

THE SEA, A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. STAGE III



Though relatively well preserved, Ibiza and Formentera marine areas are very vulnerable to pollution and to increasing pressure, in particular from the tourism sector. Since 2003 GEN-GOB has worked to gather evidence on relevant problems, raise awareness, and engage local stakeholders in the discussion of how to address marine challenges.

Positive results from this process include:

- The discussion of boat anchoring schemes to protect Posidonia is well under way in both Councils (Ibiza and Formentera) and in the Ibiza, Sant Antonio and Sant Josep municipalities. GEN-GOB has shared the results of its detailed field studies (e.g. 11,000 boats anchored on 40 ha. of Posidonia in just 8 beaches in August 2016) with all stakeholders in meetings and workshops, thus providing a strong basis for addressing challenges. Meanwhile, in May 2017 the Balearic Government made public draft legislation banning mooring in Posidonia areas.
- The creation of 3 marine reserves south of Formentera and one east of Ibiza (around Tagomago) has been proposed. Proposals have yet to be approved by the Balearic Government (and 2 of the Formentera reserves must finally be adopted in Madrid), but strong local support from all sectors –including fishermen- is extremely encouraging, and prospects are promising; approval of one of the Formentera Reserves is expected to be close at hand.
- GEN-GOB report providing evidence on marine pollution from wastewater treatment plants is helping drive solution-focused discussions in the framework of Alianza por el Agua, an Ibiza coalition of NGOs, public sector and private stakeholders.
- GEN-GOB has also contributed to Alianza Mar Blava success in stopping oil exploration projects in Balearic marine waters.
- Educational efforts -including the creation of a Network of Environmental Surveillance jointly with Red Cross and Voluntarios de Ibiza- have contributed to a remarkable increase in local awareness of Ibiza and Formentera's valuable marine assets and the need to protect them.
- Local media work (press conferences and releases, interviews...) to make known the results of studies and stakeholder discussions have given GEN-GOB a strong recognition as a serious, informed and proactive group on marine conservation issues in the Pitiusas.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSITIVE ACTION IN THE CURRENT FRAMEWORK

The Spanish (and Balearic) governmental delay in complying with EU obligations to implement marine conservation strategies currently provides an opportunity to participate at the various levels of decision-making, encouraging local engagement, providing technical knowledge and pressing for positive action on key marine challenges.

- The EU Marine Strategy that should be in place by 2020 requires measures aimed at ensuring “Good Environmental Status” (GES) of the marine environment, including in key areas such as sea-water pollution, biodiversity and protection of sea floors. .
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/index_en.htm
Eleven qualitative *descriptors* have been adopted to describe what the environment should look like when GES has been achieved.



The Spanish decision-making process on the Strategy has been very slow and it is still unknown when and how measures –not decided as yet- will be implemented.

- The EU Natura 2000 Network requires that management plans of marine sites (including most of Ibiza and Formentera waters) be completed by 2019. Drafting of management plans in Balears is also lagging behind.
- The current European Fishing Policy recognizes the need to support the artisanal fishing sector, and offers opportunities (including funding) to encourage sustainable fishing practices. Implementation of this new policy to support sustainable fishing practices is also wanting in Balears.

PROPOSAL FOR STAGE III

A main goal of GEN-GOB’s strategy in marine issues has been to engage the various stakeholders and sea users in order to arrive at widely supported solutions to challenges. In Stage III GEN aims to expand this effort, focusing on the following objectives:

1.1./ Working Group on Anchoring Impact on *Posidonia oceanica*.

A government Working Group on Anchoring (Mesa de Fondeos Interadministrativa) has been set up to discuss with municipalities and local councils a *Comprehensive Mooring Plan* for Ibiza and Formentera, as well as financial measures required to implement it. Completion of the plan envisages a participative process with information/discussion workshops with the main stakeholders (tourism and nautical sector, and fishermen). GEN-GOB’s pressure and technical input have been critical to launch this process, and are crucial for driving it on. GEN is also highly

involved in facilitating the stakeholder discussion, with a survey and the organization of workshops being included in Stage III of the project.

1.2./ Study of Posidonia and monitoring plan.

Field research work on the state of Posidonia carried out by GEN experts is providing critical information on the health of Posidonia meadows that will enable monitoring the impact of mooring schemes.

[See Story Map: <http://lamar.gengob.org/es/project/la-problematika-del-fondeo-en-las-pitiusas-2/>

Report on mooring 2016 and video

http://lamar.gengob.org/en/project/informe_posidonia/?preview_id=1371&preview_nonce=781c000ab5&thumbnail_id=1107&preview=true



On the basis of this information, GEN is making proposals for a wider Monitoring Plan. This work will also be continued in Stage III (Summer Campaign 2017).

1.3./ Protection of sea floors.

Sustainable criteria on mooring and protection of *Posidonia oceanica*, *Cymodocea nodosa* and *maërl* sea floors are also important issues that GEN-GOB will work to integrate in the Spanish Marine Strategy and Balearic Natura 2000 management plans (see below).

2./ Participation in the Marine Strategy process to ensure that Ibiza marine issues and needs are integrated in the national discussion.

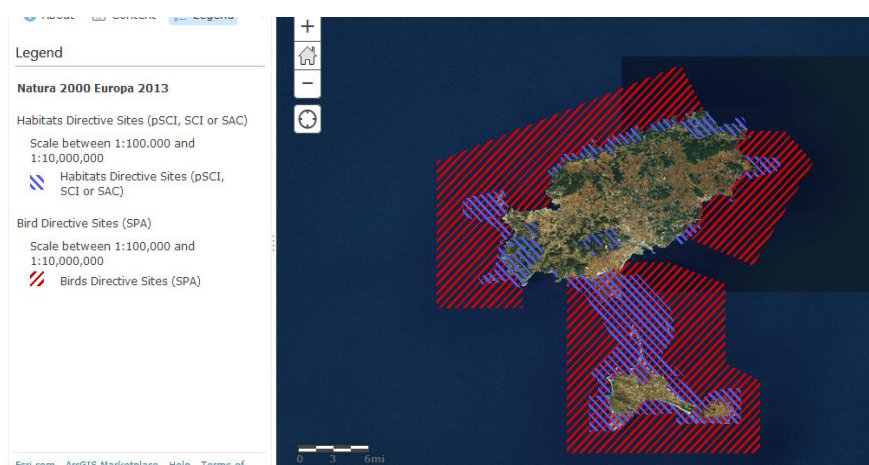
Stage I and II Project participatory work has allowed GEN-GOB to identify 6 Marine Strategy descriptors (D1 biodiversity; D2 non-indigenous species; D3 population of commercial fish species; D4 marine food-webs; D6 sea-floor integrity; and D8 low levels of pollution), as extremely relevant for Ibiza and Formentera. However, until now participation of the Balearic government and NGOs in the Marine Strategy national process has been minimum or null. GEN-GOB intends to draw upon on-going discussions on these issues in Ibiza and Formentera, and/or to set up local stakeholder working groups (as needed), and make sure that critical issues (mooring, pollution, protection of Posidonia...), and needs are integrated into the Marine Strategy process. A

seminar on the Spanish Marine Strategy involving a wide range of stakeholders (government, scientists, fishermen and tourist sector) is also foreseen.

In Stage III GEN will continue to participate in local stakeholder platforms (including Alianza por el Agua; Alianza Mar Blava; Mesa de Fondos) set up to address marine-related challenges, while endeavouring to link local efforts to the Marine Strategy process.

3./ Integration of key issues in Natura 2000 marine network management plans and in the creation of new reserves.

The waters surrounding Ibiza and Formentera have been largely included in the EU Natura 2000 network of protected sites (see map below).

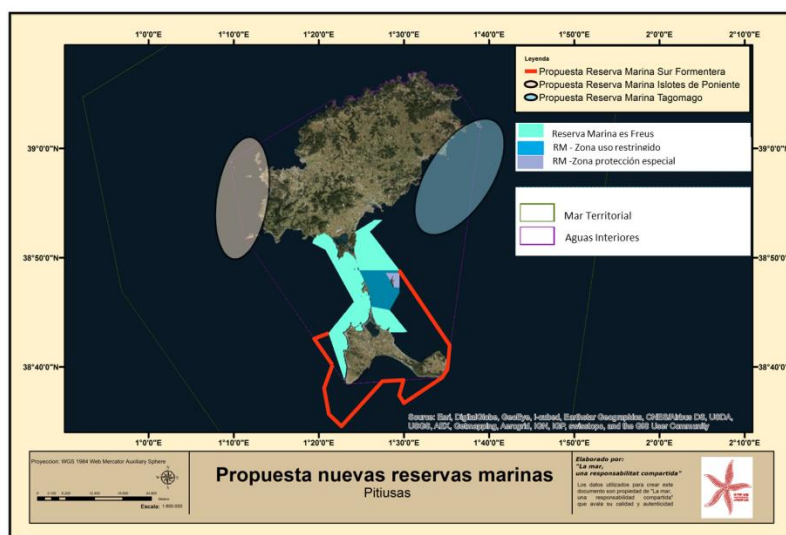


GEN-GOB has for the first time pulled together all stakeholders in Pitiusas to discuss the situation of existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and identify the needs for improved management and for the declaration of new MPAs. It has also worked with local fishermen to encourage co-management of marine reserves in order to increase the sustainability of fisheries.

In Stage III GEN-GOB intends to participate in the drafting process of Natura 2000 management plans –slated for 2019- in order to press for effective protection of valuable areas, such as *Posidonia oceanica*, *Cymodocea nodosa* and *maërl*, and for sustainable use of the marine environment (including regulating mooring and other sea uses). It will also continue to work together with fishermen to encourage their participation in this process, and press for incorporation of criteria for sustainable fishing and co-management.

GEN has actively encouraged the creation of new co-managed reserves in Formentera and Tagomago (see map below). Most local professional fishermen support the creation of MPAs as long as enforcement of regulations is ensured; one of the conclusions of the work with Ibiza and Formentera fishermen was the need to start a participatory process to draft the proposals for local marine reserves. GEN-GOB will continue working with fishermen and other stakeholders for the creation of the reserves, offering technical support and facilitation as needed.

GEN-GOB will also participate in the INTEREG assessment process of the management of existing Es Freus reserve.



4./ Sustainability of the fishing sector.

The current EU Common Fishing Policy offers opportunities to encourage sustainable fishing practices, including supporting research and knowledge gaps related to “sustainable management of marine environments”.

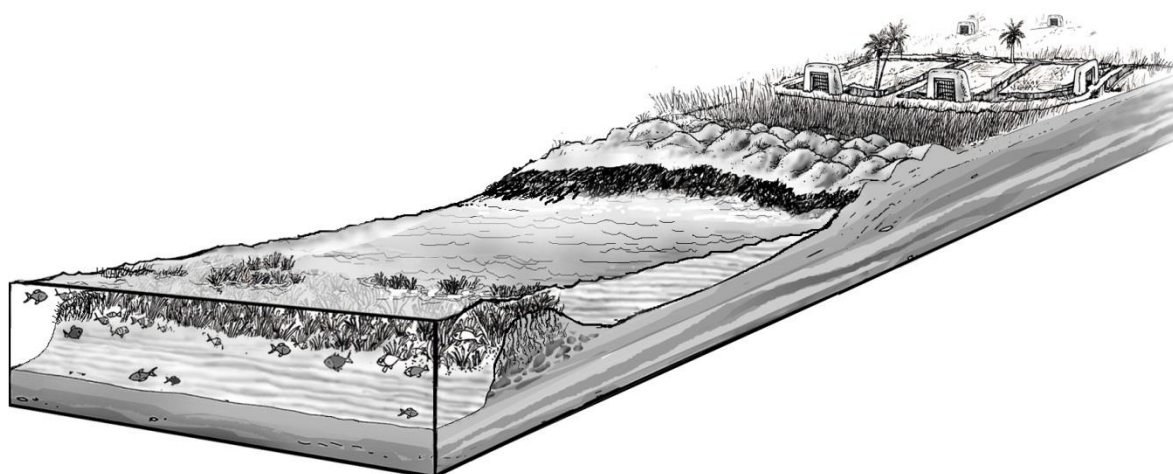
On the other hand, one of the conclusions of work with San Antonio fishermen in Stage II was the need for a “scientific working group” (SWG) on sustainable fishing and co-management of marine reserves. This working group would draw together scientists, fishermen, government and NGOs. GEN-GOB is already working on the creation of this SWG, and compiling scientific studies on relevant sustainability issues. SWG will focus on assessing fishermen on how to improve the sustainability of local fisheries, and identify scientific gaps/needs (and potential sources of funding) for further research.



5./ Ses Feixes wetland restoration plan

Located between Ibiza town and Talamanca, Ses Feixes wetland is a heaven for wildlife, harbouring an important diversity of fauna and flora. It is also an important wintering ground and resting place for many migratory birds. The clever irrigation system created here by the Arabs, who transformed the original coastal wetland into extremely productive land watered by a network of canals, probably makes Ses Feixes unique among wetlands in the Mediterranean.

Conservation of Ses Feixes wetland is closely linked to the maintenance of healthy Posidonia areas in the Bay of Talamanca (see figure below).



Urban development, road projects and an almost total neglect threaten the conservation of Ses Feixes, and for many years GEN-GOB has campaigned for protection, and for implementation of a wetland restoration plan. Prospects for the conservation of Ses Feixes have recently improved, and GEN-GOB will be cooperating with the Ibiza Council and the Ibiza municipality on educational efforts to raise awareness of the natural wealth of the wetland, and on the implementation of a Special Plan of Ses Feixes de Talamanca.

6. / Awareness raising.

Awareness raising activities of the project will continue in Stage III. This includes up-dating information in the project's Story Map, Facebook, and marine website; distribution of Green Sailing leaflets http://www.ibiza.travel/img/descargas/fulleto_eng_final.pdf; continued educational work with the Network of Environmental Surveillance; and media work.

7./ Budget

Budgetary item	14 months	10 months	Total
Salaries staff			
General coordinator (Marià Mari)	29.000	20.074	49.074
Technical coordinator (Xisco Sobrado)	29.000	20.074	49.074
Total salaries staff	58.000	40.148	98.148
External assessment			
External strategic assessment, facilitation and dinamization SOLDECOCOS (two experts part-time)	16.500	11.800	
Total external assessment	16.500	11.800	28.300

Travelling and subsistence			
Participatory workshops	5.000	3.500	8.500
Seminar marine uses and protected areas	4.000		4.000
Travelling outside Pitiusas	4.000	2.800	6.800
Travelling inside Pitiusas	1.500	1.000	2.500
Subsistence allowances	2.000	1.400	3.400
Total travelling and subsistence	16.500	12.700	29.200
Materials			
Consumables	500	500	
Total materials	500	500	1.000
Summer campaign (2017 y 2018)			
Maintenance equipment	500	500	1.000
Campaign materials	1.500	1.500	3.000
Environmental education campaign x 30 days	2.000	2.000	4.000
Recording documental (co-financed)	1.000	0	1.000
Sampling Posidonia	4.000	4.000	8.000
Subsistence allowances	500	500	1.000
Total summer campaign	9.500	8.500	18.000
Unforeseen expenses	4.000	2.800	6.800
Total	105.000	72.488	177.488