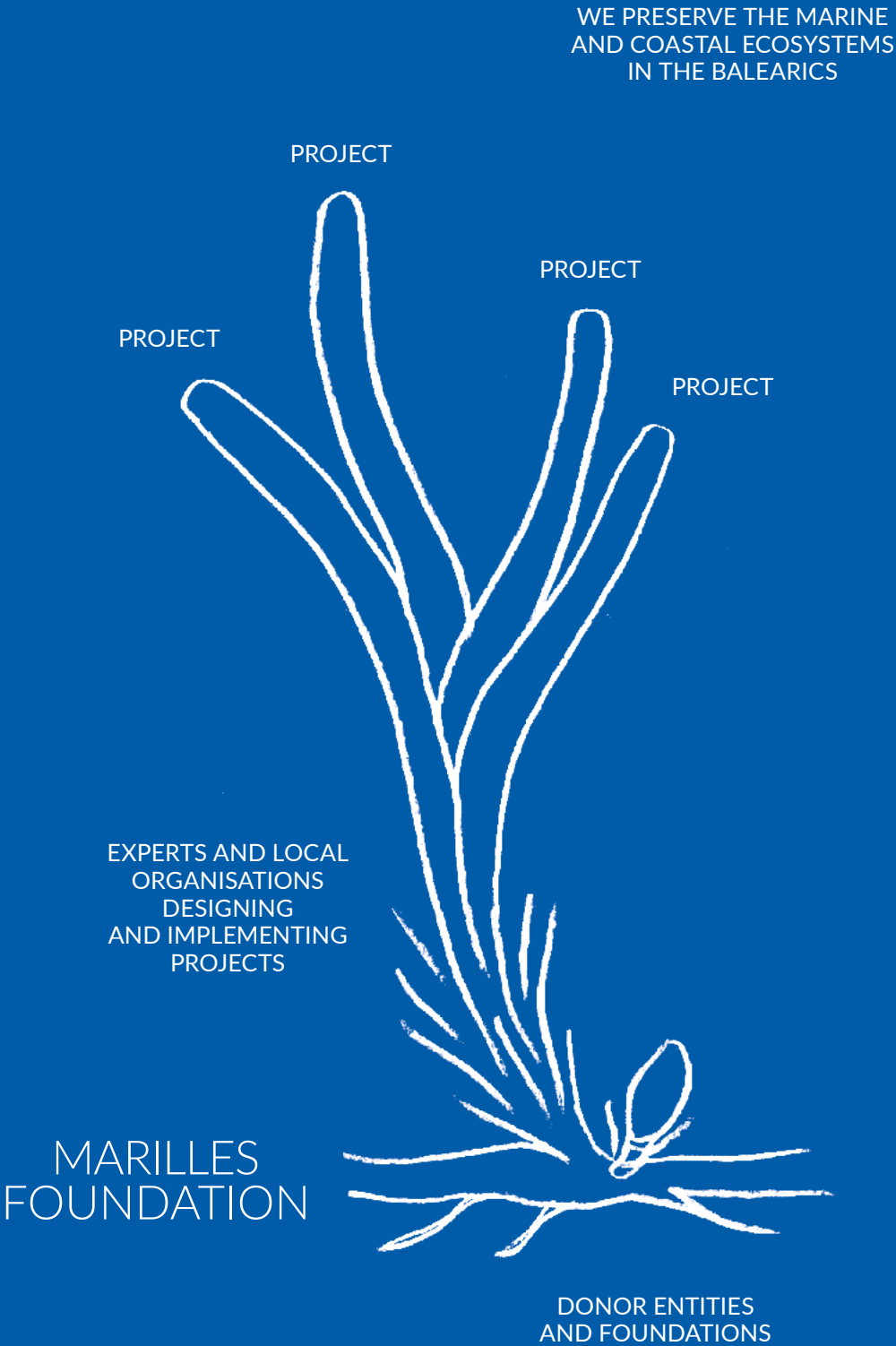
HOW WE WORK

Our starting point is always a positive, all-inclusive approach, one that 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 coast. We work alongside other foundations and private donors to maximise the impact of each €1 donated for the conservation of the Balearic Sea.

We mediate between those with ideas and tools for developing projects and those with the capacity to finance them.

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



OUR TEAM

MARILLES FOUNDATION

ANIOL ESTEBAN
Director



A marine biologist and environmental economist, Aniol's mission in life is to reconcile the economy with the environment. Back in the Balearics after 15 years in the UK, he has brought with him extensive experience in managing and designing strategy, campaigns, and projects.

ANA PEÑA
Communications



As an audiovisual professional, Ana's experience spans different areas of the media sector in the Balearics. Well used to collaborating with environmental and social organisations, she now leads our communications and media work, making sure that news of what we are doing reaches and engages a wide audience.

MARINE CITIZEN SCIENCE

SANDRA ESPEJA



An environmentalist with a Master's in Integrated Management of Coastal Areas, Sandra's multi-disciplinary experience in science and business, as well as public and third-sector management, makes her the ideal person to coordinate our Marine Citizen Science programme. Its purpose is to promote a dialogue between society and the scientific community in the Balearics.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

TONI FONT



A biology graduate, consultant, and environmental activist, Toni has a background in planning and managing MPAs. Strongly linked to the conservation and environmental improvement of the islands, he tirelessly explores the coast to better understand the processes affecting our coastal communities. Toni coordinates the MPA labs and represents the foundation in the MPAs Network Interreg Project.

BALEARIC SEA REPORT

RAQUEL VAQUER-SUNYER



Raquel has a PhD in Marine Sciences and many years of research experience focusing on marine biogeochemistry and Posidonia. Seagrass meadows are her second home. She coordinates the *Balearic Sea Report* project, an initiative that brings together research institutions and local government bodies to assess the condition of the marine environment and its threats.

NATALIA BARRIENTOS



With a PhD in Marine Geology, Natalia has spent most of her career in Sweden. Her field of expertise is the study of the ocean-climate link through some tiny organisms called foraminifera. Now back in the Balearics, she works with Raquel on the *Balearic Sea Report* project, where she uses her knowledge and skills to drive positive change.

MARE. Audiovisual Competition for the Conservation of the Balearic Sea

SARA GARCÍA BETORZ



An environmentalist with a Master's in Sustainable Development, Sara has managed and coordinated socio-environmental projects in Eastern Africa and Central America. Her focus is always on improving people's relationship with their environment. Coordinator of MARE, the audiovisual competition, what spare time she has, when she's not learning to sail, is spent diving and rediscovering the Balearics on her bicycle.

ADVISORY BOARD

Marilles draws on the expertise of a volunteer board of eight renowned professional advisors representing the Balearics.

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Trustees are professionals experienced in various fields of foundation management and philanthropic activities.

- Rogier van Vliet
- Carles Tarancón
- Jaume Perelló
- Sonia Castañeda

Each member of the Advisory Board and the Board of Trustees volunteers their knowledge and expertise, and represents a valuable resource for the foundation.

PROJECTS



Detail of *Cerianthus membranaceus*, tube anemone. Photo: Antonio Menor.



SOWING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2020, we promoted three initiatives that are fundamental to move towards better conservation of the Balearic Sea and its coast. These collaborative projects have a long-term vision, which we hope to consolidate in the next few years (2021-2023) before setting them free to evolve independently from Marilles.

"Red", double exposure of a scorpion fish. First prize in the Marine Fauna category (Adults) of the 2020 MARE competition. Photo: Marcos Darío Petrarola.

BALEARIC SEA REPORT (INFORME MAR BALEAR-IMB)



The *Balearic Sea Report* (Informe Mar Balear, IMB) offers the best available information about the state of the Balearic Sea to the general public. This collaborative work involves all marine research centres and various government departments in the Balearic Islands.

It collects ecological indicators, such as the state of fish populations, Posidonia meadows, or species in danger. It also includes important economic and social indicators, such as investments in MPAs jobs generated in sectors related to the blue economy, and the level of human pressure on the islands.

The first *Balearic Sea Report* was published in March 2020. The 2021 report will update half of the previous year's indicators and include 50 new ones. This is an essential resource to improve the management of the Balearic Sea and evaluate the impact of everyone's efforts.

Sightings and nests of the loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) have increased in the past few years on the Balearic coast – and along the Spanish mainland coast. Photo: Xavier Mas.

Next page: the number of dives in marine reserves provides an indicator of the level of activity and economic benefits associated with the reserves. Photo: Lluís Ameller.

www.informemarbalear.org

SOWING SEEDS FOR
THE FUTURE



INFORME MAR BALEAR

FUNDING: €100,000/YEAR
PERIOD: 2019 -2023
AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS



“The growing concern regarding environmental problems – global change, over-exploitation of resources, loss of biodiversity... – requires a compilation of scientific data that will enable us to get to know, and be able to face, these big challenges. The *Balearic Sea Report* is a handbook for the understanding and management of the Balearic marine environment, which is now available to government bodies and the whole of society.”

Toni Quetglas, director del Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares-Instituto Español de Oceanografía



“In order to preserve our sea, we need to have access to the best possible information on which to base its management. Until now, this information was scattered and hard to access for the general public and some of its managers. The *Balearic Sea Report* fills this gap: it has brought together all this information and has made it available to anyone who wishes to know about our sea.”

Raquel Vaquer, coordinator of the *Balearic Sea Report*.





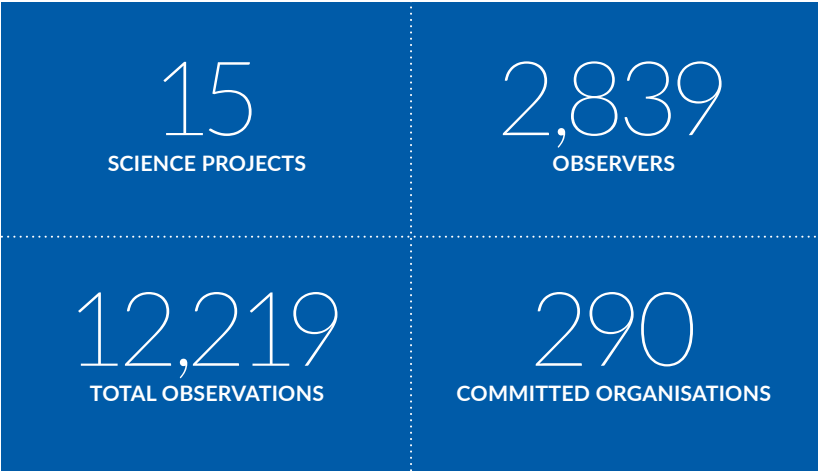
Citizen science plays an essential role in marine conservation. It enables us to obtain valuable information and promote the involvement of the community in the collection of data. The data collected by volunteers, is scientifically validated by a respected research centre and used to make necessary decisions to improve the management of the sea.

The citizen marine science platform *Observadores del Mar* has become an example of best practice for the Balearics and the rest of the Western Mediterranean. It has 15 active projects on marine biodiversity, climate change, pollution, and invasive species, among other study areas.

Marilles and Observadores del Mar work together to strengthen and expand citizen science programmes in the Balearics. In 2020, we set in motion two new projects and have collaborated with eleven organisations: diving centres, sailing clubs, schools, and NGOs.

While diving with your goggles and snorkel, you can register your valuable observations for the Sea Observers community. Photomontage: Toni Llobet.

Next page, divers from the Skualo diving centre, in Porto Cristo (Mallorca), collecting data on the temperature, light, and density of Posidonia bundles. Photo: Pedro Riera.



OBSERVADORES DEL MAR



FUNDING: €50,000/YEAR
PERIOD: 2020-2023
AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS



“Taking part in citizen science projects allows us to create a strong connection with the surroundings in which we carry out our activities. We learn more, and we help to build up an understanding of the environment we love. Establishing this relationship between users and science has been one of the most beneficial of the proposals of value we have come across, and has become an essential tool for raising awareness among our clients on the importance of preserving and regenerating our sea.”

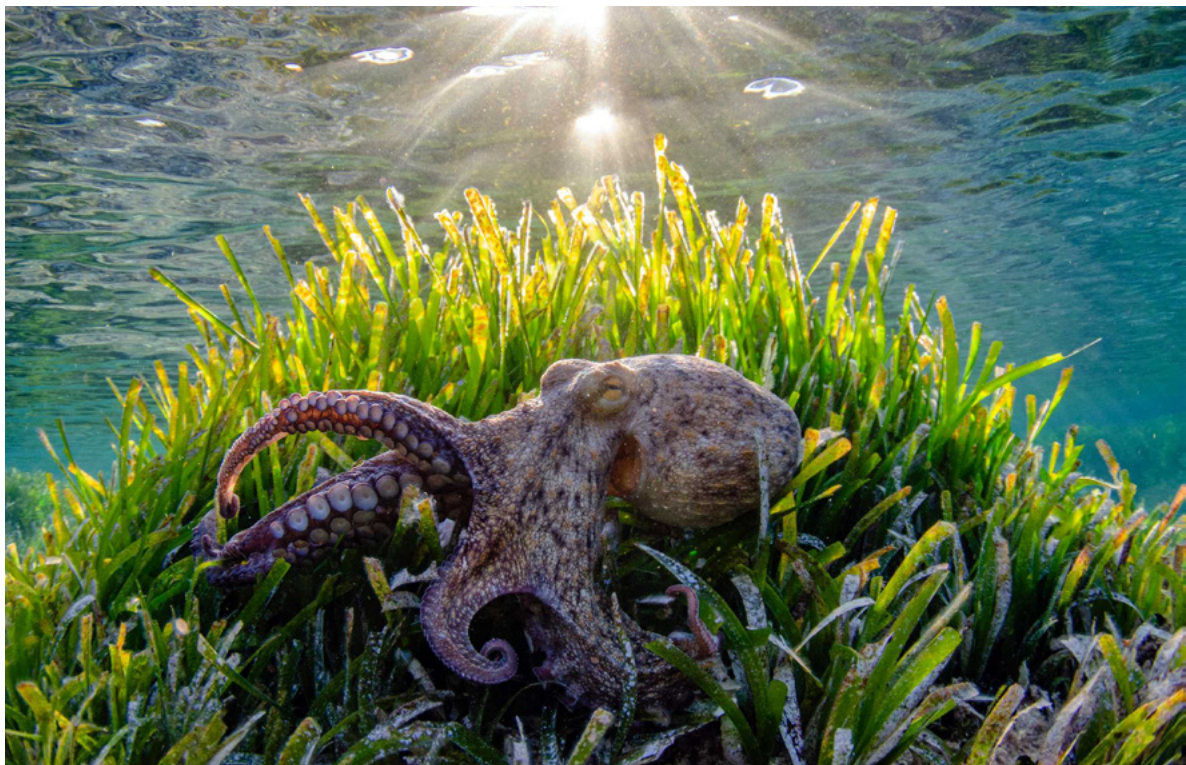
Miquel Àngel Bonnín,
owner and instructor of
the Tramuntana Diving Centre

“Marine Citizen Science is key for marine conservation. It indicates a change in the concept of how and who creates the knowledge, breaking the invisible barrier that separates the scientific community from society.”

Sandra Espeja, coordinator
of the Marine Citizen Science
programme in the Balearic
Islands



MARE Audiovisual Competition for the Conservation of the Balearic Sea



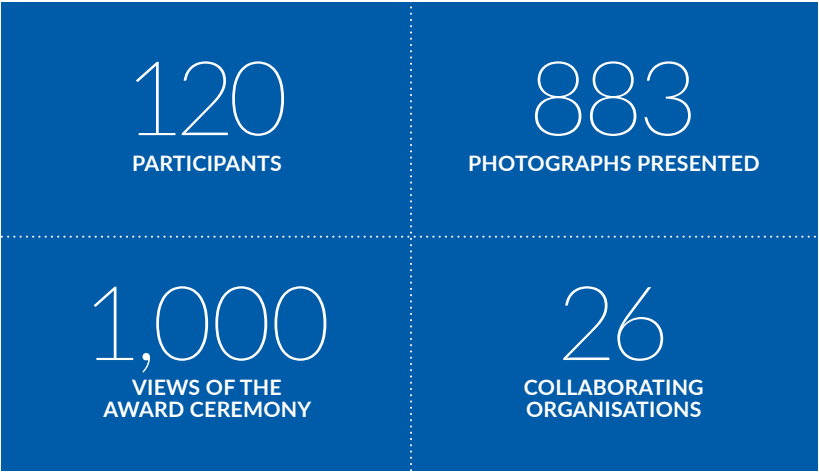
Underwater life is an ongoing spectacle that not everyone is lucky enough to enjoy. Through the power of images, the Audiovisual Competition for the Conservation of the Balearic Sea, MARE, brings the sea closer to people, displaying all its splendour and beauty while raising awareness around the challenges it faces.

MARE is an annual competition that invites professionals, amateurs, adults, and young people to present photographs and videos of the Balearic marine universe. As well as awarding prizes and recognising the work of the artists, the aim is to show this audiovisual material and share it with the public.

In the inaugural competition in 2020, 120 contestants submitted almost 1,000 pieces. Eight prizes of €1,000 were awarded in the Adult Category, and eight cameras in the Young Category. MARE is supported by organisations committed to marine conservation and nature photography and videography.

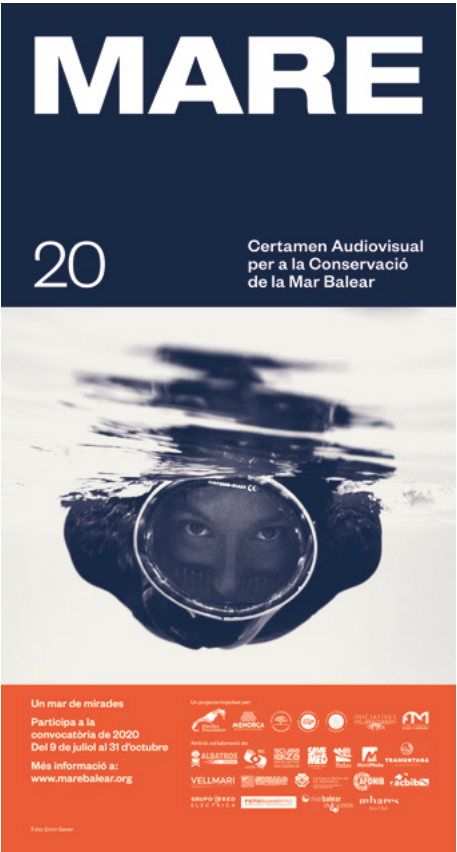
“Octopus” in La Xanga, Es Freus marine reserves of Ibiza and Formentera. Outside marine reserves it is difficult to see a large octopus in shallow depths. Finalist photograph in the Marine Fauna category (Adults) of the 2020 MARE competition. Photo: Xavier Mas.

Next page: 2020 poster of the inaugural of MARE.



MARE
MARE

FUNDING: €50,000/YEAR
PERIOD: 2020-2023
AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS



“In these uncertain times, MARE is a breath of fresh air and colour, reminding us that our sea and our coast are spectacular. The time has come to invest all our energy into respecting the Balearic Sea, an endless source of enjoyment and beauty, and an essential asset for the future of the Balearics.”
Sara García, MARE coordinator



“In our society, full of unoriginal and superfluous ideas, it's a pleasure to see the creation of a well-thought-out project, one that is committed to the knowledge and the conservation of the sea. In its first edition MARE has surpassed all expectations, demonstrating exceptional care and reliability in its procedures.”
Paco Membrives, president of Montphoto





PROTECTING THE SEA

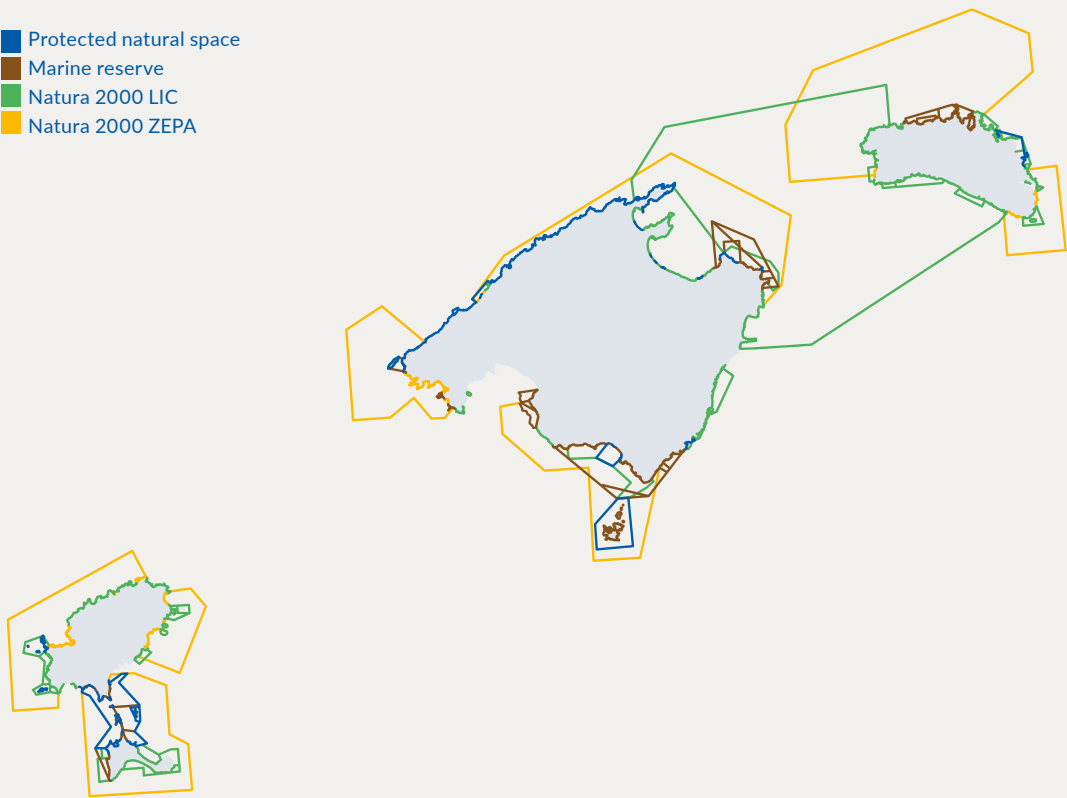
Marine protected areas (MPAs) are an essential tool for the conservation of the sea. While the Balearic Islands has a solid network of MPAs, we must expand and improve this network to maximise its potential. Key concepts right now are vigilance, follow-up, coordination, participation, and investment.

By 2025, the Balearics could achieve a leading MPA network in the Mediterranean – a guarantee for the future of professional fishing, an element that differentiates a tourist model that is authentically sustainable, a source of leisure and wellness, and reinforcement for numerous economic activities.

The sargo or white seabream (*Diplodus sargus*) is one of many species vulnerable to fishing. It has been used in a study of richness and total biomass of species carried out by Marilles, using data of the Directorate-General for Fisheries and Marine Environment (Dirección General de Pesca y Medio Marino, Tragsatec), the Socio-Environmental Observatory of Menorca (OBSAM), and the Jaume Ferrer Research Station (COB-IEO). Photo: Miquel Gomila.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- Protected natural space
- Marine reserve
- Natura 2000 LIC
- Natura 2000 ZEPA



MPA LABS

PROTECTING THE SEA



Marine reserve of Sa Dragonera, Mallorca. Photo: Carlos Mariano.

OWN PROJECT

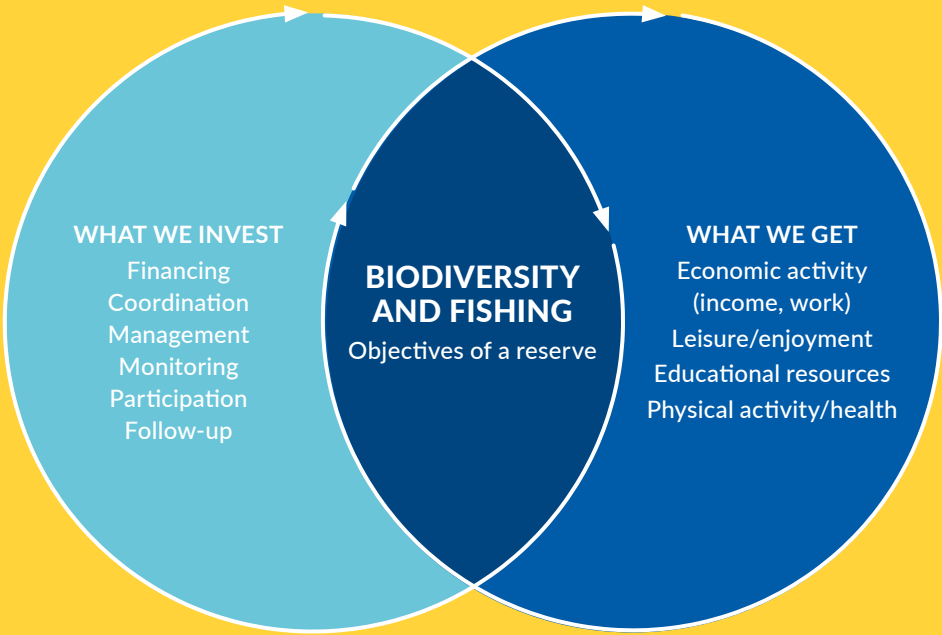
FUNDING: €13,908

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

“The Marilles Foundation has provided us with an important boost for protecting these valuable areas, and offers us the opportunity to exchange ideas, get to know other managers of marine protected areas, and be able to improve our actions towards sustainable fishing. It enables a fluid dialogue between various sectors and the regional government for optimising marine conservation and preservation, while respecting socio-economic factors.”

Rita Pabst, fishing inspector of the Consell Insular de Menorca



MPA labs are multidisciplinary work groups that meet up periodically on each island to find solutions that will improve the state of Marine Protected Areas in the Balearics. This group is open to all organisations sharing this vision.

The lab usually takes place three times a year on each island (except on the Pityusic Islands – Ibiza and Formentera – meet jointly). Eight meetings have already taken place on each island since 2018; they offer a good opportunity for exchanging information, defining strategies, and identifying effective actions that can enable us to move towards better management and increased effectiveness of MPAs in the conservation of marine habitats and fauna of the Balearics.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

PROTECTING THE SEA

GEN-GOB



FUNDING: €100,000

PERIOD: 2020-2022

AREA: IBIZA & FORMENTERA



Participatory workshop on management plan for Tagomago (Ibiza), a marine reserve and Natura 2000 area. Photo: GEN-GOB.

GEN-GOB works towards achieving an environment of ecological and social sustainability in Ibiza and Formentera. For over five years, they have led the project The Sea, A Shared Responsibility (La Mar, una Responsabilidad Compartida), which enables everyone involved – fishers, diving centres, the nautical sector, NGOs, and the government – to work together in the conservation and management of the marine environment.

This project has played a very important role in the development of management plans and conservation measures for the Natura 2000 marine areas in Ibiza and Formentera. It has also laid the foundations for a methodology and has become a template for the rest of the Balearic Islands and other marine areas of the Spanish coast.

“Protected marine areas are a fundamental instrument for achieving an ecological and social balance within the coastal communities. Thanks to support from Marilles we are developing mechanisms of governance which will allow us to improve the involvement of all parties dealing with the sea, and to move towards a joint management of the marine environment.”

Xisco Sobrado, technician of the GEN-GOB Marine Area



BLUE DRAGONERA NETWORK (XARXA DRAGONERA BLAVA)

PROTECTING THE SEA

SAVE THE MED



FUNDING: €170,000

PERIOD: 2019-2021

AREA: MALLORCA



Underwater photography workshop in kayaks, run by Save the Med and MARE in Sa Dragonera (Mallorca). Photo: Óscar Oyaga.

To guarantee the proper functioning of marine reserves, community involvement is essential. Xarxa Dragonera Blava emerged from the project Get to Know Sa Dragonera, your Marine Protected Area (Conoce tu Área Marina Protegida Sa Dragonera), led by Save the Med to promote the connection between natural spaces and the local population. Forty businesses, shops, artists, and individuals have already signed up.

During 2019 and 2020, they organised photographic exhibitions, educational workshops, and talks to promote the protected marine space to residents and visitors. In 2021, the aim is to go from awareness to action by identifying the measures that schools, shops, fishers, and diving centres can adopt to become custodians of Sa Dragonera. The expansion of the marine reserve to include its external waters, approved in 2020, makes this action even more crucial.

“The collaboration among organisations who share the same values, objectives and ambitions, like Marilles and Save the Med, is crucial for the success in regenerating the Mediterranean Sea. We appreciate the open spirit that allows us to work together on specific projects.”

Brad Robertson, president of Save the Med





MARINE NATURAL CAPITAL

.....
All habitats and marine species – our natural capital – generate goods and services for society. Some of them, such as fisheries or tourism, are visible and easily calculated, while others – such as climate regulation or wellbeing – are more abstract and harder to measure. There's a vast difference, however, between what the sea gives to us and what we invest in its protection.

We are developing a marine natural accounting system to examine the relationship between the natural environment, the economy, and human wellbeing. This will make it easier for businesses and the government to make decisions that will better preserve our natural patrimony.

MPA NETWORKS

MARINE NATURAL CAPITAL



Hikers in Cala Matzoc, in the Llevant marine reserve.
Photo: Sebastià Torrens.

Marilles is an MPA Networks project partner. (marine protected areas working as a network). The Network is working to improve the effectiveness of the MPAs of the Mediterranean by proposing solutions in four areas: efficient management, small-scale fishing management, the conservation of mobile species conservation and sustainable funding. Alongside the Centro Balear de Biología Aplicada and ECOACSA, we are evaluating the contribution of Llevant – a marine reserve of fishing interest in Mallorca – to the local and area economy, through traditional fishing activities and leisure pursuits related to the marine and coastal environments. Our aim is to calculate what benefits the marine environment contributes, and what others could be obtained if we improved its state of conservation. This is one of the first studies of its kind to be carried out in Spain, and its methodology and results will be replicated in other Mediterranean reserves.

INTERREG MEDITERRANEAN



FUNDING: €60,000

PERIOD: 2019-2022

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

“Natural capital accounting is a useful tool, both for convincing sceptics of the benefits of protection and sustainable management and for incorporating biodiversity in economic and political decision-taking, guaranteeing that the natural capital will continue to offer ecosystemic services to society.”

Benjamí Reviriego, coordinator of data collection for Natural Capital Accounting of the Llevant Marine Reserve



BLUE ECONOMY IN IBIZA AND FORMENTERA

MARINE NATURAL CAPITAL



Divers in Formentera. Photo: Manu San Félix.

A team of biologists and economists are working on a study to show the benefits that the sea and coast contribute to the economy of Ibiza and Formentera. They want to quantify the benefits that extra marine protection would generate for fishing, tourism, and other economic activities, and evaluate ecosystem services such as carbon capture in Posidonia meadows.

The study is supported by National Geographic, Ibiza Preservation, the Marine Forum, Vellmarí and Marilles. The results can contribute useful information to manage the marine environment of Ibiza and Formentera and lay the foundations for a sustainable tourism model.

MARILLES + IBIZA PRESERVATION + FORO MARINO + VELLMARÍ



FUNDING: €50,000

PERIOD: 2021

AREA: IBIZA & FORMENTERA

“The marine environment offers many biological and socio-economic benefits, and the economic activity of Formentera depends on it directly or indirectly. It is essential to perceive this relationship if we are to go forward collectively towards a better conservation of the island’s sea and coast.”

Noelia Hernández,
Doctor in Marine Biology



A large school of salemas (Sarpa salpa) swimming in clear blue water. The fish are silvery with dark vertical stripes and are densely packed, filling most of the frame. They are swimming in various directions, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, bright blue, suggesting a clear sky or deep water.

FISH FOR TOMORROW

Despite being one of the main pressures on the Balearic marine environment, professional and recreational fishing could become allies in its conservation. While the local fleet has declined in the last few decades, it has also promoted positive initiatives such as the declaration of marine reserves and projects that enhance the value of local produce. Everything is in its favour: it could become the most sustainable fleet in the Mediterranean.

The salema (*Sarpa salpa*) is a herbivore fish, usually forming large schools. Photo: Xavier Mas.

GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

FISH FOR TOMORROW



Artisan fishers (using small-scale fishing techniques) fishing lobster near Fornells, Menorca. Photo: Anya Crane.

Low Impact Fishers of Europe (LIFE) is a non-profit organisation working with fishers who use low-impact fishing gear to strengthen this sector and ensure it becomes a change agent towards more sustainable fishing. Our three-year collaboration with LIFE aims to accelerate this transition working side by side with the professional fishing sector of the Balearics. The main lines of action include the design of management plans to improve the performance and sustainability of fishing resources, adopt low-measures, and strengthen local product brands that incorporate good practices.

LOW IMPACT FISHERS OF EUROPE



FUNDING: €50,000/YEAR

PERIOD: 2020-2022

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

“Artisan coastal fishing provides a real opportunity for the new generations of men and women. Although it plays a modest part in economic growth, it has a huge impact on sociocultural and environmental factors that are necessary for a sustainable development of the Mediterranean coast, based on green and blue economy. The fishers are and will be the custodians of the Balearic Sea.”

Anna Masdeu, technician of the Sustainable Fishing in the Balearic Islands programme



COMMITTED FISHERS

FISH FOR TOMORROW



Small-scale fisherman from the Ibiza Guild showing his catch. Photo: Marga Serra.

The Guild of Ibiza Fishermen centralises the sales, labelling, and conservation of all the product captured by the local fleet. It also works tirelessly to promote local products via the Peix Nostrum certification. Its presence has been key in the creation of the Tagomago and Es Freus marine reserves in Ibiza and Formentera.

The initial phase of the Future Reserve (Reserva de Futuro) project focused on drawing the Ibiza community to marine reserves to promote their benefits. In the second phase, the guild worked side by side with LIFE to accelerate the transition towards sustainable fishing and develop – alongside other actors – the first co-management fishing plan of the Balearic Islands.

The objectives now are to guarantee the conservation of fishing resources, reduce fishing impact on vulnerable habitats and species, add value to the Peix Nostrum brand while sustainability criteria, and achieve stability in the professional fishing fleet, an economic sector with strong cultural and identity values.

The project is open to the participation of the rest of the guilds from the Pityusic Islands, the Sant Antoni Fishermen's Guild, and the Formentera Fishermen's Guild. Ibiza and Formentera both offer a favourable context for creating sustainable fishing, and fleet models that could well become a reference for the entire Mediterranean.

GUILD OF IBIZA FISHERMEN (COFRADÍA DE PESCADORES DE IBIZA)



FUNDING: €120,000

PERIOD: 2019-2021

AREA: IBIZA

“It is urgent to support fishing products from sustainably managed fisheries that offer us quality produce with zero km. It's not only about going fishing so that we consume fish; it's about managing a resource that belongs to us all by supporting the local fishing sector and the values they represent, and by always protecting our environment. Fishermen are linked to the sea, just as the sea is linked to them.”

Marga Serra, coordinator of environmental projects of the Confraria de Pescadors d'Eivissa (Ibiza Fishermen's Guild)





ERADICATING ILLEGAL FISHING

FISH FOR TOMORROW



Tuna, captured in Balearic waters. Photo: Miquel Gomila.

BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION
+ MALLORCA PRESERVATION FUND



FUNDING: €18,000

PERIOD: 2020-2021

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

Illegal fishing and the fraudulent commercialisation of fish threaten every effort in marine conservation. Poachers fish in marine reserves, professional and recreational fishers don't observe the rules and regulations, and restaurants and customers buy illegal fish.

The Balearics have a set of advanced rules to regulate fishing and the commercialisation and sale of fish. Despite this, illegal fishing is still a reality and the wrongdoings of a few can put the work of many at risk. Alongside the Mallorca Preservation Fund and the Blue Marine Foundation, Marilles has launched a project to better understand the issue and find the most efficient solutions to address it.

EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

.....

An abundance of sharks and rays in the sea is synonymous with a good state of conservation. The number of sharks in the Balearic Sea has declined dramatically, as in the rest of the Mediterranean. Recovering these species is a priority for Marilles, an objective we share with many specialists and organisations. It's essential to expand our knowledge of sharks and rays, work with fishers to reduce fishing impact and study the introduction of extinct species, like the guitar fish and the angel shark, which were found in our seas until recently.

Spotted stripe (*Raja polystigma*) photographed on the seafloor of Sa Dragonera marine reserve (Mallorca). Photo: Darek Darul.

INVESTIGATING CETACEANS

EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

ASOCIACIÓN TURSIOPS



FUNDING: €40,000

PERIOD: 2018-2021

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

"It's no use knowing where you want to go unless you know where North is. From Tursiops we work so that the conservation of cetaceans in the Balearics has its course based on the most rigorous investigation. Knowledge is the key to conservation."

Txema Brotons, scientific director of Tursiops



Bottlenose dolphin. Photo: Xavier Mas.

Tursiops is committed to the research, conservation, and protection of cetaceans in the Balearics and the Western Mediterranean. They develop scientific projects and undertakes social and educational ones, be it on the coast or farther out at sea. Their efforts on the impact of marine noise levels on dolphin populations or the characterisation of the sperm whale population are proving to be crucial to defining management measures that guarantee the conservation of these species in the Balearic Sea.

Our funding is general; it gives Tursiops the necessary flexibility to assign it to the projects that need it most or respond to opportunities that may arise.

RECOVERING SHARK AND RAY EGGS

EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

CAYUME ASSOCIATION



FUNDING: €13,375

PERIOD: 2020-2021

AREA: MALLORCA

"We want Eggcase2020 to be the first step towards consolidating a simple and efficient methodology that can be replicated in other parts of the Balearics. Creating synergies between the fishing sector, science, and society is the path to the preservation of sharks and rays."

Clàudia Pich, marine biologist



Raja brachyura newborn, born from an egg recovered from accidental fishing during Eggcase2020. Photo: Asociación Cayume.

The Cayume Association launched the Eggcase2020 initiative to recover shark and ray eggs from accidental fishing, captured as bycatch. They have the support of the Government of the Balearic Islands (Conselleria d'Agricultura, Pesca i Alimentació del Govern de les Illes Balears) and the fishers of Port Andratx. The recovered eggs are incubated in aquariums until they hatch, and the hatchlings are then returned to their natural environment, the sea. Although there is no doubt that the impact of fishing is much stronger than the result of this recovery process, this project can inspire mitigating measures and, above all, erase erroneous perceptions about these species.

STUDYING OPEN-SEA SHARKS

EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

SHARK MED



FUNDING: €30,000

PERIOD: 2020-2021

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

"Sharks are too often the most forgotten species in our sea, yet their role is fundamental for the future of biodiversity in the Mediterranean. The support given by Marilles has been significant: it has allowed us to take a big step towards their protection by making it possible to implement an ambitious project of study and conservation that unites the efforts of all our islands."

Agustí Torres, president of Shark Med



Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) in Balearic waters. Photo: Agustí Torres.

The pelagic (open-sea) shark population has declined dramatically in the Mediterranean; hammerheads, mako, and thresher sharks have been reduced by 90% over the past decades, and the blue shark has also been gravely affected. Knowing more about these species is essential to protect them, but finding specimens is usually difficult because the few who are left live far from the coast. Shark Med has developed an innovative recording system that allows them to study these species in their natural environment so they can gather valuable information to support their conservation in the Balearic Sea. With stations on all the islands, they also collaborate with other organisations. The first images obtained show that half the blue sharks filmed had hooks stuck to them and were dragging long fishing lines along, probably from the surface longline fleet.

MONITORING SHARKS AND RAYS SOLD IN THE FISH MARKET

EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

SAVE THE MED



FUNDING: €20,000

PERIOD: 2020-2021

AREA: MALLORCA

"Sharks and rays have very different biological characteristics to all other fish. And yet their fishing management has not been clearly differentiated. This has taken many species to the brink of extinction. This project has been added to the investigation that is being carried out in the Balearics on elasmobranchii and the impacts these suffer, and is expected to result in an efficient conservation."

Biel Morey, study director and vice-president of Save the Med



Conveyor belt with boxes of fresh fish, prawns, and shellfish in Palma Market, Mallorca. Photo: Biel Morey.

Knowing the volume of shark and ray captured is essential to evaluate the effects of overfishing their populations and manage them correctly. To this end, for a whole year we are visiting the Palma fish market – where 70% of sharks and rays captured by the Balearic fishing fleet are commercialised – to find out what kind of fishing gear affects these species more, in what season of the year and other invaluable data. The information obtained will help develop a plan of action to conserve sharks and rays in the Balearic Islands.



TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT

.....

The Balearic Sea is spectacular, both in the water and out. It's one of the richest and best-conserved areas of the Mediterranean. We want people to fall in love with the sea; to engage with it, so they get to know it and enjoy the diversity of species and habitats that exist on Balearic coasts. This is a fundamental step when creating a favourable context that will allow the return of an excellent level of conservation to our seas and coastlines.

Volunteers of the "Adopt a Beach" programme collecting rubbish in Cala Tirant, Menorca. Photo: Magda Teixidor Coll.

MARINE PROGRAMME FOR MENORCA

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT



Volunteers of the "Adopt a Beach" programme collecting rubbish in Cala Tirant, Menorca. Photo: Magda Teixidor Coll.

GOB Menorca is a non-profit ecologist organisation whose objective is to help achieve a truly sustainable economy, making human activities compatible with environmental values. The help provided by Marilles supports their marine programme, with multiple lines of action, including their work at a political level to achieve better protection and funding for Menorca's marine ecosystems.

In 2020, GOB Menorca set in motion an "Adopt a Beach" programme to involve the population in coastal conservation. The programme offers information so everyone can get to know, and care for, the marine environment. The volunteers are organised in work groups. Each group adopts a stretch of coastline and commits to a minimum of actions each year. The initiative has already attracted more than 1,700 volunteers, who between them have adopted 50,000 metres of coastline.

GOB MENORCA



FUNDING: €43,000

PERIOD: 2019-2021

AREA: MENORCA

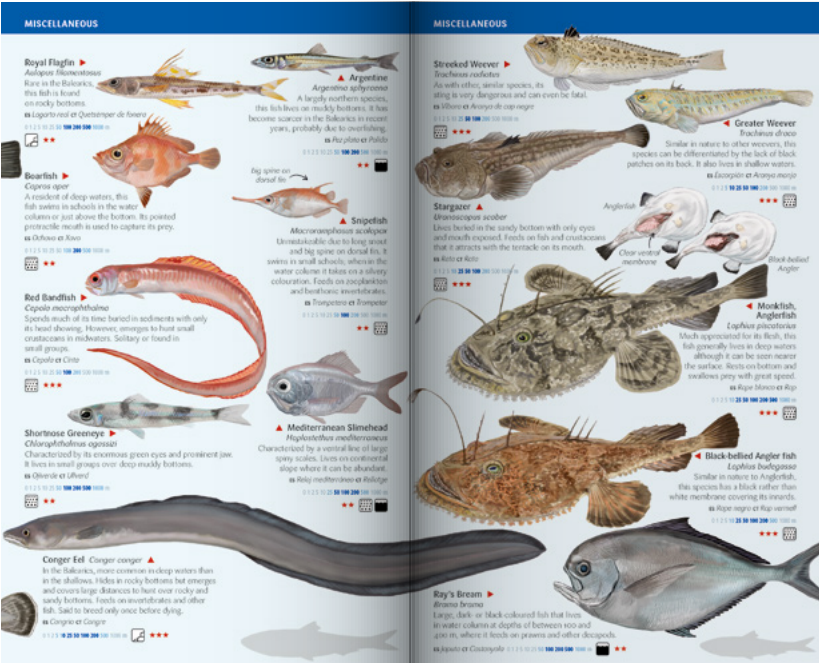
"Discovering the natural values of our coast is the first step towards understanding the problems faced by the marine environment. It is very moving to see 1,700 people involved in the discovery and conservation of Menorca's coast."

Victor Carretero, technician in marine environment at GOB Menorca



MARINE FAUNA AND FLORA MINI-GUIDES

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT



Two images from the mini-guide on *Pelagic fish and the deep Balearic seafloors* illustrated by Toni Llobet.

Marilles has been working with naturalist illustrator Toni Llobet and publishing company Cossetània on the production of a series of ten mini-guides on marine fauna and flora in the Balearics, to promote the incredibly rich patrimony of the Balearic Sea. This resource will encourage us all to dive headfirst into the water, rediscover marine life, and participate actively in its preservation.

The first two titles in the series were published in 2020: *Peces costeros* (Coastal Fish) and *Peces pelágicos y de fondos profundos* (Pelagic and open-sea fish). We purchased 12,000 copies, which have been distributed in educational centres and associations wishing to promote marine environmental education. They are also on sale in bookshops in the Balearics, so that the public can discover and recognise the fish, seaweed, and invertebrates found living in the Balearic Sea. Our foundation doesn't receive any direct benefits from the sale of these guides.

OWN PROJECT

FUNDING: €18,720

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

"The species shown in the mini-guides and informative posters are only a small example of the marine wealth inhabiting the Balearic Sea. We hope they will encourage many people to put on their masks and snorkels and discover them for themselves."

Toni Llobet, naturalist illustrator



DIVE CAMPS IN FORMENTERA AND MALLORCA

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT

VELLMARÍ ASSOCIATION

VELLMARÍ
ASSOCIATION

FUNDING: €50,000

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: IBIZA & FORMENTERA

"If we educated all our children and youngsters in the Balearics about the vital importance of the Mediterranean and of all the oceans, many of the problems we have today would disappear. Education is the road to recovering the Mediterranean, to make it become once again that rich and spectacular sea that we have yet to discover."

Manu San Félix, Marine Biologist and Underwater Image Director, Vellmari



Data collection workshop in Palma Bay, at Dive Camp Mallorca. Photo: Toni Frau.

Vellmari is a diving centre and association in the heart of La Savina port in Formentera. They organise activities related to learn about marine conservation via underwater photography, and have recently set up dive camps, one of the most innovative environmental marine education activities in the Balearics.

Designed for youngsters aged between 8 and 17 years old, the dive camps include diving techniques, underwater photography, and marine ecology workshops. Participants live together as a group for a week on the *Princesa del Mar* boat, alongside a team of professionals.

The dive camps were launched in Mallorca in 2020 thanks to the collaboration of Club Nàutic s'Arenal and Life & Sea .

ARXIPÈLAG BLAU

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT

IB3
B

FUNDING: €100,000

PERIOD: 2020-2022

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS



TV crew during filming for the documentary series *Blue Archipelago* in Fornells, Menorca. Photo: Miraprim.

The natural marvels of the Balearic Sea will star in a new eight-episode series Marilles is co-producing with the Balearic government broadcasting institution, IB3 (Ens Públic Radiotelevisió de les Illes Balears). With key figures in the audiovisual and scientific arena taking part in the project, which will highlight the richness concealed within Balearic waters – the diversity of species, habitats, and as yet undiscovered landscapes – to inspire optimism and help build a better future for its preservation. A documentary about marine protected areas will also be included.

MARINE FORUM, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT

FORO MARINO



FUNDING: €12,500

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: IBIZA & FORMENTERA



Inaugural conference of the second Marine Forum. On stage, the promoter team. On screen, Carlos Duarte, Gloria Fluxá, Enric Sala, and Marc Rahola. Photo: Marine Forum.

The Marine Forum is an annual point of reference in matters of marine conservation, a platform to create debate and propose solutions to reverse the pressures the sea is facing, divulge good practices, and urge everyone involved – whether public or private – to commit to unresolved challenges.

At the 2020 forum – marked by Covid-19 – 30 international and national experts agreed that the conservation of the Balearic Sea and coastline must be the focal point of any recovery plan. 2020 also marked the first Future Forum (Foro Futuro), a meeting point for young people to present ideas and projects with the objective of preserving the world they will inherit.

Marilles is part of the Marine Forum's promoter group along with the OD Group, Be Blue-Trasmapi, the Vellmarí Association, the Pacha Foundation, and Ibiza Preservation (the Foundation for the Conservation of Ibiza and Formentera).

“The Marine Forum is a space for reflection and for adopting a commitment of joint responsibility concerning the marine environment for all parties involved, both public and private. And the event is just as important as is the follow-up of proposals during the rest of the year; the entities of the promotional team, one of which is Marilles, play a key part.”

Sandra Benbeniste, director of the Ibiza Preservation Foundation



MENORCA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT

MENORCA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL



FUNDING: €1,500

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: MENORCA



Screening of the film *La canción del mar* (*The Song of the Sea*) in Canal Salat auditorium, Ciutadella (Menorca). Photo: Menorca International Film Festival.

The Menorca International Film Festival is committed to the environment. In 2020, Marilles supported an event dedicated exclusively to short fiction films on sustainability. We saw *Santuario* (*Sanctuary*), by Álvaro Longoria and Carlos Bardem, and *Viure la Mar* (*Living the Sea*), by Magda Timoner. After the film screenings, we took part in round table on climate change issues and the loss of biodiversity on the planet.



ORNITHOLOGY CONFERENCE

TO KNOW IT IS TO LOVE IT



Group picture of the II Ornithology Conference of Catalan-speaking Territories II, in Es Llatzaret, Mahon, Menorca. Photo: Menorca Ornithological Society.

Marine birds were the subject of the second Ornithological Conference Congress of Catalan-speaking Territories, celebrated under the banner *Marine birds: an endangered treasure*. The conference brought together numerous organisations working towards knowing, promoting, and preserving the natural environment, and allowed ornithological groups and investigators to present their latest studies and attend workshops.

MENORCA ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY (SOCIETAT ORNITOLÒGICA DE MENORCA, SOM)

FUNDING: €2,000

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: MENORCA

STRENGTHENING NGOs

In the Balearic Islands, we have a wide network of organisations and associations that do excellent marine conservation work. To continue to improve the state of the sea, we want these organisations to carry on growing in volume, professionalism, and impact. Acquiring and reinforcing certain skills will allow them to increase their efficiency and reach their objectives. In 2020, the donation by KGH Nature – a German charitable institution – enabled us to initiate an NGO training programme for personnel and volunteers from some 20 Balearic-wide organisations.



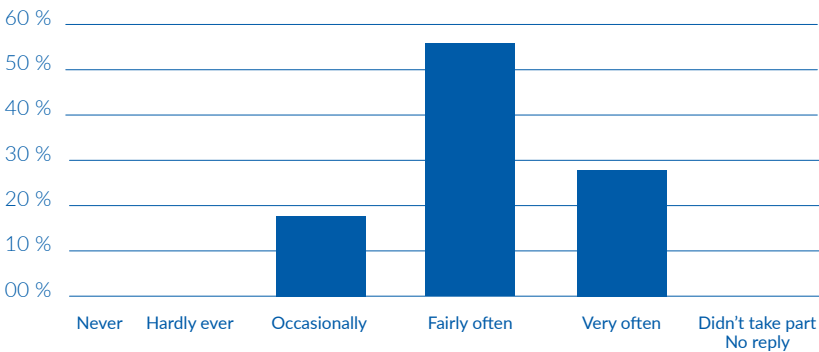


Our training programme – in collaboration with Stone Soup Consulting – reinforces the skills and expertise of third sector organisations who tackle the challenges of the Balearic marine environment. Representatives of organisations from all the islands attended a training programme divided into three modules: strategic planning, strategic communication, and funding.

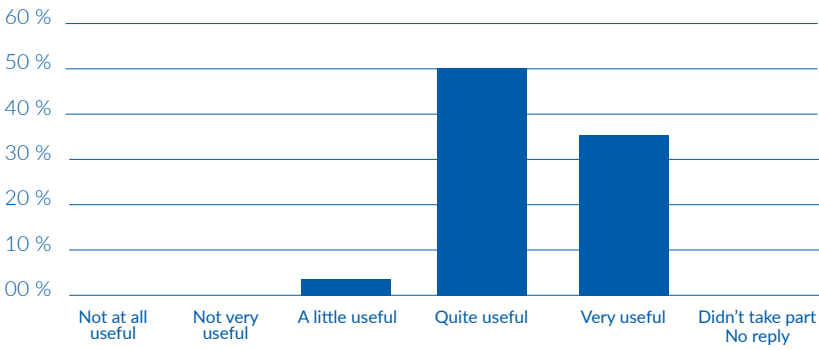
The day-long training sessions were conducted on all the islands (jointly in Ibiza and Formentera) and offered a personalised mentoring process as well. Each organisation and participant had the opportunity of developing or revising a strategy, a communication plan, and a project proposal in order to find funding for it. The training programme will continue in 2021 and the next few years.

A course in communication strategy offered in Mallorca to representatives of the island's marine organisations. Photo: Fundació Marilles.

How often will you apply what you've learned in your professional context?



Level of usefulness for your organisation of you taking part in this training



STONE SOUP CONSULTING



FUNDING: €35,000

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

“Being able to take part in the training sessions organised by Marilles has been a great opportunity. It has given us inspiration and courage and has provided us with useful tools with which to improve our management and achieve a greater impact with our mission: to protect and regenerate our natural environment.”

Elena Jaume, coordinator of Cleanwave





POLLUTION AND PRESSURES

.....
The Balearic Sea is under strong pressure. Less than 0.2% of its surface is closed to fishing, almost 80 marine species are endangered, and there has been an increase of 500,000 inhabitants since 1997. Tonnes of plastic float in its waters. We consume 10 times more fish than that caught by the local fleet. But there is still time to recover it and promote an economy that respects both the planet and the people in it.

THE ROAD TO ZERO WASTE

POLLUTION AND PRESSURES

REZERO
Rezero
Fundació prevenció residus i consum

FUNDING: €60,000
PERIOD: 2021-2023
AREA: BALEARIC ISLANDS

“The support Marilles offers Rezero allows us to build bridges by means of social, political and economic initiatives of waste prevention and reuse, and contributes to place the Balearic Islands as pioneering territory on the road to Zero Waste.”
Rosa García, director of Rezero



Iniciativas que avanzan hacia el residuo cero en Baleares

Ideas circulares, resultados redondos

Rezero

Recuperamos las tierras de cultivo para ofrecer sólo producto de Ibiza

Ecofeixes S. Coop

El objetivo de Ecofeixes es el de ser una herramienta para los payeses y agricultores ecológicos de Ibiza para poder comercializar y dar la confianza al consumidor de que el producto que se vende está realmente producido en la isla. Se creó el 22 de mayo de 2013. En estos momentos cuenta con 14 socios con una visión compartida, recuperar las tierras de cultivo y vender variedad de producto 100% producido en Ibiza.

Circular Ideas, Round Results: a compilation of enterprises in the Balearics that lead to inspirational achievements and to becoming benchmarks in residue prevention and responsible consumption. Photo: Rezero.

Rezero is working in the Balearics towards a zero-waste economy to prove the feasibility of a local production and consumption model that can become a reference point for reuse and the prevention of waste for other European regions. In collaboration with other organisations, Rezero has been following the enactment of the Balearic Law on Waste, which is crucial for solving the plastic pollution issue. We have renewed our support to Rezero so we can closely follow the implementation of prevention and reuse measures contemplated in this law – local, island, and country-wide.

One of the priorities will be to promote an integral system to reuse drinks, food, and other product packaging that can be a source of inspiration to other territories; and to continue working towards consolidating an active network of environmental, social, and economic organisations for the reduction of waste and the promotion of reuse in the Balearics.

PLASTIC-FREE MENORCA (MENORCA SIN PLÁSTICO)

POLLUTION AND PRESSURES

MENORCA SIN PLÁSTICO

FUNDING: €10,000
PERIOD: 2020
AREA: MENORCA



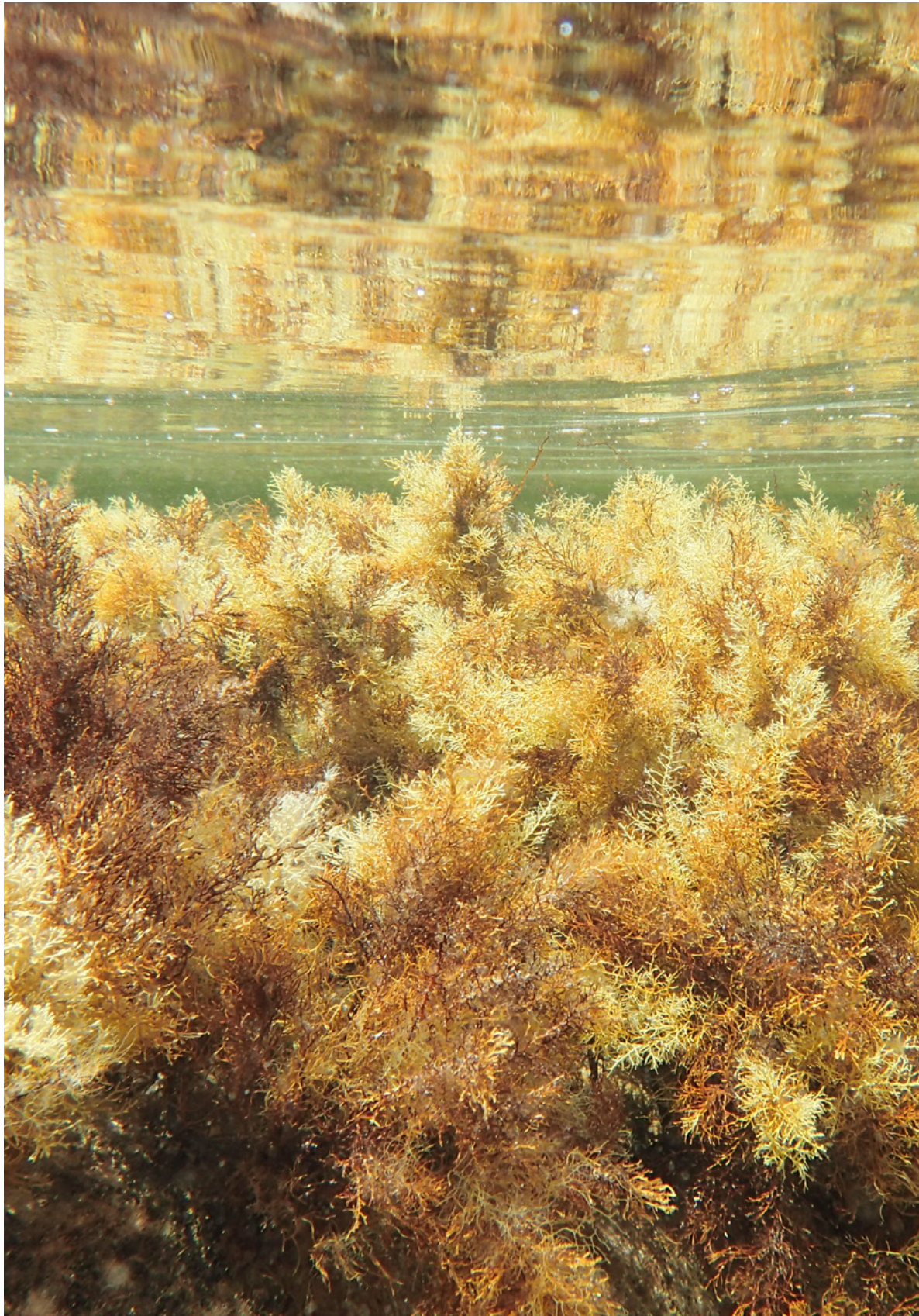
View of Cala Barril (Menorca) during the last days of winter, after the Tramuntana storms. Access to this virgin beach, where there are no services, is always on foot along the Cavalls path, so the influx of bathers is minimal. Photo: David Arquimbau.

Plastic-Free Menorca is an alliance of five organisations with a great track record in the protection and preservation of the environment, joining forces to reduce single-use plastic on the island. Their main objectives are to coordinate efforts to prevent and reduce plastic use, research alternatives to disposable plastic, and create the Plastic-Free Menorca certification for local companies.

Their work is crucial to effectively implementing the Balearic Law on Waste. This law prohibits the sale of various single-use plastic products. The members of the Alliance are the Menorca Preservation Fund, GOB Menorca, OBSAM, Per la Mar Viva, and the Leader Illa de Menorca Association.

“During the last decades, the indiscriminate use of single-use plastic has created a serious environmental problem that affects the entire planet. ‘Think globally, act locally’ is the leitmotif of the Menorca Sense Plàstic Alliance, which will bring local solutions to this type of pollution.”
Marta Pérez, coordinator of Menorca Sense Plàstic





WATER QUALITY IN MENORCA

POLLUTION
AND PRESSURES



Marine biologists performing species identification in Son Saura del Sur, Menorca. Photo: David Carreras.

OBSAM is working on a study to evaluate the quality of bathing waters in the coves of Menorca, using *Cystoseira* seaweed as a bioindicator. The project takes samples from the same 103 coves that were analysed in 2005 using the same methods.

Over the last few summers, reports about the proliferation of microalgae in some of the island’s coves have become more frequent. The water in these coves turns green, deteriorating their image; and they sometimes have to be closed to bathers. The study will allow us to assess if the increase in wastewater and tourism pressure, in addition to other disturbances, has affected water quality. The results will encourage the adoption of effective measures to prevent these episodes.

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL
OBSERVATORY OF MENORCA
(OBSERVATORI SOCIOAMBIEN-
TAL DE MENORCA - OBSAM)

obsam

FUNDING: €27,560

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: MENORCA

“Seaweed of the *Cystoseira* genus is very sensitive to disturbances and is used as a bioindicator. Thanks to Marilles’s financing and commitment, we have been able to repeat a study carried out in 2005, which has allowed us to examine the evolution of this type of seaweed in the coves of Menorca, the main areas of tourist attraction on the island.”

Marta Sales, PhD in biology
and project coordinator



Cystoseira crinita forest — a type of brown seaweed of great ecological value, in Cales Morts, Menorca. Photo: OBSAM.

PRESSURES ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

POLLUTION
AND PRESSURES

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL
OBSERVATORY OF MENORCA
(OBSERVATORI SOCIOAMBIENTAL
DE MENORCA - OBSAM)

obsam

FUNDING: €4,000

PERIOD: 2020

AREA: MENORCA

“Initiating this project has meant filling one of the most important absences of information in Menorca, because to learn about the uses and activities developed within the marine environment and the pressures these generate is fundamental to the management of resources. An idea that is shared with the different entities that have believed in it, like Marilles.”

Eva Marsinyach, responsible for monitoring the marine environment of the Socio-environmental Observatory in Menorca (OBSAM)



Panoramic view of the Bay of Fornells (Menorca). The impact caused by fish farms in the 80s is still visible under water. Photo: David Arquimbau.

An OBSAM research team has launched a study on existing use and activities on the coast and the Biosphere Reserve marine environment to detect anthropogenic threats and pressures, evaluate possible impacts, and design a restoration proposal plan for those habitats that are affected. The study wants to contribute to the improvement of the state of conservation of marine ecosystems; and reverse, wherever possible, any impacts that are already affecting the sea.

In this first phase, the team has identified up to 36 threats, such as aquaculture, light pollution, and discharges. Many of the pressures are generated on land and are linked to ports or residential developments on the coast. The study has been co-financed by Marilles Foundation, the Menorca Biosphere Reserve, and the Foundation for the Preservation of Menorca; it's taking place within the OBSAM marine environment programme and we intend to follow it up long-term.

100 DAYS OF RESEARCH ABOARD THE STENELLA

POLLUTION
AND PRESSURES

OCEAN OBSERVER



FUNDING: €3,630

PERIOD: 2020-2021

AREA: MALLORCA



The electric boat, *Stenella*, in Porto Colom, Mallorca. Photo: Mark Wüst.

The Swiss-Spanish company Ocean Observer has built an electric boat that works with renewable energy, the *Stenella*. The aim of this project is to offer this boat as a research and promotion platform for marine conservation projects. It has the support of renowned researchers, activists, and promoters, who told us what they would do if they could go out to sea for ten days on this boat: study sharks, eliminate invasive seaweed in Cabrera, film the rich marine protected areas, and carry out biodiversity studies were some of their answers.

FUNDING

Detail of orange-red encrusting sponge (*Crambe crambe*), which uses toxins to compete with other sponges for the available substratum. Photo: Xavier Mas.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2020, the funding we received came mainly from three foundations. The Adessium and Mava Foundations – both with great experience in philanthropy and marine conservation projects in the Mediterranean – have supported Marilles from the very beginning. The third was FUNDATUR – the first large contribution received from a Balearic foundation. We also obtained funding from Interreg Med UE for the MPA Networks project, from KGH Nature for our NGO training programme, and from OHPEN for the conservation of sharks.

IN 2020

WE INVESTED

€1,070,494

WE FUNDED

30 PROJECTS

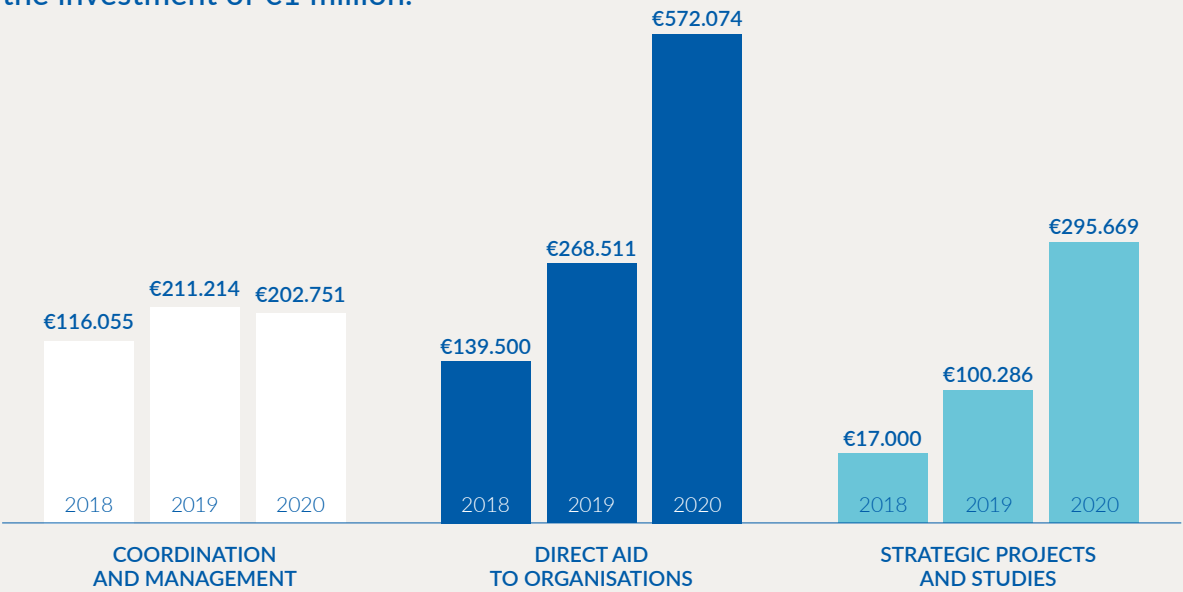
ENTITIES IN RECEIPT OF FUNDS

19 ENTITIES

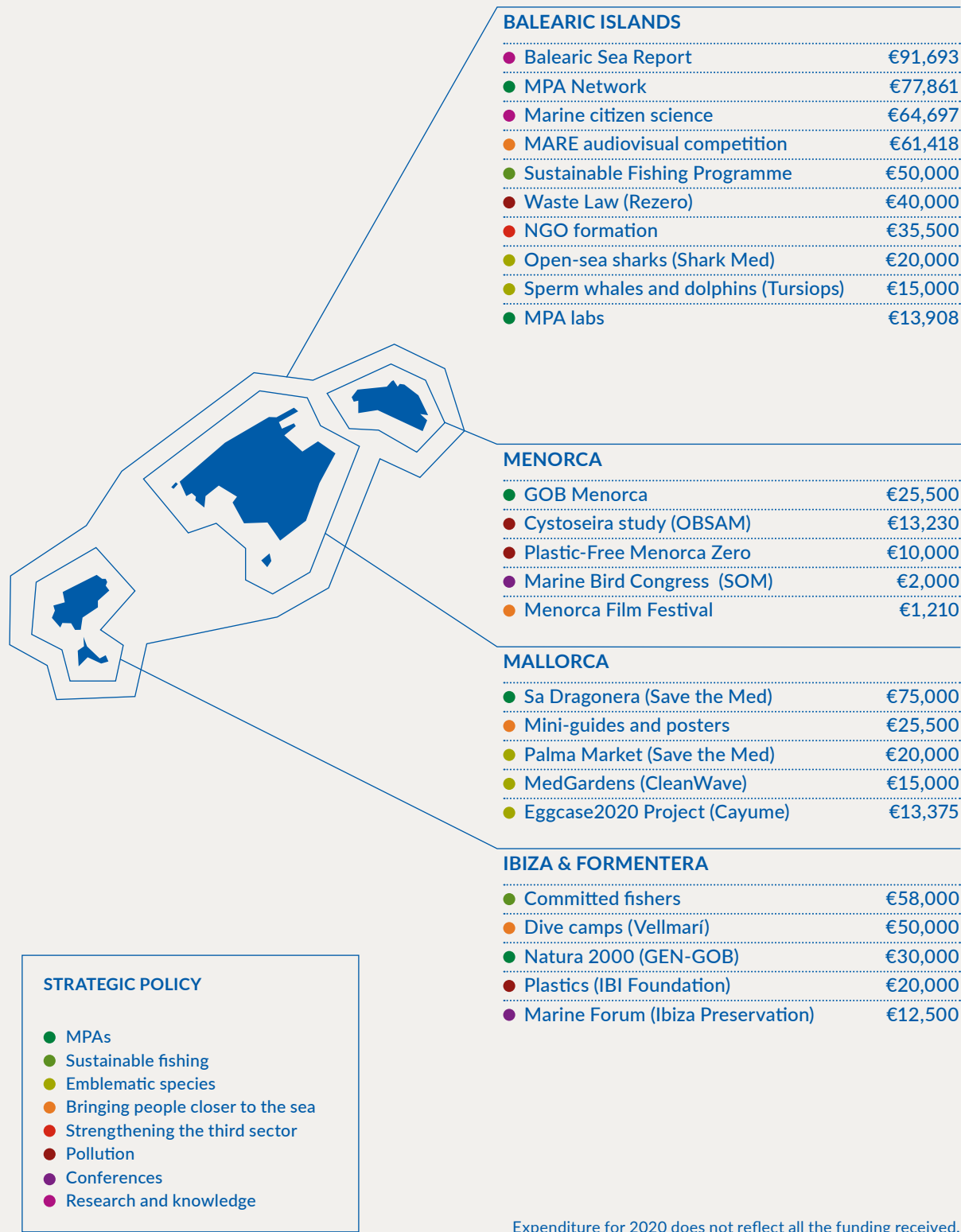
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN 2020



In 2021, we aim to maintain the investment of €1 million.



INVESTMENT PER PROJECT,
ISLAND, AND STRATEGIC POLICY



Expenditure for 2020 does not reflect all the funding received.

PROMOTING
ENVIRONMENTAL
PHILANTHROPY

We promote environmental philanthropy, the self-less donation of private resources with the sole aim of improving the environment.

Philanthropy plays a central part in cultural, social, and environmental contexts. Despite being on the increase in the Balearics, its expansion is still small compared to that of other European countries; only a small part of philanthropic activity is directed towards environmental endeavours.

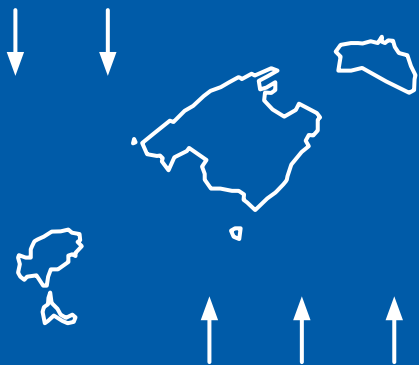
Marilles wants to expand environmental philanthropy in the Balearic Islands by acting as a meeting point for anyone wishing to donate funds for the conservation of the Balearic Sea. When donors work together, important milestones can be achieved.

To find out more, write to us at info@marilles.org

SUPPORT US

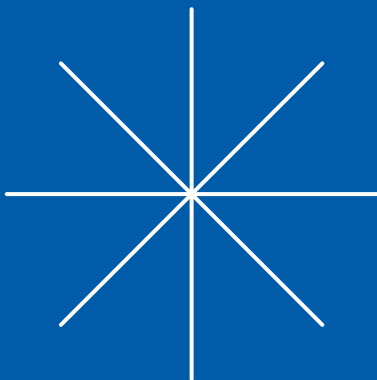
Help us preserve the beauty of the Balearic Sea!
To donate to Marilles,
write to us at info@marilles.org or visit
www.marilles.org/donate

WE NEED MORE FUNDS



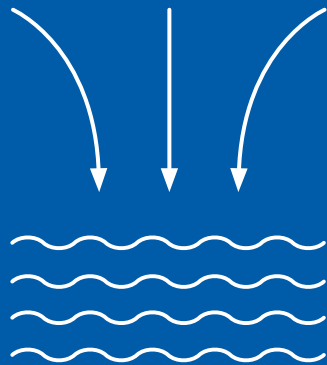
We want to turn the Balearic Islands into a world-leading example of sea conservation. To achieve this, we need help from other foundations, patrons, and private donors.

WE ARE EXPERIENCED
IN PHILANTHROPY
AND CONSERVATION



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

WE GIVE EVERY EURO
TO LOCAL PROJECTS



Thanks to the support of the Adessium Foundation, our organisational expenses are covered, so every euro Marilles receives is destined in its entirety to projects for the preservation of the Balearic Sea.

WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE
MAXIMUM IMPACT



Our aim is to maximise the impact of every euro invested in the conservation of the sea. Every project is rigorously vetted and examined in detail. We also collaborate with other foundations to avoid duplication and to benefit from every opportunity.

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We are a non-profit foundation that works to make the Balearic Islands a world reference marine conservation. Every euro that Marilles receives we invest in local projects to preserve the biodiversity and beauty of the Balearic Sea.