“Beyond the horizon among the rays of light that dance in the blue, we will meet again.

Until then, dear friend we will honor your legacy and give our all to protect the sea that brought us together and always will.”

To Fer Garfella Palmer, whose heart knew no borders.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A year we must never forget</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL UPDATE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our new recruit</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWARDS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Environmental Impact Award by Onda Cero</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Social Contribution Award by AENIB</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Silver Siurell Award from Group Serra</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARINE PROTECTION</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration of a new marine reserve in the external waters of Sa Dragonera Island</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discover Your MPA - Sa Dragonera</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The maritime-terrestrial Natural Park Es Trenc - Salobrar de Campos</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH PROJECTS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A new shark conservation project</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characterisation of elasmobranchs sold at “the Lonja” in Palma</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying the Spinetail devil ray</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piloting a new electronic monitoring system</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring the lockdown effect</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Expeditions</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Med Ghost FAD Project - For a Mediterranean ..........22
Action Plan for Ghost Fishing.................................22

PUBLICATIONS 27
The Mediterranean Large Elasmobranchs ....................27
Monitoring (MEDLEM) database..................................27
Extinction risk and conservation of angel sharks ...............27
Post-release mortality for ........................................27
the transparent goby fishery ......................................27

MULTIMEDIA 28
Manu Chao highlights our connection to the sea ..............28
Airport Campaign “Sea the Change” ..........................28
Storytelling through video .......................................28
Youtube Live Lessons .............................................29
Colouring book “Colours of the Mediterranean” ..............29
Drawing collaboration ................................................29
Community Video of favourite moments in the Med ..........29

POLLUTION REDUCTION 31
Plastic Free Balearics Programme ..............................31
The Honest Alternatives to Plastic Index (HAPI) .................31
“Four islands, one common goal: Plastic free Balearics.” ....32
Business Training Capsule by Palma Activa .....................32
The Pact for Reuse ................................................33
Working with the local waste management company ..........34

RESEARCH PROJECTS 34
Reducing plastic pollution in the tourism sector of five
Mediterranean islands .............................................34
Plastic consumption in times of COVID-19 .....................34
Mapping of tap water quality in the Balearics ..................34

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 35
Coastal Action Events .............................................35
Dos Manos School Programme ..................................35
The Changemakers Project ......................................38

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS 41
Nit de Sant Joan - an annual plastic reduction campaign with
Es Racó de Ses Idees .............................................41
Buy Local Campaign ..............................................42

MESSAGES FOR A BETTER FUTURE 44
Define Humano ..................................................44

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE 49
FUNDING 49
Fundraising events and one off donations .....................49
Individual and Family members ..............................50
Grant Funders ..................................................50
Corporate Partners ............................................50
Donations In Kind ..............................................50
Collaborators ..................................................52
Volunteers ..................................................53

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 55
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

A year we must never forget

2020 was the year when the world changed. As a new virus rapidly spread around the globe our lives began to look and feel much like a science fiction movie. Throughout the year we became used to lockdowns, home confinements, curfews and drones warning us to remain inside. Plastic gloves, face masks and social distancing became part of our everyday lives. And so did a new type of anxiety and agonising fear of loosing our loved ones. As a society, this year we experienced unimaginable uncertainty, despair and relentless loss. Yet as with all things life, in the midst of its’ duality, we also found a deepened love, connection and a new vision.

2020 forced us to stop, to be still and to reevaluate our priorities. Without asking if we were ready for it or not, it taught us important lessons which have the power to transform our reality and change the course of our future if we decide to embrace and act upon them. Lessons that can guide us towards a new society where we restore our relationship with nature and, with that, reduce the effects of both new pandemics and of far bigger threats to all life on earth. In facing such threats, nature is our greatest ally and nature solutions, such as healthy seas, a thriving ocean, lush sea meadows, restored forests, protected mangroves and abundant biodiversity, are the most powerful and most magnificent tools available to tackle the global crisis.

In 2020 we saw that, as a society, we can take immediate action when we decide that the price of inaction if too high.

Now immediate, science-based action is what is urgently required. To halt escalating biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, climate emergency and the cascade of consequences which are already following in many places around the globe, we must make responsibility diffusion unacceptable, ecocide a legal concept and regeneration of natural ecosystems our number one priority for investments and our ultimate measurement of success. Instead of educating youth about global issues which we then leave in their hands, we must strive to solve those problems alongside them and become the brave role models, visionaries and leaders they need in order to create change together.

So while most of us long to leave the painful mess that 2020 was behind us, today I ask us not to. For everyone and everything that was lost in 2020, I ask us all to remember this year and embrace its’ lessons. To make this year a turning point and ensure that 2021 becomes the year we took pioneering steps to heal the damage we have caused, to re-evaluate how we define and measure our successes, to redefine and diversify our economies, reconnect with our communities, regenerate the soil and the seas and re-write the story of our species.

BRAD ROBERTSON, PRESIDENT OF SAVE THE MED FOUNDATION

Explore the new campaign Define Humano to learn more and to participate in the regeneration of your local community.
GENERAL UPDATE

When the pandemic began, we feared devastating consequences to Save The Med’s project work as well as to the environmental conservation sector as a whole. Many of the local companies supporting us were struggling, public funds were cut and many grant foundations were forced to pause or reduce their funding activities, affecting most small and medium sized NGOs all around the world. While we immediately prepared for the best and worst case scenarios and challenges that we will likely face over the next few years, the entire team agreed on one thing: For as long as we can and with whatever means we have, we are going to give all that we can for the organisation to not only survive this crisis, but to thrive and continue leaping forward with our efforts to regenerate the Mediterranean Sea. If anything, the COVID-19 crisis reminded us that redefining the way humans relate to the environment is more important now than ever. With this positive attitude, hard work and some luck, we have had what is probably our best year to date. And at the end of this strange year, we are deeply grateful to remain safe and together as one team. We are proud to be able to look back at the many important achievement and advances in our project work and to find ourselves more motivated than ever before to do what we must in order to help restore our relationship with nature and regenerate her. None of it would have been possible without the support of our funders, supporters, collaborators and volunteers! We would like to thank all of you very much for believing in our team and supporting Save The Med’s work in these times.
Our new recruit
The rapid expansion of our projects and growth of our team requires a new level of organisation and streamlining for which we hired an Office Manager in March. Despite the many challenges this year had in store, our new recruit, Jaume Bagur, quickly and naturally integrated into the team and has become a vital part of the STM family.

As a boy, Jaume loved exploring the Balearic sea on a beautiful wooden llaüt that his family had in the Bay of Alcúdia. As so many sea lovers, he has witnessed first hand the deterioration that the sea has suffered in recent decades.

Graduate in Business Administration and Management with a Master in Tourism and Environmental Economics and expertise in “lean & agile” project management, Jaime has experience in financial management, in the definition and implementation of strategies, in project coordination and in innovation management.

Even after a very work intense first year with the Foundation and with much more to come ahead, Jaume is still as excited as during his first day. His plans and strategies to help move us forward are undoubtedly going to bring Save The Med to a new level.

I love new challenges! After learning about STM’s ambitious project and being surprised by the passion and motivation of the entire team, I had no doubts about leaving my comfort zone to join what is the best professional and personal challenge that I could have imagined and work to ensure that our children can enjoy a healthy and clean Mediterranean Sea!
- Jaume Bagur, Office Manager, Save The Med Foundation
AWARDS

2020 Environmental Impact Award by Onda Cero
Save The Med are honoured to have been selected as winners of the Onda Cero Environment Award.

"This award belongs to all the people that have a love for these beautiful islands and a vision for a future full of hope for our children." Said co-founder and president Brad Robertson during his speech. You can see the full speech by clicking here.

2020 Social Contribution Award by AENIB
In February the Association of Nautical Companies of the Balearic Islands (AENIB) celebrated their General Assembly and held, for the 13th consecutive year, their annual award ceremony during which Save The Med Foundation received the award for Social contribution.

2020 Silver Siurell Award from Group Serra
In December, Save The Med was awarded the 2020 Silver Siurell Award for Best environmental initiative from Group Serra, the leading communication company in the Balearic Islands and owners of, among others, Ultima Hora and Majorca Daily Bulletin. The award was delivered by Mr. Rafael Guinea, General Manager of Tirme (The Environmental Technology Park of Mallorca) and received by Save The Med’s Vice President Gabriel Morey who thanked Group Serra and everyone who supports our work for the award.
MARINE PROTECTION

DECLARATION OF A NEW MARINE RESERVE IN THE EXTERNAL WATERS OF SA DRAGONERA ISLAND

On the 5th of November 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food published, in the Official State Bulletin, the order establishing and defining the delimitation, zones and uses of a new marine reserve in the external waters of Sa Dragonera Island. A decision that our team has been waiting for since it first presented a proposal for an MPA in the waters of Dragonera in 2015. In 2016 the proposal was accepted and 912 hectares of the waters between the island of Sa Dragonera and Mallorca were declared protected by the Balearic Government with the declaration of the “Marine reserve of Freu de Sa Dragonera”. With this new declaration, the protection has been extended to the external waters and the new MPA, “Marine reserve of Sa Dragonera”, consists of 457 hectares which are divided into three zones with different degrees of protection. 82 hectares correspond to an integral reserve.

At the end of November 2020, a presentation act was held in Andratx and attended by among others the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), Luis Planas, the President of the Government of the Balearic Islands, Francina Armengol, and Mae de la Concha, counselor from the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Previous to the event, The General Secretariat for Fisheries from The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had asked STM to provide a video with underwater images of the species and habitats of Sa Dragonera, to be screened during the presentation. The video was edited by the ministry and can be viewed here. The featured images were filmed by Fernando Garfella Palmer and Paco Valdés. At Save The Med we celebrate this new marine reserve and are very happy to have been able to contribute to this process along with other groups and individuals from the Andratx community. We especially remember and wish to honor the efforts of Fernando Garfella Palmer in the achievement of the protection of this area.
DISCOVER YOUR MPA - SA DRAGONERA
The effects of the new regulations and surveillance measures in the new marine protected area will take time. Meanwhile, to achieve effective protection of the area we continue working with the local communities through the Project “Discover Your MPA Sa Dragonera.”

The project consists of a series of collaborative community events that highlight the values of the area while igniting a sense of pride and belonging and stewardship among the local communities and includes the participation of hundreds of citizens. All events aim to raise awareness, connect people and engage locals for the lasting protection of the MPA.

In 2020 the project has focused on small scale community events throughout the municipality, including meetings with businesses, sport clubs, local fishermen, schools and the town hall and a series of workshops, presentations and educational projects taking place throughout the year. The Dragonera Blava Exhibition and the related educational workshops for children went on tour to different parts of the island. A series of videos have been made, sharing the stories of participants and highlighting their creative ways of contributing to the projects. You can view them by clicking here.

During the lockdown several online initiatives were launched to provide information, knowledge and inspiration and allow for learning and participation from home. They included:
- Species focused videos and weekly social media posts about the biodiversity in the MPA.
- Educational marine inspired memory game for “Discover Your MPA Sa Dragonera” which was sent to schools and shared online.
An Illustrated map and information leaflet which was created in three languages, shared online and used during guided tours to the island.

A survey report about the general public’s understanding of the MPA, developed in 3 languages.

After the lockdown, events were organised including:

- The Dragonera Blava (Blue Dragonera) exhibit toured the towns of Sant Elm and S’Arraco throughout the summer months and was exhibited in Port Adriano during the end of September, early November.

- A Local Stakeholder Meeting was held 2nd July to define shared values related to the MPA and to brainstorm ideas for collaborative initiatives to promote these values and improve the efficiency of the MPA.

“Community involvement is essential to guarantee the protection of the seabed of Sa Dragonera, which in turn brings so many benefits to the community. We are very happy to be working with Save The Med; their experience in raising awareness and involving the public in conserving the sea will help make this project a success. Together we will achieve better conservation of the waters of Sa Dragonera.” - Aniol Esteban, Marilles Foundation
• A Citizen Science presentation was held in Port Andratx together with representatives from the platform “Observadores del Mar” and Marilles Foundation, inviting the community to share their observations of marine species with scientists to more efficiently gather data and protect the area. During the presentation, the “Xarxa Dragonera” initiative was presented, inviting collaboration between local businesses for the promotion and protection of the MPA.

• Creative workshops for children were held in the towns of Port Andratx and Sant Elm to raise awareness about the MPA while engaging the children and their families in textile printing of marine related motifs and the Sa Dragonera Logo on reused and reusable materials such as bags and t-shirts.

• A separate Workshop named “The habitats of Sa Dragonera” was conducted to teach participants about the different types of marine habitats of the MPA, their characteristics and the species that inhabit them.

• Guided tours to the Dragonera Island named “Discover your MPA Sa Dragonera” were organised and included a hike and conversations about the area and how locals can contribute to its’ protection.

• During October five artists and over fifty participants of all ages worked in shifts to paint and colour a vision of what the Sa Dragonera marine reserve is on the murals of the Sant Elm Sports Centre. Among them were representatives of the City Council who contributed the painting materials as well as the Director of the Natural Park from the Consell de Mallorca.
Members of the Merchants Association of Sant Elm work to reduce plastic use in their businesses

December 14th, members of the Sant Elm Merchants Association organised a workshop to take a stand against single-use plastics through the Network “Xarxa Dragonera Blava”. Living and working in an urban nucleus in direct contact with the sea and with the marine reserve, almost twenty establishments came together to explore how their businesses could place themselves at the forefront of the movement to reduce plastic use. They attended a two hour training session led by Save The Med’s “Plastic Free Balearics” team, during which they learned about plastic pollution and committed to caring for the marine environment, developing a strategy to establish themselves as a key actors in reducing plastic waste.

The objective of the workshop was to anticipate the entry into force of the new Waste Law that will be applied as of March 2021 and regulates the use, sale and distribution of single-use plastic products including take away containers, cups, plates, cutlery, straws, and coffee capsules among other products. During three months the participants will actively work with the STM team to adapt their businesses to the new regulations and find viable alternatives to achieve the elimination of the most harmful single-use plastics.

The workshop was held in the outdoor space provided by the Es Moli Sant Elm restaurant with the support of the Merchants Association and the Ajuntament d’Andratx (Andratx townhall).

As 2020 ends, so does the first phase of this project. We are happy to announce that the project evaluation was positive and that the second phase will begin early next year as the Marilles Foundation have committed to support the continuation of the Discover Your MPA project until the end of 2021.
THE MARITIME-TERRESTRIAL NATURAL PARK ES TRENC - SALOBRAR DE CAMPOS

Last year, Save The Med Foundation was selected by the Balearic Governments Conselleria de Medi Ambient i Territori as the responsible body for the coordination of educational activities in the maritime-terrestrial Natural Park of Es Trenc - Salobrar de Campos.

As part of the project, throughout 2020 we organised 22 awareness and clean up activities with a total of 322 participants. The activities included coastal clean ups, plastic pollution surveys and education about the local ecosystems (sand dunes, Posidonia, wildlife) to increase awareness about protected areas and ecosystems of the Natural Park and the importance of its conservation.

We’d especially like to thank Angels Cavada, who helped coordinate the project.

“It was a joyful and enriching, dynamic experience which enabled me to gain new knowledge that I believe should reach us all, so that we can understand the environment in which we live and respect it.”
- Magdalena Barceló Adrover, participant

“Experiencing the wonders of the coast while gaining tools and knowledge about it allows us to enjoy our natural environment more consciously and fully.”
- Violeta Sarmentero, participant
RESEARCH PROJECTS

A NEW SHARK CONSERVATION PROJECT
Save The Med is working together with Govern de les Illes Balears, Marilles Foundation, Palma Aquarium Foundation, Petites Illes del Mediterrani, Mallorca Preservation Fund, Centre de visitants del Parque Nacional de Cabrera and local fishermen on a new pilot project called “Petits taurons. Acció Stellaris.” This species conservation project focuses on the nursehound (Scyliorhinus stellaris), a small shark species which is classified as at risk of extinction in the “Llibre Vermell dels Peixos de les Balears” (the Red Book of Fish of the Balearics) and is protected in the marine reserves of the Balearic Islands. This long term project, with a minimum duration of three years, aims to help the Balearic nursehound population to recover through:

1) **An environmental education programme** to educate about the threats to and ecological importance of sharks in the Balearic sea and to involve the Balearic fishing sector in the implementation of the project and the conservation of the species.

2) **The breeding of nursehound sharks** in a controlled, artificial environment and the subsequent release of the offspring in different areas of the Balearic Sea, including Cabrera, Formentera and the Menorca channel.

The participation of professional fishermen and the fisheries associations is essential for the success of the project, whose long-term objective is to replicate the initiative to protect other threatened sharks in the Balearic sea.

CHARACTERISATION OF ELASMORBANCS SOLD AT “THE LONJA” IN PALMA
Elasmobrans (sharks and rays) have biological traits that make them very vulnerable to overfishing. According to the IUCN, 39 of the 73 species present in the Mediterranean are threatened. In the Balearic Islands, of the 58 species mentioned, 28 are threatened and two are considered extinct. Knowing the volume of catches of these species is essential to assess the impact of fishing on populations and thus be able to manage them properly. However, it is known that official statistics are inaccurate due to poor identification of the landed species. These errors, in turn, generate, inaccuracies and...
interpretation difficulties in any subsequent analysis such as in the fishing statistics themselves and/or in scientific works based on them. To obtain information about the extent of such inaccuracies, we are conducting a 12 month study that will characterise the catches of sharks and rays landed at the Palma fish market, where about 70% of the catches from the Balearic Islands are traded, on a weekly basis. The results obtained will be compared with those generated in a previous study carried out in 2009, with the same methodology, allowing researchers to evaluate how the situation has evolved since then.

STUDYING THE SPINETAIl DEVil RAY
This summer we added to our previous observations of Spinetail devil rays (*Mobula mobular*) in the Balearic Sea. The Spinetail devil ray is classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as endangered in the Mediterranean. There is little information on the biology and ecology of the species in the area. However, thanks to telemetry tracking techniques (satellite tags) and the increase in sighting capacity, work can be done to fill existing data gaps. As a result of the knowledge accumulated by Save The Med in recent years about their presence and behaviour in the Balearic Sea, we have started a new project designed to deepen our knowledge of these mysterious animals and contribute to the development of a conservation strategy for elasmobranchs.

The main objectives of the project are to examine the migration patterns of the species, collect DNA samples to characterise the Mediterranean population, document their reproductive behaviour
and develop risk maps: areas of interaction between the rays and human activities such as fishing, boating or pollution. Another priority objective is to obtain an image bank and share the beauty of these majestic animals in order to raise awareness about the importance of conserving our natural heritage.

PILOTING A NEW ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM

In 2020 we have been conducting a pilot project to develop an electric monitoring tool that collects oceanographic data. 27th of January we deployed our OASIS II EMS buoy, or “Valentina” as we affectionately call her, in an underwater canyon near the Cabrera National Park. This experiment incorporates GPS, 2 SATLINK probes and 2 hydrophones to calibrate an innovative tool for monitoring the open sea ecosystem and can be useful for the management of large marine areas in which monitoring by boat constitutes a logistical and economic challenge. See video of the deployment of ‘Valentina’ here. During two months, Valentina was anchored at a depth of 450m in the western canyon of the National Park of Cabrera, gathering oceanographic data. As soon as confinement regulations allowed, we brought her back to land for maintenance, evaluation and improvements before the next phase of the pilot project, which is to deployment adrift. Meanwhile we are working with SOCIB to integrate her data to their Integrated Ocean Observation System (IOOS). We are also working on a camera system to add to the ELB unit in cooperation with Satlink, SharkMed and Marexi Marine Technology.

EXPLORING THE LOCKDOWN EFFECT

During the confinement, a series of videos of marine animals said to be “reclaiming” their territory near coastlines, bays and beaches were widely shared. To investigate whether these sightings were truly related to the absence of human activities or not, we developed a citizen science questionnaire that enables sailors, divers and beachgoers to help us to “explore the lockdown effect” by reporting any unusual sightings they might encounter. However, we could not find any evidence to support nor refute the hypothesis of the ‘lockdown effect’.
During the colder months of the year, while our tagged turtles were transmitting valuable oceanographic data, we were busy writing reports based on the results from the 2019 expeditions (summarised in our 2019 Annual Report) and developing new tools to help monitor open sea ecosystems.

The last active turtle tag deployed in 2019 on a turtle named “Jo” stopped transmitting on the 12th of April 2020. The tag was active for ten months sending over 80,000 transmissions of data to IOOS.

In May, as soon as the COVID-19 restrictions eased, the Toftevaag set sail for a trial expedition with our team to establish safety protocols adapted to the onboard living conditions. In June we conducted a two week long expedition with STM scientists and expert collaborators. Between the 4th of July and 29th of September, we conducted six 9-day long and one 5-day long pelagic expeditions, one of which was an expedition with school students participating in the Changemakers At Sea Project (more information below). We were also able to conduct the annual expedition onboard the catamaran Aurora Boreal. In addition, whenever sightings were reported or the weather conditions allowed, we conducted half and/or full day expeditions onboard our rib RV Ondine.

During these expeditions data for all our research and multimedia projects was collected for different scientific projects which are described in our 2019 Annual Report and on our website. Some achievements in 2020 include:

- **Finding and rescuing five turtles entangled in Ghost FADs**, which were taken to the Foundation Palma Aquarium’s Rescue Center for marine animals. Once recovered, we helped release them and develop awareness videos based on the experiences.
- Tagging two of the rescued turtles with satellite tags, Gloria and Thunderbird. Follow their tracks by clicking here.

- Recording sightings marine birds, sunfish, tuna, swordfish and of course, loggerhead turtles.

- Surveying and removing microplastics, macroplastics, ghost FADs and illegal fishing gear during all expeditions.

- Recording human activities at sea, incl. fishing activity.

- Discovering a wide, unknown underwater desert in the Cabrera Archipelago National Park, which is now being investigated by collaborating scientists to evaluate its potential for regeneration.

- Being joined onboard by 31 volunteers, 7 students and 1 teacher.

- Studying Spinetail Devil rays (Mobula mobular) and obtaining underwater footage of several different groups, group sizes and behaviours.

- Recording sperm whale sightings and obtaining data, photo IDs and underwater and drone footage of Balearic sperm whales.

- Obtaining photo ID of several pods of Risso’s Dolphins and recording observations of bottlenose dolphins and striped dolphins on almost all expeditions.
Turtle entanglements on the increase

Over the last four years we have seen an alarming increase in ghost gear floating at sea. This summer, finding entangled turtles at sea has become a common sight and the local rescue center has found themselves running out of space for all the turtles in need. Sailors and boat users have on several occasions found and attempted to rescue entangled turtles, with videos shared on social media and in the news. Unfortunately, on many occasions they have decided to cut off the entanglement and free the turtles without consulting experts first. Because the cutting of a tight entanglement can cause toxic blood from the affected extremities to reach vital organs, this action is likely to cause a slow and painful death to the animal. To raise awareness and provide information about how to act if finding an entangled or injured turtle we developed a series of videos and a PSA (public service announcement) in collaboration with Foundation Palma Aquarium’s Rescue Center and collaborated with the local news channels IB3 to share it as far and wide as possible. You can find the videos on our YouTube channel:

- The rescue, tagging and release of Gloria.
- PSA - How to act if you find an entangled turtle.
- Thunderbird is back home!
- Why it matters

We shared leaflets among the fishing and boating communities and used or social media and collaborators network to spread the message. All of the above was also incorporated in the Ghost FADs project which you can read more about below.
Entanglement in drifting ghost gear, ropes and marine litter is currently considered one of the top threats to many pelagic marine animals. It is also a major risk for safe navigation and fisheries sustainability. As a result of an alarming number of Ghost FADs (floating Fish Aggregating Device) collected during 2019 expeditions and by marine wildlife recovery centres, we are now working to address this issue.

In July we publicly launched the Med Ghost FAD project. This collaborative initiative aims to address the management of ghost fishing and marine litter adrift through concerted effort. Our aim is to construct a basin-wide, multisectoral network of research institutions, sea turtle recovery centres, maritime and port authorities, commercial fisheries, sports fishers, the yachting world and the nautical and coastal tourism sector in general by:

1. Conducting science to collect data, identify risk factors and develop and test risk mitigation measures.
2. Informing policy makers and other relevant stakeholders.
3. Focusing on risk management through collaborations and networking with public administrations and all relevant stakeholders.
4. Contributing to capacity development and public awareness.

Shortly after the public launch we signed a collaboration agreement with the Ports Authority of the Balearic Government (Ports IB), the National Port Authority (Ports de Balears) and the Balearic Islands Fisheries Association, also counting on the support of the Mediterranean Navigators Association, the Mallorcan Responsible Sports Fishing Association, Sasemar (Maritime Rescue Service of the Merchant Navy) and the Guardia Civil Maritime Service.

Furthermore, a collaboration agreement was signed with Fundación Palma Aquarium, who run the Palma Aquarium Marine Fauna Rescue Center, a service managed by the Consortium for the recovery of the Fauna of the Balearic Islands belonging to the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries. In addition, private boat owners and captains are signing up to the “Ghost FAD fleet”, helping to remove ghost gear and contributing data on their findings to STM.

The project works primarily under the biodiversity conservation framework of the European Union’s Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP MAP), but also with other relevant frameworks as UNDP, IMO, ICCAT, FAO – GFCM, IUCN, CMS,
MEDPAN and more. In Spain, the project aims to contribute to the National Strategy on Ghost Fishing currently in process of design. The project works at several levels:

1. **Science for evidence building, risk assessment and the implementation of science-based management measures**

   To try to find out where the ghost FADs retrieved during our expeditions originated, understand their movements and identify risk factors and aggregation sites, backtrack modelling of ghost fishing artefacts retrieved in 2019 is being conducted in collaboration with SOCIB and the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB). By tracing winds and currents and matching them with the date, time and GPS coordinates of the found FADs, scientists can obtain information about the potential areas from which the FADs were released. Knowing where these areas are allows scientist to develop Action Plans which aim to solve the root cause of the problem.

   Main advancements at this levels of the project in 2020 include:
   - Deployment of two satellite tags on turtles. The data set of satellite tagging is now of 82 tags, 2 of which are active.
   - Backtrack modelling conducted with SOCIB, UIB and STM.
   - Epibiont sampling (sampling of certain organisms growing on both on sea turtles and of ghost FADs) and analysis is currently being conducted in collaboration with the University of Neuchâtel and University of the Balearic Islands to complement the backtrack modelling. The size of the organisms provides a “time in the water” scale and casts a light on the role of ghost gear in the transportation and aggregation of invasive species and of persistent toxic compounds. Sampling and analysis is expected to continue for at least another expedition season.

2. **Informing policy and integrating the science in national and regional biodiversity and sustainable management strategies**
In October 2019 STM prepared a short report on the alarming ghost FAD situation in the Mediterranean. A brief video was produced to highlight the alarming situation. These materials were presented at the FAO General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and the European Commission DGMARE. In March of 2020 a more complete report and presentation was made at the Specialist Group on Bycatch of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES WGBYC) in Amsterdam. The meeting was adjourned due to the COVID 19 crisis and the WGBYC is finalising the final report which will be used by the EC DGMARE to adopt measures under the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union. Main advancements at this levels of the project in 2020 include:

- Actively providing information to the scientific committees of ICES SGBYC and ICCAT Ecosystems Subcommittee.

- Holding meetings with the fisheries authorities and environment conservation authorities of the Balearic Government, informing about the work being done and requesting support. These entities collaborated with the ghost FAD retrieval and turtle rescue on several occasions.

- Meeting with MITECO, Fundación Biodiversidad and MAPA in Madrid to discuss the development of the National Strategy on Ghost Fishing, the contribution of the Med Ghost FAD project to this and the development of the management plans of the MPAs under the LIFE INTEMARES Project.

3. A Mediterranean network for risk management
We work to create a network for the collaboration and concerted action between public administrations, research institutions, marine wildlife recovery centres and the nautical sector. Main advancements include:

- Building relationships and engaging potential additions to the Med Ghost FAD fleet, which currently includes vessels from SASEMAR, Guardia Civil, Reservas Marinas, GOIB MPA, FBCP, Whale watching operations, research vessels and private yachts.

- Since the launch of the Med Ghost FAD project, close to 400 vessels have expressed interest in joining the fleet to collect data at sea, remove ghost FADS and help rescue entangled animals.

4. Capacity development and public awareness

The project addresses the need for developing standardised protocols and capacity development materials for all stakeholders, enabling them to work together to manage a threat that requires basin wide, concerted action.

Data will be presented to relevant stakeholder and policy makers in order to facilitate the development of management strategies at national, regional and international levels. Main advancements at this levels of the project in 2020 include:

- Designing a training kit for sea turtle rescue and ghost FAD retrieval incl. videos.

- Launching project newsletter and social media networks.

- The publication of protocols for for ghost FAD retrieval and sea turtle handling, rescue and release on www.ghostfads.org.
-After coordinating with the The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) an additional protocol was added for the official reporting of ghost and illegal fishing gear under the framework of ICCAT.

-Turtle Diaries: Thunderbird’s Journey: One of the turtles we rescued and tagged this summer, named Thunderbird, has left the Mediterranean and is very likely heading to the beach she was born to lay eggs. Initially we expected her to head west, as seven of the previous Atlantic crossing turtles did, but Thunderbird has headed south along the coast of West Africa. Her journey is filled with threats such as ghost gear, pollution, vessel strikes and sharks. A “turtle diary” of her journey was published on social media to raise awareness while we all closely follow her track, hoping that she will make it safe. Follow her and Gloria by clicking here.
PUBLICATIONS
During 2020 STM’s co-founder and vice president Gabriel Morey contributed data and knowledge to three new publications including:

The Mediterranean Large Elasmobranchs Monitoring (MEDLEM) database
https://doi.org/10.12681/mms.21148

Extinction risk and conservation of angel sharks
https://doi.org/10.1093/icesjms/fsz222

Post-release mortality for the transparent goby fishery
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0230357

Photo by Juanma Clemente-Alloza
MULTIMEDIA

Manu Chao highlights our connection to the sea
This year we had the big honor to collaborate with Manu Chao for the production of his new song Poquito de mi, which highlights our connection to the Mediterranean Sea in a unique way, by providing underwater footage from the Mediterranean Sea for his music video. We would like to thank Manu very much for using his talent to, in such a creative and special way, turn the spotlights towards a sea that urgently needs protection.

Airport Campaign “Sea the Change”
In 2020, Save The Med were invited to participate in a pilot project initiated by Crescentera Productions, a non for profit production company, and supported by NB Media and Aena to feature marine conservation footage on the arrival screens at the airports of the Balearic Islands. We developed a video with a positive message that is relatable to the audience, highlights the treasures of the Mediterranean and adds value to the experience of the visitors. Learn more about the campaign and see the video by clicking here.

Storytelling through video
Videos and short films have become some of the most efficient tools to share information and raise awareness. Some of our 2020 videos include:

- A Summer Highlights video that reveals the stunning wildlife of the Balearic Sea and portrays a natural heritage unknown to many. The video provides important evidence of fragile ecosystems worth protecting and will be a valuable tool to support existing, and push for additional, protective measures on local as well as international levels as many of the portrayed species are migratory and international collaboration is key for their conservation.

- An informative video explaining the value of the satellite tracking of turtles and importance of concerted action through the story of Thunderbird, one of the rescued turtles.

- An artistic, video to highlight the Spinetail Devil ray, which visits the Balearic Sea during the summer.

- A storytelling 360° video of Atlantic Bluefin tuna, which migrates into the Mediterranean during the summer. More 360° videos are in the making, with the final objective to use the footage for captivating education and awareness tools.

- A series of videos of Mediterranean marine species and their status on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to see these and many other videos from this year!
Raising awareness and spirits during the confinement
To continue providing education and awareness opportunities and allow people to engage and connect with the sea during the home confinement we made a series of YouTube events, community initiatives and creative resources available online for free:

**Youtube Live Lessons**
During the home confinement we launched ‘Save The Med Live Lessons’ on Youtube featuring our team members, collaborators and guest speakers presenting a wide array of topics related to the marine environment. You can find the videos, that have had over 5,5k YouTube views combined, [here](#).

**Colouring book “Colours of the Mediterranean”**
To keep parents and families engaged and inspired during the home confinement we created the colouring booklet “Colours of the Mediterranean.” A project made possible thanks to the time and talent of two illustrators and ocean lovers, Leti Lope and Beatriz Colom, who helped us to bring the sea a little closer to us and our children while at home! The booklet is downloadable from the [news section](#) of our website.

**Drawing collaboration**
As summer approached we invited the public to send us drawings of their [vision of a clean and healthy Mediterranean Sea](#). We received around 70 drawings which were turned into a collage and shared to raise awareness and encourage involvement to turn those beautiful visions into reality.

Community Video of favourite moments in the Med
We also launched a collaborative video project, inviting people to share with us video clips of their favourite moments in the Mediterranean Sea. These were put together into a [video compilation](#) that reminds us all of the beauty and joy that the sea brings us, and inspires its protection.
POLLUTION REDUCTION
POLLUTION REDUCTION

PLASTIC FREE BALEARICS PROGRAMME
The Plastic Free Balearics Programme works with companies to reduce the generation of plastic waste. During the pilot phase, 45 companies from all sectors helped our team to assess their annual use of single use plastics and develop a database of over 12,000 products. Since then, the team has provided tailor made guidelines to facilitate the elimination of the most problematic single use plastic items and the selection of alternative products and systems with reduced environmental impact. In addition, the team continuously work on research, data base improvements, collection of new data and on social innovation projects that help in the transition towards a regenerative economy.

The Honest Alternatives to Plastic Index (HAPI)
Since the development of the Honest Alternatives to Plastic Index (previously known as Single Use Plastic Index - SUPI), a tool to assess the environmental impact of single use plastic products compared to alternative products, the team has continued to work with Inèdit to make the index more robust.

Plastic Reduction Workshops with FAPA
The workshops, developed together with the Federation of parents of Mallorca (FAPA), to work for single use plastic reduction among the parent associations of Balearic schools have unfortunately been postponed to 2021 due to restrictions related to COVID-19. The workshop format will be adapted to the prevailing situation and is scheduled for launch in early 2021.

These initiatives have allowed us to identify products that are being used unnecessarily and which can be replaced by reusable, local and seasonal products, thus reducing existing problems in this area.
- Brad Robertson, Save The Med Foundation
“Four islands, one common goal: Plastic free Balearics.”
This year, we are proud to announce that we won a call by BeMed, through a proposal made together with Ibiza Preservation Foundation for the development and implementation of a pioneering certification for plastic reduction in the Balearic Islands’ tourism industry. The initiative, which began in October and will last 18 months, operates under the slogan “Four islands, one common goal: Plastic free Balearics.” It aims to create a certification standard for the elimination of single use plastics and significantly increase the number of companies committed to reducing single-use plastics, as well as unifying all sectors - private, governmental and non-governmental - in the common goal of reducing the environmental impact generated by plastic pollution, which affects both the biodiversity of the islands and the health of its residents.

This joint certification sees two pioneering ideas from each foundation come together. In 2019, “Plastic Free Ibiza and Formentera”, a movement promoted by IbizaPreservation, launched its own certification process, awarding stars to companies in the tourism and hospitality sector of the two islands, in return for taking proven steps to eliminate single-use plastics from their businesses. Meanwhile, Save the Med had developed “Plastic Free Balearics” in Mallorca, and designed the Single Use Plastic Index to measure plastic usage and offer comparisons and improvements to help members become more environmentally friendly. Between the two initiatives, more than 150 companies throughout the region have already been assessed.

"By joining forces, with all the knowledge and experience we have accumulated, we hope to achieve a more robust certification.” says Brad Robertson from Save The Med.

The unified certification that will result from this process will also be applied in Menorca through Plastic Free Menorca, an initiative of the Menorca Preservation Foundation.

Business Training Capsule by Palma Activa
The BSP team also participated in a Business Training Capsule organised by Palma Activa in July in which the Sustainable Development Goals were presented as an opportunity for the development and implementation of solutions via entrepreneurial projects which allow us to face the world’s greatest challenges in terms of sustainable development. Tools and methodologies for project development were provided through a combination of theoretical concepts and practical mini-workshops that demonstrate how business can help advance sustainable development, both by minimising negative impacts and maximising positive impacts on people and the planet. STM’s presentation focused on how the BSP programme helps fulfil the SDGs, with the aim of raising awareness among entrepreneurs about the link between their operations and environmental impact.
In 2020 entities including Save the Med, Amics de la Terra, Begudes Puig, Cleanwave, Fundació Deixalles, GOB, Eines per la Inserció – Càritas Mallorca, Ecobodega, Rezero - Fundació per la Prevenció dels Residus, Boomerangbags and l’Oficina d’Universitat Saludable i Sostenible de la UIB, worked together to define a common roadmap in favour of re-use in the Balearic Islands.

The work resulted in the signing of a Pact for Re-use which was presented in the gardens of the Deixalles Foundation during a press conference on the 17th of October – which is International Repair Day. The entities that signed the Pact of Re-use are working to promote eco-design such as packaging food and drink in truly returnable and re-useable materials, while highlighting the enormous environmental, social and economic benefits of re-use and repair.

The Pact itself is multifaceted and its objectives include:

- **Education and awareness**: to give reusing and repairing products the dignity they deserve. The local, environmental, social and cultural benefits of embracing the skills needed to re-use and repair are wide and numerous.

- **Working together**: to support and generate synergies between different initiatives and promote re-use throughout the Balearic islands.

- **Political pressure**: to demand compliance with the preparation for re-use targets of 3% by 2025 and 5% by 2030, as well as the beverage packaging and re-use targets, the prevention and re-use measures and reduction of hazard levels of waste defined in Law 8/2019 on Waste and Contaminated Soils.

It is only by firmly and urgently opting for the elimination of single use products and investing in re-use that we will achieve the profound change of the economic, social and environmental model which is much needed in the Balearic Islands.
Working with the local waste management company
In addition, we have established a new collaboration with TIRME, the local waste management company and developed a framework for information exchange, consulting, project implementation and action to reduce the large amounts of plastic waste and move towards circular economy models.

RESEARCH PROJECTS
REDUCING PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE TOURISM SECTOR OF FIVE MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS
Save The Med participated in preparation meetings for the launch of a pilot project involving five Mediterranean islands in Greece, Italy and Spain and aiming to evaluate and standardise a gradual plastic reduction methodology with focus on single use plastics in the tourism sector.

PLASTIC CONSUMPTION IN TIMES OF COVID-19
A new research project focusing single use plastic consumption related to COVID-19 in the Balearic tourism sector was initiated. The project is a collaboration with the Research team from COMET (University of The Balearic Islands), led by Dr. Javier Rey and the University of the Balearic Island’s Laboratory of Social Innovation, led by Dr. Julio Batle.

MAPPING OF TAP WATER QUALITY IN THE BALEARICS
The collaborative tap water quality campaign launched in 2019 to assess drinking water quality in the Balearic Islands, provide information on appropriate water filtration systems and reduce the need for plastic bottled water continued in 2020. Apart from data collection work, the team has worked towards the development of a map that clarifies the potability of tap water in the different municipalities of the Balearic Islands. We wish to thank CleanWave, SEAE, Rezero, Amics de la Terra and ONGAWA for their collaboration and Hannah Wesselman, who developed her master’s thesis with the water project: The human right to water in the Balearic Islands. Save the Med case study and the reduction of the use of plastic.
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

COASTAL ACTION EVENTS
To ensure that we are working as efficiently as possible, towards the end of 2019 we re-evaluated our monthly beach clean activities. We concluded that we could reach our objectives more efficiently by combining quarterly clean up events with workshops, campaigning and awareness to a higher extent. This enables us to participate in more external events where we can reach new audiences as well as increase our work for policy change. We successfully organised our first Coastal Action Day in February with around 100 participants of all ages, local and international media, and plenty of fun educational opportunities for all. However, the remaining three events planned for 2020 were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

DOS MANOS SCHOOL PROGRAMME
At the start of 2020, our education team was fully booked and worked with 826 students from 12 schools during the first 10 weeks of the year, with another 887 students signed up until June. Starting 14th of March however, we had to postpone/cancel school programmes due to the State of Emergency.

To allow students to acquire the most important knowledge digitally, we developed the “Dos Manos Digital Pack” (DMDP). The DMDP, which includes an educational video, an informational leaflet, work sheet and data form for analysis, was shared publicly the 31st of March. The video has since then had over 900 views.

During August the education team adapted the programme content to all potential scenarios that might come into place during the school year of 2020-2021. This has resulted in a flexible programme offer with four options: 1) Onsite, 2) Semi onsite, 3) Virtual with STM educator and 4) Digital independent.
During the last quarter or the year 269 students took part in the programme, resulting in a total of 1095 students.

Despite the pandemic, we exceeded our original 3-year goal and have since the launch of the project seen more than 6000 students participating in the programme.

**Plastic Pollution Survey Results**

As part of the programme students conduct a beach clean and each student group analyses their results and draws conclusions based on their findings. They discuss the most commonly found items, their origin and impact in the environment.

Their joint results further contribute to an increased understanding of plastic pollution on beaches all around Mallorca, which in turn enables us to develop targeted awareness campaigns and possible solutions. The tables below show the findings over the years, including the total results from 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizen Science</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of removed items</td>
<td>101.815</td>
<td>106.422</td>
<td>39.846</td>
<td>248.083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilos</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>1.735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 155kg of plastic rubbish was removed, consisting of 39,846 plastic items which you can find categorised in the below table to the right, with the most common items on the top of the table. Results from previous years are included for comparison. Broken up pieces of plastic of different sizes and microplastics followed by cigarette butts, ear bud sticks, caps/lids and single use take away items remain on the top of the list each of the three years that our team has been collecting data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovered in 2018</th>
<th>Recovered in 2019</th>
<th>Recovered in 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microplastics</td>
<td>36.219</td>
<td>25.909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics 2.5-50 cm</td>
<td>17.903</td>
<td>22.912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics 0.5-2.5 cm</td>
<td>17.789</td>
<td>15.813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette Butts</td>
<td>13.404</td>
<td>5.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear bud sticks</td>
<td>5.893</td>
<td>5.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caps/Lids</td>
<td>3.627</td>
<td>3.415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straws &amp; Utensils</td>
<td>2.306</td>
<td>2.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ropes &amp; strings</td>
<td>1.757</td>
<td>1.181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolli pop sticks</td>
<td>1.003</td>
<td>1.261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>1.911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottles</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes &amp; Shoes</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>101.815</td>
<td>106.422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovered in 2018</th>
<th>Recovered in 2019</th>
<th>Recovered in 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microplastics</td>
<td>36.219</td>
<td>25.909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics 2.5-50 cm</td>
<td>17.903</td>
<td>22.912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics 0.5-2.5 cm</td>
<td>17.789</td>
<td>15.813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette Butts</td>
<td>13.404</td>
<td>5.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ear bud sticks</td>
<td>5.893</td>
<td>5.193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caps/Lids</td>
<td>3.627</td>
<td>3.415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straws &amp; Utensils</td>
<td>2.306</td>
<td>2.024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ropes &amp; strings</td>
<td>1.757</td>
<td>1.181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lolli pop sticks</td>
<td>1.003</td>
<td>1.261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>1.911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottles</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes &amp; Shoes</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>101.815</td>
<td>106.422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dos manos data important to inform policy and hold producers accountable

Save The Med regularly shares the obtained data from our projects with the public, collaborating NGOs and authorities. In 2020 the data from the Dos Manos project has been shared with, among others, OceanCare. Verifiable, robust and comparable data from the field about the extent of marine plastic pollution are crucial to inform policy decisions and call for policy actions, and are taken up when possible at European level.

On national level, data on microplastics was requested from STM by the devoted team at Good Karma Projects who are working to solve the issues of, and hold industry accountable for, a huge nurdle spill nearby La Pineda beach in 2018, which covered the whole beach in nurdles (pre-production pellets).

Similar spills have been observed in the area for decades. To date, big amounts of nurdles keep washing up on the beach on a daily basis. Given the movements of sea currents, it is not unlikely that nurdles from the same spill also reach the Balearics Islands.

To help the Good Karma team investigate the subject, Save The Med has provided data and nurdle samples from beaches in Mallorca.

“Save the Med’s Dos Manos project is both, entertaining and highly educational. It demonstrates impressively, what each individual can do to tackle plastic pollution”
- Rahel Beck from OceanCare.
THE CHANGEMAKERS PROJECT

In January we launched the 2020 edition of the Changemakers Project. Naturally, many teachers and students found it challenging to participate in the project this year. Teachers expressed feeling overwhelmed by the need to adapt to online teaching and modern technology, while students found it harder to coordinate their work and remain motivated given the limitations to actually implement their ideas. This resulted in a significant reduction in participants; 27 students compared to the usual 100-120 students. Adaptations were made to facilitate participation and enable a safe version of the project components including:

1. The Changemakers Project: 1) A Changemakers At Home leaflet was developed that provides tips on how to collaborate despite the confinement and adapt projects to existing limitations and 2) during project evaluation the existing limitations were taken into consideration.

2. The Changemakers Exhibit: An online website was created to exhibit the projects and make them publicly available for everyone interested to see and to be inspired. The planned exhibit, where the teams and the school community would meet, network and share ideas was cancelled due to safety risks. Instead all participating teams were rewarded with a special surprise. See below.

3. Changemakers At Sea: Team Kokua, whose project was evaluated to have the most potential, joined the Toftevaag in July. To recognise the efforts of all teams that did not let COVID-19

“It’s an amazing experience and an opportunity to change as a person and make a difference for the environment!”
- Paula, Thalassa Team, Queens College
stop their fight for plastic reduction, the remaining three teams joined us for a 1 day expedition each onboard the sun powered boat Stenella, which was provided generously by Toni Font, in the Maritime Terrestrial Natural Park of Es Trenc - Salobrar de Campos. During their day at sea they were introduced to Mediterranean marine life and visual and acoustic surveying methods. They conducted microplastic surveys using a manta trawl, learned about Marine Protected Areas and got a chance to discuss the future of their project ideas with STM staff.

Click here to explore the projects. You can see also a short video with some of the highlights from the days at sea here and read about the experience in one of the newspaper articles that published the story by clicking here.

“This changes lives. I have seen it in the participants from previous years and I see it this year. They are still taking action and creating ripple effects. A student that participated two years ago recently inspired a hotel chain to eliminate the single use plastic packaging from soaps in the rooms and another went abroad to study marine biology. The Changemakers Project was the first step in a lifetime of changes in their mindsets and habits.”
- Heidi Quinn, teacher, Queens College, participating 3 years in a row.

“This has changed me so much! Before the visit by Save The Med, I was not aware of the danger and impact of plastics in our lives. As a result of the visit I realised that it’s not that difficult to make a change and just how important it is to do so.” - Carmen, Wai Kai team, Aula Balear
“The important thing here is not to win, but rather to work on the project which in itself changes your perspective on the problem of plastics. I believe that people sometimes see it as an external problem when in reality it affects us much more than we think.”
- María, equipo Wai Kai de Aula Balear

“Through this project we consider that our students firstly: improve as human beings, secondly: they empower themselves and thirdly: they become a lot more aware. Participating in activities on Easter holidays, Christmas holidays, going to collect plastics on the beach, at school being the ones who lead projects... is what makes us see that for them this is a life lesson. A way of life, that they establish in their homes, that we establish in the school and finally, they see themselves as role models for the younger students.”
- Joana Fuster, teacher, Aula Balear
AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

NIT DE SANT JOAN - AN ANNUAL PLASTIC REDUCTION CAMPAIGN WITH ES RACÓ DE SES IDEES

In collaboration with Es Racó de Ses Idees we organise an annual awareness event to reduce plastic pollution left on the beaches of Mallorca during the celebration of “Nit de Sant Joan” on the 23rd of June. Usually the campaign consists of online and media presence prior to the event in which we encourage the public to celebrate without producing waste (using reusables, buying bulk food etc.) and of an event on the beach with workshops, clean ups and fun activities for children and adults alike. For safety reasons, this year the event was replaced with an online event:

Having observed the dangerous surge in the use and irresponsible disposal of single use plastic and sanitary waste related to the COVID-19 crisis and the tendencies of global plastic producers to use human fear of catching or spreading the virus to increase their own profit, we found it is more important than ever that we question these tendencies and misleading adverts, opt for safe, sustainable and lasting solutions and actively work to influence companies that are using the crisis to further increase the production of unnecessary and harmful products. For this reason, as the Night of San Juan #ZeroWaste event was approaching, we found that this was the...
perfect time to highlight these issues, explore the history and industry of plastic and its effect on human health, the environment and our future. Therefore we organised a free screening of the documentary The Story of Plastic, followed by an interactive online webinar with Dr Nicolás Olea, one of the world’s leading experts on the effects of plastics contaminants on human health and STM members.

170 participants watched the film and 50 participants joined the debate. You can find more information on the campaign website and see the full debate on its YouTube channel. All participants were provided a document listing a variety of Zero Waste shops on the island, to facilitate a transition towards a single use plastic free lifestyle.

**BUY LOCAL CAMPAIGN**

Buying local and seasonal products not only reduces our environmental impact, but is also crucial to sustain the community and prosperity of the islands. In order to provide information and support local producers during the state of emergency in Spain we developed a video and an accompanying documents listing local providers of foods, drinks and gardening supplies, categorised by island and type of product.

In addition, we developed several new documents which were shared through STM website as well as through the Define Humano campaign (learn more below) and include:

- A list of Zero Waste / bulk shops in the Balearic Islands to facilitate waste reduction.

- Lists of groups and organisations in the Balearic Islands that work for regeneration of land and sea, human rights, equity and any other social and environmental issues and invite community involvement.

- List of marine related citizen science projects and how to get involved.
What would happen if together we redefined what it is to be human?

MESSAGES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Photo by Xim Izquierdo
MESSAGES FOR A BETTER FUTURE

DEFINE HUMANO

What can we learn from this crisis and how can we use these learnings to redefine our role on this planet?

The COVID-19 crisis has for many been a window to a possible future should humans not re-evaluate our relationship with and our impact on nature. Nevertheless, humans have an innate tendency to strive to return to what’s familiar as soon as possible. In order to help ensure that we learn from this crisis and adapt our behaviour and our societies accordingly we worked together with Patterson Agency in the development of a communication campaign named “Define Humano”, which invites the Balearic community (and beyond) to consider what we can learn from this crisis and how we can take steps towards a new reality where nature and life is in the center of the way we live, the way we educate, the way we construct our societies and relate to the ocean. After all, we can only achieve marine regeneration by adopting a holistic view and changing the way we live on land.

The campaign, published at definehumano.com and shared on Instagram @definehumano, includes video-interviews with experts in different themes such as low impact living, marine regeneration, regenerative cultures, education, climate change and more. It provides infographics and downloadable resources, all of which encourage and facilitate involvement in regenerative actions and local community initiatives.

We’d like to thank all the participants in the campaign who so generously donated their time and shared their expertise to help us transmit what might be some of the most important messages of our time:

* Fernando Valladares, research professor at the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and associate professor at the Rey Juan Carlos University shares information about the new coronavirus, the connection between human activities and pandemics, and the importance of protecting nature in order to reduce risks of future pandemics as well as mitigate effects of climate change.
Low impact living:

• **Brenda Chávez**, journalist with a law degree and author of “Tu consumo puede cambiar el mundo” (The way you consume can change the world), shares her knowledge and thoughts about consumer, corporate and producer responsibility and how we can make conscious choices for a better world.

• **Miquel Puiggròs Noguera**, biologist and technical manager at Preverisk, a company dedicated to advising, training and auditing physical and hygienic-sanitary risks, responds to the question: In times of a global pandemic, how can we protect ourselves and the environment at the same time?

• **Dr Catalina Torres**, doctor and professor of Applied Economics at the UIB and secretary of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory on Climate Change at the UIB (LINCC UIB), responds to the question: How can we act to stop climate change?

• **Dr Rosa García**, biologist and PhD in Sustainability. General Director of Rezero, a non-profit organisation that works to change the production and consumption model to achieve zero waste, responds to the question: How can we have more by living with less?

Marine regeneration:

• **Salud Deudero**, marine scientists and former director of the Balearic Centre of Oceanography, highlights the importance of investing in marine protection, especially in times of crisis.

• **Gabriel Morey**, marine scientist at Tragsatec, member of the IUCN Shark Specialists Group, co-founder and vice president of the Save The Med Foundation responds to the question: How can we protect the sea through MPAs?

• **Fiona Tomas Nash**, Senior Scientist at the Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies UIB (IMEDEA UIB-CSIC) responds to the question: How can we protect the sea through citizen science?

• **Ricardo Sagarminaga**, marine scientist and founder of the conservation organisation Alnitak, now principal investigator at Save The Med Foundation responds to the question: How can we reduce the threat of ghost gear at sea?

Collaborative communities:

• **Dr. Joan Martínez Alier**, economist and Emeritus Professor of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona shares his thoughts about ecological economy and political ecology.

• **Daniel Christian Wahl**, holds degrees in Biology (BSc. Hons., Univ. Of Edinburgh), Holistic Science (MSc., Schumacher College) and Natural Design (PhD., Univ. Of Dundee) and member of the Findhorn Foundation responds to the question: How can we create regenerative cultures?

• **Aina Calafat Rogers**, coordinator of international projects of the Spanish Society of Ecological Agriculture / Agroecology (SEAE) responds to the question: How can we develop resilient communities?
• Miguel Angel Benito, president of Eticentre, Center for Ethical Company Management responds to the question: How can we develop ethical companies, based on ecological and social values?

• Mr. Thakur S. Powdyel, Former Minister of Education from the Kingdom of Bhutan and recipient of the Gusi Peace Prize, the Global Education Award, and the Distinguished Service Award for his pioneering work in Education responds to the question: What is Gross National Happiness and how can it contribute a useful tool for the development of nations and societies (in and beyond times of crisis)?

Rethinking education:

• Guillem Ferrer, founder of the movement Poc a Poc and organiser of the annual ‘Education for life’ conferences that attract an international audience of ecologists and educators speaks about the value of holistic and integrated education.

• Mr. Thakur S. Powdyel, Former Minister of Education from the Kingdom of Bhutan and recipient of the Gusi Peace Prize, the Global Education Award, and the Distinguished Service Award for his pioneering work in Education responds to the question: What are Green Schools and how can they help shape environmentally conscious and responsible future leaders?

• Mar Romera, Teacher, graduated in pedagogy and psychopedagogy. Specialist in emotional intelligence and author of several books dedicated to school, childhood and active didactics. Author of the pedagogical model Educar con tres Cs: Capabilities, Competences and Heart responds to the question: How can we educate for life?

Special thanks to the team at Patterson Agency for all their hard work to make this campaign a reality and to Xim Izquierdo, Jan Izquierdo, Aida Moyano, Jejo Manzanares, Álex Cremades, Elías Fabré and Victoria Morell Salom for their unique contributions to the campaign.
YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

FUNDING
The work we do and the results thereof are made possible thanks to individuals, families, businesses, sponsors and foundations who share our vision of a clean and healthy Mediterranean Sea and support it through annual donations that enable the continuity of our projects.

Fundraising events and one off donations
We are deeply humbled and grateful to the private donations we have received and the fundraisers we have been selected for. We would especially like to thank Boris Nowalski, founder of Mallorca Open Swim who took on a challenge beyond our imagination: to swim non stop the 40km from Menorca to Mallorca in order to raise awareness and funds for Save The Med. Boris exceeded his set time and managed to raise over 19,000€! Learn more about the challenge by clicking here.

We’d also like to send a special thank you to Pinmar Golf and 6Point Cycling, Caixa Bank, Can Bordoy, Elias Weber and Sophie Rouge for their contributions, as well as to Fiona Bruce who designed Save The Med’s first agenda and set up our New Years Raffle to raise funds for the repair of our RIB RV Ondine.

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraisers or made a one off donation in 2020!

“I was born and raised in Costa Rica. I’ve been in the ocean since a young age either surfing, scuba diving or swimming. The sea is what gives me life. During these 20 years I have been swimming in the Balearic Sea and have seen with my own eyes how the sea has deteriorated. Every time I see less fish and Posidonia and more plastic. The Mediterranean is dying! For us, as a family who loves nature and the ocean, it is very important to look after our sea. With this challenge, we want to contribute our part to the conservation and recovery of the Mediterranean through the collaboration with Save the Med.” - Boris Nowalski
Individual and Family members
In addition to their annual contributions to our work, Save The Med’s Individual and Family members bring about plenty of joy and positive energy as many of them regularly show up on our coastal action activities and public events. Their support means the world to us and we’d like to thank all our members for extending your family to include and be part of ours!

Grant Funders
The continuation and success of our project work depends on the loyal support from our grant funders. We are deeply grateful for the continued support from Ocean Family Foundation, Camper Foundation, Marilles Foundation, Fundación Jesús Serra, OceanCare, Fundación Reina Sofía and Proyecto Libera.

We are also very proud to welcome our new Grant Donors European Outdoor Conservation Asociación (EOCA) who joined the Save The Med family in 2020 to help support our education, awareness and clean up projects, Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed), who are supporting the Plastic Free Balearics initiative, Beatric Ederer Foundation who helped fund the Risso’s Dolphin Identification project, the Balearic Government (Comunitat Autònoma Illes Balears) who contributed to our plastic reduction projects, Caixa Bank via Fundación la Caixa for supporting the education initiatives and KGH Nature, a charitable organisation in Germany who helped us to funds our Dos Manos Schools Programme and expeditions on RV Ondine.

Corporate Partners
Our Corporate Partners are a community of businesses who support Save The Med’s work through annual donations which are either given by the company, fundraised among company employees and customers and/or ideally a combination of both. In addition to financial donations, several of our Corporate Partners donate their expertise and/or materials and take action to raise awareness and reduce plastic pollution in their facilities, providing excellent examples of how businesses can incorporate good practices in their company policies.

Due to the pandemic, 2020 has been a very tough year for many of our Corporate Partners and while we all hope that 2021 will be better for everyone, we fully understand that in times as uncertain as these it has been impossible for many companies to keep up their annual donations. Nevertheless, in this annual report we want to want to celebrate all of them and thank each and every one of for their contributions during previous years! Scroll down to see who they are!

Donations In Kind
Save The Med depends on material donations from Members In Kind for a big portion of our material equipment. We’d like to especially thank Astilleros de Mallorca, Port Adriano and the fishermen in the Port of Palma for providing a home to our research vessels, helping with repairs and supporting our team whenever needed, Oscar Sierra for keeping our dive tanks in top shape, Medical Support Offshore (MSOS) for always providing us up to date safety gear
and access to off shore emergency services should we ever need them and Planet Space for providing us storage space. Another huge and heartfelt thank you to captain John Cowell and S.Y Selim for the donation of their tender to Save The Med.

In 2020 both the RV Ondine and the Toftevaag needed some thorough care we can’t thank everyone who has helped us get them into shape enough! We want to mention Loft Customs who made our new bimini for RV Ondine, Revival who made her a new seat, Links Marine who made her dive tank rack and STP, Sea Safe and Yates Adriano for their support with her maintenance and refit.

Toftevaag had a support team of her own in Palma, with refit space and in kind services provided generously by Astilleros de Mallorca, Nautipaints, Modesty Yacht Carpentry, Bonnie Lass Charters, Ruben Donaque welding, Absolute Boat Care and all our hardworking volunteers. In addition, new mooring lines were donated from Cooper Rigging and projection and audio equipment during events was provided by Andreu Fullana Studios.

The MPA team received much valued support from local businesses and we would especially like to thank the Ayuntamiento de Andratx, Keida Kayak, Es Molí Sant Elm, Just Sant Elm, Asociación de Comerciants Sant Elm and Mallorca Diving Adventure for their support with the different events organised in the municipality of Andratx throughout the year. Meanwhile our education team and Changemaker students enjoyed exciting education opportunities at sea on the solar powered boat Stenella thanks to the kindness of owner and Captain Antoni Font Gelabert!
We’d also like to thank Malla Publicidad for providing visibility for STM and the friendly team at Ecoholics who gifted us our STM hoodies!

**Collaborators**

We are very grateful to the collaborators of the different BSP initiatives, including Julio Batle and his team at the UIB Research Group on Competitiveness, Environment and Tourism (COMET), as well as Héctor Rangel, Mauricio Manieu, the Federation of Parents’ Associations (FAPA) and Futouris, an Association for sustainable tourism in Germany.

And finally we would like to thank all our expedition and research collaborators, with special thanks to OceanCare, MITECO, OAPN, CAIB PN Cabrera, Ports IB, USFWS, NOAA NMFS, ICTS SOCIB, Exeter University, 5 Gyres Institute, Fundación Palma Aquarium, Equinac, IFREMER, Wildlife Computers, Satlink SharkMed and Paléartica.
Volunteers
Last but definitely not least, we’d like to thank all our incredible volunteers who have dedicated their time, skills and positive energy to help our team in all aspects of our work! We have been lucky to have many skilled volunteer crew members on board both the Toftevaag and RV Ondine as well as in the boat yards helping out with refits. The Dragonera team has seen support from local artist, creators and illustrators driven by a wish to help protect the waters of Sa Dragonera through their talents, and the office teams have had amazing volunteers working devotedly from their homes during times of COVID to support the BSP and Education teams in their different projects.

The knowledge, skills and amazing spirit brought about by each of these amazing individuals and collaborators not only helps the team to achieve set goals more efficiently, but really goes to show that we are all part of a shared journey and that everyone, no matter their background, education level and skills, can contribute and make a difference to the causes they believe in.

And for us, meeting a many times unexpected mix of human beings coming together and connecting for what they are passionate about, and seeing what we manage to create together, is one of the best parts of our work. We are grateful beyond words!

Thank you all, for making the most of 2020 together and for sharing with us what is yet to come. You are the essence of #GenerationSaveTheMed!

“I have been working on yachts the last 12 years and this was a completely new experience to me. I have learned so much and think it’s important that all crew know about illegal fishing, ghost FAD’s and how to approach the animals - things we usually don’t notice or probably do in the wrong way. The highlights? I had a chance to swim with six devil rays that were dancing around me. It was very special and is something I will never forget. I met amazing people and worked with great scientists and I am much more positive now than I have been for the last years.” - Ivan Korpachev, Yacht captain and volunteer who did exceptional work onboard during the 2020 expedition season and quickly became a very beloved and hugely appreciated member of the STM family.
HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, CORPORATE PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
### INCOME*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board contributions</td>
<td>€120,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>€304,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>€150,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Partners</td>
<td>€37,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>€8,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>€6,923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>€628,437</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Provisional annual results.

### EXPENSES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research, Expeditions, MPAs</td>
<td>€215,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Free Balearics</td>
<td>€99,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Awareness</td>
<td>€98,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising, marketing, events</td>
<td>€78,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin and Overheads</td>
<td>€77,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimedia</td>
<td>€48,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>€619,327</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Income Sources Percentage

- **Grants**: 49%
- **Corporate Partners**: 6%
- **Memberships**: 1%
- **Services**: 1%
- **Donations**: 24%

### Expenses Categories Percentage

- **Research, Expeditions, MPAs**: 35%
- **Plastic Free Balearics**: 16%
- **Education & Awareness**: 16%
- **Fundraising, Marketing, Events**: 13%
- **Admin & Overheads**: 13%
- **Multimedia**: 8%

---

56