

CALBLANQUE, MONTE DE LAS CENIZAS Y PEÑA DEL ÁGUILA

REGION OF MURCIA



NATURA 2000 NETWORK

UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARINE SITES

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VICEPRESIDENCIA
TERCERA DEL GOBIERNO
MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO



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THE LIFE A-MAR PROJECT

KNOW, PROTECT AND LOVE THE SITES OF
NATURA 2000 NETWORK

The LIFE A-MAR Natura 2000 project has the objective of spreading and promoting good conservation practices in Natura 2000 Network marine sites. For that, communication and awareness actions that specifically target the Mediterranean marine sites on Natura 2000 Network are undertaken.

This project, which includes Fundación Biodiversidad of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge as a partner, will implement a marine navigation campaign through 10 marine sites of the Nature 2000 Network, developing capacity building and ocean literacy activities at each stop.

OBJECTIVES



Increase the information available about these sites and promote their protection through citizen awareness initiatives.



Expand awareness of the existence of protected marine sites.



Promote good practices and sustainable behaviours in these sites.



Provide training for managers and users of the Natura 2000 Network marine sites.



Promote an active citizenship in the conservation of nature.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK

THE MAIN INSTRUMENT FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION IN EUROPE



The Natura 2000 Network covers over 18% of land surface in the European Union and over 9% of its marine territories. It's the main instrument for nature conservation in the European Union.

In Spain, this network comprises 27,3% of land surface and has already surpassed 15,8% of marine surface, becoming one of the countries that has contributed the most in Europe.

NATURA 2000 NETWORK SITES
IN THE SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN
128 marine or maritime-terrestrial sites

In front of the Region of Murcia coasts, there are 8 marine Natura 2000 Network sites, managed by both the autonomous community and the General State Administration.

BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The protection of these marine areas provides multiple services that contribute to welfare.

FOOD / FISHING



RAW MATERIALS



ORNAMENTAL RESOURCES

SUPPLY

WATER QUALITY



BEACH MAINTENANCE



SCIENTIFIC/MEDICAL RESOURCES



MARINE PROCESSES REGULATION



TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY REGULATION



REGULATION

LIFECYCLE CONSERVATION



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



CARBON SEQUESTRATION



BIOASSIMILATION



SUPPORT

TOURISM AND LEISURE



PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE



LANDSCAPES / INSPIRATION



CULTURAL

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This protected area of abrupt cliffs, dunes, and beautiful coves is located on the eastern edge of the Murcia coast, between Cabo de Palos and Portmán. It represents a well-preserved example of the Mediterranean coastline, where the relief of the seabed results in rich and diverse biological communities.

It provides habitat for *Posidonia oceanica* meadows, a key species for the Mediterranean marine ecosystems conservation.

The presence of high-quality food in this coastal area makes this zone part of the cetaceans and sea turtles migratory route.



THIS AREA HAS BEEN DECLARED AS A SITE OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI).

IN THIS SITE YOU CAN FIND

A WIDE DIVERSITY OF SPECIES, INCLUDING:

Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

Gray coloration with a white underbelly and an irregular spot on its head. It is distinguished by having baleens instead of teeth, characteristic of so-called baleen whales. It is the second biggest animal on Earth, reaching up to 24 meters long.



Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

It is the most common marine turtle in the Mediterranean. It makes long migration voyages between its feeding zones and the beaches where it lays their eggs. In Spain, they usually nest on the Mediterranean coast, especially in Catalonia, the Valencian Community and the Balearic Islands.

Common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

It is a robust dolphin, of a dark gray color with a white underbelly. It can measure up to 4 meters long and can remain submerged for up to 10 minutes. It swims at an average speed of 5 to 6 knots, although it can reach 20 knots at its highest speed.



Posidonia beds (*Posidonia oceanica*)

A marine plant found only in the Mediterranean. Like terrestrial species, it has roots, stems, leaves, and flowers. The large meadows it forms provide oxygen to the waters and are a perfect hiding place for various marine species to lay their eggs.

Red gorgonian (*Paramuricea clavata*)

Also known as "sea fans," gorgonians are colonies of organisms that develop on a robust skeleton. Working in groups allows them to have a larger area to capture their favorite food, plankton. They are extremely essential in the Mediterranean Sea, as their structures serve as resting places and refuges for other animals.



WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN I DO?

The practice and development of activities that are compatible with the conservation of the natural values for which the areas have been protected are allowed, such as:



RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES

- Minimize pollution.** Don't throw waste into the environment and reduce, reuse, and recycle, especially plastics, ensuring they don't end up in the sea.
- Respect local wildlife.** Don't feed or disturb wild animals. Observe without interfering.
- Protect ecosystems.** Do not collect shells, stones, or organisms; they are crucial to the ecosystem.
- Permitted activities.** Participate only in authorized activities that don't compromise the habitat.
- Report incidents.** Inform the authorities about animals in distress or if you observe illegal activities.
- Responsible anchoring in Posidonia meadows.** Avoid anchoring over Posidonia meadows, as anchoring can damage this important habitat.
- Diving in underwater caves.** When diving, follow the specific rules, decalogues, and established guides. Do not touch or remove any rock or biological formations and minimize disturbance to the environment inside the cave.