

Marbella, October 2025

NEWSLETTER



Acacia saligna/salicina – the most feared invasive exotic species



Also known as **false mimosa**, *Acacia saligna* or *salicina* is one of the most aggressive and harmful invasive species for our **dune ecosystems**. Its ability to proliferate and spread puts native biodiversity at risk, displacing indigenous plant species.

At **ProDunas Marbella**, every **Tuesday** we work together with our volunteers towards its **complete eradication**. It is a demanding and ongoing effort, yet essential to restore the dunes' natural balance and protect the native flora that defines us.

With perseverance and commitment, we will ensure that our ecosystems remain free from this threat.



Theft in the Ecological Reserve – Marbella Dunes

Concrete blocks had been placed at the entrance to Real de Zaragoza, the dune ecosystems, with the sole purpose of preventing vehicle access and protecting this fragile ecosystem.

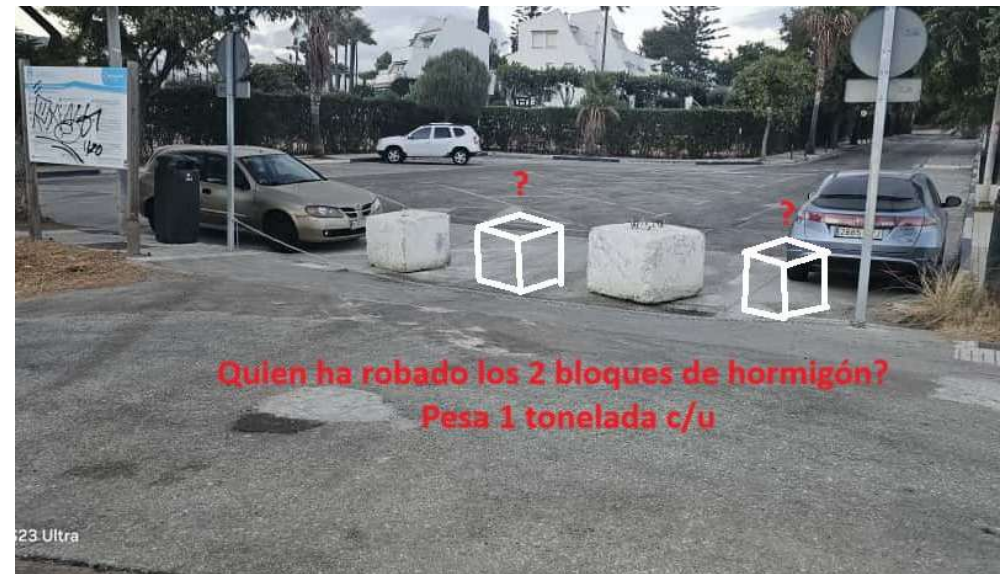
Regrettably, two of these blocks have "disappeared." It is unknown who or why the blocks were nicked. A bulldozer would be needed to move them.

These thefts represent a regrettable lack of responsibility and a serious risk to the conservation of the dune and its biodiversity.

At ProDunas Marbella, we appeal to whoever was involved to respect and care for our Natural Heritage. It is theirs, too. The dunes are a unique and vulnerable ecosystem that need everyone, to work together to be preserved.

Any anomaly or motorized entry into the dune can be reported with a photo of the license plate (not of individuals) and sent to ProDunas Marbella, who will process the respective complaint, both with the local police and with the Regional Government of Andalusia (La Junta de Andalucía).

Photos related to reports can be sent to: asociacion@produnas.org



Volunteers and machinery in action at the Calahonda Dune

The Giant Reeds (*Arundo donax*) were in full bloom in the vacant lot in front of the parking lot near the Calahonda Dune. There was a risk of their seeds being dispersed into the dune environment.

On a Tuesday morning, volunteers from ProDunas Marbella, along with two Hidralia workers who joined as volunteers, worked with fantastic camaraderie, moving ahead with the work so that the machine could carry out deep grubbing up of the roots in this quadrant so close to the dune, leaving it completely free of these Reeds and some False Mimosa.

Workers from the Marbella Town Hall Department of the Environment and Beaches helped in this work, backed up by a backhoe and its driver. In just a few hours, approximately 1,000 kg of FIS (Foreign Invasive Species) were removed.

It was a tough and demanding job, as the ground was very compacted after the dry summer, but when there's a reed present... nothing stops us!





ProDunas Marbella took part in the MITECO (Ministry of Ecological Transition) meeting on the National Nature Restoration Plan

ProDunas Marbella took part specifically in the presentation of the **National Nature Restoration Plan (NRP) in Madrid**, framed within the new Regulation (EU) 2024/1991, which promotes the recovery of degraded ecosystems throughout Europe.

This initiative will set the roadmap for restoring terrestrial and marine biodiversity through 2050. Our Association will continue to contribute knowledge and experience in the conservation of dune and coastal ecosystems along the Marbella coastline.

Restoring nature is safeguarding our future.

ProDunas Marbella and the Town Hall join forces for coastal conservation



Throughout the month of October, **Marbella Town Hall** is broadcasting an advertising spot on the **COPE Marbella radio station**, highlighting its joint work with ProDunas Marbella to strengthen the conservation of dune ecosystems along our coast.

Thanks to this ongoing effort, more than **155,000 kilos of waste and plant debris** have already been removed from the **Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve**, another step toward protecting and preserving these unique natural environments.

Furthermore, a few days ago, ProDunas Marbella took part in an interview on **RTV Marbella** with **Bárbara de Cárcer**, where they discussed the volunteering and environmental education we promote in the Municipality.

Listen to the spot at: [Videos | ProDunas Marbella Association](#)

Marbella takes care of the nature on our doorstep, and with the help of all these organisations, we make it possible.

Volunteer Tuesday in El Pinillo

For two consecutive Tuesdays, our volunteers have once again answered the call of the dune- the area around El Pinillo – Section 1.

We have to come back to finish the job of uprooting one last stand of Giant Reed as the backhoe broke down in the middle of the job last week. This didn't stop our volunteers: with determination, commitment, and a lot of sweat, the group managed to eradicate more than 300 kg of the Giant Reeds (*Arundo donax*) and the False Mimosa (*Acacia saligna*), two FIS (Foreign Invasive Species) that threaten our dune ecosystem.

Neither the heat nor unexpected events stop our volunteers. Week after week they prove that perseverance can keep nature in robust health.

Are you up for it? We look forward to seeing you there so we can continue looking after the Marbella dunes together!



We're kicking off the new school year in the dunes!

The German School was the first to launch its Environmental Education activities with ProDunas Marbella.

The First-Year Secondary School students got to work harvesting juniper berries which were at their peak of ripeness. They also got to grips with the FIS (Foreign Invasive Species) Highway Ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*).

In just one morning, they managed to remove more than 50 kg of Highway Ice plant and collect 5 kg of juniper berries, thus actively contributing to the conservation of our dune environment.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and energy!
Together, we continue to care for and protect the dunes of Marbella.





The Barronal de la Morena dune: a dune that was a symbol of biodiversity and natural beauty.

For years, the Barronal de la Morena dune was one of the most spectacular dunes along the entire Marbella coastline. A vast and vibrant dune system, it stretched from the beach to the A-7 highway, and was home to a wide variety of native species and a unique natural balance.

Starting in 2009, ProDunas Marbella has fought for its survival. Together with other Associations, such as SEO BirdLife, we filed numerous official protests to try to stop its destruction and preserve this valuable natural environment.

When the General Urban Development Plan (PGOU) was cancelled in 2015 and had to be renegotiated, a process that is still ongoing, all our collective achievements were set at naught. Although a portion of the original surface area, which is included in the Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve, has been saved, the damage to the Protected Easement is profound. A significant portion has been assigned to the construction of a public car park for 20 vehicles.

Our Association will continue working, as we have for over 20 years, to defend and restore the dune ecosystems along the Marbella coast. Every square meter we manage to save is another step toward protecting our biodiversity.

The First Rains of Autumn

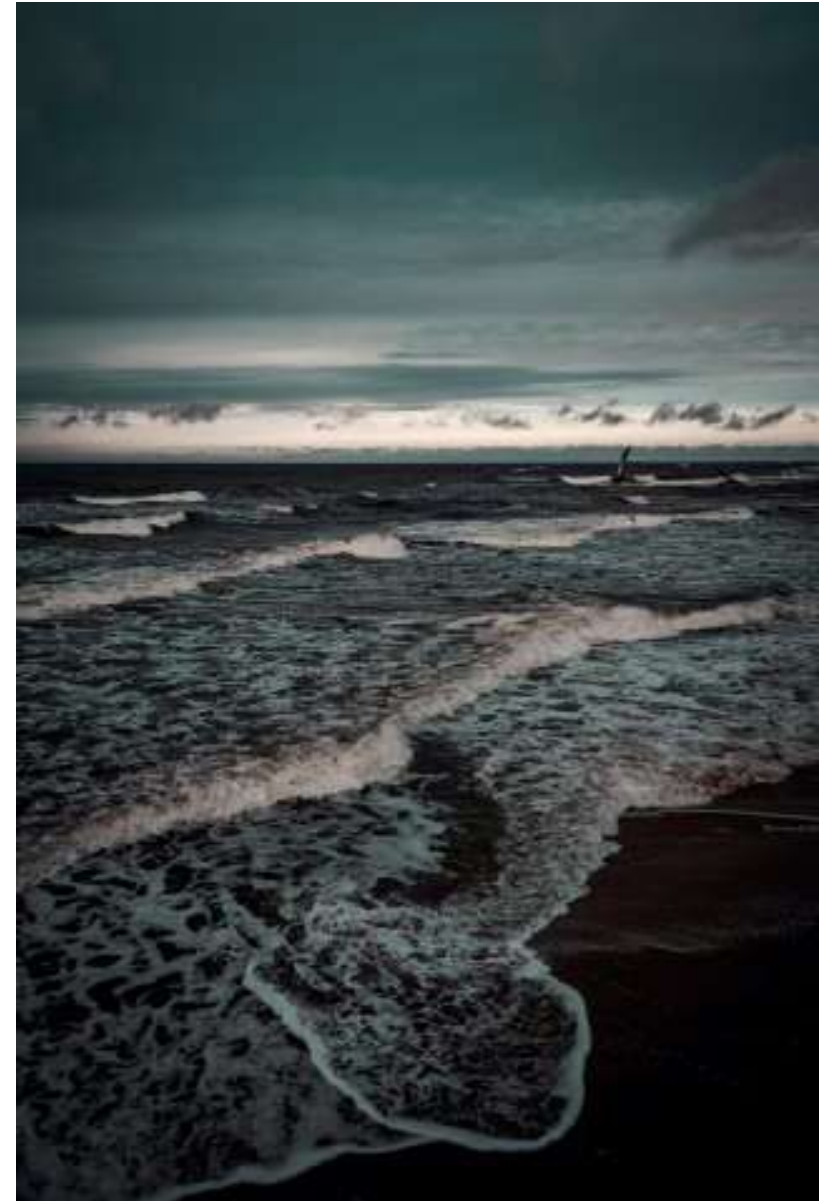


After a long and dry summer, the first rains arrive as a relief for our dune ecosystems. The water brings life back to the soil, awakens the seeds that have been waiting beneath the sand, and allows the native flora to begin its growth cycle.

These rains are also essential for cleaning the air, replenishing aquifers, and preparing the land for the coming months.

In our dunes, every drop counts: it helps strengthen the roots of the plants that stabilize the sand and maintain the balance of this fragile coastal ecosystem.

At **ProDunas Marbella**, we welcome the arrival of the rain — a symbol of renewal and hope for the nature we protect every week.



SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER

