

## ***Day 1***

Introductory meeting with the Pro-Dunas Organization. Took place on the premises of the hostel in the gift room. During the meeting, we received books about the dunes in Marbella. Mrs. Suzan told us what our work in the dunes will look like. The meeting was held in a very nice atmosphere.

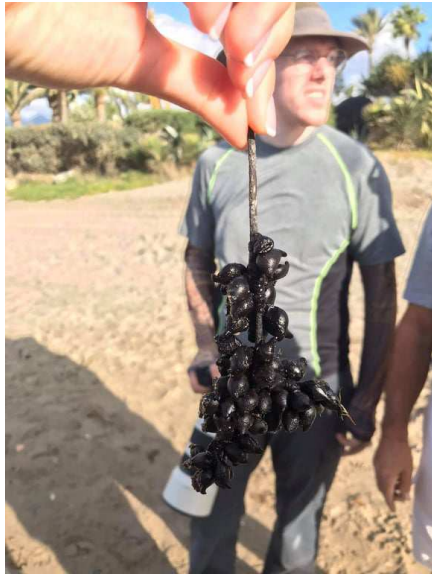
## ***Day 2***

On the second day of internship at the Pro-Dunas Organization, we went to the dunes in Marbella. Our task was to collect fruit from the Sabina plant. The fruit is picked, shipped to Cordoba and processed. Then we went for a walk along the Mediterranean coast. The volunteer of the organization talked about the history of the dunes. It showed various types of plants that grow in the dunes. We collected shells and stones of various shapes. On the way, we encountered a coral, sea urchin and squid eggs washed ashore.









### ***Day 3***

Meeting in the hostel in the conference room at Zoom with Ms Maria from Pro-Dunas - presentation of the work of a biologist at the foundation. The purpose of the presentation was to get to know the entire ecosystem of dunes. I found out what an embryonic, primary and secondary dune is. There are 10 dunes on the coast between East Marbella and Cabopino. Mrs. Maria talked about the benefits of the dunes.

The main benefits are the protection of homes, habitat for extensive flora and fauna, a healthy beach. I also got to know the different types of flora and fauna found in the dunes. Natural factors as well as man can be a threat to the dunes. The natural factors of the dunes include storm, predators, drainage, and invasive species. Man-made hazards include settlements, beach bars, abuse. It is worth setting up artificial reefs because they help to protect the dunes and beaches.

## ***Day 4***

Meeting with the Lord from the Commune Office. The meeting took place in the dunes. You mainly talked about how dunes are formed and why they are so important. He presented the typical parts of Marbella dunes: embryo dunes, mobile dunes, inter-dune plane, semi-fixed and fixed dunes. He showed various species of plants and talked about which animals live here, which are under protection, and which threaten the dunes. After the meeting, we went with the volunteers to pick up a plant that is harmful to the dunes. This plant is called edible carp. We put the torn out plant in large baskets, took it out of the dune and put it together in one place. While working, I met many different ovules. The volunteer showed us a lizard (*Eslizón ibérico*), which she caught in the basket. Then she released it and quickly hid under the sand. After finishing work, we returned to the hostel.







## ***Day 5***

On the fifth day, our task was to clean the dunes from rubbish. We were given sacks and grabs to collect rubbish. After finishing work, various food and cold drinks were prepared for us.



## ***Day 6***

The last day of the internship took place in the dunes. We rake the dry leaves of a plant called Reed Cane and put them in a basket. Then we took the full baskets to the container. We collected stones and put them in one place. At the end, there was a farewell. We got a thank you and took a photo as a souvenir. Working in the dunes was a great experience and gaining new, valuable information.



**Gracias!**

***Gabriela Bartochowska***