



Marbella, April 2026

NEWSLETTER



Nature finds a way.

The seeds of *Pancratium maritimum*, the Sea Daffodil, have already begun to germinate. This shows once again how nature works silently, ceaselessly, forging her path even in an environment as tough as the dunes.

It's beautiful to stop and stare at these tiny happenings. They are part of the hope for the future of our ecosystems.



Environmental Education from a Drone's Perspective - What do you think?



It's spectacular to see the students taking part, learning, and working on-site to conserve our dune environment.

A different way of observing their involvement, effort, and interest in each activity. It's a pleasure to see them working!

A Spring Full of Environmental Education

With spring just around the corner, we're finalizing the details of our activities with our schoolchildren and have realized that our calendar for March, April, and May is packed.

We love seeing the commitment that the schoolchildren, the teachers, and the principals are making to the environment and the conservation of our coastline.

Every activity, every visit, and every day spent together is an opportunity to cultivate awareness, knowledge, and respect for our dune ecosystems.

Thank you to all the schools that are part of this journey.





Training in ways to Conserve out Dunes

Last week, at their request, we visited the Hard Rock Hotel to give their staff a training session on the importance of the dune ecosystem, its biodiversity, and the need to conserve these valuable areas along our coastline.

Following this meeting, we had the opportunity to join them for an outdoor, hand-on dune conservation day at the “Dunas de Artola” Natural Monument, where they helped with an area clean-up and learned about environmental care.

At ProDunas Marbella, we appreciate their interest, involvement, and eagerness to learn more about the environmental richness of our dunes. Their commitment to protecting this fragile ecosystem. Is encouraging.



The **Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve** is home to *Steatoda paykulliana*, commonly known as the **False Black Widow** spider. This spider is essential for the biological control of our coastline, acting as a silent guardian of the shore.

Physiology: It is recognized by its black, globular opisthosoma with a striking reddish band at the front. This pattern is a natural warning (aposematic coloration) to deter potential predators.

Toxicity: Although it possesses venom to immobilize its prey, as far as humans are concerned, its sting has a mild effect, similar to that of a hymenopteran (wasp), and poses no serious clinical risk. Observation without handling is recommended. In other words: look but don't touch!

Ecological Role: It regulates insect populations among psammophilous vegetation. Thanks to its predatory activity, it reduces the pressure of herbivores that eat the grasses, which are vital for sand stabilization.

Impact: Its presence ensures the health of this protected ecosystem, helping vegetation grow strong and dunes maintain their structure against erosion. Protecting our dune ecosystems in the Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve includes conserving their microfauna.

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Volunteering, Nature and Inclusion: a day to learn and share

We offered our volunteers the opportunity to visit Cantueso Natural Seeds in Córdoba, an organisation with whom we have been collaborating for years by collecting seeds from the different native species that grow in the dunes of the Ecological Reserve-Dunes of Marbella.

We were able to learn first-hand about their work with native wildflower seeds, biodiversity creation and ecological restoration. During the visit, they explained their different lines of work and their approach to sustainability, always based on respect for nature, environmental conservation and the search for solutions that help care for the planet.

It was also very inspiring to see how their commitment goes beyond the environmental field and extends to social collaboration and support for other initiatives.

We also visited Acopinb, an organisation dedicated to supporting and caring for people with intellectual disabilities. They explained the important work they carry out to promote autonomy, inclusion and full participation in society. It was very valuable to see first-hand how they create real opportunities to facilitate access to the labour market and encourage a more autonomous and inclusive life.

It was a truly enriching day, one of those experiences that reminds us that environmental conservation, sustainability and social commitment can go hand in hand.

Thank you to both organisations for opening your doors to us and sharing your experience, your work and your way of sowing the future.





Station POS_39 in Calahonda > included in the Natura 2000 Network

On 19 April, a monitoring session was carried out at the station. Four divers — José Miguel, Iván, Emilio and José — completed a follow-up dive to check the condition of the beautiful *Posidonia oceanica* meadow and to detect any possible damage or impacts caused by illegal fishing practices.

Although visibility was not particularly good, as can be seen in the underwater photographs, the monitoring session confirmed that the marine meadow is in excellent condition, despite the winter storms.

We continue to closely monitor the evolution of these valuable ecosystems, which are part of our natural wealth of our coastline and whose conservation is essential for marine biodiversity.

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