

# DELTA DE L'EBRE

# NATURA 2000 NETWORK

## UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PRESERVATION OF MARINE SITES

More information:



# LIFEAMAR



## 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 In the 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 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 Catalan coasts, there are 15 marine Natura 2000 Network sites, managed by both the autonomous community and the General State Administration.



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





















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# BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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

|            |  |   |   |  |   |  |
|------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| SUPPLY     | FOOD / FISHING<br>          | SCIENTIFIC/MEDICAL RESOURCES<br> | RAW MATERIALS<br>            | ORNAMENTAL RESOURCES<br>      |   |  |
| REGULATION | WATER QUALITY<br>           | BEACH MAINTENANCE<br>            | OXYGEN LIBERATION<br>        | MARINE PROCESSES REGULATION<br> | CLIMATE REGULATION<br> | TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY REGULATION<br> |
| SUPPORT    | LIFECYCLE CONSERVATION<br>  | BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION<br>    | BIOMASS GENERATION<br>       | CARBON SEQUESTRATION<br>      |   |  |
| CULTURAL   | PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE<br> | TOURISM AND LEISURE<br>          | LANDSCAPES / INSPIRATION<br> | TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES<br>    |   |  |

# THE EBRO RIVER DELTA

 [parcsnaturals.gencat.cat](https://parcsnaturals.gencat.cat)

This large marine area encompasses the entire platform and part of the continental slope under the direct influence of the Ebro River. It extends parallel to the coast, for over more than 140 km, from Cape Salou in the north to the area around the Columbretes Islands and Castellón de la Plana in the south.

It constitutes the most extensive aquatic habitat of the Catalan lands and is considered one of the most important marine feeding areas for aquatic birds throughout the Mediterranean. Its marine part is one of the areas with the highest biological productivity, thanks to the combination of various factors such as the river inputs from the Ebro, and the upwellings of deep, nutrient-rich waters.

The Ebro Delta is a dynamic system resulting from continuous structural processes and the anthropic transformations of recent years.

THIS SPACE HAS BEEN DECLARATED AS A **SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA OF BIRDS (SPA)**, **SITE OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)** AND **NATURAL PARK**.



IN THIS SITE YOU CAN FIND

# A WIDE VARIETY OF SPECIES , INCLUDING:

## Cymodocea nodosa

After *Posidonia oceanica*, it is the second most important marine plant in the Mediterranean due to its size and the extent of its meadows. It is found in shallow and well lit coastal areas, and like land plants, it has roots, stems, leaves and flowers. They are considered the lungs of the sea because of the large amount of oxygen they generate, in addition to being a good refuge for many species.



## Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

Sea bird with a pearl gray back and wings, while the tail and underside are white. It has great skill in underwater fishing. In the Delta, it mainly feeds on fish, using its strong webbed feet to swim and dive with agility.

## Fan mussel (*Pinna nobilis*)

This exceptionally large mollusc lives in the *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. It can live up to 50 years, reaching up to a meter in length. Its presence creates new habitats where many organisms can live attached to its shell. It is endangered, with its habitat in the Mediterranean reduced to the Mar Menor and the Ebro Delta.



## Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)

Medium-sized seabird, with short wings, short tail, thin grayish bill and dark brown plumage above and cream on the belly and wings. There are no visible differences between sexes or ages. Its flight is characterized by rapid flapping followed by short glides. It is the most endangered seabird in Europe. In spring, they can be seen when they move from the breeding colonies in the Balearic Islands to the Ebro Delta. When the breeding season ends, they leave the Mediterranean to return in winter. Sometimes they can form large groups.



## 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 its eggs. In Spain, they usually nest on the Mediterranean coast, especially in Catalonia, the Valencian Community and the Balearic Islands. In recent years it has bred on the beaches of the Delta de l'Ebre.



# 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 of 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.
- **Respect the signs.** Follow the indications regarding protected areas and navigation restrictions.