

Marbella, September 2026

NEWSLETTER



The dunes do not rest in summer



As the sun goes down and temperatures begin to fall, many of the dunes' small inhabitants become active. Insects, spiders, nocturnal birds and other animals leave their shelters to feed, move around or find a safe place.

Although we may barely notice them, they are part of a very delicate natural balance. Excessive lighting, noise, the use of powerful torches or walking away from the designated paths can disturb their behaviour and damage their shelters. If we walk through the dunes at sunset or during the night, we should do so quietly, remain on the designated paths and avoid shining lights towards the vegetation or animals.

The wind continues to move the sand. Dune plants continue to withstand the heat. Wildlife continues to seek shelter.

And invasive alien species do not stop either.

The dunes do not rest in summer. Protecting them is everyone's responsibility.

Installation of new benches in different sections of the Reserva Ecológica-Dunas de Marbella

We are pleased to share a small but significant improvement for everyone who uses, explores and enjoys the different routes along the Coastal Path: the benches requested by **ProDunas Marbella** have now been installed at various points within the **Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve**.

The locations were proposed taking into account the surrounding environment, pedestrian routes and those places where a rest area can be particularly useful for local residents and visitors.

The only installation still pending is the bench planned next to **La Víbora Oeste dune**, which will be put in place once the kiosk currently located in that area has been removed.

At **ProDunas Marbella**, we would like to thank the **Department of Environment and Beaches of Marbella Town Council** and the teams responsible for the installation. More than one person will certainly be happy to enjoy the views while sitting comfortably on one of these benches.

We continue working to ensure that the Ecological Reserve becomes an increasingly well cared-for, accessible and pleasant space, always with respect for and protection of our dune ecosystems.

Protecting Marbella's Dune Heritage since 2004.



FLORAL INTERCROPPING – A new approach worth watching. It seems that something may be changing in watermelon cultivation

We came across a very interesting article and wanted to share it:

Watermelon growers are experimenting with dune plants as a natural way to combat aphid pests.

We are particularly pleased to see this article because **sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)** is a native species found in “our” Marbella dunes. When walking through the dune environments, we often see it covering the sandy ground like a natural carpet.

Every year it delights us once again with its appearance, and we can confirm that it contributes to the abundant presence of many insects, especially bees, which seek the essential pollen needed to pollinate other species.

We welcome the fact that watermelon producers are willing to tackle aphids using native plants. At **ProDunas Marbella**, we strongly advocate avoiding the use of phytosanitary products in the **Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve**, including in the fight against invasive alien species, as these plants can quickly recover and resprout even more vigorously.

The dunes are an oasis of peace and harmony, and every insect is welcome to make use of the existing flora, contributing naturally to the health and balance of the ecosystem.





September is finally here and our Volunteer Programme is back!

After the summer break, we are back with renewed energy and eager to begin a new season of dune conservation.

Today we worked at **Calahonda dune**, where we managed to remove no less than **200 kg of giant reed (*Arundo donax*)**. We could hardly have asked for a better start to the new season! The heat was intense, but the enthusiasm, energy and commitment of our volunteers proved even stronger.

Over the coming months, we will resume our **Volunteer Days** in different dune areas throughout Marbella. We will continue working to remove invasive alien species, collect litter and carry out other essential tasks to protect and restore these valuable ecosystems.

Thank you to everyone who has once again contributed their time, effort and enthusiasm to the conservation of Marbella's dunes. **A special mention goes to the participation of Hidralia employees!** We greatly appreciate your support and company — thank you, everyone.



QUAD > 4x4 VEHICLE IN THE REAL DE ZARAGOZA DUNES

For many years, people have respected the dune ecosystem at **Real de Zaragoza**. Unfortunately, it seems that this respect has been broken, as a quad bike drove through the entire dune area last Sunday.

At **ProDunas Marbella**, we have reported this incident and submitted the photographs to **SEPRONA** so that they can identify the person responsible, given the damage caused to this reforested dune environment. The photographs sent to us by a local resident clearly show the tracks left by the vehicle and the visible damage caused to both the sand and the vegetation.

We have asked **Marbella Town Council** to urgently place large rocks at the most vulnerable access points in order to prevent vehicles from entering the area and to avoid further setbacks in the conservation of this natural space. The dunes require continuous protection. Preventing vehicle access is essential to preserve their vegetation, biodiversity and natural structure.

The German School begins the new school year in its adopted dune!



Environmental education is once again taking centre stage at **Duna Las Golondrinas**, where students from the **German School** have started the new school year by getting actively involved, once again, in the conservation of our dune environment.

Together with our **ProDunas Marbella volunteers**, they learned how to correctly remove new shoots of **false mimosa**, an invasive alien species that needs to be kept under control.

Working together, they managed to remove **more than 300 kg of false mimosa**.

Our volunteers, as committed as ever, accompanied and guided the students throughout the activity, sharing their knowledge and, above all, their dedication to protecting our dunes.

Well done to everyone for their effort and fantastic involvement!

A PRODUNAS PROPOSAL THAT HAS FINALLY BECOME A REALITY IN CALAHONDA

We are especially pleased to see how an initiative that **ProDunas proposed several years ago for the open area in Calahonda** has finally become a reality.

As part of our project to recover, rehabilitate and reforest the dune area adjacent to the open space in Calahonda, launched in 2017 and later updated in 2021, we highlighted the need to preserve this privileged seafront location and create a **peri-dune area with native vegetation and wooden benches**, where people could enjoy the magnificent views over the Alboran Sea.

Today, the area already has its benches and has become a small viewpoint open to local residents and visitors.

It is a simple project, but one that clearly reflects what we have always advocated at ProDunas: making the enjoyment of our coastline compatible with the conservation and enhancement of its natural spaces.

We are particularly pleased to see that proposals put forward years ago are gradually taking shape and helping to restore areas that deserve to be protected, cared for and enjoyed with respect.

We will continue working and proposing improvements to preserve Marbella's extraordinary natural heritage.





YOUNG CHAMELEON WANTED TO EXPLORE THE WORLD

...in the **Natural Monument “Dunas de Artola”**. But when it came across hundreds of cars and thousands of people along the route it had chosen for its adventure, it became frightened!

Its rescuer spotted it and did not hesitate for a moment: she picked it up and took it back to its natural habitat among the mastic trees and other dune shrubs.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to our friend from the **Marbella Local Police** for rescuing this adventurous **common chameleon (*Chamaeleo chamaeleon*)**. In the photo, it appears quite calm after being picked up by a public authority, although once it was returned to its habitat, it quickly recovered its normal colouring, a sign that it was once again at ease.

Good luck on your future adventures, little chameleon — we hope you have learned your lesson!

SEE YOU IN OCTOBER

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