# MENORCA PRESERVATION FUND

TWO-YEAR
REPORT
2018-2019



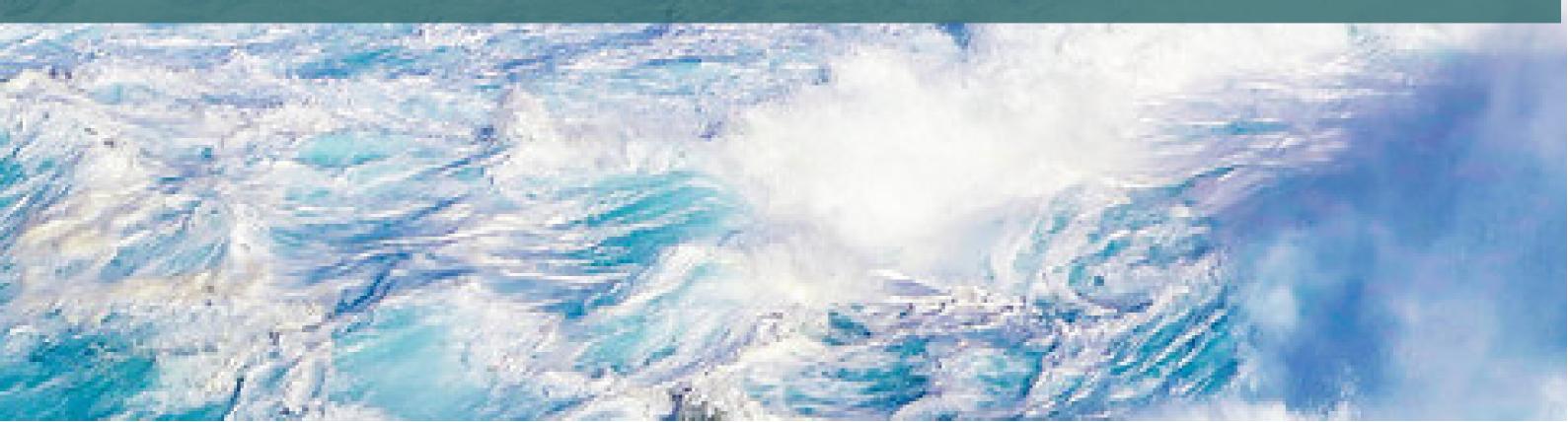


Menorca, declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1993, boasts a combination of beautiful natural landscapes, unique varied flora and fauna, and spectacular marine ecosystems.

In 2019, UNESCO extended the Biosphere Reserve parameters to includes marine habitats making it the largest biosphere reserve in the Mediterranean; this further emphasises the need for Menorca's protection and preservation in order to ensure a sustainable future.

Set up towards the end of 2017, the Menorca Preservation Fund is a non-profit organisation that raises funds locally and internationally from people and businesses that have a strong connection and love for the island. These funds are then distributed to local projects with the aim of creating a healthy symbiosis between Menorca's biodiversity and those that live on or visit this beautiful island.

In this first MEPF annual report, we are proud to present some of the key projects that we have been working on and supporting via our local partners and experts in 2018-2019.







The Menorca Preservation Fund has a particular focus on five key areas:



Marine conservation



Landscape conservation & local food



Sensible waste management

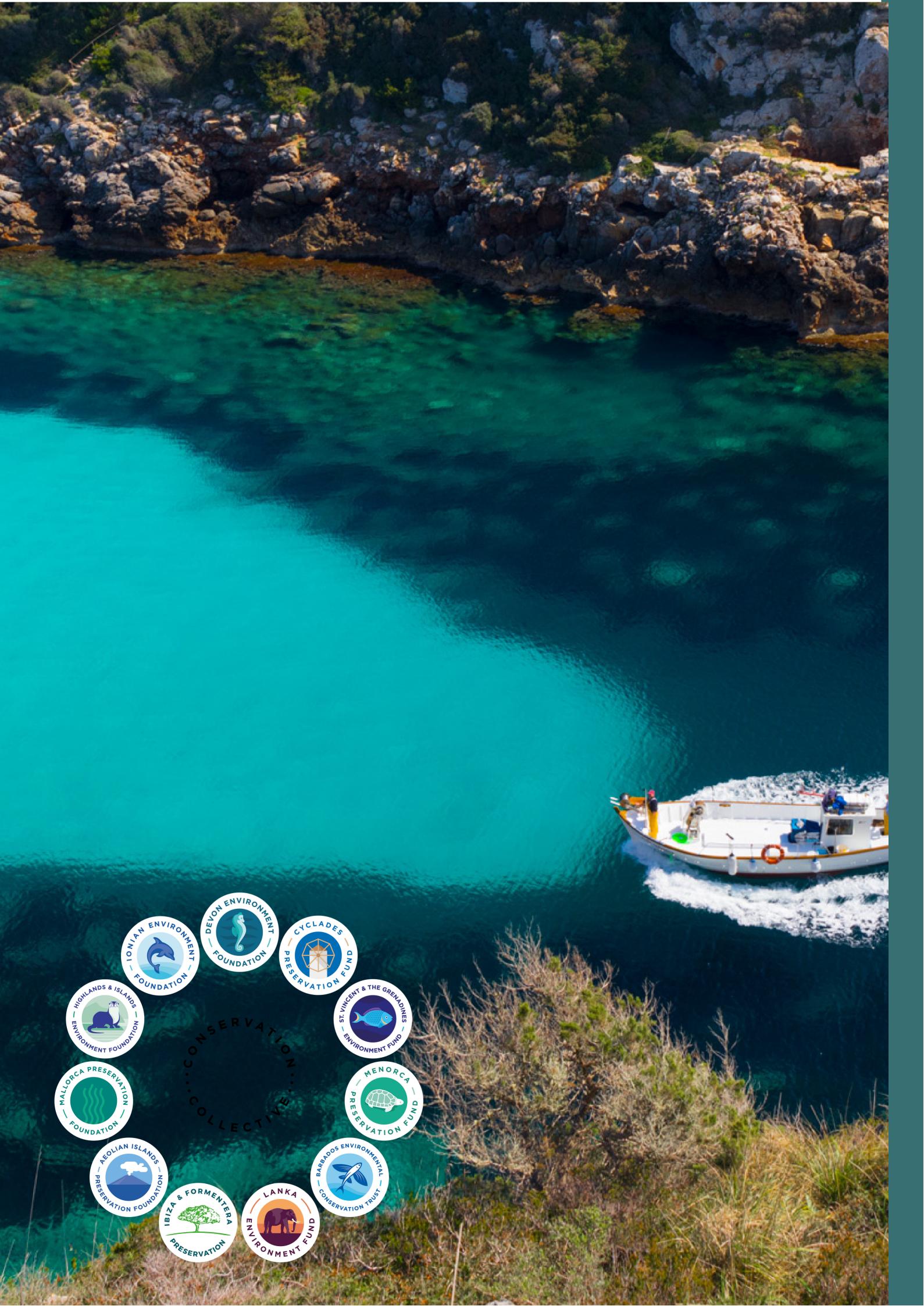


Fresh water



Green energy

We strongly believe that by supporting local initiatives we will have a tangible positive impact, and help to bring about the long-lasting change that Menorca needs if it is to preserve its precious environment and prosper sustainably.



### **OUR FAMILY**

#### Steering Committee | 2018 & amp; 2019

The Steering Committee is comprised of pro-active and generous donors who meet regularly to oversee the grants process, help fundraise and support our strategic processes. Their kind support is intrinsic to the operations of the MEPF, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who formed part of the first MEPF Steering Committee during 2018-2019 enabling the MEPF to establish itself. Without their help, we would not have been able to support all the wonderful initiatives described in this report.

In 2018-2019, the inaugural SC was formed by Ben Goldsmith and Estefania Medina, who co-founded the MEPF; Jade Brudenell (Director - The Conservation Collective), George Anson (Chairman 2017-2020), Rebecca Morris (Local Director – MEPF), Charlene Whitehead, Emmanuel Lagarrigue, Geneviève Joannic Debard, Max Morgan, Orlando and Honor Montagu, Peter Sweatman, and Tim and Meena Bond. Currently, it is formed by:

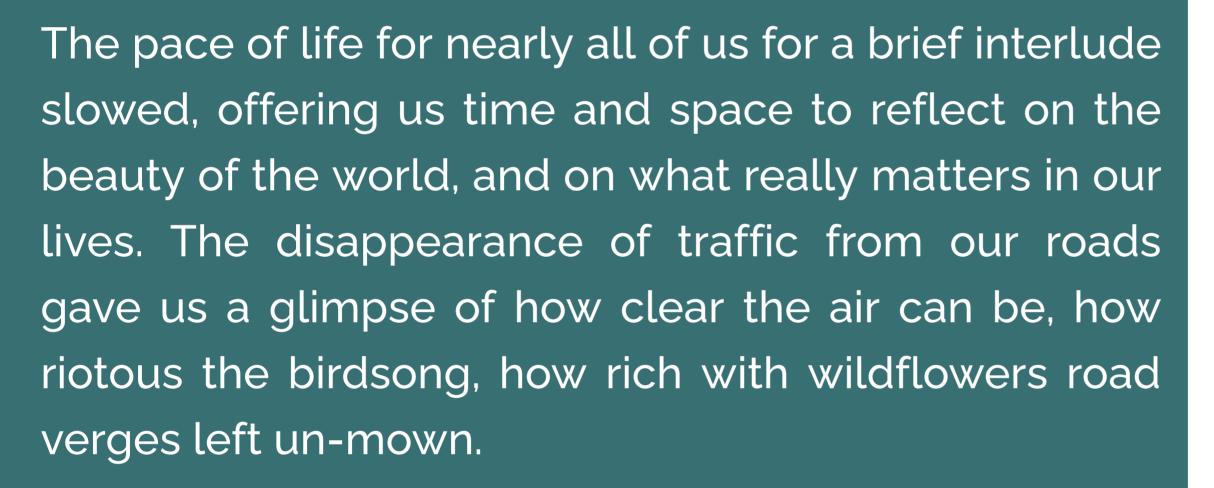
- Ben Goldsmith (Co-Founder)
- Jade Brudenell (Director The Conservation Collective)
- George Anson (Chairman 2017-2020)
- Emmanuel Lagarrigue (Chairman 2020 )
- Rebecca Morris (Executive Director Menorca Preservation Fund)
- Alexander Quirici
- Geneviève Joannic Debard
- Peter Sweatman
- Sofía Vallejo

#### **Conservation Collective**

The MEPF is part of the Conservation Collective, an important international network of 11 local preservation funds, each co-founded by Ben Goldsmith., working towards the same environmental objectives yet run independently of one another and according to each Fund's local context

#### Ben Goldsmith Conservation Collective & MEPF Co-Founder

"Amidst the suffering and the loneliness of the COVID-19 crisis, people everywhere experienced an upwelling of love for the natural world. Video clips went viral of dolphins playing in Trieste harbour, of views of the Himalayas as seen from northern India for the first ime in decades, of wild boar trotting the deserted streets of Berlin.



We were reawakened – amidst the unfurling of a spring that seemed especially vibrant this year – to the central importance of diverse, healthy, abundant nature in our lives. Given the chance, nature rebounds astonishingly quickly – as British fishermen discovered immediately after the second war, when they found a North Sea thronged with fish of all kinds after just a few short years of respite from commercial fishing. But just at the moment we are most in need of nature, we find the natural fabric of our world catastrophically depleted.





Most of us, happy to find a solitary songbird in our back garden, aren't able really to grasp quite how much we have lost.

"Shifting baselines", the phenomenon whereby, yearning for the natural abundance we ourselves experienced during our own childhood, without realising what was already lost by then, means that expectations diminish from one generation to the next. We've lost countless species altogether, and those that do remain exist in isolated, often tiny fragments of remnant nature.

Menorca is one of the most beautiful islands on Earth – which, like everywhere else, has lost so much in recent decades. Now is the time to put things right.

The Menorca Preservation Fund seeks to support the brilliant people and organisations on the island who working so hard to bring about change. We want to turbocharge their work – and turn the tide on a century of environmental destruction."



## Rebecca Morris MEPF Executive Director

My first meeting about the Menorca Preservation Fund, at that point just a concept, was in June 2017, when Ben and Jade flew over from the UK to present their idea and gauge interest in this new environmental model. The concept seemed brilliant to me, let's make environmental change and climate change impact something we address from a local level, helping people understand how our behaviour impacts directly on our home, or a place we love and how we can address it. In this case Menorca.



Needless to say, the interest and need was clear and by the end of 2017 the MEPF Steering Committee was established, our legal structure set-up, our logo chosen and our first potential projects presented for funding.

Since then and to the end of 2019, we have worked hard to; understand the context, build valuable relationships based on trust and transparency; raise funds and support key environmental projects led by our local partners. To the end of 2019 this had translated into funding and support being provided to 26 local projects ranging from; support to the creation of a new marine protected area, reduction of the use of single use plastics in the fishing industry including local fishmongers, ghost fishing net extractions, biological surveys into fish species and posidonia conservation, fresh water by way of restoring traditional rainwater collection methods at working farms to reduce the amount of water being drawn from the aquifer water reserves, beachcleaning initiatives and many educational activities linked to all the above.

Menorca is my home and having grown up here and now having my children here, I feel very privileged to be able to be actively involved in seeking a way to make Menorca an example of sustainability. We have the perfect natural environment and must now have the capacity to take onboard all the information we have about the worlds environmental situation and try, from our little Mediterranean Biosphere Reserve paradise to lead the way on new economic models, sustainable innovation and collaborative goals between the private and public sectors.

I feel confident that the MEPF can continue to contribute proactively to the protection and restoration of Menorca's natural environment and can't help but take this opportunity to thank all those who have already joined us along the way and encourage those that haven't to please jump onboard. The time for change is now.





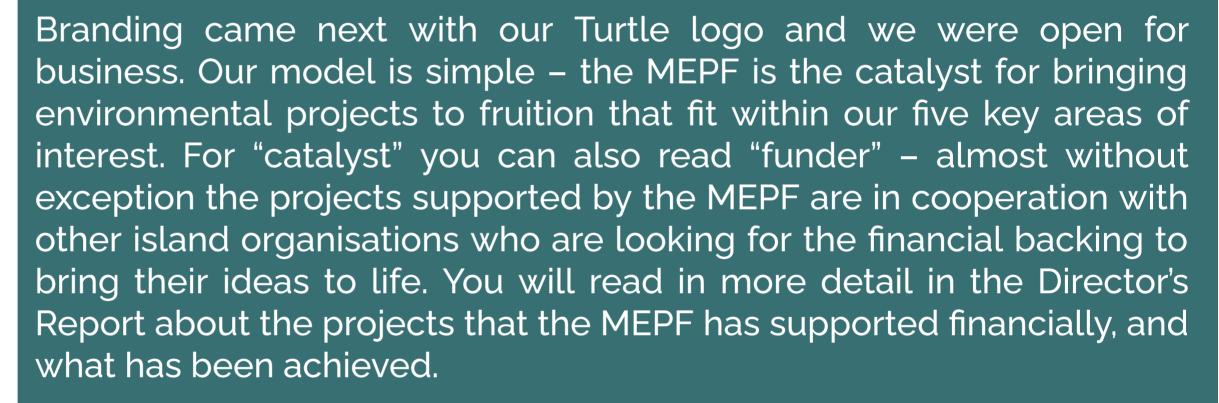
## George Anson Steering Committee Chairman

The Menorca Preservation Fund "MEPF" came into being in November 2017. This Chairman's Report covers the period from the inception of the MEPF up to December 31, 2019. Over that 26-month period, so much has happened that it's hard to know where to begin.

In early 2017 a number of us were approached to see if there was an interest in forming an

environmental programme that would focus on promoting key areas of interest in and around Menorca. A critical mass of founders and donors was formed, and we held our first meeting of the Steering Committee of the MEPF that autumn. Shortly after that, I was appointed Chairman of the Steering Committee.

At the same time, we identified and recruited Rebecca Morris, as our full time Executive Director of the MEPF



To be clear, the MEPF is not about keeping things the way they were. Rather, it is about confronting the environmental issues that Menorca faces today, and ensuring that the right options are considered and implemented for the future generations to come.

Over these two years, there has been a huge increase in the awareness of the MEPF on the island, and its impact. This has drawn in more volunteers, supporters, donors, corporate partners, and new Steering Committee members who all share one thing in common: a love of the island of Menorca. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders for their generous and unstinting support (financially and otherwise) of the Menorca Preservation Fund. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

As we approach the third anniversary of the founding of the MEPF, we can all be proud of what has been achieved. From small beginnings, the MEPF now has a place at the table whenever island environmental issues are being discussed. Even in these challenging times, we can still make a difference to the world we live in.

Thank you again for supporting the MEPF, and I look forward to future years when we can report back on further positive progress.



## KEY OUTCOMES 2018 & 2019

26 Grants awarded 40 local entities signed up to plastic-free pledge

Creation of a new Marine
Protected
Area of 7,192
km2



1.2 tonnes of water saved annually due to improved water catchment on 9 farms



13.5 tonnes of plastic collected from Menorca's beaches.



14,760 tonnes of carbon dioxide absorbed by posidonia meadows surrounding Menorca



#### MARINE CONSERVATION

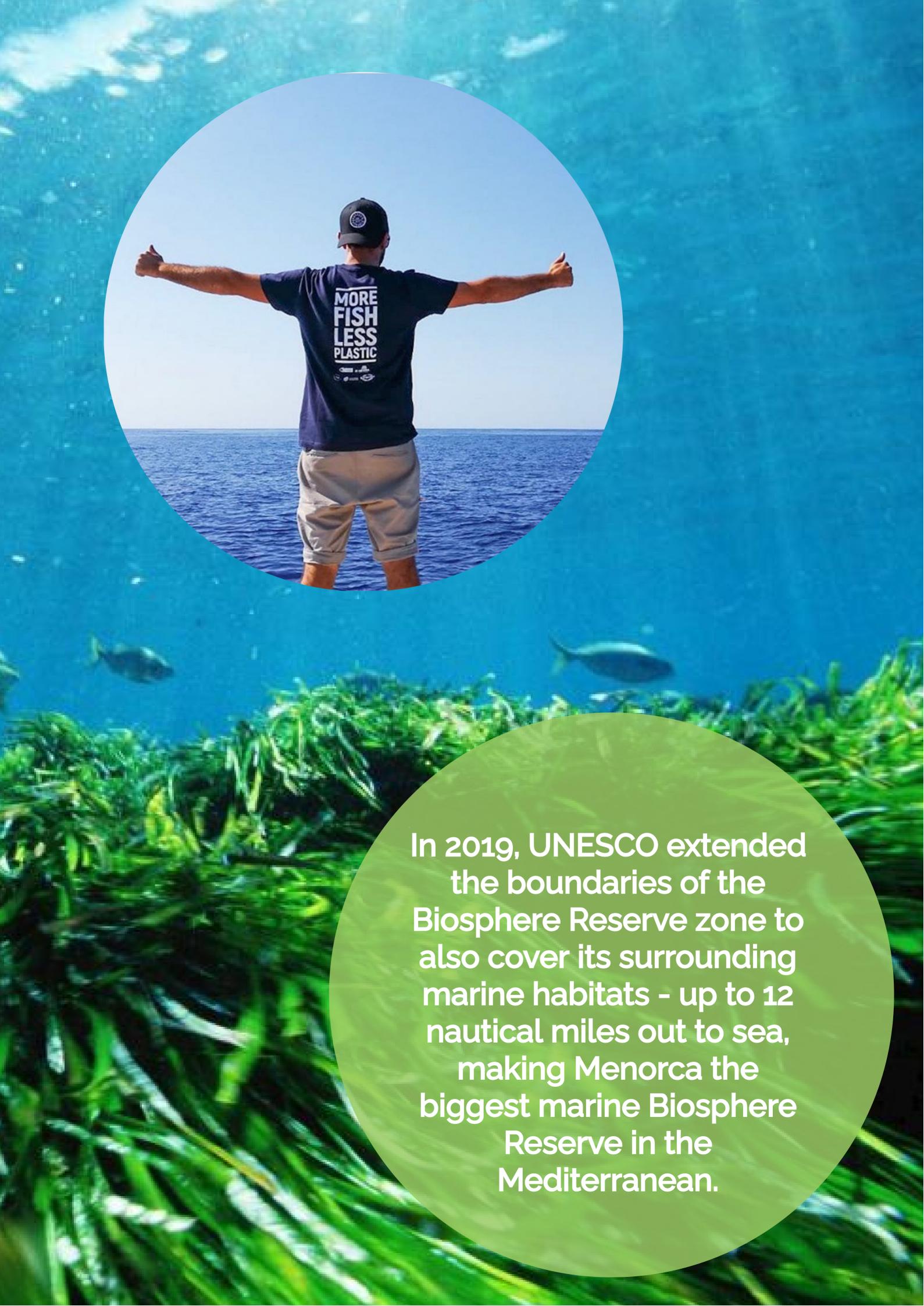
Menorca is recognised for its crystal clear waters and beautiful beaches. However, due to the detrimental effect of excessive fishing, anchorages on important areas of marine ecosystems, mass tourism, marine pollution and litter, Menorca's natural marine environment has been significantly damaged over the years.

A recent study carried out by local research centre OBSAM, and funded by the MEPF, showed a population decline of up to 80% in a number of fish species.

In addition, excessive or illegal anchoring on *Posidonia oceanica* seabeds has also damaged the crucial natural ecosystems supported by these plants, as well as their ability to store carbon. The *Posidonia* meadows play a major role in sedimentary dynamics, they are important oxygen production and carbon sink areas. They are also where many species reproduce and seek refuge. In addition, they act as large filters, which help clean and maintain the transparency of the seawater.

Based on this research, the local Council and Balearic Government are working to increase Menorca's Protected Marine Areas, as well as the protection of *Posidonia* Meadows in our waters.

The MEPF feels that Marine conservation activities are vital in order to support the recovery of Menorca's marine ecosystems and wildlife whilst working towards a more sustainable way of living, in line with the Mediterranean's marine conservation needs.



#### **MARINE CONSERVATION - PROJECTS**

Over the last two years, the MEPF together with BLUE Marine Foundation (BLUE), OBSAM & Jaume Ferrer Research Station, LEADER (Local Action Group for Fisherman), Per La Mar Viva and GOB (Balearic Ornithological Group) have been working to support various areas of marine conservation on the island including; sustainable fishing; restoring fish stocks; protecting *Posidonia* meadows; reducing pollution and plastic waste; and protecting rare marine habitats and species.



#### LEADER -

#### (Local action group for fishing)

LEADER is a local organization that aims to tackle illegal fishing, offer educational programs for better nautical practices and code of conduct for both commercial and recreational boating, increased surveillance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and the removal of lost/discarded fishing nets (ghost nets)

#### MORE FISH, LESS PLASTIC

'More Fish, Less Plastic' was LEADER's 2018-2019 multimedia campaign, providing tangible infrastructure and equipment in the form of biodegradable fish packaging and reusable bags to reduce polystyrene/plastic waste at points of sale.

#### SEA SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

In 2019, the MEPF and BLUE Marine Foundation, with support from Sunseeker, equipped the organisation with a boat to protect and inform about the newly declared MPA in the south of Menorca. The boat is also used for plastic waste removal, monitoring recreational fishing, ghost nets removal and spreading information regarding important Posidonia meadows in the MPA. Moreover, the boat is used in conjunction with other existing MEPF projects such as beach clean-ups, biological surveys and educational programs, as well as any potential future projects involving Posidonia mapping and ecomoorings.

Total Awarded -

€23,151.56 for projects

€69,490 for the LEADER boat - funded by BLUE Marine Foundation and Sunseeker.



#### KEY OUTCOMES

#### MORE FISH, LESS PLASTIC -

- 16 points of sale of fresh fish on the island participated in this pilot project.
- Ciutadella fish market has now made using compostable bags a requirement for having a stand in the fish market. Mahón town hall is looking at doing the same in the Mahon fish market.
- More than 80.000 compostable bags and sheets were provided as alternative to plastic.
- Social Media campaign videos
- = Total: 80,179 views

#### KEY OUTCOMES

## SEA SURVEILLANCE PROJECT -

- Increased surveillance in new Isla de Aire MPA and surrounding coastal areas thanks to presence of the LEADER boat.
- During 2019, 166 boats were informed of new MPA and stopped fishing in the area and 238 people were directly informed of the new MPA and its rules.
- 6 'ghost' nets located and removed in 2019



#### MARINE CONSERVATION - PROJECTS



## OBSAM – BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS (Menorca's socio environmental observatory)

During 2018 & 2019, OBSAM was able to carry out significant projects on marine conservation that hadn't been done since 2011. Specifically, they developed phases one and two, which involved biological surveys of the new and existing MPA's, and monitoring *Posidonia* meadows.

The two research projects helped us gain a deeper understanding of Menorca's protected marine habitats, the effects of fishing, and the state of the island's important *Posidonia* meadows. This vulnerable habitat is particularly sensitive and protected by European rules and the research could lead to more MPA designations in the future.

OBSAM offers educational activities, talks and seminars for the general public to explain and discuss the findings of these scientific projects, under the title of "Dialogues under the sea".

Total Awarded - €20,100

The outcome of these studies led to the creation of a new Marine Protected Area on the Isla del Aire. The key outcomes of this include:

- Protecting 7,192 km2 (7192 HA) of marine habitat with an estimated 634 species of marine life from both illegal fishing and harmful moorings on *Posidonia* meadows.
- Posidonia makes up approx. 56% of the seabed of the new reserve. This is a surface area of roughly 4.03 km2 (403HA) and equates to the absorption of 725 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.



## LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION - PROJECTS

Menorca is home to an extremely diverse Mediterranean habitat that hosts endemic plant and animal species exclusive to the island, some of which are in danger of being extinct. It also lies on an important bird migration route between Europe and Africa, which contributes to the variety of bird species at different times of the year.

As a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Menorca aims to create a development model that is compatible with both the socio-cultural traditions and the conservation of nature. In recent years, landscape conservation projects have been essential to fostering sustainable development on islands and coastal areas, and promoting adaptation and mitigation strategies on climate change, which lead Menorca's implementation of strict landscape protection policy.

Fresh water is Menorca's biggest problem with regards to sustainability and therefore is in need of improvement. The issue of improving both the quantity and quality of fresh water on Menorca is a challenging one, and the Menorca Preservation Fund is committed in its support of future plans and projects that address this important issue.



GOB - FRESH WATER PROJECT (Menorca's branch of the Balearic Ornithological Group)

During 2018-19, the MEPF supported GOB to improve fresh water resources and the management of water at 9 farms within GOB's Farm Stewardship Project. By updating and restoring rain water collection facilities, farmers can now adapt and prepare for the issues linked to climate change. This project resulted in approximately 1,200 tonnes of water being saved per year.

Total awarded: €12,585



#### LOCAL PRODUCE

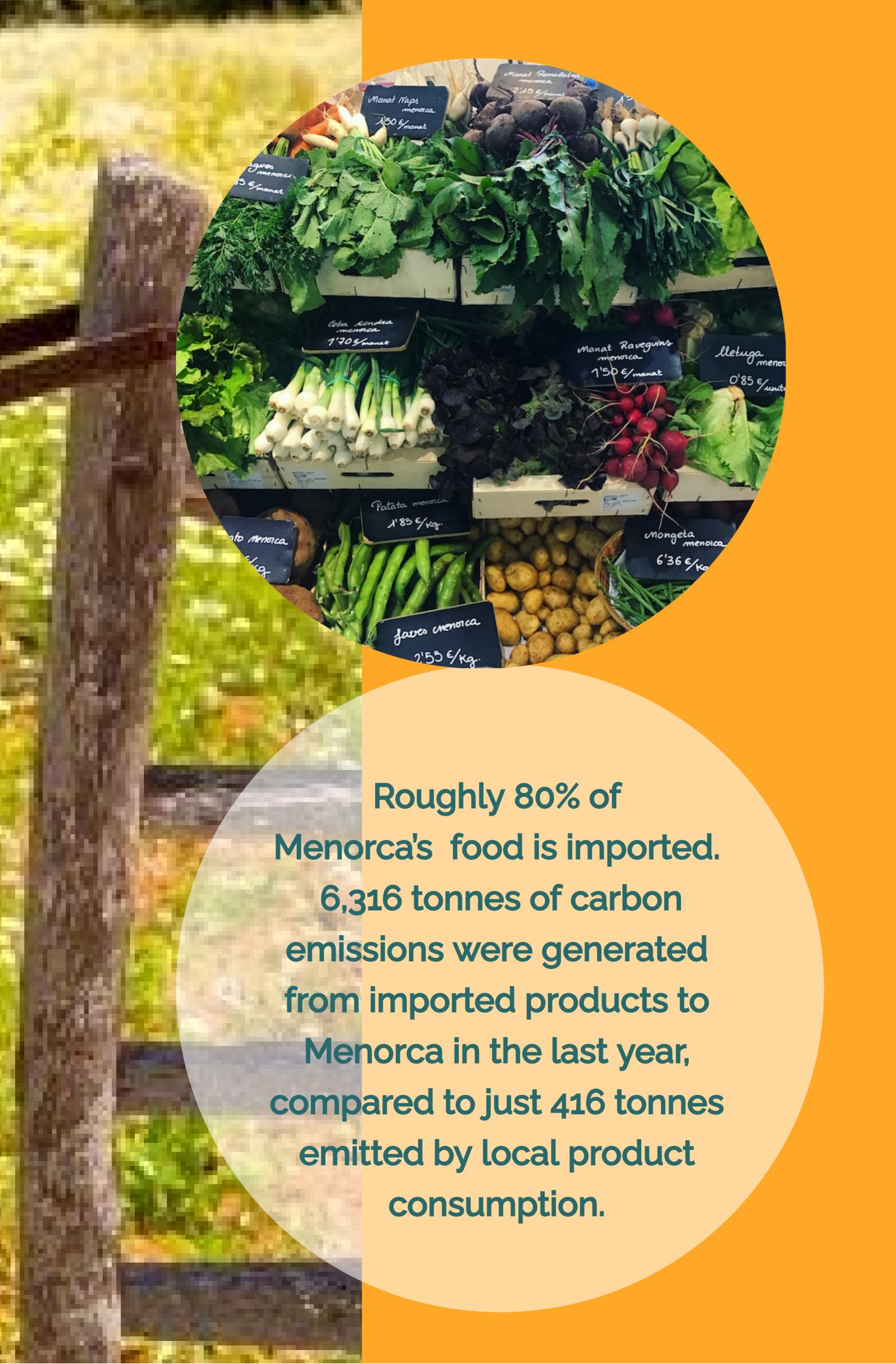
Menorca has a strong tradition of rural landscapes and agricultural activities. Currently, this sector owns approximately 75% of the land but only contributes 3 or 4% of the economy. There is still much work needed to support the local food production community and make the most of our natural resources.

The MEPF is very keen to support local produce related projects and works towards creating an island-wide commitment to increasing the consumption and production of locally-grown, sustainable, and organic goods across producers, restaurants and retail points.

Not only is it essential to increase the % of local produce that we consume (which currently stands at only 19% of our household food consumption), but we also know that it is highly important to support and promote our local producers and produce, as a key sustainable element to Menorca's economy.

Eating locally has many other benefits too, including reducing carbon emissions, as well as being packed with nutrients that can help boost the immune system and increase the population's resilience.

Therefore, the Menorca Preservation Fund aims to support local organisations by developing and improving their work on regenerative agriculture, sustainable farming and local, organic food production, as well as supporting the diversification of the economic sector.



#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

In recent years, Menorca has dramatically improved its waste management model by implementing advanced environmental principles, which take into account both the island's specifities and current European regulations. However, there is still a lot of work to be done as at present only 38% of urban waste is separated at home and only 25% of plastics are recycled.

The Menorca Preservation Fund supports a number of local initiatives working towards the development of a waste management strategy for the island.

During 2018-19, we worked closely with two main local groups to tackle plastic waste on beaches; Beachclean Menorca and Per La Mar Viva.



#### BEACHCLEAN MENORCA

Beachclean Menorca is an affiliate group of volunteers who sit under the MEPF and held regular beach clean-ups across the island.



#### PER LA MAR VIVA

Per La Mar Viva is a local NGO that works tirelessly to improve waste management systems across the island by reporting their waste collection findings to the local government. In 2019, the organisation spoke to 555 students through its education program and had a touring exhibition of all the rubbish collected over the last couple of years.

#### **KEY OUTCOMES**

#### Per La Mar Viva

Plastic waste collected of over 8 tonnes

Exhibition visits: 1387 children plus 2151 adults

Total amount funded: €2,056

#### **Beach Clean Menorca**

143 beach clean-ups and g beaches monitored

Plastic waste collected: Over 5.5 tonnes



## WASTE MANAGEMENT - PROJECTS

#### PLASTIC FREE MENORCA -

One of the key ways of reducing our waste and single-use plastic consumption is by eliminating from the island completely.

With growing global and local concern about plastic pollution in seas and beaches, the MEPF invited local NGOs and government agencies working in plastic reduction to join efforts against single-use plastics. The result was the creation of the Plastic Free Menorca movement in 2019. It follows projects of the same nature, such as Ibiza and Formentera Plastic Free, who are also focused on creating a plastic-free model for the Balearic Islands, which ideally can be replicated worldwide, sharing experiences to maximise funding.

The project, which aims to make Menorca single-use plastic-free by 2023, will create an annual certification process for local businesses and venues to commit to in order to accompany, monitor and track their single-use plastic consumption. Other plastics need to be reduced and eliminated over a five-year period, to obtain two or more stars. This certification also supports the introduction of a new Balearic Government law to ban a range of single-use plastics from 2021 onwards and encourage businesses to go further.

The movement will also bring together all beach cleaning groups to ensure greater coordination and productivity of the cleaning events, whilst also collating valuable data on how much rubbish is being collected, and feeding into the official beach ceaning service paid for by the Consell.



#### RENEWABLE ENERGY

In 2019, Menorca generated its lowest amount of renewable energy in the las of the total amount of energy consumed.

Menorca worsened its emissions for the fourth year, in a row with the latest Socio-environmental Observatory of Menorca showing that the Island go footprint of 678.19 tons. in 2018.

This represents an increase of almost 68 percent compared to the 1990 data, volumes.

Menorca's ecological footprint is approximately seven times bigger than the silits carbon footprint nearly doubles the European Union average.

#### This is mostly due to:

- Food being sourced elsewhere
- High levels of waste and food miles
- Poor recycling of materials as well as all recycling being taken off the islar
- Nearly 100% energy from fossil fuels
- Low use of public transport
- · Little cycling and walking compared to a high car usage
- Limited local supply of water.

In light of this, the local government has been in contact with the central Government using Menorca as a pilot project in Spain (which would also include other Bios the use of renewable energy (i.e. not applying the tax on the sun, encouraged etc)

In addition, the Balearic government has recently presented a proposed chan Cambio Climático y Energía Renovable (Climate change and renewable energy ambitious strategy that would see the Balearics 100% powered by renewable

There is a lot of work to be done in this sector in order for Menorca to reach a able to generate more of our own energy through renewables. However, the Consell Insular has identified this big challenge and is making big efforts Menorca Preservation Fund is supporting its strategy in order to achieve renewable energy use by 2030.

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#### THE WAY FORWARD



#### **RENEWABLE ENERGY - PROJECTS**

Alianza Mar Blava - Climate change and renewable energy transition campaign.

Awarded €2,500

Ateneu de Mahon - Pollution seminars

Awarded €600

The aim is to make

Menorca 100%

sustainable using
renewable energy
because currently,

Menorca depends 99% on
fossil fuels, which costs
an estimated

250M€/year.

#### ALLIANCES

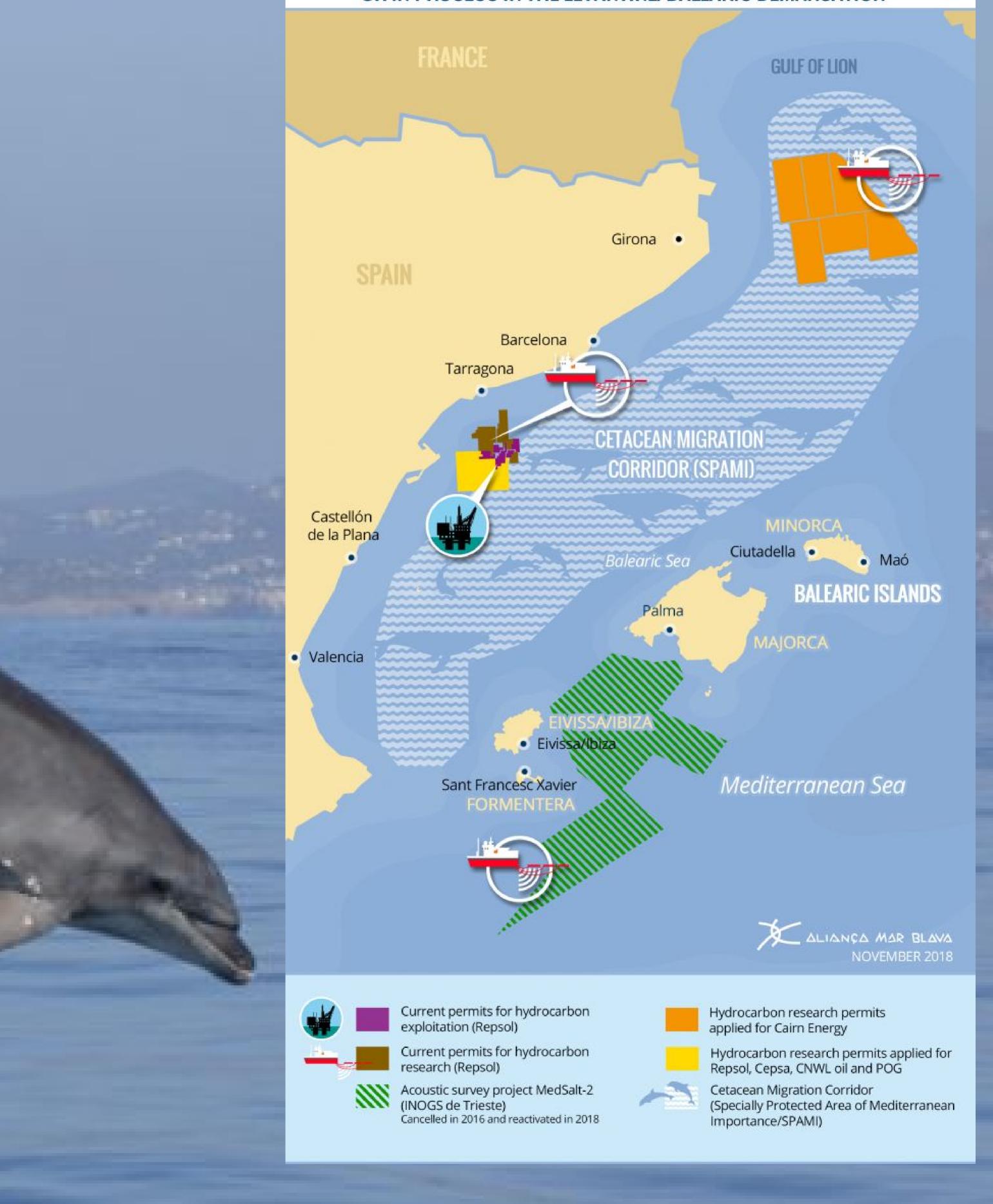
#### MAR BLAVA ALLIANCE

The Mar Blava Alliance continues to mobilise the Balearic community to stop the progress of a seismic acquisition survey, MedSalt-2, in the waters between Ibiza and Mallorca and southeast of Ibiza and Formentera.

A precursor to find oil and gas, seismic surveys involve ringing high-pressure compressed air guns, which can have fatal consequences for whales, dolphins and other marine animals. MedSalt-2 was previously stopped in 2016 but was reactivated in 2018 by the National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (INOGS) of Italy. As a result, volunteers and organisations collected thousands of allegations against it to submit to Spain's central government - thanks to Mar Blava.

In addition to Mar Blava's work against oil and gas exploration, the platform has also supported the introduction of an ambitious Balearic Government bill on Climate Change and Energy Transition. Mar Blava organised a series of conferences and meetings on the proposed law to support renewable energy, which was successfully introduced in February 2019. Mar Blava brings together more than 120 representatives from various sectors to achieve its mission to end hydrocarbon prospecting in the Spanish Mediterranean Sea.

## HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION PROJECTS UNDER WAY OR IN PROCESS IN THE LEVANTINE/BALEARIC DEMARCATION



#### ALLIANCES

#### MENORCA PLATFORM FOR CLIMATE

In 2019, a number of local associations and individuals decided to join the international climate action campaign and invited other people on the island to join them, with a key role being played by GOB and MEPF.

In Menorca, this was named the Platform for Climate which, among other matters, continues to work on Menorca's decarbonisation plan.

Local planning mechanisms such as the PTI must ensure that the infrastructures put in place are in line with the island's territorial by laws and can be dismantled in the future, without scars on the rural landscape.

Two aspects which are significant in reducing Menorca's carbon emissions is increasing electric mobility, as well as reorganising the public transport network, provided that people here are particularly reliant on private transport. The implementation of substantial improvements such as increased frequencies, better connections and reduced prices all need to be in place by 2020/2021.



#### ALLIANCES

#### **BIOSPHERE RESERVE AGENCY**

Created in 1971, biosphere reserves are territories that are internationally recognized by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MaB). Within them, human activity is developed in a manner that conserves natural resources and cultural heritage. Their primary objective is to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environment. There are currently 669 reserves in over 120 countries (2018). Menorca was declared BR in 1993 and extended to the sea in 2019.

In 2019, the Biosphere Reserve Agency published the Menorca Biosphere Reserve Action Plan 2019-2025, which aims to make Menorca a sustainability laboratory for conservation functions such as economic development and logistical support.

The Menorca Biosphere Reserve Action Plan aims to strengthen and promote Menorca's commitment to sustainable social, environmental and economic development through the coordination of existing initiatives and new innovative projects.

The Menorca Preservation Fund was invited to sit on its council - as a representative of Menorca's environmental sector, with GOB - to discuss important projects and current activities happening within the biosphere reserve. There has been a key sign of our positioning and value.



### FINANCIA 2018

2018

Total funds raised:

€140,856\*

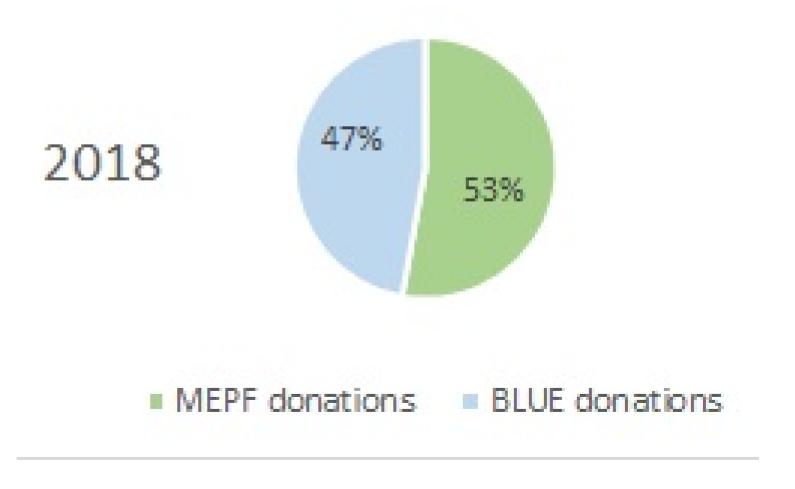
Admin & Marketing:

€26,251

Project Grants (includes in-kind staff support:

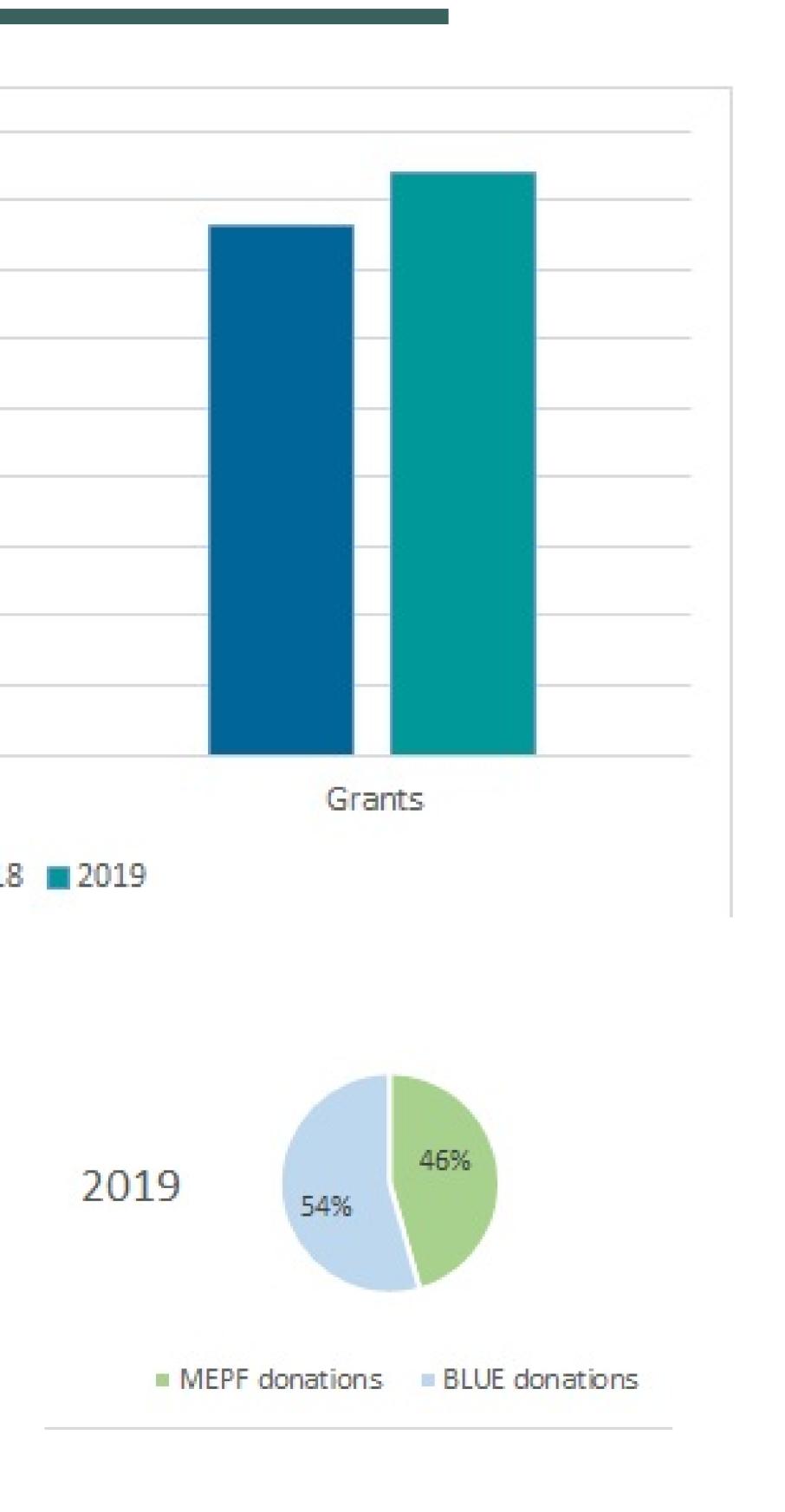
€85,142





<sup>\*</sup>Total funds raised, not spent. Percentages of to charts.

## L REVIEW & 2019









## DONORS & PARTNERSHIP

We would like to give special thanks their time, money and resources to he Fund what i

Without the support of all our kind do our dedicated Steering Comittee, the not be able to contribute to the im conservation work that helps make prosperou

Thank







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o all who have generously donated elp make the Menorca Preservation t is today.

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you!

#### BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

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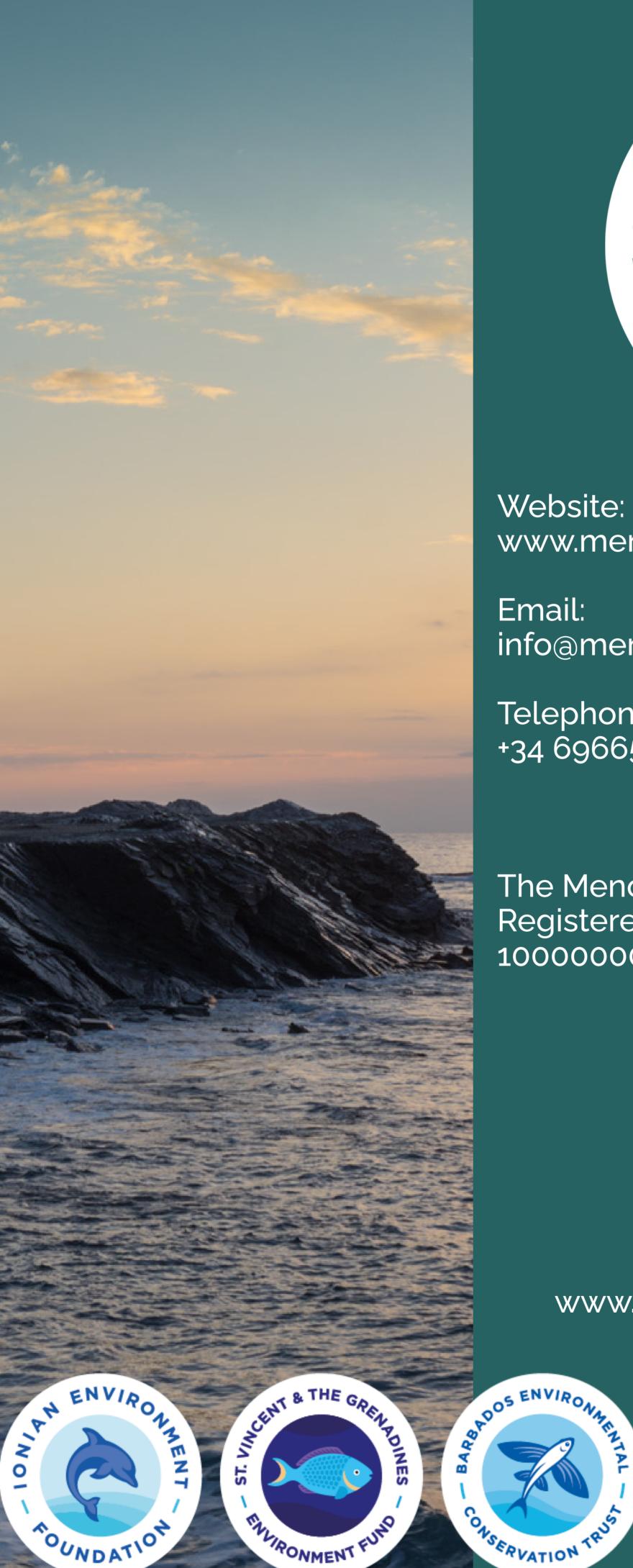


## M E N O R C A S A

ENORGAS' BOLITIQUE PROPERTY AGENT









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The Menorca Preservation Fund 2020 Registered Charity Number 10000000374

www.conservation-collective.org/



