

IMPACT
REPORT 2023
CAPITAL AZUL FOUNDATION

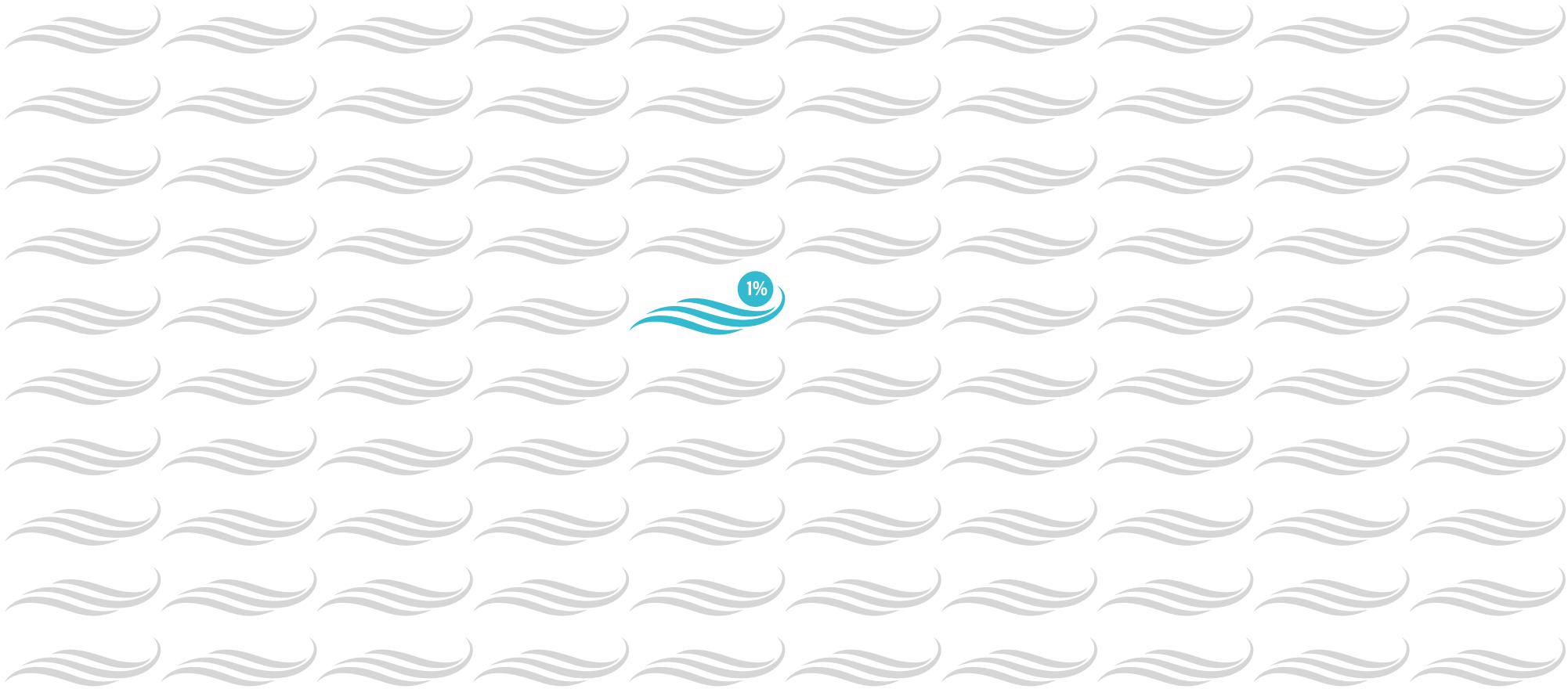


capital
azul

WELCOME

IMPACT REPORT 2023
CAPITAL AZUL FOUNDATION

¿DID YOU KNOW THAT BARELY 1% OF THE COAST OF CHILE IS PROTECTED?



TODAY,
THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY IS FORCEFULLY IMPACTING
MARINE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS. PROOF OF THIS IS FOUND
BOTH IN SCIENCE AND IN THE TESTIMONY OF THE
MEMBERS OF ARTISANAL FISHER UNIONS, THE LEADERS OF THE
TURF-RESERVE PROGRAM OF CAPITAL AZUL FOUNDATION.

In 2009, less than 10% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, 200 nautical miles) of Chile was protected. In the last few years, the country has afforded protection, at least on paper, to a bit more than 40% of the EEZ.

But this figure needs a second look: that increase in area under some type of protection is, according to the Ministry of the Environment, concentrated in three of the 14 marine ecoregions existing in Chile, namely Easter Island, Desventuradas Islands and the Juan Fernández archipelago.

It is even estimated that barely 1% of the Territorial Sea (first 12 nautical miles) is protected, which is a particularly critical situation for Central Chile.

Today, the loss of biodiversity is forcefully impacting marine coastal ecosystems. Proof of this is found in the testimony of the members of artisanal fisher unions, the leaders of the TURF-Reserve program of Fundación Capital Azul. ●



APPENDIX

WELCOME	2
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	6
ABOUT US	7
MISSION, VISION AND VALUES	9
AT THE FORESHORE	10
WHY CREATE TURF-RESERVES?	11
A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING MODEL	13
STRATEGIC LINES	14
THE TURF-RESERVE NETWORK IN THE REGION OF VALPARAÍSO	15
IN THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS	16
LA POLCURA TURF-RESERVE	17
ZAPALLAR TURF-RESERVE	21
CACHAGUA TURF-RESERVE	26
MAITENCILLO TURF-RESERVE	30
VENTANAS TURF-RESERVE	34
TRANSVERSAL SCOPES OF THE PROGRAM	38
EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	39
SOUTHWARD	41
TURF-RESERVE IN PUBLIC POLICY	43
WEAVING NETWORKS	44
MEETING EACH OTHER FOR THE TURF-RESERVE	47
TOWARDS DATA VISUALIZATION AND ANALYSIS	49
TELLING STORIES THAT RESONATE	51
LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN US	54
RETURNING TO THE SURFACE	55
2023 IMPACT FIGURES	56
COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES	57
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	58



EDITORIAL LETTER

It's time to fortify the TURF-Reserve program

BY RODRIGO SÁNCHEZ GREZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FUNDACIÓN CAPITAL AZUL

The 2023 WAS A GREAT YEAR. A year that will surely mark a before and an after not only for the TURF-Reserve program but also for Fundación Capital Azul. That is the value of hindsight: it helps us learn, grow and improve. It is an exercise that aids us in making more informed decisions based on our past and in building a sounder future.

After a turbulent 2022, we started 2023 with renewed energy thanks to the drive of the fishers unions and the team at Capital Azul that today includes new faces and a robust group that can face the challenges awaiting us over the next six years.

“The challenge lies in directing and integrating this entire process while we evaluate to scale the program to other regions in the country. The Región de los Ríos has already begun to appear on the map.”

We have been a member of the new Coastal Community Network since mid-2023, promoted by BHP Foundation. Its goal is to create a space for synergy and learning that incorporates local knowledge and gives communities the leading role in developing innovative ways to care for the sea for future generations. To a great extent, that is what we do every day at Capital Azul, following our mission of creating the first TURF-Reserve network in Chile hand in hand with artisanal fisher unions. Because of this support, added to that of other companies and organizations, we find ourselves in an ideal position from which to strengthen our model and evaluate to scale the program outside of the Region of Valparaíso.

2023 was also a year when a major milestone for this type of initiative was celebrated, an initiative where local communities are the ones to take on a key role in conservation and in a sustainable use of the ocean. By this I mean the First International Meeting of TURF-Reserves. This event was not a one-off milestone but rather part of a continuum. In my opinion, it reaffirms the work being done in the five coves that are part of the program, and it has enabled the TURF-Reserves to go beyond unions and to bit by bit involve neighboring communities. Zapallar and Maitencillo are pioneers in this socialization process.

Thus, the TURF-Reserve program began to cover much more than a union and a cove. It became a binding figure capable of fortifying the social fabric based on collaborative networks that leverage each actor involved. Today, this model is starting to explore the depth of these relationships, with a focus centered on TURF-Reserves, encompassing municipalities, government institutions, schools, community and non-governmental organizations, and cooperatives, to name a few. In the end, it is the



expanded community that is welcoming them.

The challenge lies in directing and integrating this entire process while we evaluate to scale the program to other regions in the country. The Región de los Ríos has already begun to appear on the map. And the future seems auspicious: in early 2024, President Gabriel Boric enacted the Benthic Law that recognizes TURF-Reserves in Chile's public policy under the figure of "Voluntary Protection Zone". Just a few years back, TURF-Reserves were considered illegal, but the outlook today is entirely different, which translates into one more incentive to continue fortifying the TURF-Reserve Program. ●

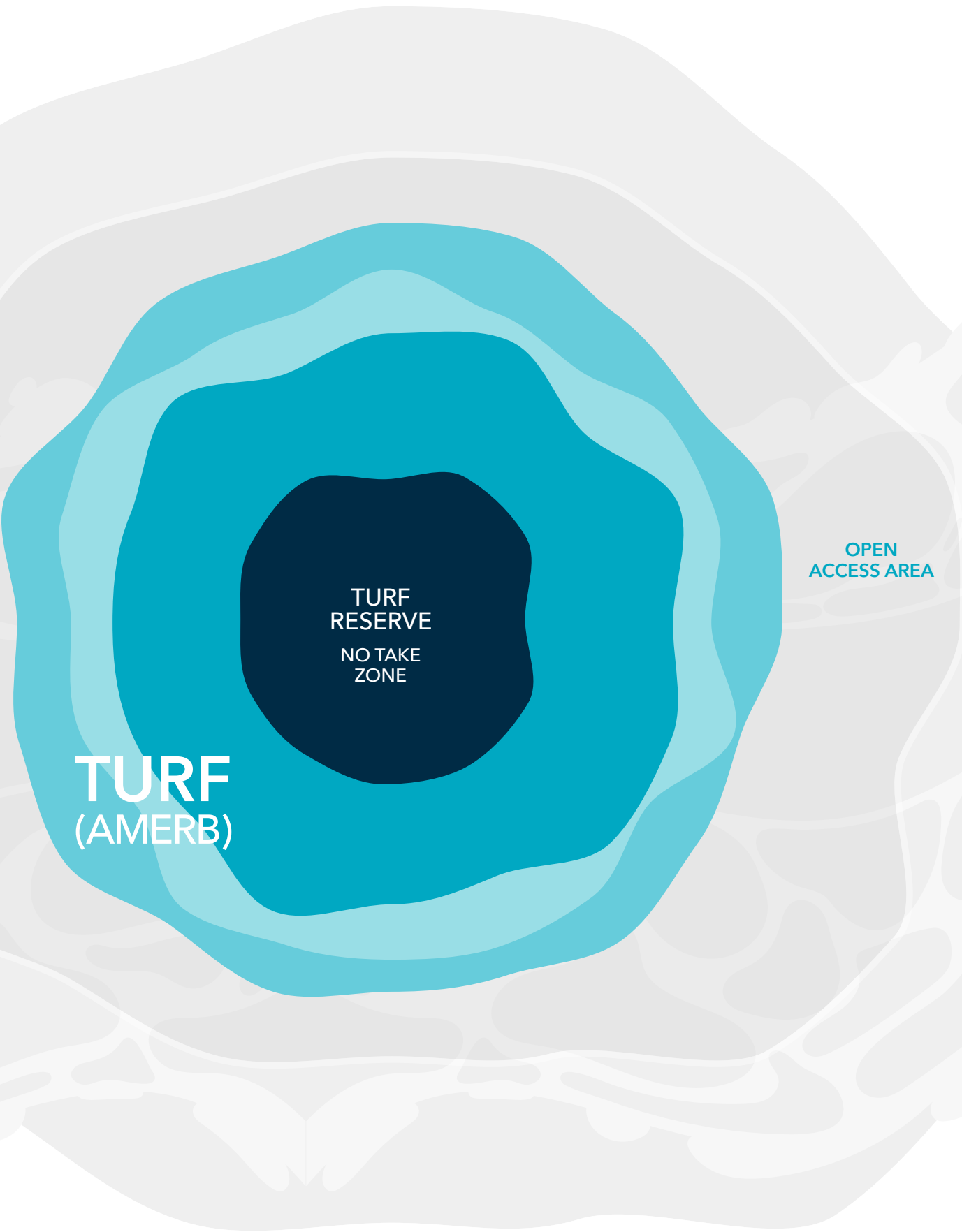
ABOUT US



Since 2016, Capital Azul Foundation has been heading an ambitious, science-based program to establish TURF-Reserves, which are no-take marine areas managed by local communities: an area of approximately 15 hectares in which no type of resource can be extracted. These safe zones, or voluntary protection zones under the new Benthic Law, are located within Management and Exploitation Areas for Benthic Resources (MEABRs) that are managed by artisanal fisher unions. Artisanal fisher unions voluntarily sign an agreement with Capital Azul to co-create these TURF-Reserves, a model that combines exploitation and conservation in one same system and is intended to increase biodiversity while improving the sustenance and resilience of coastal communities in Chile. The TURF-Reserve program gives artisanal fishing a leading role in marine sustainability and in the restoration of the degraded marine coastal ecosystems in the country.

The program that we have been developing is not fixed; it is constantly evolving. Each TURF-Reserve, like each cove and each union, has different realities, strengths and challenges. We have been taking things from each, learning and integrating elements to this learning platform that is now acquiring outcomes that were unsuspected back into 2016.

La Polcura, Zapallar, Cachagua, Maitencillo and Ventanas have become the launching point of this new form of conservation: marine conservation led by those who are engaged in artisanal fishing where little by little, neighboring communities, civic organizations, government institutions and other actors are all uniting to strengthen this TURF-Reserve network. ●



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**STEFAN
GELCICH
CROSSLEY**
FOUNDER OF CAPITAL
AZUL AND DIRECTOR
OF THE COASTAL
SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL
MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE
(SECOS)



**C. JOSH
DONLAN**
FOUNDER OF
CAPITAL AZUL AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF ADVANCED
CONSERVATION
STRATEGIES



**FRANCISCA
PÉREZ
NAVARRO**
DIRECTOR OF
ACCOUNTING AND
TAXATION IN
TMF GROUP



**ALFREDO
SFEIR
CAMARENA**
FOUNDER AND
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF
SHELLCATCH INC



**RODRIGO
SÁNCHEZ
GREZ**
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



**PAULINA
MARTÍNEZ
MARÍN**
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITIES &
EDUCATION



**ANDRÉS
SMITH
TOLEDO**
HEAD OF
BIOLOGICAL
MONITORING



**CAROLA
BENÍTEZ
PADILLA**
TERRITORIAL
COORDINATOR



TEAM

**TOMÁS
MOGGIA
CÁRDENAS**
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS



**GIOVANNI
TASSO
ROMANOFF**
DATA
SCIENTIST



**MARÍA
FRANCISCA
BARDI ÁLVAREZ**
PROJECT
MANAGER



**JAVIERA
ESPINOZA
JARA**
HEAD OF
EDUCATION
PROGRAM



MISSION

Our mission is to create, together with artisanal fishers, the first TURF-Reserve network in Chile to increase biodiversity, revitalize local economies and scale environmental and community benefits.



VISION

Our vision is to catalyze a new paradigm of marine conservation where artisanal fishers lead the regeneration of ecosystems and activate new economies vital to the coastal life of Chile and the world. Together we will ensure that our oceans and our dependence on them are prosperous and resilient.



VALUES

ACTION-ORIENTED

We are focused on implementing specific actions to achieve the sustainability and regeneration of marine life in coastal ecosystems.

CO-CREATION

We believe that the goal of regenerating coastal resources is of great interest to diverse actors. Therefore, we are involved with many actors and recognize the expertise and knowledge to create situated, feasible and complex proposals that are enriched by multiple perspectives.

PEOPLE-CENTERED

We conceive conserving nature as a challenge that is overcome with and for people. An increase in marine coastal resources must be capable of generating appropriate benefits for local communities, who play the leading role in this challenge.

HOLISTIC

We are an organization that proposes innovative and enduring solutions based on the intersection of sectors and disciplines.





AT THE FORESHORE

AN INITIAL APPROACH TO
THE TURF-RESERVE PROGRAM.

A SCIENCE-BASED PROGRAM LED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Why create TURF-Reserves?

Today, a bit more than 40% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Chile is being conserved under some form of protection, which has made the country a world leader in marine conservation. However, the actual challenges are to equitably allocate those efforts because a large part of that percentage is, according to the Ministry of the Environment, concentrated in three of the existing 14 marine ecoregions: Rapa Nui Island (Easter Island), Desventuradas Islands and the Juan Fernández Archipelago.

This differs from what is happening on the coast of continental Chile, especially between Arica and Puerto Montt, where little space is allocated to conservation. Nonetheless, we must acknowledge that there has been a more forceful progress in recent years in the number of ecoregions being conserved under models such as the Multiple-Use Marine Coastal Protected Area (AMCP-MU, as abbreviated in Spanish) in the Humboldt Archipelago in the Regions of Atacama and Coquimbo; and the Pisagua Sea AMCP-MU in the Region of Tarapacá.

At this time, [Chile's marine protected areas cover](#) an area of 142,246,345 hectares, 56% of which are Marine Parks and 42% Marine Coastal Protected Areas. Fewer (as far as area is concerned) are the National Reserves, Natural Monuments, Marine Reserves and Nature Sanctuaries. MPAs cover 22.8% of the ocean territory occupied by marine ecoregions where the MPAs are located. However, many of those MPAs are not managed or supervised effectively and have no approved management plans.





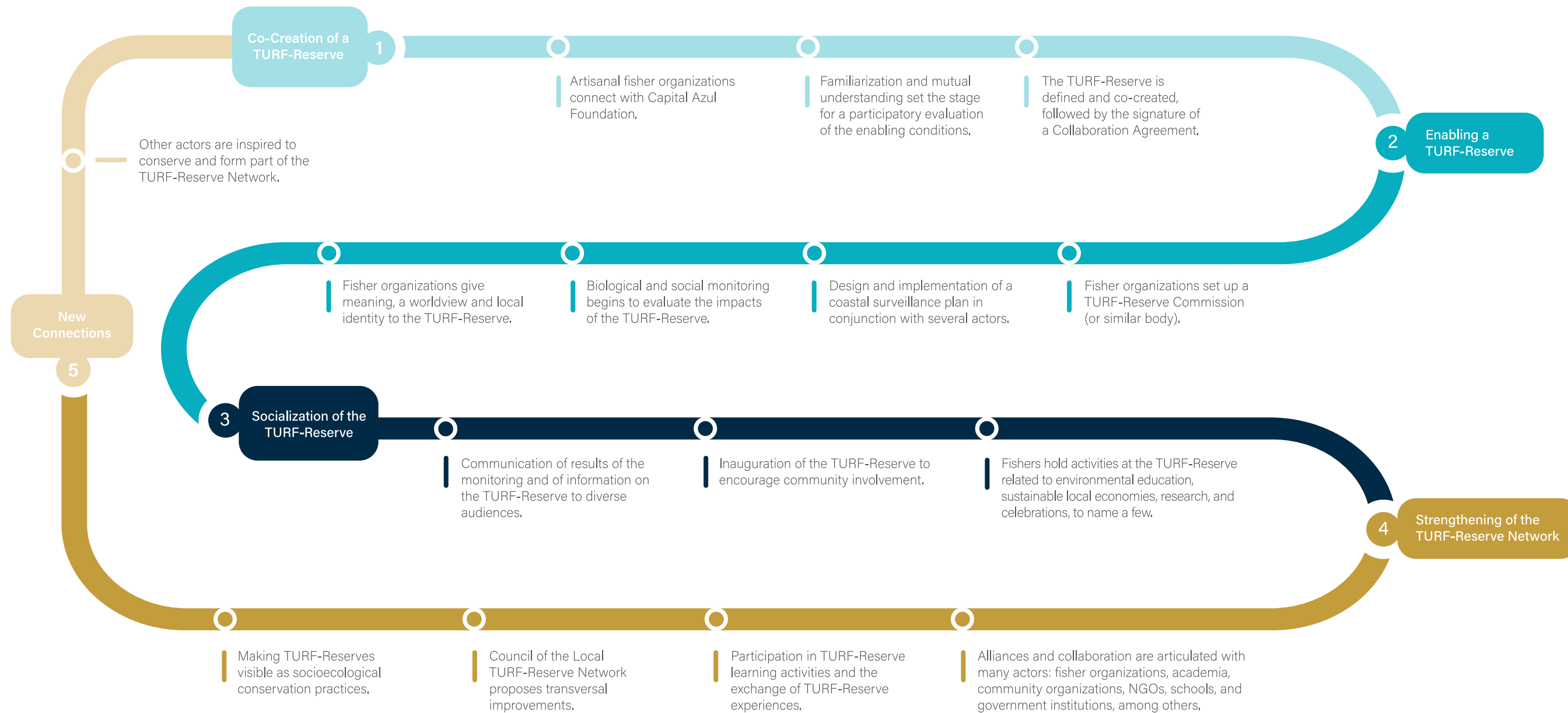
The TURF-Reserve Program, which is complementary to the work done concerning MPAs, is a conservation model led by coastal communities that combines protection of the marine biodiversity with resource productivity. This program is based on studies of social and ecological systems present on the coast of Chile, particularly Territorial User Rights for Fisheries (TURF or AMERB, as abbreviated in Spanish), a system of coastal strips of sea regarding with rights of exclusive use and exploitation of benthic resources are granted to artisanal fisher organizations.

We have developed an TURF-based incentive program that is directed towards the people who are members of these organizations. This program helps them establish TURF-Reserves measuring around 15 hectares, which are non-extractive or no-fishing zones, similar to small marine protected areas. Internationally known as TURF-Reserves (Territorial Use Rights for Fisheries coupled with Marine Reserves), this model aims not only to confront the loss of biodiversity in a setting of climate crisis but also to improve the sustenance and resilience of coastal communities.

Based on the work we have been doing since 2016, TURF-Reserves have become models that, in some cases, help restore the social fabric of the localities where they are set up and could eventually become poles of sustainable development throughout the coast of Chile, encouraging people engaged in artisanal fishing not to depend solely on resource extraction but rather to diversify their sources of income.

According to data of the Office of the Undersecretary of Fishing and Aquaculture (Subpesca), nearly 800 TURF have been decreed, which cover an area slightly above 100,000 hectares. Those numbers represent a great opportunity to create incentives to help artisanal fishers assume a leading role in marine conservation and sustainability, which is already being done by artisanal fisher communities in La Polcura, Zapallar, Cachagua, Maitencillo and Ventanas. An opportunity like none other to progress towards models that do not dichotomize conservation and productivity in the context of a triple climate crisis. ●

Creating a TURF-Reserve



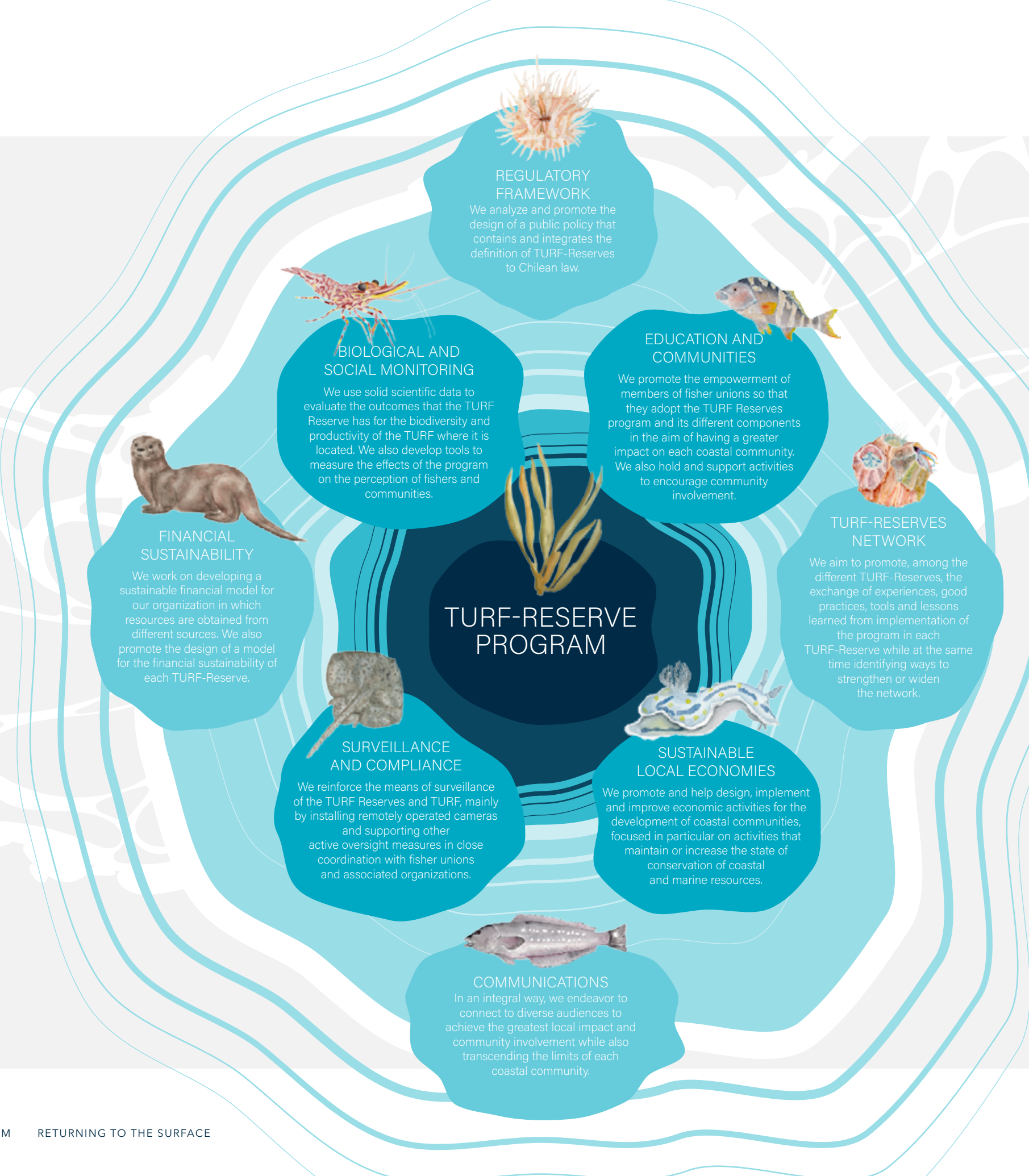
The stages are a constant cycle because as the TURF-Reserve integrates new processes, there are periods of co-creation, implementation, socialization and strengthening of the Network.

Strategic Lines

For the work of the coming years, we have defined four key objectives to achieve the goal of improving the resilience of the fishing communities that are part of the TURF-Reserve program in Chile, and at the same time to design a roadmap for expanding the TURF-Reserve Network in other regions of the country. These four objectives are the following:

1. The network of five TURF-Reserve in the Valparaiso region is strengthened, fully functional and benefits from strong community support and use.
2. Develop a business plan for the long-term sustainability of the TURF-Reserve Network in the Valparaiso region.
3. Identify conditions to scaling up the network and design a roadmap for expansion of TURF-Reserves to another region in Chile.
4. The existing regulatory framework that allows the formal establishment and operation of a TURF-Reserve is supported by a diverse group of stakeholders and there is a plan to strengthen it.

To achieve these four objectives, we have defined 8 general strategies for change or lines of action, some operating at the heart of the TURF-Reserve program and others at a more macro or general level, representing the main resources and activities that can be used, with varying degrees of intensity, to achieve the proposed goal.●



AT THE FOREFRONT

TURF-Reserve Network Valparaíso Region

The Region of Valparaíso is where it all began. What started as a research project has, over time, grown to unpredicted levels. These five TURF-Reserves have become a learning platform that is constantly nourished from a diversity of perspectives, challenges and experiences that are being integrated to the program.

The Artisanal Fisher Unions of La Polcura, Zapallar, Cachagua, Maitencillo and Ventanas have made crucial contributions from within to reinforce this form of marine conservation led by local communities, and as each TURF-Reserve becomes more consolidated, the program continues to receive new views and contributions. It is no longer just about the unions: today there are many actors who are involved and who can strengthen this initiative even further. ●



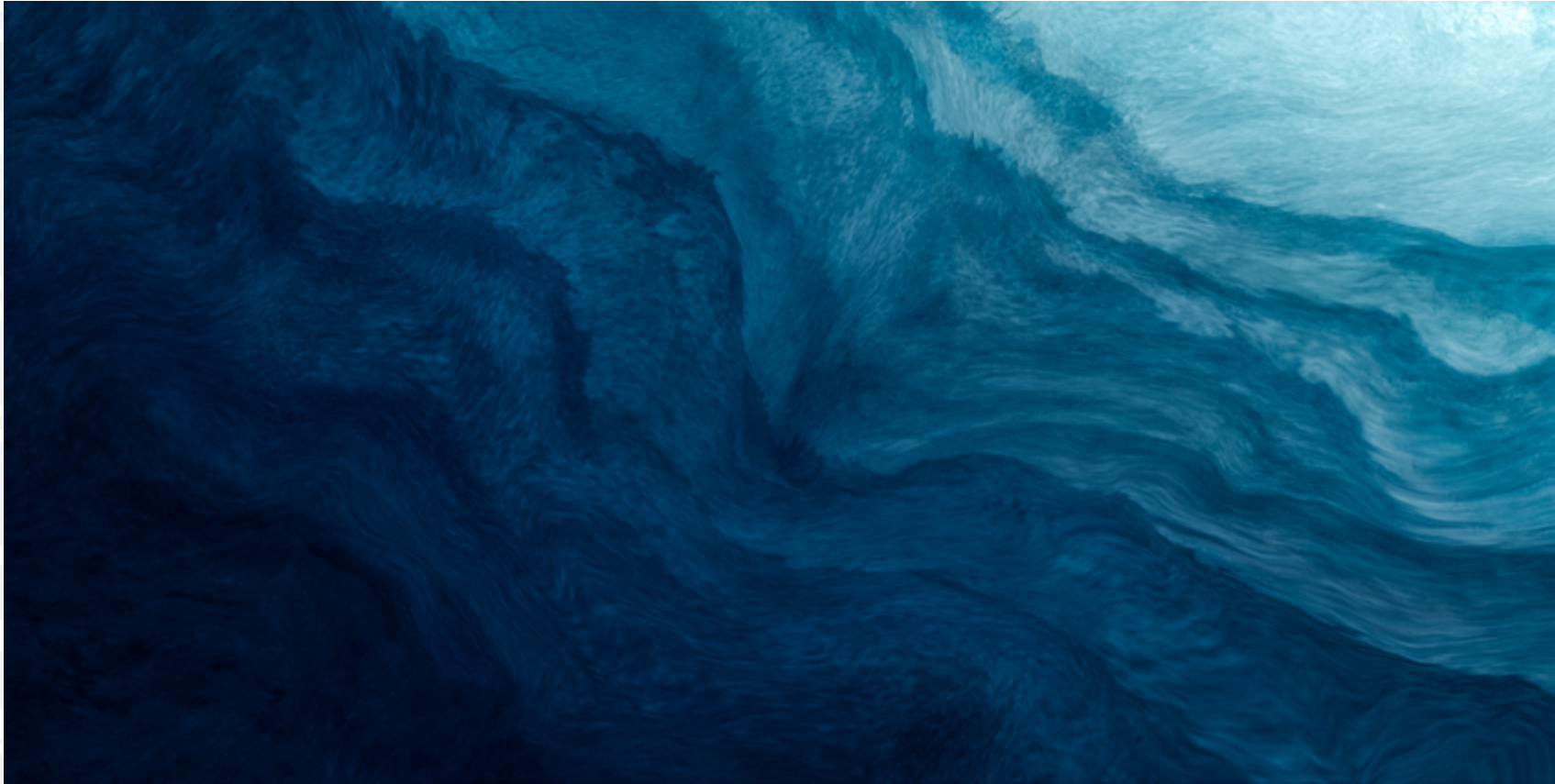
LA POLCURA

ZAPALLAR

CACHAGUA

MAITENCILLO

VENTANAS



IN THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS

WE INVITE YOU TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORK DONE
AT EACH TURF-RESERVE AND SEE THE SCOPES OF THIS
SCIENCE-BASED PROGRAM LED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES.





TURF-RESERVE

La Polcura

LA POLCURA



“It is not simply about a piece (of ocean) that is being protected: it is a refuge to maintain marine life that entails special care.”

Silvia del Carmen Otárola Altamirano
Member of the La Polcura Union of Independent
Seaweed Collectors and Related Activities

We began 2023 with a meeting with John Galiardi, president of the La Polcura Union of Independent Seaweed Collectors and Related Activities. The purpose was to begin to familiarize the union members with the TURF-Reserve program and resume our work more forcefully. This set the stage for the La Polcura TURF-Reserve Commission to be created at the union’s assembly; this Commission offers a space for the participation of more members, and we could steer towards the inauguration of this area of conservation.



LA POLCURA

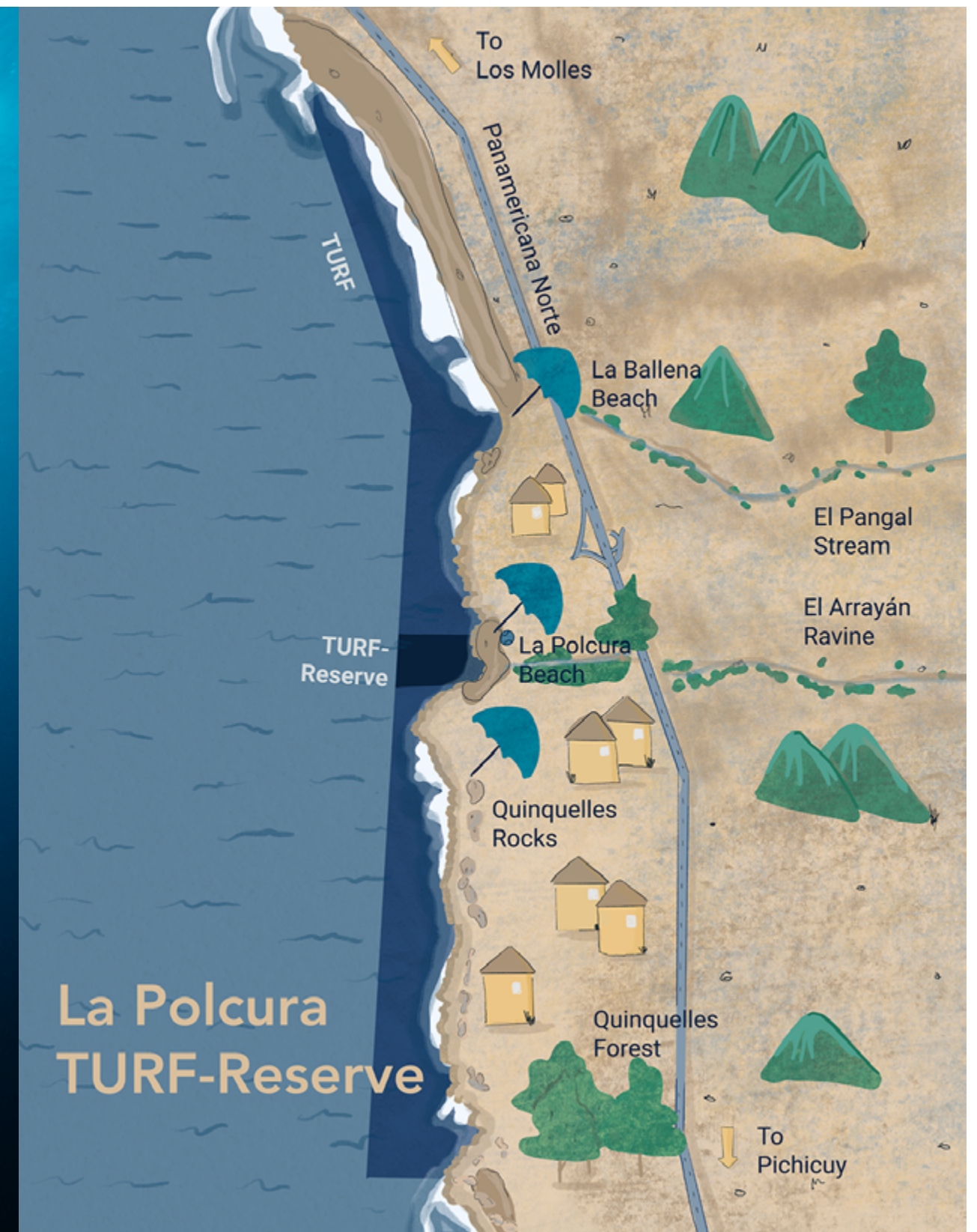


The Commission has three women members and it became a place to explore the implications for the union of establishing a TURF-Reserve, the expectations regarding work, and the roles of each organization, in addition to defining some short- and medium-term goals. Part of the team from Capital Azul later attended a second union assembly to go over certain matters again, answer some questions, and discuss the information gathered from the social and biological monitoring. In 2023, a coastal surveillance system was also installed in the La Polcura TURF-Reserve with the support of Shellcatch. However, heavy tides caused damage to the post, which led to a re-assessment of relocating it to another sector.

In parallel, John Galiardi, accompanied by a member of

the Capital Azul team, met with Patricio Pallares, Mayor of La Ligua, during which John and the team gave a brief presentation on the TURF-Reserve program and on the specific work that has been done in the locality of La Ballena.

Although the speaking time was limited, we engaged with employees of the Tourism and Environment Departments in an effort to create more direct and fluid relations with the municipality to secure its support for future TURF-Reserve activities. The municipality acknowledged that they were not aware of the TURF-Reserve, so it was a good initial approach for those living in La Ligua to be able to stop turning their back on the ocean and become aware that there are also alternatives for sustainable marine coastal development beyond Los Molles. ●



LA POLCURA



3 MILESTONES

MARKED OUR WORK IN LA POLCURA:

- THE FAMILIARIZATION PROCESS.
- THE CREATION OF THE TURF-RESERVE COMMISSION.
- THE REPORTING ON THE RESULTS OF THE MONITORING.

JUNE 28TH

IS THE DAY WHEN THE TRADITIONAL
FEAST OF SAINT PETER, PATRON SAINT OF
FISHERS, WAS HELD IN LA BALLENA.

260 HECTARES

IS THE EXPANSE OF THE TURF WHERE THE LA
POLCURA TURF-RESERVE IS LOCATED, IN THE LOCALITY
OF LA BALLENA, MUNICIPALITY OF LA LIGUA.



TURF-RESERVE

Zapallar

ZAPALLAR

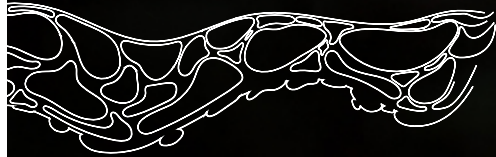


Since its inauguration in December 2021, the Zapallar TURF-Reserve has been a pioneer, and each week visitors from different parts of the province as well as tourists come to the cove to see up close this story being told by artisanal fishers. In the summer of 2023, the Municipality of Zapallar, as part of its summer entertainment activities, organized guided tours through some of the Municipality's protected areas, and the Zapallar TURF-Reserve was one of those chosen. Senior citizens, adults, youths and children joined this initiative, which was a sort of starting point for a year in which the number of visitors rose like sea foam.

"We used to be predators, but today fishers are caring. This means that there is a change, and we are also thinking about the planet."

Sergio Veas , President of
the Zapallar Cove
Fishers Union

ZAPALLAR

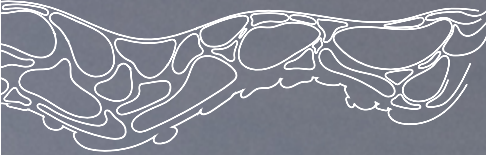


In this respect, one of the tasks of our team was to support the environmental education directed by Sergio Veas, president of the Zapallar Artisanal Fishers Union. He was given different materials, such as the booklet “Coastal Fish of Chile,” and other publications on marine biodiversity. Mid-year we added the TURF-Reserves of Chile Handbook, a publication written with the collaboration of our partners The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile, Fundación Oceanósfera and the Coastal Social-Ecological Millennium Institute (SECOS).

Our Education and Communities team also helped Sergio in the design of guidelines for visitors to Zapallar Cove that would serve as support for the union’s work, improve the narrative and involve other members of the union. At the same time, we began work on a standard according to which the president of the Zapallar Fishers Union and other members could charge for the educational activities they hold to be able to keep those activities going in the long run.



ZAPALLAR



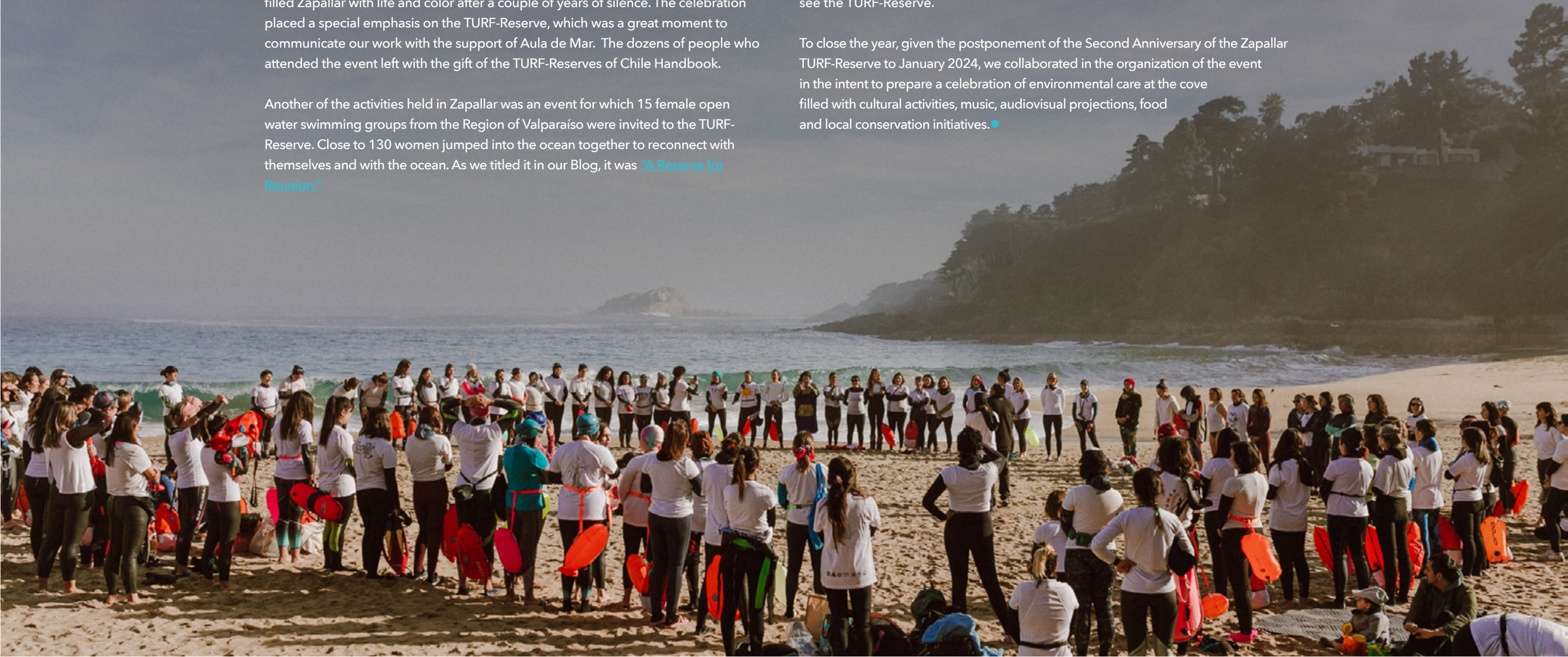
Visits to the cove and the TURF-Reserve continued throughout the year: visitors came from the Zapallar School, Edupac School in Cabildo, Maese Da Vinci School in La Ligua, among many other schools in the zone. There was no rest, not even during winter vacation: it was the ideal time to make several boat trips to the TURF-Reserve.

In mid-year we were invited to participate in the Feast of Saint Peter that once again filled Zapallar with life and color after a couple of years of silence. The celebration placed a special emphasis on the TURF-Reserve, which was a great moment to communicate our work with the support of Aula de Mar. The dozens of people who attended the event left with the gift of the TURF-Reserves of Chile Handbook.

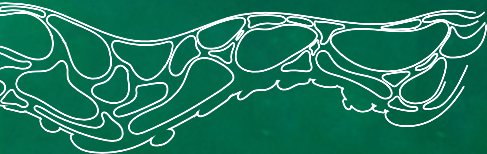
Another of the activities held in Zapallar was an event for which 15 female open water swimming groups from the Region of Valparaíso were invited to the TURF-Reserve. Close to 130 women jumped into the ocean together to reconnect with themselves and with the ocean. As we titled it in our Blog, it was ["A Reserve for Reunion."](#)

Guardianes del Medioambiente (Guardians of the Environment), a group of senior citizens in the municipality of Zapallar, also visited the Zapallar TURF-Reserve. Their purpose is to care for the environment and the visit gave them the opportunity to see this area of the ocean set aside for conservation. The activity was led by Sergio Veas and Mayor Gustavo Alessandri Bascuñán. The 2023 season visits ended with more than 2 thousand people having come to Zapallar Cove to see the TURF-Reserve.

To close the year, given the postponement of the Second Anniversary of the Zapallar TURF-Reserve to January 2024, we collaborated in the organization of the event in the intent to prepare a celebration of environmental care at the cove filled with cultural activities, music, audiovisual projections, food and local conservation initiatives. ●



ZAPALLAR



+2.000

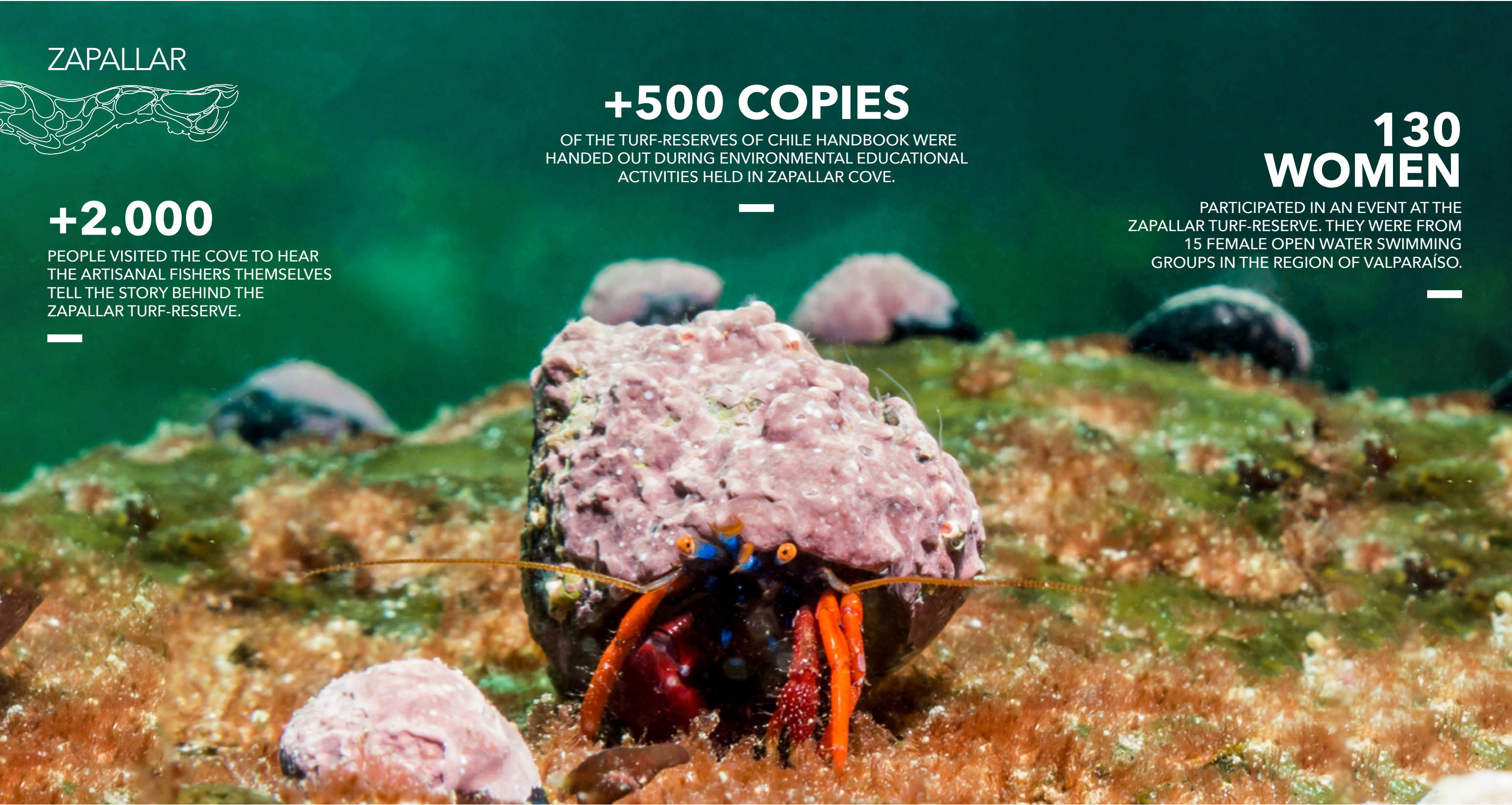
PEOPLE VISITED THE COVE TO HEAR THE ARTISANAL FISHERS THEMSELVES TELL THE STORY BEHIND THE ZAPALLAR TURF-RESERVE.

+500 COPIES

OF THE TURF-RESERVES OF CHILE HANDBOOK WERE HANDED OUT DURING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES HELD IN ZAPALLAR COVE.

130 WOMEN

PARTICIPATED IN AN EVENT AT THE ZAPALLAR TURF-RESERVE. THEY WERE FROM 15 FEMALE OPEN WATER SWIMMING GROUPS IN THE REGION OF VALPARAÍSO.





CACHAGUA



The Cachagua TURF-Reserve was the last one to join the TURF-Reserve program and was co-created in 2021. Due to the processes inherent to the union's organizational consolidation, the joint work gained more force in early 2023. One of the first activities was the presentation given by Carola Benítez, our territorial coordinator, at the Cachagua union's assembly. She explained the scope of the work done to date based on the results of the social and biological monitoring. This renewed the union's interest and motivated the creation of the Cachagua TURF-Reserve Commission, comprised of Manuel Figueroa, Ernesto Mondaca and Rodrigo Rojas.

"We want to have a TURF-Reserve for a long period of time. And the benefit that we will reap is that the products that we have in the zone will stay, we will be able to conserve and reproduce them."

Manuel Figueroa, President of the Los Pingüinos Fishers Union of Las Cujas Cove in Cachagua

CACHAGUA

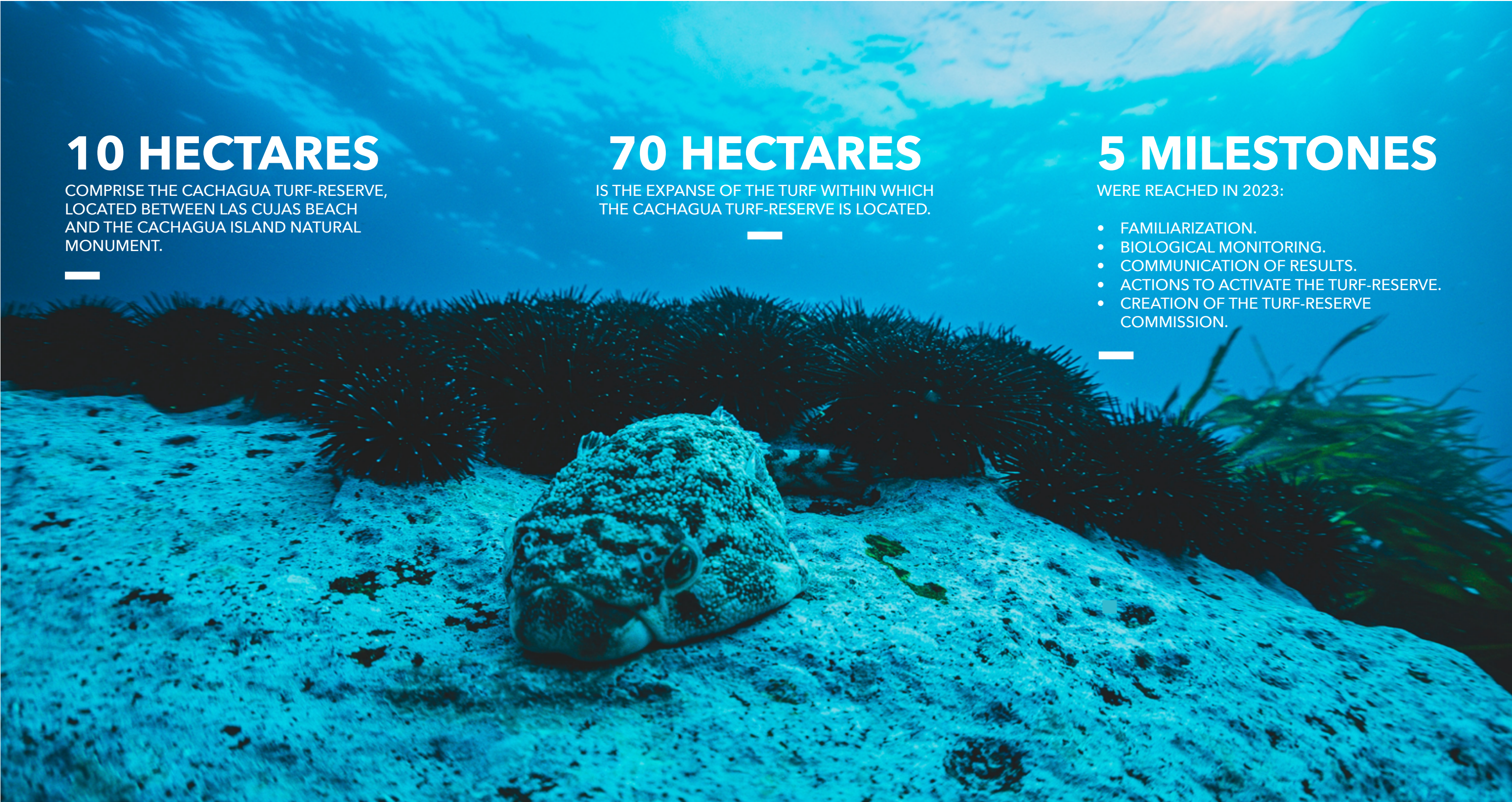


Some short- and medium-goals were set with the Commission and concerns were assuaged about the implications for the community of the inauguration of the TURF-Reserve. Mid-year, at the Feast of Saint Peter, we set up a flip chart where visitors could write what a TURF-Reserve meant to them, and we also had a stand at which copies of the TURF-Reserves of Chile Handbook were distributed.

In order to progress in enabling the Cachagua TURF-Reserve, with the support of the municipality of Zapallar, we began the proceedings to obtain the permits required to install a coastal surveillance camera, a fundamental requirement prior to the reserve's inauguration for the community. We and the union board confirmed the ideal site for installation and identified sectors where signs might be posted to provide information about the Cachagua TURF-Reserve.

In the meantime, when visibility conditions were excellent, the annual biodiversity monitoring was conducted, recorded by photographs and videos that give us high-quality audiovisual material to aid in our work. ●



An underwater photograph of a sea urchin resting on a sandy and rocky seabed. The water is clear and blue, with some green seaweed visible in the background. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast scene.

10 HECTARES

COMPRISE THE CACHAGUA TURF-RESERVE,
LOCATED BETWEEN LAS CUJAS BEACH
AND THE CACHAGUA ISLAND NATURAL
MONUMENT.

70 HECTARES

IS THE EXPANSE OF THE TURF WITHIN WHICH
THE CACHAGUA TURF-RESERVE IS LOCATED.

5 MILESTONES

WERE REACHED IN 2023:

- FAMILIARIZATION.
 - BIOLOGICAL MONITORING.
 - COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS.
 - ACTIONS TO ACTIVATE THE TURF-RESERVE.
 - CREATION OF THE TURF-RESERVE COMMISSION.
-



TURF-RESERVE

Maitencillo



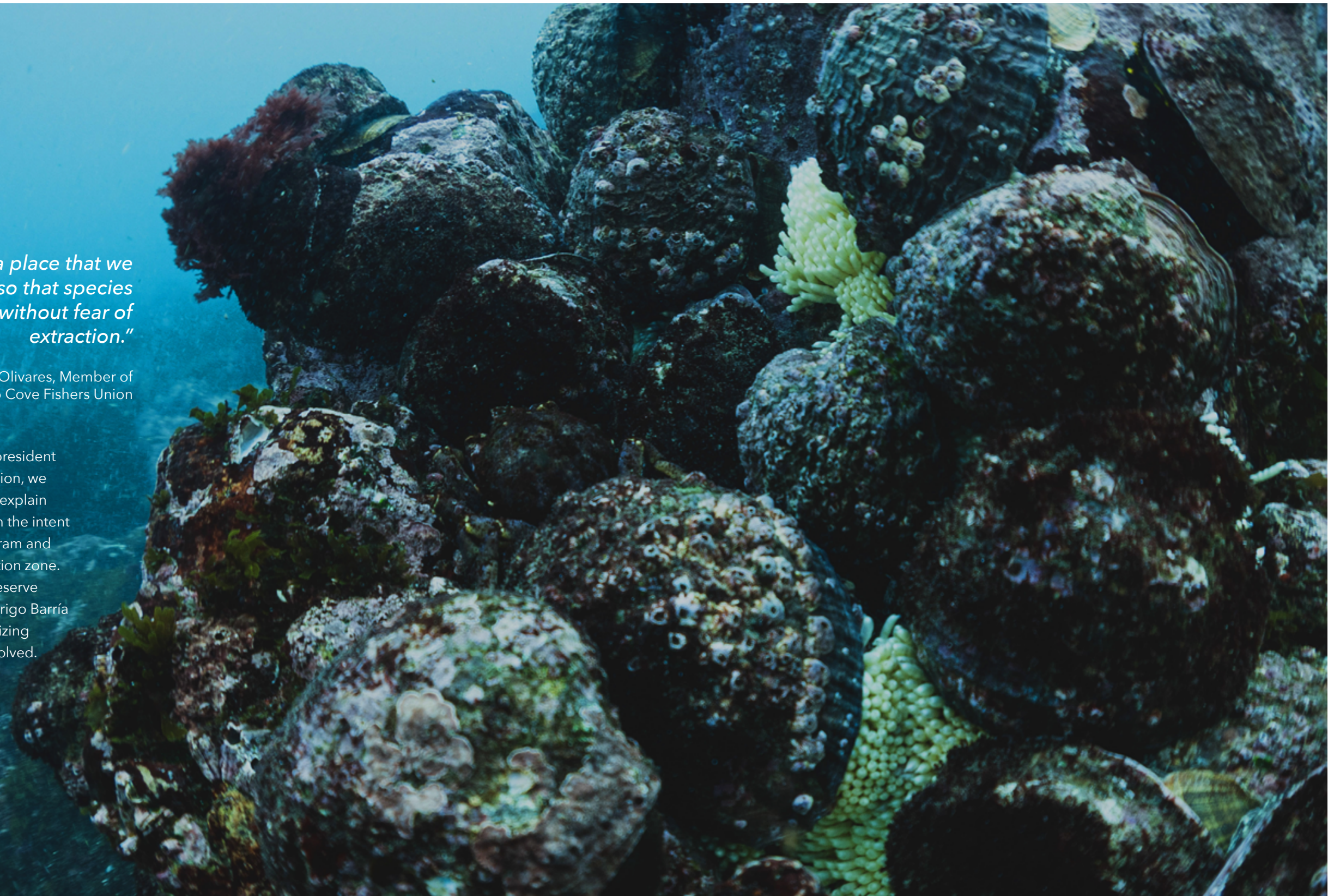
MAITENCILLO



“The TURF-Reserve is a place that we all have to take care of so that species can live in peace, without fear of extraction.”

Natali Olivares, Member of the Maitencillo Cove Fishers Union

After a meeting with Ricardo Silva, president of the Maitencillo Cove Fishers Union, we attended a members assembly to explain social and biological monitoring in the intent to familiarize them with the TURF-Reserve Program and explore the implications of working in a protection zone. This led to close collaboration with the TURF-Reserve Commission, comprised of Natali Olivares, Rodrigo Barría and Jorge Núñez, who had an interest in organizing diverse activities to get the local community involved. In the meantime, the annual biodiversity monitoring was conducted in April.



MAITENCILLO



Mid-year we attended the Feast of Saint Peter in the cove and later began to co-design environmental education activities with the TURF-Reserve Commission, which resulted in the design of a “Foreshore Trail” that identified stations and content important to discuss to help the community better understand and be aware of TURF-Reserves, of the species that live in them, of their conservation and care.

In November, in an example of autonomy and proactiveness on the part of the union, the First Anniversary of the Maitencillo TURF-Reserve was celebrated with the backing of the Municipality of Puchuncaví. Around 20 eighth-grade students at Maitencillo School were invited to inaugurate the “Foreshore Trail” in the morning, after first reviewing the interactive module of the TURF-Reserve that explains, in a simple way, what we mean when we talk about a TURF-Reserve and a Territorial User Rights for Fisheries

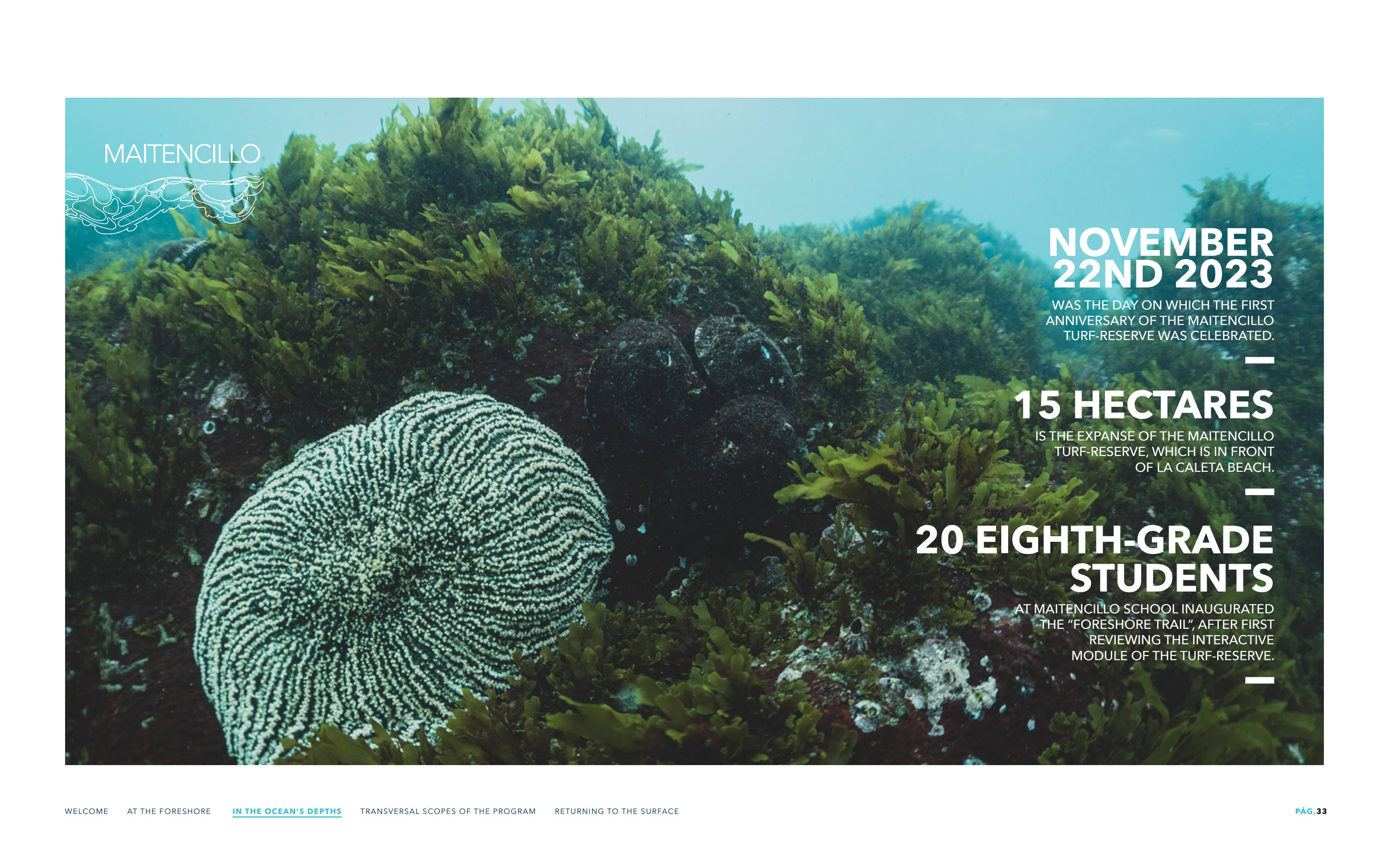
(TURF or AMERB as abbreviated in Spanish)

Pelicans, sealions, crabs, starfish and some species of seaweed were some of the ocean’s inhabitants that the students were able to see firsthand, to then continue to the “Acuarios” (Aquarius) station, stocked by union members with species such as limpets, Chilean abalone and sea urchins that filled these educational tanks with life. To conclude, the children put their learning on paper in the form of drawings to express their observations and field notes.

During the afternoon, in the presence of some authorities and representatives of government institutions and civic organizations, a brief presentation was given on the history of the TURF-Reserve, closing with empanadas, ceviche and other delicacies prepared by union members to celebrate the first year of life of the Maitencillo TURF-Reserve.●

Maitencillo TURF-Reserve





MAITENCILLO

**NOVEMBER
22ND 2023**

—
WAS THE DAY ON WHICH THE FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAITENCILLO
TURF-RESERVE WAS CELEBRATED.

15 HECTARES

—
IS THE EXPANSE OF THE MAITENCILLO
TURF-RESERVE, WHICH IS IN FRONT
OF LA CALETA BEACH.

**20 EIGHTH-GRADE
STUDENTS**

—
AT MAITENCILLO SCHOOL INAUGURATED
THE "FORESHORE TRAIL", AFTER FIRST
REVIEWING THE INTERACTIVE
MODULE OF THE TURF-RESERVE.



VENTANAS



"Capital Azul has motivated us to undertake activities, to believe in a group of artisanal fishers, and that side activities related to our job are possible."

Manuel Bernal, President of
Ventanas Artisanal
Fishers Union

We began 2023 with an effort to familiarize the Ventanas Artisanal Fishers Union with the TURF-Reserve program by going over the concepts and scopes of the Program so that we could begin to delineate the inauguration of the Ventanas TURF-Reserve with the local community.

Although this organization has been part of the program since 2017, the social and environmental conflicts that are constantly present in Quintero Bay continue to mark the work of everyone forming a part of this group. In fact, the imminent installation of the Aconcagua Project's desalination plant in the industrial zone kept the Narau Bay Artisanal Fishers Federation, of which the union is a member, actively blockading the entrance to the construction work. There were close to three months of arduous negotiations, the strikers were ultimately removed by the Police. Despite all this, an agreement was finally reached with the company.





VENTANAS

This contingency interrupted many of the activities that have been planned for the TURF-Reserve, so space was created for discussion and reflection to look for ways in which Capital Azul could support the union in other sensitive, and urgent, matters, such as the contamination of the TURF and the unlawful extraction of resources. By way of example, during the biological monitoring in August 2023, of which a great underwater photographic record was made, we found that several individuals were extracting Chilean abalone in the TURF, which was reported to the competent authorities. ●



VENTANAS



**AUGUST 8
& 9, 2023**

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING
WAS CARRIED OUT AT THE
VENTANAS TURF-RESERVE.

11.7 HECTARES

IS THE EXPANSE OF THE VENTANAS TURF-RESERVE,
WHICH IS LOCATED IN A SECTOR KNOWN
AS PUNTA LOS LUNES.

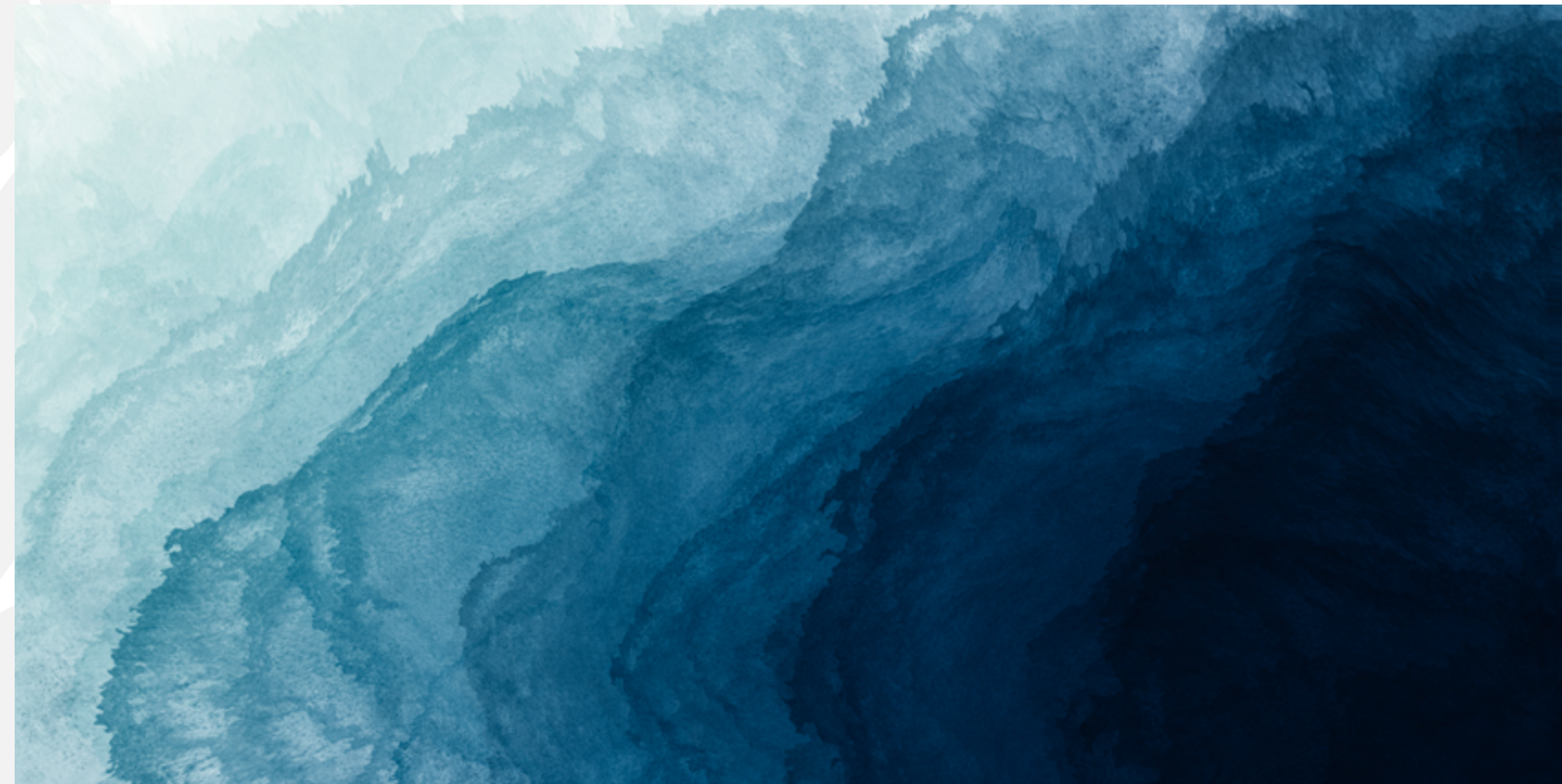
2017

WAS THE YEAR WHEN
FUNDATION CAPITAL AZUL
BEGAN TO WORK WITH
THE VENTANAS ARTISANAL
FISHERS UNION TO ESTABLISH
A TURF-RESERVE.



TRANSVERSAL SCOPES OF **THE PROGRAM**

LEARN ABOUT OTHER IMPACTS OF OUR JOINT WORK
WITH ARTISANAL FISHER UNIONS AND DIVERSE
ACTORS TO STRENGTHEN THE TURF-RESERVE
PROGRAM.



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

Exchanging environmental education experiences

In the first half of 2023, we continued the work with the TURF-Reserves already inaugurated (Zapallar and Maitencillo) to socialize these with their nearby communities regarding the role of the Reserves from a community conservation approach, looking to build bridges of communication via on-site environmental educational experiences.

This community environmental education initiative arose from the role that Zapallar Cove was already playing hand in hand with Sergio Veas, President of the fishers union, who expressed his interest in receiving aid from Aula de Mar Foundation to develop initiatives and methods of pro-conservation marine environmental education. Two pilots for the co-design of community environmental education activities were created at the Zapallar and Maitencillo TURF-Reserves that will later be projected towards the rest of the network.

Meetings were held for an analysis and design of initiatives with Sergio Veas in Zapallar and with the Maitencillo TURF-Reserve Commission, comprised of Natali Olivares, Rodrigo Barría and Jorge Núñez. The field analysis resulted in environmental education activities based on situational knowledge and the conditions of each TURF-Reserve and Cove. Methods and initiatives implemented by Aula de Mar were presented as well as other experiences to open up a wide range of possibilities.



In the objective of providing room for creativity and inspiration in TURF-Reserve educational activities, we arranged a visit to the Marine Research Coastal Station (ECIM, as it is abbreviated in Spanish) of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. Members of the artisanal fishers unions of La Polcura, Cachagua and Maitencillo attended this activity, held in Las Cruces. Those are three of the five unions that are members of the TURF-Reserve program.

Guided by Celeste Kroeger and Mayra Figueroa, the delegation could see first-hand experiences and ways of providing environmental education to different audiences and age groups. The visit included participation in activities such as Responsible Fishing and a visit to the Toca a Toca (a touch pool), as well as the experience of diving deep into the ocean via videos of the mesophotic ecosystems, all following a narrative thread that took us from the surface to the foreshore, to then end in the deep blue ocean.

Aspects were also discussed at that activity that unions usually find difficult to address, such as charging for environmental education as one way of rewarding the work done and opening up options to diversify the sources of income of TURF-Reserves, in addition to allowing these activities to be sustainable over time. Participants also conversed during the visit, exchanging experiences, ideas and issues related to their Coves and TURF-Reserves. These were valuable moments that will help strengthen the TURF-Reserve network in the Region of Valparaíso. ●



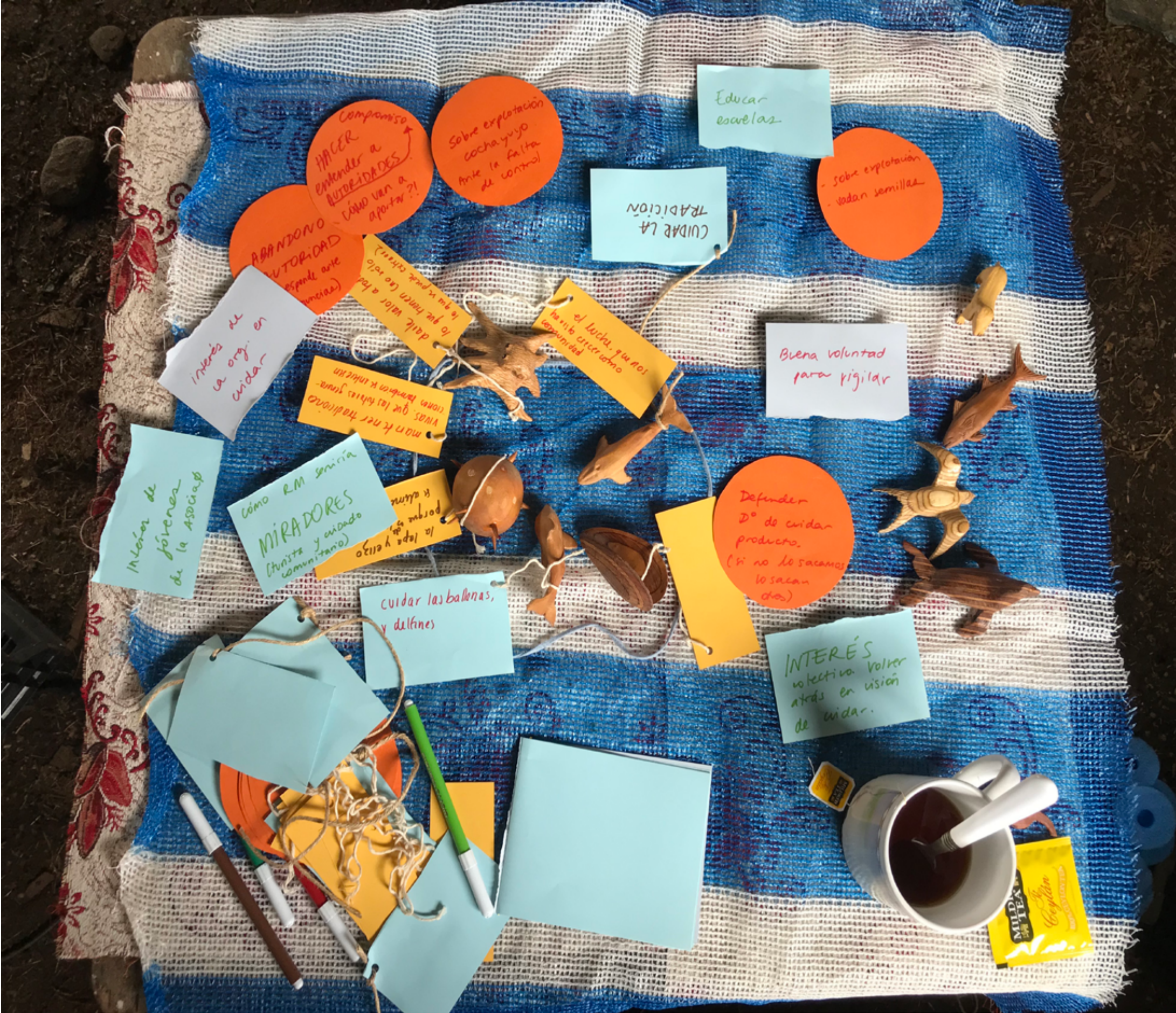
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

Southward

As part from the work accomplished in the TURF-Reserve Network in the Region of Valparaíso, a participatory assessment was also made of the enabling conditions required to implement a TURF-Reserve in the locality of Huiro, as part of the Education and Communities strategy. This meant leaving the central zone of Chile for the first time toward the municipality of Corral, in the Los Ríos Region, thus beginning a potential scaling of the TURF-Reserve program.

The source of this potential expansion southward was the genuine interest of the Indigenous Association of Shellfish Divers, Artisanal Fishers and Shore Collectors of Huiro (hereinafter the Huiro Fishers Indigenous Association) in promoting conservation and a sustainable management of their TURF. This organization, like many other community organizations in this territory, maintain close ties with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile, owner of the Valdivian Coastal Reserve, and it is through this NGO that the opportunity arose to present the alternative of the TURF-Reserve model.

The work initially involved meetings with the TNC Chile team and a review of bibliography to prepare for the first field visit during which the information gathered was analyzed according to the strategic lines of Capital Azul. Once in Huiro, the social-community team, comprised of Paulina Martínez Marín and Carola Benítez Padilla, and the TNC technical team presented the TURF-Reserve model at an assembly of the Huiro Fishers Indigenous Association. Meetings were also held with different actors in the territory.





Members of the Huiro Fishers Indigenous Association and part of the TNC technical team at the Valdivian Coastal Reserve later attended the First International Meeting of TURF-Reserves to explore even further this model of conservation led by local communities. A meeting was also held with Bitecma, a consulting company in charge of the studies monitoring the TURFs managed by the Huiro Fishers Indigenous Association.

Thanks to all this work, we discovered the interest, knowledge and experience to establish a conservation area transversally in fishing organizations in the territory as it was perceived that models like the TURF-Reserve might act as natural seed beds. The creation of the first TURF-Reserve in Huiro could become a catalyst. A second field visit is being arranged for early 2024 in the intention of designing an action plan to implement a TURF-Reserve adapted to the reality of the Huiro Fishers Indigenous Association. ●

During 2023, the discussion of the Benthic Bill of Law to amend the rules on benthic resources (resources that live on the ocean floor) in the General Fishing and Aquaculture Law entered a decisive phase. The text passed by the Senate had incorporated several rules that stipulated the recognition of TURF-Reserves under the name of “safety zone,” but the Office of the President made changes that tended to disregard them, a decision that, from our standpoint, lacked any technical and political reason.

“TURF-Reserves do not jeopardize the productivity of TURFs but rather on the contrary, improve their productivity because in a few years we have been able to monitor and prove the restoration of ecosystems and their biodiversity. As has been documented in other parts of the world, the spillover effect also helps zones beyond TURF-Reserves, in this case the TURFs, benefit from this, as do artisanal fishers and their economic sustenance in the context of climate change,” were the words of Rodrigo Sánchez Grez, executive director of Fundación Capital Azul, in [an article we posted on the blog](#) on our website.

In the horizon, March began to seem like a key month. The Fishing, Aquaculture and Maritime Interests Committee of the House of Representatives had to meet to continue the particular discussion of the Benthic Bill of Law in its second constitutional round. We mobilized in this scenario and invited representatives from the different political parties forming that commission to meet. In the end, Deputy Tomás de Rementería Venegas accepted our invitation and travelled to Zapallar, where the fishers were able to tell him in person the work that they had been leading for the Zapallar TURF-Reserve.

After his visit, Mr. de Rementería advocated for the recognition of TURF-Reserves at the Committee meeting to Julio Salas Gutiérrez, Undersecretary of Fishing and Aquaculture. This led to a meeting with Javier Rivera Vergara, head of the Undersecretary's Office, which forged a path toward the recognition of TURF-Reserves in Chile's public policy.

In other matters, we also participated in a FishPath workshop on a multispecific coastal fish fishery. This event was organized by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile in Viña del Mar and showed us the progress in research on marking coastal fish and using tools to obtain information on biological parameters. An action plan was also agreed for the management and conservation of this group of species based on the best scientific evidence available and a precautionary approach. ●

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

TURF-Reserves in public policy



PHOTO: TNC CHILE

Weaving networks

For one of the first collaboration activities of the year, we took Eugenio Rengifo, executive director of Fondo Naturaleza Chile (translated as Chile Nature Fund) to see the TURF-Reserve program in person. We walked along the Zapallar coast towards the Seca Island sector where the Zapallar TURF-Reserve is located, having an in-depth conversation about this model that combines use and conservation in one same system and where the artisanal fishers are the leaders behind the restoration of the country's marine coastal ecosystems.

Later, in April, fishers from the Juan Fernández Archipelago huddled beside the traditional Zapallar Cove bonfire with their Zapallaran peers as well as fishers from Maitencillo, Cachagua and La Polcura to discuss marine sustainability while they shared typical island food. The activity was held as part of the Island Planet Project being implemented by Fundación Endémica (translated as Endemic Foundation) that, for this occasion, received support from Capital Azul, the municipality of Zapallar and the Zapallar Cove Fishers Union.

Amid ceviche, Juan Fernández octopus and the classic pot of lobster, all delicacies made by the island visitors, the gathering represented a collective, collaborative meeting to share experiences in marine protected areas and care of the environment under the leadership of the local communities themselves.



For World Ocean Day, we launched the “[TURF-Reserves of Chile](#)” [handbook](#), which contains illustrations of 45 species of flora and fauna that inhabit the TURF-Reserves. The purpose of the handbook is to enrich the environmental education imparted by the artisanal fishers unions even further, and it is the fruit of collaboration between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile, Fundación Oceanósfera (translated as Ocean Sphere Foundation), Capital Azul and the Millennium Coastal Social-Ecology Institute (SECOS).

The collaboration with TNC Chile also made possible a visit to Zapallar Cove by a group of 20 artisanal fishers from the Marcona District in Perú. It was a moment that allowed for different types of experiences to be exchanged, yet with a focus on an area-based sustainable management of benthic resources. The Peruvian fishers were able to see first-hand the local experience with the Zapallar TURF-Reserve.

An international WWF mission also accompanied us on a tour to Ventanas and Zapallar to see in depth the outcomes achieved by the TURF-Reserve program in both coves and to potentially begin to explore possible collaboration to implement this type of reserve in other latitudes.

Later in the year, in November, we reached a very major milestone in our organization: we signed a collaboration agreement with Zapallar's Municipality. The agreement was signed by Rodrigo Sánchez Grez and Mayor Gustavo Alessandri Bascuñán during the inauguration of the beach season in Zapallar in the aim of supporting the work that we have been doing in this area thanks to the Zapallar and Cachagua artisanal fishers unions. During the activity, the municipality also publicly acknowledged both unions and awarded a plaque to their respective presidents, Sergio Veas and Manuel Figueroa.

To close the year, we joined a technical tour organized by GEF's Marine Coastal Governance Project that brought a group of women, mostly seaweed collectors, to the Region of Valparaíso on behalf of 7 unions of artisanal fishers and shore collectors from the municipality of Freirina in the





Region of Atacama. The tour, which lasted two days, included the exchange of experiences, especially feedback to the visitors on subjects like TURF-Reserves, fishing management, cove administration, commercialization and diversification of activities.

These types of gatherings revealed the interest that the TURF-Reserve program has begun to generate, and they have also helped us learn that unions are truly interested in participating in these meetings where perspectives, experiences and learning are shared by peers while simultaneously beginning to open up new room for collaboration.

The work of Diarios de Naturaleza (translated as Nature's Diaries) merits a paragraph of its own. It is an initiative that combines art and ecology through workshops, exploratory field trips and notes that will increase the knowledge of natural heritage and the sense of belonging to a territory. Javiera Díaz Forestier and Catalina Mekis Rozas have given life to this work that included a group of students from the Pacífica Montessori school

working with the Zapallar TURF-Reserve.

We want to highlight the support by organizations in the celebrations of the TURF-Reserves, among them Aula de Mar (translated as Ocean Classroom), an environmental education initiative for marine conservation. They have shared their experiences at these gatherings, in particular through "Coastal nature: art and enigma." Together with CasaPlan, a project on the creation and dissemination of prints and contemporary art, we were able to take Gyotaku printing on the road to bring the fishes knowledge closer to the community. Las Chungungas and Nademos Juntos have also participated, two female open water swimming groups that have united to share from this recreation at diverse events inside the Reserves.

Lastly, we must mention the Mar de Nadadoras (translated as Sea of Swimmers) open water swimming association in the Region of Valparaíso that brings together 17 groups. They have held meetings and offered women-in-water performances in some marine reserves. ●



STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

Meeting each other for the TURF-Reserves

A milestone was reached in October 2023 in the young history of Capital Azul Foundation: the [First International Meeting of TURF-Reserves](#) that congregated members of artisanal fishers unions, representatives from the public sector, academia and civic organizations in the Region of Valparaíso to explore these ocean conservation areas.

The event resulted in exchange and collaboration on establishing TURF-Reserves. It was organized with the support of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile, the SECOS Institute, the municipality of Zapallar and the artisanal fishers unions associated to the TURF-Reserve program. The latter were joined by artisanal fishers and leaders from other parts of the country, such as Port Raúl Marín Balmaceda, Huiro, Robinson Crusoe and Rapa Nui Island (Easter Island). Representatives from Ancón and Tumbes, two localities in Perú, also attended the event.

As Rodrigo Sánchez Grez, executive director of Capital Azul, remarked during the talk that he gave at the Meeting: “We are very happy with the course of the Meeting, in particular with the presence of the leaders and TURF-Reserve commissions of all unions who are members of our program, in addition to the presence of unions interested in establishing TURF-Reserves inside their TURFs. This fills us with hope and the expectation that these conservation areas can spread to more localities and the network can grow.”



Stefan Gelcich, co-founder of Capital Azul and director of the SECOS Institute, added: “This TURF-Reserve meeting constitutes a major milestone in the development of this type of initiative seeking for local communities to play a key role in the conservation and sustainable use of resources.”

As one way of recording and complementing the work accomplished at the Meeting, especially the benefits reaped from work groups, a book was written that was published both [digitally](#) and in print. 120 printed copies were distributed to Meeting participants and to other relevant actors. With the support of Los Pájaros, an audiovisual production company, the entire event was documented, resulting in a [video](#) that summarizes what was experienced in those days in October. We trust that everything shared at this First International Meeting of TURF-Reserves will bring to light the importance of convoking and making visible a diversity of perspectives, territories and realities that will nourish and strengthen, from different viewpoints, the debate about this model of marine conservation led by communities. ●



“This TURF-Reserve meeting constitutes a major milestone in the development of this type of initiative seeking for local communities to play a key role in the conservation and sustainable use of resources.”

*Stefan Gelcich, co-founder of Capital Azul
and director of the SECOS Institute*



BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

Moving forward in data visualization and Analysis

In 2023, biodiversity was monitored at the 5 TURF-Reserves that are part of the program. The purpose of the monitoring was to bring to light the changes that are occurring to fauna and flora in the ecosystem. Records were made of the TURF-Reserve, the Territorial User Rights for Fisheries (TURF or AMERB as abbreviated in Spanish) where it is located, and the adjacent open access area. These data is then compared to identify potential differences. It was easy to see that the difference between open access areas and TURF-Reserves was huge, which shows that TURF-Reserves do help increase biodiversity.

More data are still needed over a longer period of time to reach definitive conclusions from a comparison of TURF-Reserves to TURFs. In some cases, like Maitencillo and Ventanas, a certain trend has already begun to appear in regard to the benefits of establishing a protection zone within TURFs.



Biodiversity monitoring involves three types of sampling: ichthyological (of fish), of the sub-canopy, and of macroalgae and macroinvertebrates. Transects are used to do this. Put simply, a transect is a cord 100 meters (300 feet) long marked every 10 meters (30 feet). Those marks are the points representing each sampling unit. Two or three transects are sampled in each monitoring, each for a duration of 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Fish are the first to be monitored, which involves the diver being stationary for 3 minutes at each sampling station and recording species, numbers and sizes.

A search monitoring is also conducted, which is done between stations to actively record species in interstitial waters, cracks and caves, their numbers and size, in order not to overlook species that remain in such locations during the day or that simply prefer that kind of environments.

Once the ichthyological monitoring ends, it is time for the second diver to enter into action to monitor macroalgae and macroinvertebrates. The diver records the number and diameter of the basal disc of the brown macroalgae at each station, which is the part enabling them to affix to rock. The number and size of macroinvertebrates at each station are also recorded as is the number of macroinvertebrates between each station.

The sub-canopy is monitored in parallel, which is the film stuck to rocks. A photographic record is made of two quadrants, each measuring 25 x 25 cms (10 x 10 inches), with an intersection of 100 points at each sampling station. This material is later analyzed in the laboratory to identify species and coverage.

The data that have been gathered over the years is being analyzed by Francisco Contreras Drey as part of his doctoral thesis, while at the end of 2023, Giovanni Tasso Romanoff, our Capital Azul's data scientist, was putting the finishing touches on an interactive platform to visualize the information, where we expect to make the data available to the public. ●



+100 SPECIES

HAVE BEEN RECORDED THANKS TO THE BIODIVERSITY MONITORING.

2015 WAS THE YEAR

WHEN BIODIVERSITY MONITORING BEGAN IN MAITENCILLO. THOSE DATA ARE THE OLDEST THAT WE HAVE.

2017 WAS THE YEAR

WHEN BIODIVERSITY MONITORING BEGAN AT THE VENTANAS TURF-RESERVE, WHICH IS CURRENTLY THE SECOND OLDEST AFTER MAITENCILLO.

3 TYPES OF MONITORING

ARE INVOLVED THE MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY: ICHTHYOLOGICAL (OF FISH), OF THE SUB-CANOPY, AND OF MACROALGAE AND MACROINVERTEBRATES.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telling stories that resonate

Several important initiatives were undertaken in 2023 that, in a certain way, set the communications standard of Capital Azul Foundation. One of those initiatives was the [TURF-Reserves of Chile Handbook](#), written together with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile, Fundación Oceanósfera and the SECOS Institute. This educational guide contains illustrations of 45 species of flora and fauna that inhabit the TURF-Reserves, and it provides information on the importance of each, on bans or needs for conservation and management, in addition to good practices for the care of these marine coastal areas and their biodiversity. Above all, the handbook is an invitation to explore, discover and understand marine life and gives readers the option of recording the species sighted during each excursion.

News outlets, such as [País Circular](#), [Plataforma Costera](#) and [Soy Chile](#), covered the launching of this handbook, and it has been useful in supporting the territorial work of Capital Azul and its partners, especially the environmental education imparted by the unions who are members of the TURF-Reserve program.

Moreover, Mongabay Latam again published an article on the TURF-Reserves, this time as part of their #EnCorto (translated as #InBrief) section, under the title “[Three keys to understanding the benefits of the TURF-Reserves created by fishers in Chile.](#)” [Biobio Chile republished](#) an original, more extensive article published by Mongabay Latam in 2022, and País Circular published “[TURF-Reserves: small oases for species overexploited in Chile.](#)”





In August we attended two activities, important from a communicational perspective. At one, Rodrigo Sánchez Grez, executive director of Capital Azul, headed the [second session of Ciclo del Mar \(translated as Ocean Cycle\)](#), a series of virtual talks that aim to activate dialogue about ocean protection and restoration. His speech, entitled “Community conservation: artisanal fishing and management areas,” focused on the experience of TURF-Reserves as a conservation tool led by local communities. It was broadcast live on the YouTube channel of Patagonia Latinoamérica, and as of today, it has been watched more than 500 times.

At the end of August, during the Biobío 2023 Port of Ideas Festival (Festival Puerto de Ideas in Spanish), we attended the [launching of the new Coastal Community Network](#) in Concepción promoted by BHP Foundation. Its goal is to create space for synergy and learning that incorporate local knowledge and give communities the leading role in developing innovative ways to care for the ocean for future generations.

Later in the year, in October, we publicized in the press the First International Meeting of TURF-Reserves. It was advertised both before and after the event in media such as [Radio Valentín Letelier](#) and Radio Valparaíso, El Mercurio newspaper of Valparaíso, País Circular, CodexVerde, [Plataforma Costera](#) and [Ladera Sur](#).

Fundación Capital Azul also participated in three festivals in 2023. The first was the Festival Viento Norte (translated as North Wind Festival) where Capital Azul was



one of the collaborators of this event, organized by Corporación Bosques de Zapallar (translated as Zapallar Forest Association). Part of the team also worked in the “Algae in Blue” workshop with Catalina Mekis and taught children aged 10 about algae through blueprinting. The North Wind Festival also exhibited underwater photographs by Rodrigo Sánchez Grez, our executive director, who also moderated the discussion on “The Pacific and its influences” in which Patricio Pliscoff, Camilo del Río and Francisca Bardi, project manager of Capital Azul, participated.

In early November we went to Valparaíso to participate in the Festival Acción Azul (translated as Blue Action Festival). We had a stand at the science fair that explained the TURF-Reserve Program. Tomás Moggia, our Director of Communications, also moderated the discussion panel entitled “Communities and the Transformation of the Governance of Marine Protected Areas in Chile,” led by Patricio Merino and Julio Chamorro, while Rodrigo Sánchez Grez was part of the discussion panel on “Sustainability and coastal communities: Chile’s path towards responsible fishing.”

Then it was the turn of Festival Ladera Sur (translated as South Slope Festival), the second version of which was held over three days in the Santa Rosa de Apoquindo Park in Santiago. At that festival we premiered an interactive environmental education module whereby people of all ages could interact with species and concepts based on TURF-Reserves, Territorial User Rights for Fisheries (TURF or AMERB as abbreviated in Spanish) and coastal communities.

The Blog on the Capital Azul website also highlighted some of the activities in which we participated, among them the [meeting held in Zapallar](#) as part of the Island Planet project of Fundación Endémica, as well as other TURF-Reserves initiatives like the event that congregated close to 130 women in the Zapallar TURF-Reserve from approximately 15 female open water swimming groups. A total of 8 publications were made in the news section of the Capital Azul website, viewed by a bit more than 1,500 readers, to total somewhat more than 2,300 hits and 4,400 pages viewed. We closed the year with 3,587 followers on social networks (almost one thousand more than the previous year): 2,606 on Instagram (+637), 681 on LinkedIn (+223) and 300 on Facebook (+74).

Finally, we finished one pending matter: the publication of the [2022 Impact Report](#). We revised its structure and design, and we hope that it will help readers understand the work behind the TURF-Reserve Program. At the close of 2023, we were in the process of redesigning the Capital Azul website. ●

The background of the page is a deep-sea photograph. It features a green moray eel with a large, prominent eye and small white horns, partially visible on the right side. The surrounding environment is dark and textured, resembling a rocky seabed covered in coral and marine life, illuminated by a blueish-green light.

3 FESTIVALS

HAD THE PARTICIPATION OF CAPITAL AZUL:
VIENTO NORTE, ACCIÓN AZUL AND LADERA
SUR FESTIVALS.

+15

ARTICLES IN THE PRESS ON
THE TURF-RESERVE PROGRAM.

3,587

FOLLOWERS OF THE INSTAGRAM,
FACEBOOK AND LINKEDIN ACCOUNTS
OF CAPITAL AZUL FOUNDATION.



Thanks to the support of La Playa Wines, a purposeful vineyard that, at the end of 2022, became the first national company to support the TURF-Reserve program, we joined the 1% for the Planet initiative in March 2023, a global movement that brings together companies, organizations and individuals, who donate 1% of their earnings to finance environmental solutions and non-profit organizations. The idea behind this initiative is simple: Since companies benefit from the resources they extract from the Earth, they should protect those resources. We expect this membership to open new doors to securing financing in and beyond of Chile.

Moreover, mid-year we joined the new Coastal Community Network, an initiative promoted by BHP Foundation and presented at the Biobío 2023 Port of Ideas Festival. It will help us work, over a six-year horizon, on a project called “Strengthening the social and ecological resilience of the TURF-Reserves managed by artisanal fishers in central Chile.” The project also aims to scale the model to other regions in the country. Additionally in 2023, we received for a second consecutive year, a donation from International Community Foundation (ICF) in support of the work that we are doing on each of our strategic lines. ●

Laying the foundations
to strengthen us



RETURNING TO THE SURFACE

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS BEFORE LEAVING
THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS.



8 BIODIVERSITY MONITORING CAMPAIGNS

WERE HELD THROUGHOUT 2023.

+3,000 PEOPLE

PARTICIPATED IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
ACTIVITIES AT THE ZAPALLAR TURF-RESERVE,
ESPECIALLY STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS IN THE REGION OF VALPARAÍSO.

2 TURF-RESERVES

ARE IN THE SOCIALIZATION PHASE, WHICH
IS WHEN THE COMMUNITY BEGINS TO
BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS AREA OF
MARINE CONSERVATION.

+60 INDIVIDUALS

ATTENDED THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL
MEETING OF TURF-RESERVES THAT WAS
HELD IN OCTOBER 2023 IN THE REGION
OF VALPARAÍSO.

2023 Milestones

64 HECTARES

ARE PROTECTED AS TURF-RESERVES IN
LA POLCURA, ZAPALLAR, CACHAGUA,
MAITENCILLO AND VENTANAS.

3 FESTIVALS

WE PARTICIPATED IN THE FESTIVAL VIENTO NORTE
(NORTH WIND FESTIVAL), FESTIVAL ACCIÓN AZUL
(BLUE ACTION FESTIVAL), AND FESTIVAL LADERA
SUR (SOUTH SLOPE FESTIVAL), WHICH HELPED US
TO COMMUNICATE THE TURF-RESERVE PROGRAM
TO HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE.

1 ORGANIZATION

BEGAN A PARTICIPATORY ENABLING
CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT TO ESTABLISH
A NEW TURF-RESERVE: THE INDIGENOUS
ASSOCIATION OF FISHERS OF HUIRO IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF CORRAL, IN THE LOS RÍOS
REGION.

Complementary activities

Three students from the School of Design of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile completed their service internship in 2023. In addition to supporting the work of the communications area of Fundación Capital Azul, they were able to put their knowledge, talent and skills at the service of a marine conservation initiative led by communities of artisanal fishers.

Florencia Montané collaborated with diverse illustrations of species in the TURF-Reserves and of thematic backdrops, while Josefina Morales Galvez dedicated her internship to designing illustrations and templates for social networks and presentations. The last intern at Capital Azul was Antonia Reyes Barros, who was in charge of designing posters, invitations and slides for the First International Meeting of TURF-Reserves, in addition to illustrations of marine flora and fauna and a coloring book.

All this work has helped, among other things, put marine biodiversity in the spotlight and draw different audiences, fortifying both the visual identity and the work of the organization in different media and materials. We expect to continue to host interns in positions that go beyond the foundation's communications area so that more students can become immersed in marine conservation. ●



- 
- La Polcura Union of Independent Seaweed Collectors and Related Activities.
 - Zapallar Cove Union of Independent Fishers.
 - Maitencillo Cove Union of Independent Fishers.
 - Los Pingüinos Fishers Union of Las Cujas Cove in Cachagua.
 - Ventanas Cove Union of Artisanal Fishers, Divers, Shell Fishers and Similar Occupations.
 - Richard Cudney Bueno.
 - Francisco Contreras Drey.
 - Fernando Mejías.
 - Javiera Bianchi.
 - Alejandra Garcés.
 - Sofía Beuchat.
 - Natalio Godoy Salinas.
 - Felipe Torres Cañete.
 - Florencia Vial.
 - Eglé Flores.
 - Gustavo Alessandri Bascuñán.
 - José Melej.
 - Ricardo Quero.
 - Fundación Oceanósfera.
 - Carolina J. Zagal.
 - Corporación Bosques de Zapallar.
 - Carmen Rosa Ringeling.
 - Festival Viento Norte.
 - Ladera Sur.
 - Festival Acción Azul.
 - Austerra.
 - CodexVerde.
 - País Circular.
 - Plataforma Costera.
 - Fundación Endémica.
 - Tepual Conservación.
 - TMF Group Chile.
 - Fundación Lontra.
 - Javier Trivelli.
 - GEF Gobernanza Marino Costera.
 - Manuela Erazo.
 - Katerina Varas.
 - Javiera Yáñez.
 - Alejandro Correa.
 - Juan Silva.
 - Diego Tabilo.
 - Miguel Herrera.
 - Las Chungungas.
 - Estación Costera de Investigaciones Marinas (ECIM).
 - Mayra Figueroa Sanhueza.
 - Celeste Kroeger Campodónico.
 - Casa Plan.
 - Diarios de Naturaleza.
 - Chungungas Maitencillo.
 - Nademos Juntos.
 - Mujeres que nadan con lobos.
 - KAI Pacific Concón.
 - Cardumen Conchitas Concón.
 - Tummo Lafken.
 - Club Aguas Abiertas Concón.
 - Abarquinas Marinas.
 - Travesías Eskualo.
 - Nicolás Sutil.
 - To the families of the entire team at Capital Azul
 - Aurelien Peris

Acknowledgements

¡Many thanks for your
invaluable support of
**the TURF-Reserve
program!**

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

THE TURF-RESERVE PROGRAM IS
SUPPORTED BY:





WWW.CAPITALAZUL.CL | INFO@CAPITALAZUL.COM

Support the TURF-RESERVE Program

[¡Donate here!](#)



@capitalazul.chile



Fundación Capital Azul



capitalazul.chile



@capitalazul