

Annual Report

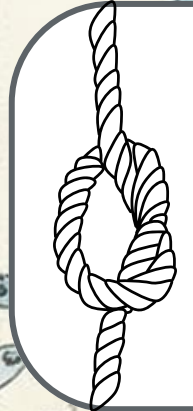
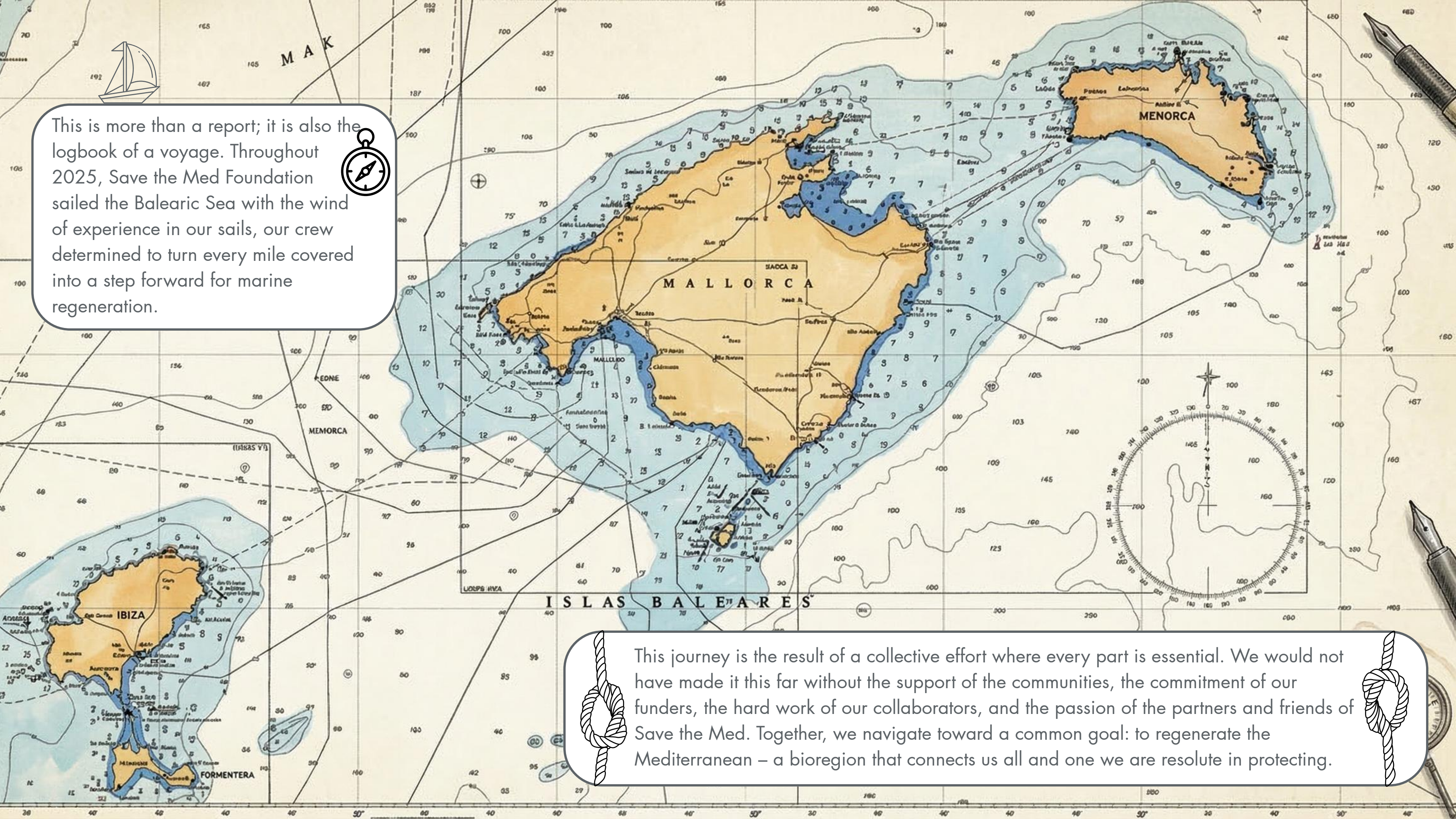
2025 JOURNEY

A logbook dedicated to the
regeneration of the Mediterranean





This is more than a report; it is also the logbook of a voyage. Throughout 2025, Save the Med Foundation sailed the Balearic Sea with the wind of experience in our sails, our crew determined to turn every mile covered into a step forward for marine regeneration.



This journey is the result of a collective effort where every part is essential. We would not have made it this far without the support of the communities, the commitment of our funders, the hard work of our collaborators, and the passion of the partners and friends of Save the Med. Together, we navigate toward a common goal: to regenerate the Mediterranean – a bioregion that connects us all and one we are resolute in protecting.



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SAVE THE MED: BOUND TO THE SEA



Save the Med Foundation (STM) is a non-profit organisation based in the Balearic Islands. Driven by a passionate team, STM is dedicated to the regeneration of the Balearic Sea and its coastline through a variety of projects with measurable impact. Our work ranges from marine research and environmental education to participatory governance and marine stewardship.

With a solid scientific foundation and a collaborative spirit, our projects support local communities to take active steps in preserving and regenerating regional ecosystems. At the same time, we contribute to environmental management policies and the overall health of the Balearic bioregion.



Mission, Vision, and Values

Our vision is a healthy Mediterranean basin. Our mission is to foster regeneration through a holistic approach, raising awareness within local communities so they can become active guardians of their environment. In our daily commitment, we are guided by our core values: care, passion, collaboration, transparency, efficiency, solidarity, and respect.

Governance

Save the Med is led by a Board of Trustees composed of seven members. Decisions are made by majority vote, ensuring a consensus-based approach in line with the Foundation's leadership. The Board is responsible for the accountable management of resources and for guiding the Foundation's strategic vision. At the end of this reporting year, the current President of the Board, Brad Robertson, will hand over the Presidency to Lorenzo Fluxà.

Board decisions are implemented by the operational team, which handles daily activities and reports directly to the Executive Management. We are also supported by a Scientific Committee, an Education Advisory Council, and experts in bioregional regeneration, all of whom provide key expertise to guide our projects. STM's work is enriched on an ongoing basis by the collective knowledge gained through fieldwork, ongoing projects, and active listening to both communities and partner organisations.

To continue strengthening our capabilities in 2025, the team attended several training programs, including an advanced project management course provided by the University of the Balearic Islands and a course on "Bioregionalism in Practice" facilitated by the Gaia platform. We also completed an internal learning process focused on collaboration and communication to strengthen interpersonal relationships, guided by an organisational coach.

MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

It is impossible to talk about the future of the Mediterranean without first looking back at the people who stood up for it when the stakes were highest. Long before Save the Med existed, groups of determined locals were already doing the hard work. I often think of the 1970s, when people camped out on the shores of Sa Dragonera to stop a massive development project. They didn't just save an island; they proved that a small, committed community could change the course of history. Their victory paved the way for future work to succeed in Sa Dragonera, and it created the foundation of awareness that we all stand upon.

When I started Asociación Ondine back in 2011, it began as a simple "neighbourly call" for a beach clean-up written on a post-it note. At the time, I had a diving business and just wanted to give something back to the sea that had given me so much. But what I quickly realised was that the energy to protect these islands was already here, bubbling under the surface. It just needed a place to gather. Over the last fourteen years, Save the Med has grown into an organisation that transcends what any single person could achieve.

Throughout this journey, our approach has changed profoundly. We've moved away from the old idea of "protecting" nature by keeping people away from it. Through our Areas under Regeneration work, we've learned that the only way to truly heal the sea is through connection.

True regeneration happens when we bring people together—fishers, local businesses, schools, and families—and realise that we aren't separate from the ecosystem. We are part of it. When we bridge different cultures and backgrounds to work toward a common goal, the sea responds. We've seen firsthand that when a community takes ownership of its local waters, the results are much more powerful than any top-down regulation could ever be.

By 2026, the "environmental scene" in Mallorca has become something quite incredible. We are now surrounded by a whole network of NGOs, grassroots groups, and local businesses that are all pulling in the same direction. The Mallorca Land & Sea Alliance (Aliança Mar i Terra) is a perfect example of this; it's a space where we've realised that we don't need to compete, because the work is too big for any one of us.



MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

There are many ways for anyone on the island to get involved. Whether you've lived here your whole life or have recently made this island your home, there is a place for you in this movement. It's no longer about a single organisation; it's about a collective responsibility that is being picked up by people across every corner of the Balearics.

I've spent the last fifteen years serving the Mediterranean, and it has been the greatest honour of my life. I've often said that this time has felt like my "apprenticeship"—a long period of learning how to truly listen to the sea and the community.

For years, I've given everything I have to this mission, pushing as hard as I possibly could to get us where we are. Today, we have reached a beautiful milestone: our projects are at capacity, our strategy is clear, and we are backed by a solid board, dedicated funders, and a growing team. The 'heavy lifting' of building the foundation is done. Now, it's time for me to let the incredible people here take the lead—adding the fine details that will help Save the Med thrive like she deserves. This will be my last letter to you as President of Save the Med Foundation, and honestly, it's a bit of an emotional moment. I'm not going anywhere, though! I'll still be right here as Founder and Ambassador, focusing my energy on the fine-tuning and the long-term vision.

It is an honour to pass the baton of the Presidency of Save the Med Foundation's Board of Trustees to Lorenzo Fluxà. Over the years Lorenzo has contributed his commitment, knowledge, and sensitivity to our board. He understands that respecting, caring for and nurturing people and place forms the foundation of our vision for the future. I am convinced that under his presidency, Save the Med will reach new milestones aligned with our vision: a clean & healthy Mediterranean basin.

The path from the occupation of Sa Dragonera in the 70s to the regenerative work we are doing today is one of hope and momentum. I invite you all to find your own way to "Serve the Med." There is so much to be done, and there is no better place to start than right here, together.

Serve the Med! Lets leave yOUR legacy!

Please enjoy the 2025 Save the Med Foundation Annual Report. Epic!

Your committed, slightly crazy, passionate sea loving Aussie!



Brad "Xisco" Robertson Godinez

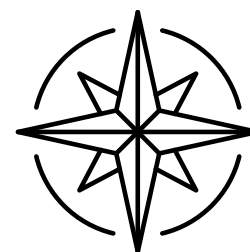


THE JOURNEY

From the deck of the boat, we see that the sea does not end at the shore; it merges with the Tramuntana cliffs, the mountain streams, and the life of the coastal villages. An Area Under Regeneration (AUR) is our response to this total interconnectedness. An AUR is an environmentally degraded area where community-led projects blend conservation with regenerative practices to restore biodiversity. This approach stems from the idea that healing damaged environments requires a holistic, place-based perspective, as the state of marine and coastal ecosystems are deeply linked to terrestrial environments, human activities, and socio-economic dynamics.

It is not just a GPS coordinate, but a vital space where we understand that the health of the sea is inseparable from the health of the land and the people who inhabit it. This is a paradigm shift: we are moving from "passive protection"—simply observing—to "active regeneration."

To date, Save the Med operates in three AURs along the Serra de Tramuntana bioregion in Mallorca: Andratx, Pollença, and Sóller. Because each AUR has unique environmental, historical, and socio-economic characteristics, our level of engagement varies. We act as catalysts in the Sa Dragonera Blava project in Andratx; we partner with local organisation Arrels Marines for the U Nord Blau project in Pollença; and we provide visibility and technical support to the Port Ramassat initiative in Sóller, alongside the Fundació Iniciatives del Mediterrani.



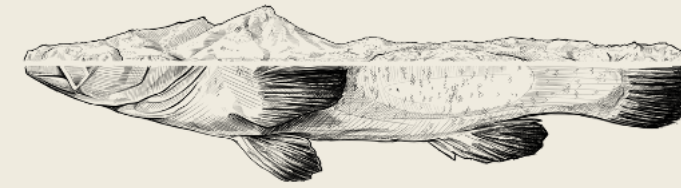
Every mile we sail toward the recovery of an AUR is guided by three core principles that turn environmental decline into a collective course toward regeneration:

- **Understanding:** Before we act, we listen. To understand the real challenges of each area, we combine rigorous scientific research with the traditional knowledge of those who have relied on the sea for generations.
- **CARE:** Regeneration doesn't happen in a lab; it happens in the town square. We foster regenerative cultures where the community takes pride in stewardship and leads local care through participatory governance.
- **Action:** Uniting knowledge and community, we take direct action to restore ecosystems, remove human pressures, and allow biodiversity to reclaim its place, ensuring a prosperous future for all species.

THE JOURNEY



THE JOURNEY - ANDRATX



SA DRAGONERA BLAVA

Our first stop brings us to the waters of Sa Dragonera and the coast of Andratx, where Save the Med – largely through the Sa Dragonera Blava project – has dedicated more than 7 years to the regeneration of the protected spaces and surroundings so far.

Over the past year, we have deepened our understanding of the area, strengthened the involvement of local stakeholders, and carried out conservation efforts along the Andratx coast. Working from the heart of the community alongside the *Xarxa Dragonera Blava* – a network that brings together local citizens, stakeholders, experts, and anyone who wants to help regenerate the area – the project has bolstered participatory governance, driven environmental education, and contributed to specific management measures within the Sa Dragonera Marine Reserve.

HIGHLIGHTS



Speed Regulation: Following a campaign driven by the Xarxa Dragonera Blava, a new speed limit for boats was approved and implemented in the inner waters of the Marine Reserve on March 11, 2025, protecting both underwater inhabitants and visitors.



Strict Protection: A new Highly Protected Zone (HPZ) was declared in Es Calafats, a crucial step toward the international goal of reaching 10% strict protection by 2030.



Science in the Water: We began the characterisation of underwater habitats to establish permanent monitoring sites to track the environmental health of the reserve.



Living Education: We held 16 educational activities—ranging from kayak tours to Posidonia "forest bathing"—engaging over 160 participants.



Project Evaluation: As part of our new AUR evaluation methodology, we conducted a survey to assess and measure the social impact of the project.



A growing network of local stewardship: The sharing of our governance approach has inspired similar movements across the archipelago—unique, community-led initiatives tailored to the specific needs of each area, such as the Fòrum Illa de l'Aire (Menorca), the Formentera Marine Stewardship Council, and the Port Ramassat participatory process (Sóller).



THE JOURNEY - ANDRATX

KPIs

49

Members of the community and beyond at the *Xarxa Dragonera Blava* participatory forums.

160

Participants joined our educational and marine outreach activities.

56

Students from IES Baltasar Porcell (Andratx) attended an educational activity in collaboration with *The Wave Generation* program.

11

Habitat characterisation transects completed in the waters of Sa Dragonera.

25

Scientific dives conducted to collect field data.

130

People surveyed to measure project impact. Over 60% of respondents reported already changing at least one environmental habit or practice.





“ We can see Sa Dragonera, but with you, we really feel it. ”

Local community member.

THE JOURNEY - SÓLLER



Leaving Andratx and heading north, we make a stop at Port de Sóller. Here, the teams from Fundació Iniciatives del Mediterrani (FIM) and Save the Med work together to support a grassroots initiative launched in late 2024: the Port Ramassat Citizen Platform. This group acts as a local catalyst for change, dedicated to reversing coastal degradation and regenerating the local marine ecosystem. Alongside FIM, Save the Med provides the platform with technical support, expert guidance, and scientific knowledge.

This is not the first time Save the Med has dropped anchor in this idyllic port. As an unprotected area of high interest for marine regeneration, we have conducted several scientific expeditions and activities in Sóller over the years. Furthermore, this location serves as a natural bridge that solidifies the bioregion of the Serra de Tramuntana. Geographically, it acts as the vital link between our AURs in Andratx and Pollença. This connection strengthens a marine corridor spanning the entire Tramuntana range, optimising ecosystem resilience on a regional scale.

HIGHLIGHTS

-  The Platform consolidated its operational structure throughout 2025, culminating in its official launch on November 21st. Monthly meetings have been established with its [Core Working Group](#).
-  A comprehensive [map of the municipality's key stakeholders](#) was completed.
-  Foundations and local initiatives have [joined forces to promote awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage](#), including the 15th Sóller Underwater Photography Contest.
-  Port Ramassat [joined the Marine Protected Areas Group](#) to provide specialised training and courses for Platform members, fostering expertise in marine conservation.
-  The Platform compiled and compared existing marine reserve proposals (from 2010 and 2021) to [advocate for the formal creation of a protected area](#).
-  Formal [recommendations were presented regarding the Town Council's first public ordinance for beach and bathing area management](#) to improve coastal oversight in Sóller.



THE JOURNEY - SÓLLER

KPIs

36

Total active members (36 in the Core and General Working Groups, plus 40 collaborators).

2

Information hubs formed and 1 expert debate forum held addressing water pollution, marine protection, and maritime congestion.

3

Core priority areas defined: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), anchoring and coastal pressure, and water pollution.

94%

Of survey respondents regarding the state of Sóller recognise the need for an MPA in the Serra de Tramuntana.

83%

Of participants believe that a community-led management would improve the environment.

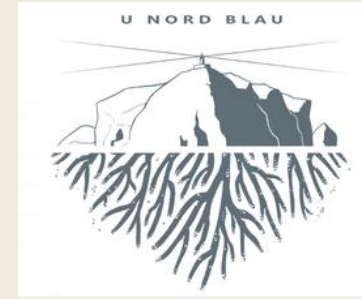


“The creation of a marine reserve would help restore the health of our sea. Right now, when I want to dive and actually see wildlife, I have to go all the way to the Malgrats area.”

Local community member.



THE JOURNEY - POLLENÇA



From Sóller, we continue up the Tramuntana coast toward Pollença. Here, Save the Med works closely with local organisation Arrels Marines on the U Nord Blau (UNB) project. At this final destination, we gather on a terrace by the harbour for a special toast: the *Talaia Nord Forum* – a quarterly community forum organised as part of the project – has been officially recognised by the Pollença Town Council as a key citizen participation entity for environmental consultations.

In 2025, U Nord Blau moved toward consolidating a model for marine stewardship and participatory governance as a scalable approach to marine regeneration. Working with the Talaia Nord Forum, we focused on strengthening ties with the local community and key socio-economic stakeholders to involve them actively in the care and management of Pollença's coastline.

HIGHLIGHTS



Science in the Water: UNB scientific expeditions have yielded great results: we mapped key habitats, located healthy gorgonian populations (*Eunicella cavolini* and *Eunicella singularis*), and documented the spectacular underwater caves of Formentor.



Advocating for Better Management: We pushed for the expansion of the Menorca Channel Site of Community Importance (SCI), providing key data to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and other administrations.



Growing Commitment: Increased participation and diversity within the forums led to a year of active community engagement. This included audiovisual awareness campaigns and a petition drive urging public administrations to increase protection for Pollença's marine spaces (SCI Bays of Alcúdia and Pollença).



Citizen Voices: The Talaia Nord Forum produced a [video highlighting the power of citizen participation](#) in positive regional management.



Community Art: A [collective performance titled "Ones sense llibertat"](#) (Waves without Freedom) was held to put the spotlight on marine degradation, pollution, and the loss of biodiversity.



THE JOURNEY - POLLENÇA

KPIs

128

Participants in the Talaia Nord forums held alongside Arrels Marines.

1

Consolidated Core Working Group, officially recognised by the Pollença Town Council as a consultative entity.

+20

Institutional and sector-specific meetings (fishermen, hospitality industry, nautical companies, local government, etc.).

120

Attendees at the inaugural U Nord Blau Open Days.


12

Scientific expeditions completed for environmental data collection.

5

Community actions undertaken within the area where Talaia Nord Forum is active.



An underwater photograph showing a dense field of green seagrass and yellowish-brown algae. The seagrass has long, thin blades and is growing in a sandy or silty environment. The water is clear and blue. In the background, several small fish are visible swimming.

“ I believe another key aspect has been the local involvement and sense of belonging; the project has empowered the community to take part in coastal management and has sparked a sense of pride in protecting our natural heritage. ”

Local community member.

THE VESSEL

PILOT THE COMMUNITY VESSEL PLATFORM

On 22 May 2025, as Save the Med team members gathered on the deck of the Bonnie Lass, there was a sense of anticipation—a quiet excitement deepened by the knowledge that we were embarking on something unprecedented. The team briefing that day was not just about logistics and safety; it was the beginning of a journey that would unfold over six weeks navigating the waters of the Areas Under Regeneration, along the Tramuntana coastline.

Beyond providing expertise and working alongside the local communities within the Areas Under Regeneration, the Community Vessel's mission was to bridge the gap between science and community action. We aimed to facilitate ocean access and break down economic and administrative barriers for all environmental regeneration initiatives. Its purpose was to drive learning, collaboration, and large-scale regeneration by bringing a wide range of actors and stakeholders together.

The Community Vessel pilot project set sail aboard the Bonnie Lass, a repurposed traditional fishing boat, to explore a pioneering concept: what could happen if researchers, educators, artists, environmental organisations, regional alliances, and local decision-makers all shared the same deck?

This pilot would not have been possible without the funding provided by Mission Blue, Fundación Occident, and Camper, as well as the collaboration and participation of the following organisations: Bonnie Lass Charters, Shark Med, Arrels Marines, Cleanwave Foundation, Alnitak, Palma Aquarium Foundation, Mallorca Preservation, Menorca Preservation, Marilles Foundation, Fundació Deixailles, Fundació Iniciatives del Mediterrani, Xarxa Dragonera Blava, Tramuntana Diving & Marine Film Services, Medical Support Offshore, Regenera Dejà, Oceanográfica, Spanish Institute of Oceanography, Planet Tuna, Observadores del Mar, Commonland, iSea Greece, Med Sea Alliance, Directorate General for Fisheries and Marine Environment of the Government of the Balearic Islands, Andratx Town Council, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Parc Natural de sa Dragonera,, Iniciativa de Custòdia del Territori de les Illes balears, PermaMed, Suelo Mallorca, Aliança Mar i Terra de Mallorca, Salvem sa Badia de Portmany, East Carolina University, Terra Nostra, Club de Vela Andratx, and Begudes Puig. We also recognise the individual contributions of Javier Guallart (Independent Researcher), Nathan Robinson (Independent Researcher), and Gregori Mayol Duran (Local Land and Sea Steward).



THE VESSEL

THE COMMUNITY VESSEL PLATFORM: A JOURNEY OF SUCCESS



Scientific Research and Data Collection

Various organisations and scientists developed distinct lines of research to advance their respective projects and share knowledge while on board. For instance, Planet Tuna studied the spawning grounds of the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) through water sample analysis.

The pilot also served as a testing ground for innovative technologies: marine biologist Nathan Robinson tested a specialised camera designed to film giant deep-sea squid, successfully completing three deployments to depths of up to 800 meters. Meanwhile, Save the Med trialled a new method for locating Spinetail devil rays (*Mobula mobular*) using a combination of light aircraft and drones.



Environmental Action and Activities on Land

Beyond the work at sea, the project also spearheaded several initiatives alongside the local community. These included a workshop on traditional fishing gear and techniques, as well as a collaborative effort to restore dry-stone walls on a local fisherman's estate—a contribution that preserved cultural heritage while preventing soil erosion and sediment runoff into the sea.

Additional actions included beach clean-ups and fire prevention efforts in Cala Deià, addressing both coastal pollution and the risk of forest fires. To conclude the project, the symbolic release of a sea turtle served as a powerful testament to the tangible impact of conservation efforts and helped raise public awareness.



Community Building and Education

Aboard the vessel, a diverse group came together—including government representatives, youth, children, artists, NGOs, and scientific institutions. They engaged in hands-on activities such as marine observation, species monitoring, nautical training, and biodiversity workshops. The informal gatherings on deck fostered a natural exchange of ideas and experiences, strengthening the bonds between individuals and sectors. These connections helped forge a shared vision for the regeneration of the Balearic Sea.



THE VESSEL

KPIs

90

Participants, of which 37 students and representatives from over 35 organisations.

16

Youth aged 8 to 16 engaged in marine experiences and environmental education as part of Cleanwave's Invincible Youth project.

12

Marine stewardship coordinators from throughout the Mediterranean gathered on board to share knowledge and field experiences.

13

Completed survey days dedicated to locating Devil Rays (*Mobula mobular*), supported by 15 hours of aerial observation flights.

3

dives carried out to locate and remove several ghost nets.





“ We were invited aboard the Community Vessel to get to know the work of Save the Med in marine restoration and the Mallorca Land and Sea Alliance. On the Bonnie Lass, I met some of the most passionate and talented changemakers, each bringing their unique skills and drive to the regeneration of the Mediterranean Sea. What inspired me most was experiencing how they truly create spaces for collaboration across silos, inviting people to co-own the future of their coastlines. This is exactly the kind of cross-sector alliance we need more of in the Mediterranean and beyond. ”

Roos van der Deijl, Commonland.

ACTIVITIES ON BOARD - SHARKS AND RAYS

Beneath the keel and beneath the waves, we are dedicated to fortifying protection mechanisms for elasmobranchs and securing their survival in the Mediterranean through science, innovation, education, and policy change. Why? Of the 56 species recorded in the Balearic Sea, 34 are threatened, 17 of which are endangered.

For this reason, alongside Shark Med, we venture into the depths to gather evidence and samples from the marine ecosystem—ranging from environmental DNA (eDNA) collected via underwater robots to baited remote underwater video (BRUVs) in both pelagic and benthic waters, as well as satellite tagging of Spinetail devil rays (*Mobula mobular*). These studies are essential to deciphering the complexity of our ecosystems. Spinetail devil rays serve as 'sentinel species'; studying their ecology provides a holistic reading of the marine environment's health.

Beyond our work at sea, we contribute our scientific expertise to various alliances and expert groups dedicated to species protection and Mediterranean conservation. We actively participate in the advisory board of the SARKO project (led by the Marilles Foundation), the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, the Atlantic Manta & Devil Ray Research Coalition, and the Spinetail Devil Ray Stranding Monitoring Group. Since its inception in 2024, we have also been members of the Balearic Islands Government Shark and Ray Expert Group, which serves as a consultant body for the Action Plan for the Conservation of Elasmobranchs in the Balearic Islands.



ACTIVITIES ON BOARD - SHARKS AND RAYS

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS



A study conducted in 2024 and 2025 has concluded with major results. In close collaboration with Shark Med, we carried out the [Sharks and Rays of the Cabrera National Park \(PNMTAC\) research project](#) using non-invasive methods. The BRUVs recorded 17 species of elasmobranchs, identifying the areas and periods of highest frequency for several of them. As we head into 2026, the project is moving into the laboratory analysis phase for the collected environmental DNA (eDNA) samples.



The [Save the Med scientific team](#) tagged four [Spinetail devil rays](#) in the waters of the Serra de Tramuntana. This provided data to describe their migratory patterns and compare them with impact maps (fishing, pollution, and shipping traffic) to identify critical areas where protection measures must be implemented.



Opening New Horizons for Elasmobranch Research: Within the Community Vessel platform, and over a six-week period, [pilot trials of various types of BRUVs were conducted in the waters of Sóller, reaching depths of up to 800 meters.](#)



[Restoring Populations](#): Through the collaborative Acció Stellaris project, we are working to recover the Nursehound shark (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*) population through captive breeding and subsequent release. This initiative has been made possible by an alliance between the Palma Aquarium Foundation, the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Environment, Marilles Foundation, Save the Med, Shark Med, Petites Illes del Mediterrani, Mallorca Preservation, and Cabrera National Park, with additional support from Balearia and the Fishermen's Guilds of Formentera and Cala Ratjada.

KPIs

17

Elasmobranch species recorded.

+400

People reached through project outreach and presentations.

+300

Nursehound sharks reared and released into the Balearic Sea through the Acció Stellaris collaboration.

1ST

Footage of a Bluntnose sixgill shark (*Hexanchus griseus*) recorded in Balearic waters.



A surface BRUV station is shown on the water. It consists of a white platform with solar panels and a red flag on a pole. A blue line connects the station to a yellow buoy. The background shows a clear blue sky and distant land.

“ It has been a fantastic opportunity to continue the conservation of these species by joining our efforts and expertise. All of this fills us with pride and hope, seeing that through these collective projects, we can work hand-in-hand for a healthier and more sustainable sea. ”

Agustí Torres, President, Shark Med.

**Surface BRUV station, equipped with underwater cameras and lights positioned in front of a bait source. The system is powered by solar panels. These devices are used as a non-invasive research method to record footage of elasmobranchs in their natural habitat.*

ACTIVITIES ON BOARD - THE HAPI METHOD



We always carry a HAPI kit both on and off our vessel. The HAPI Method refers to the Honest Alternatives to Plastic Index, an innovative online and offline tool that provides practical guidance to businesses for preventing waste generation at its source. It offers alternatives to help eliminate single-use products by replacing them with lower-impact environmental options.

In 2018, Save the Med launched the 'Balears sense Plàstic' project, which later expanded into 'Plastic Free Balearics' in collaboration with other regional organisations. In 2024, the initiative evolved into the HAPI Method, continuing the ambition to incentivise the private sector (including the HORECA sector and other entities) to reduce single-use products. The HAPI Method promotes informed decision-making, fosters responsible consumption practices, and contributes to the reduction of plastic pollution.

2025 was an exciting and successful year for the HAPI Method. The project reached its consolidation through the implementation of pilot programs, methodological development, and knowledge transfer across various Mediterranean contexts. Throughout the year, the project achieved a wide diversity of applications, ranging from direct intervention in Lebanon and Tunisia to a diagnostic assessment of the maritime sector—highlighting high waste-reduction potential—and a strategic study on technological innovation. Moving into 2026, the HAPI Method enters a phase of knowledge transfer and is seeking strategic partners to provide fresh momentum.



ACTIVITIES ON BOARD - THE HAPI METHOD

VICTORIES OVER PLASTIC



HAPI Guardian Certification: In collaboration with Loop Zone and MedWaves, we developed the [HAPI Guardian certification](#) and expanded its implementation on the island of Djerba (Tunisia).



[Regional Guides](#): We published the HAPI Guides specifically adapted for the contexts of Morocco and Tunisia.



Mediterranean Impact: Within the framework of our collaboration with MedWaves/UNEP-MAP, we achieved the full implementation of the HAPI Method in [Lebanon and Tunisia](#), including technical assistance, within the hospitality sector (HORECA).



New Tools & Destinations: We launched [HAPI TOGETHER](#), a tool designed to perform in-depth diagnostics of the use and consumption of disposable products.



Commitment to Continuous Improvement: To enhance the scalability of the HAPI Method, we developed a feasibility study for [AI-driven automation](#), thanks to funding from the Tourism Strategy Agency of the Balearic Islands (AETIB).

KPIs

2

Countries (Lebanon and Tunisia) received support for the hospitality sector.

1

Cruise ship assessed with a waste reduction potential of 535,300 kg/year.

4

Training sessions conducted (2 per country: Lebanon and Tunisia).

49,000

Kilograms of plastic waste prevented in the Balearic Islands through the program since 2021.





“ The HAPI Check assessments conducted with HORECA businesses on Djerba Island have triggered a shift in organisational mindset, providing a clear understanding of the true sources of waste and the potential for reduction. ”

Mehdia Fraj, Association Citoyens Actifs pour le Développement.

ACTIVITIES ON BOARD - DOS MANOS

While we were navigating Balearic waters, stopping at key points along the Tramuntana coast, there was also plenty of movement along the shoreline. Our Dos Manos educational project brought students to beaches across the island to tackle plastic pollution through first-hand learning and citizen science.

Equipped with gloves and jute bags, over 700 students rolled up their sleeves in the eighth year of this project. During the activities, students conducted beach surveys to analyse macroplastics, microplastics, and data on product origins. This year, the curriculum expanded its focus to include systemic responsibility and participatory governance as key tools for addressing today's environmental challenges.



FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS



An environmental education [program for secondary students designed to cultivate critical thinking](#), moving far beyond a simple practical exercise.

Launch of a qualitative redesign of the Dos Manos activity, implementing a [new participatory governance dynamic](#).

The [3rd edition of the project at the Palma Penitentiary](#), strengthening social inclusion and providing first-hand environmental education to vulnerable groups.

Participation in "[Social Start Up Mar i Terra](#)", a new educational project alongside CERAI and Arrels Marines, supporting secondary students in developing innovative solutions for Mallorca's environmental challenges.



ACTIVITIES ON BOARD - DOS MANOS

KPIs

765

Students from 14 educational centers across Mallorca engaged in the project activities this year.

30

Educational activities completed.

175

Individuals have participated in our program at the Palma Penitentiary since 2023.

13,000

Students have taken part in the Dos Manos project over the last seven years.

428,000

Plastic items removed from Mallorca's beaches since 2018.

3,000

Kilograms of plastic waste removed from Mallorca's beaches since 2018.



Polític

Conscienciar a la població de comprar peixos locals.

Fonamentació i facilitació de la pesca tradicional.

Prohibició de la pesca a gran escala amb xarxes il·legals.



“I am proud of our youth’s empathy and their drive to find solutions for a more sustainable land and sea”

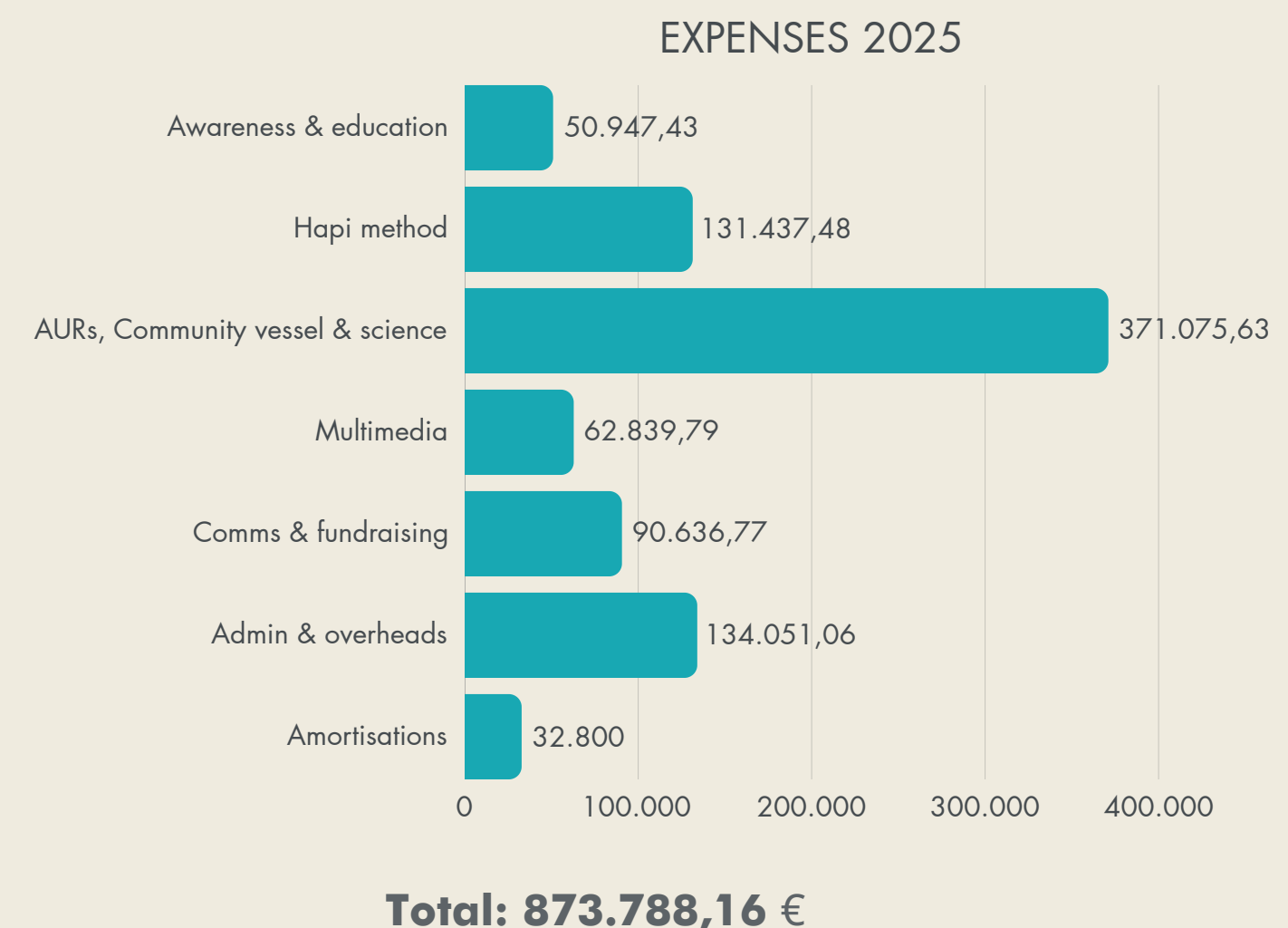
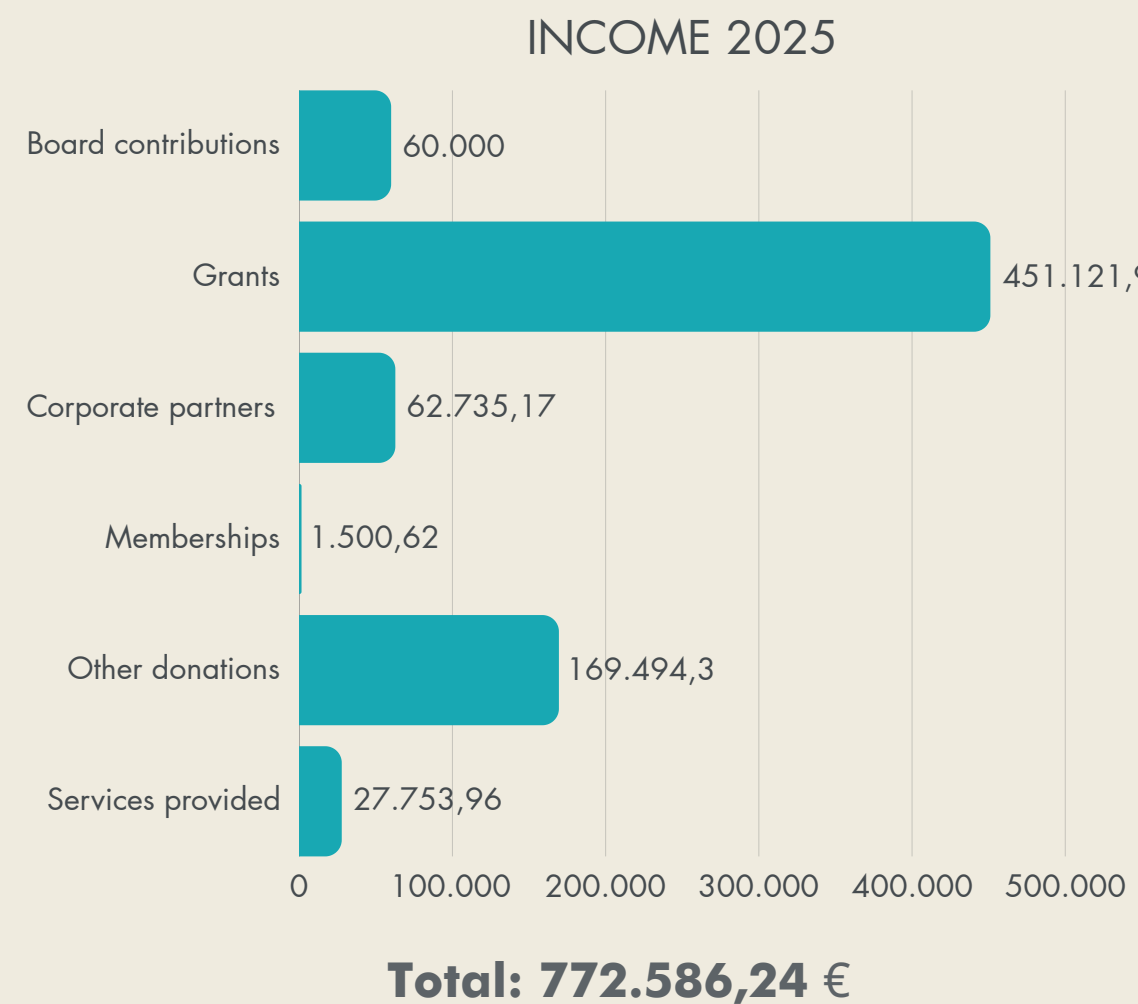
Joana Fuster, Teacher at Aula Balear Education Cooperative.

FUELLING THE MISSION: INCOME & EXPENSES

At the end of this reporting year, Save the Med closed with 772,586.24 € in income and 873,788.16 € in expenses. This result reflects the strategic decision to prioritise the launch of the Community Vessel pilot (under the AURs, Community Vessel & Science budget line), despite lower-than-projected fundraising.

This balance includes 32,800 € in depreciation—a non-cash accounting adjustment that recognises the value of our assets without impacting actual cash flow. Please note that these are provisional figures, pending the final accounting close and the issuance of the external audit report.

The successful validation of this pilot transforms this budget variance into a strategic advantage, providing the necessary evidence to scale both our impact and fundraising efforts in the coming years.



SHARING THE JOURNEY: OUTREACH AND IMPACT

We presented the findings and results from Save the Med's projects at various forums, with the goal of sharing our knowledge with the community.

Areas Under Regeneration

- Participation in the first three meetings of the Marine Protected Areas Group, alongside the following organisations: MedGardens, GOB Menorca, Menorca Preservation, GOB Mallorca, and the Mesa de Custòdia Ibiza & Formentera.
- Participation in the annual assembly of the ICTIB (Land Stewardship Initiatives of the Balearic Islands).
- Project presentation at the Marine Stewardship Council of Formentera (Mesa de Custodia Marina).
- Advisory and participation in the Illa de l'Aire (Menorca) participatory process.
- Presentation of the Sa Dragonera Blava project to the Local Fisheries Action Group (GALP) of Golfo Ártabro Sur (Galicia) and GALP Mallorca.

Sharks & Rays

- Presentation at the "Ecos del Mediterráneo" (Echoes of the Mediterranean) conference, organised by the Palma Aquarium Foundation.
- Presentation at the 11th Balearic Islands Environmental Conference (XI Jornades de Medi Ambient de les Illes Balears), organised by the Natural History Society of the Balearics.
- Presentation of results at the Cabrera Archipelago National Park Interpretation Center (Centre d'Interpretació de Cabrera).
- Presentation of results at the Local Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Natural Environment
- Co-authorship of the article "Important Shark and Ray Areas can guide conservation planning in the Mediterranean and Black Sea," published in the scientific journal iScience.

HAPI

- Presentation of the HAPI project at the first Tourism Culture Observatory Congress (COSTA), Palma.
- Participation as an Associated Partner on the Advisory Board of the Loop Zone Interreg Executive Committee, Barcelona.
- HAPI Presentation at the "Low Plastic Zone (LPZ)" Workshop organised by MedWaves in Djerba, Tunisia.
- Loop Zone Kick-off Meeting and the 1st Steering Committee Meeting 2025 in Barcelona.



Natura Award 2025

The Natura Award is a recognition and a tribute to all those individuals and projects working every day to create a positive impact somewhere in the world. Since 1994, they have supported over 70 projects.

Thank you Natura! 🙏



THE TRADE WINDS

OUR PARTNERS & FUNDERS



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 AND BEYOND

Regeneration as the only constant

We are navigating a definitive shift in history, marked by profound global instability. Between the exponential evolution of Artificial Intelligence, shifting geopolitical fractures, and the acceleration of ecological decline, we find ourselves unable to imagine the world our children will grow up in. However, amidst this uncertainty, we hold one unwavering truth: no matter what the future holds, bioregional regeneration will always remain essential.

Regeneration is the innate pulse of a living planet—the process by which life creates conditions for new life. Aligning our way of living with that pulse is a fundamental practice that remains crucial whether we are navigating the depths of societal crisis, the heights of a thriving era, or anything in between. It is an act of radical responsibility, ignited and sustained by a collective love for the places we call home.

From presence to permanence

Our journey since 2011 has been a process of shedding the conventional to reach the essential. We have moved from high-participation, short-term actions that depended on our direct presence, to catalysing and supporting systemic changes and cultural shifts that are led by local communities. We have learned that true impact is not measured by the numbers we present, but by the lasting, intergenerational, agency of those who know and love their homes the best.

Therefore, our focus has shifted toward promoting a deeply rooted model of governance and shared stewardship of sea and land—one that builds community-led sovereignty and will ultimately not depend on the presence of any single organisation, but remain a living, breathing part of the communities long after our specific programmes have concluded.

Evolution through integration

This philosophy is reflected in the work we do alongside the communities in the Areas Under Regeneration (AURs) in Andratx, Pollença, and Sóller. To uphold this commitment, 2025 has been a year of intentional recalibration within Save the Med, during which we have made a bold decision to strategically transform some of our most established projects.

Rather than standing as isolated initiatives, the core elements of programs like HAPI, Dos Manos, and Changemakers will be integrated into the AUR framework. This evolution will allow these proven tools to serve a larger, more localised strategy: turning general awareness into site-specific wisdom and direct action. By channeling our full organisational strength into the AURs, we are prioritising a path toward resilience.

We recognise that in an era of unpredictable global shocks. By nurturing community-governed spaces and shared stewardship, we work to ensure that the knowledge, practices, and cultural shifts required for humans to live in reciprocity with nature are active and held by the people themselves, helping them to navigate both crisis and prosperity.



“REGENERATION IS NEITHER A TREND NOR A NEW CONCEPT. IT IS THE PULSE OF LIFE ITSELF: TO RENEW, TO HEAL, TO CONNECT, AND TO LEARN.”

Daniel Christian Wahl, biologist and expert in biorregional regeneration.

