



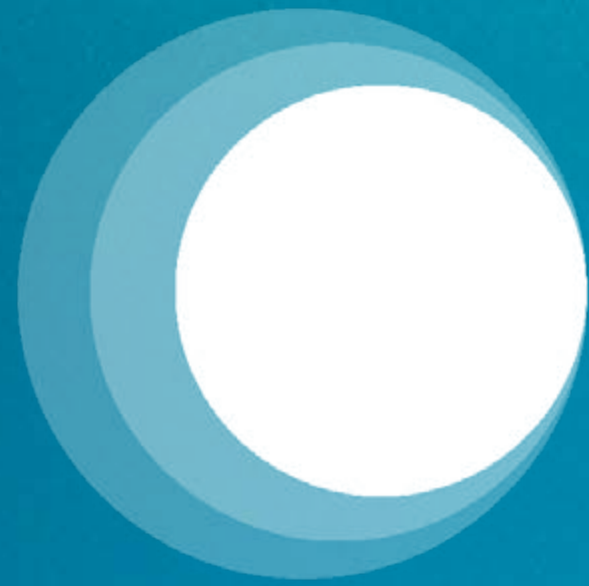
WELCOME

TURF RESERVES

SCOPES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAPITAL AZUL / 2022 REPORT



capital azul

2022 Impact Report





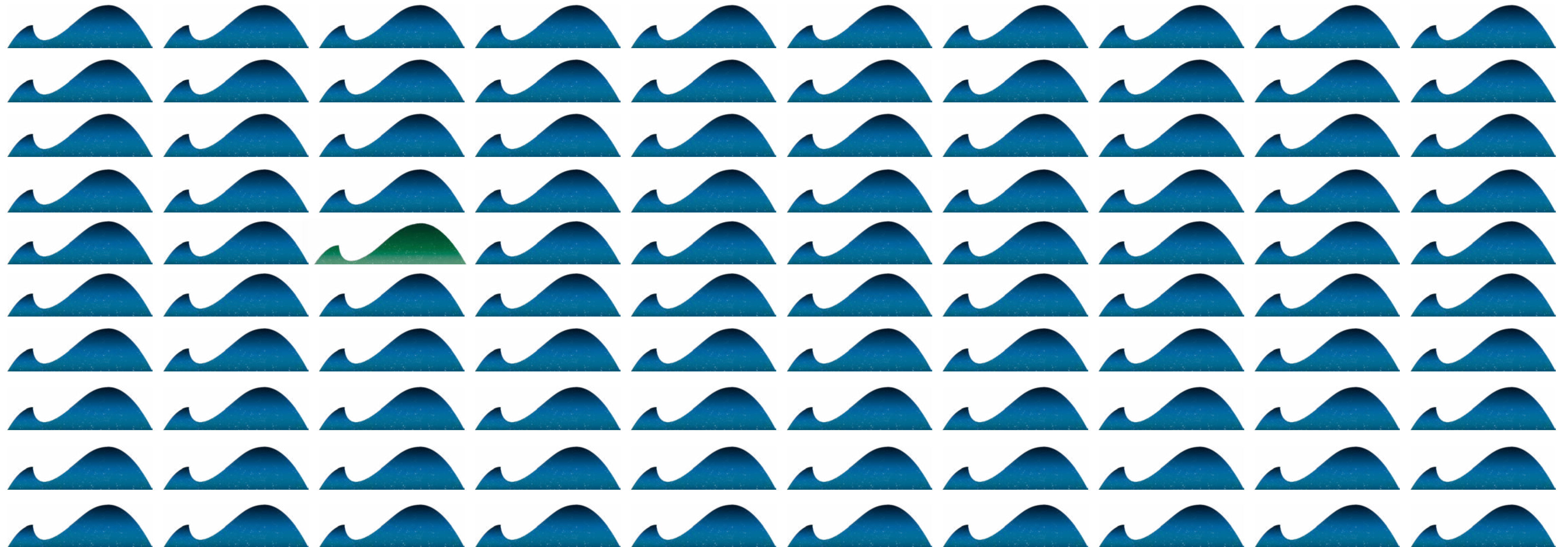
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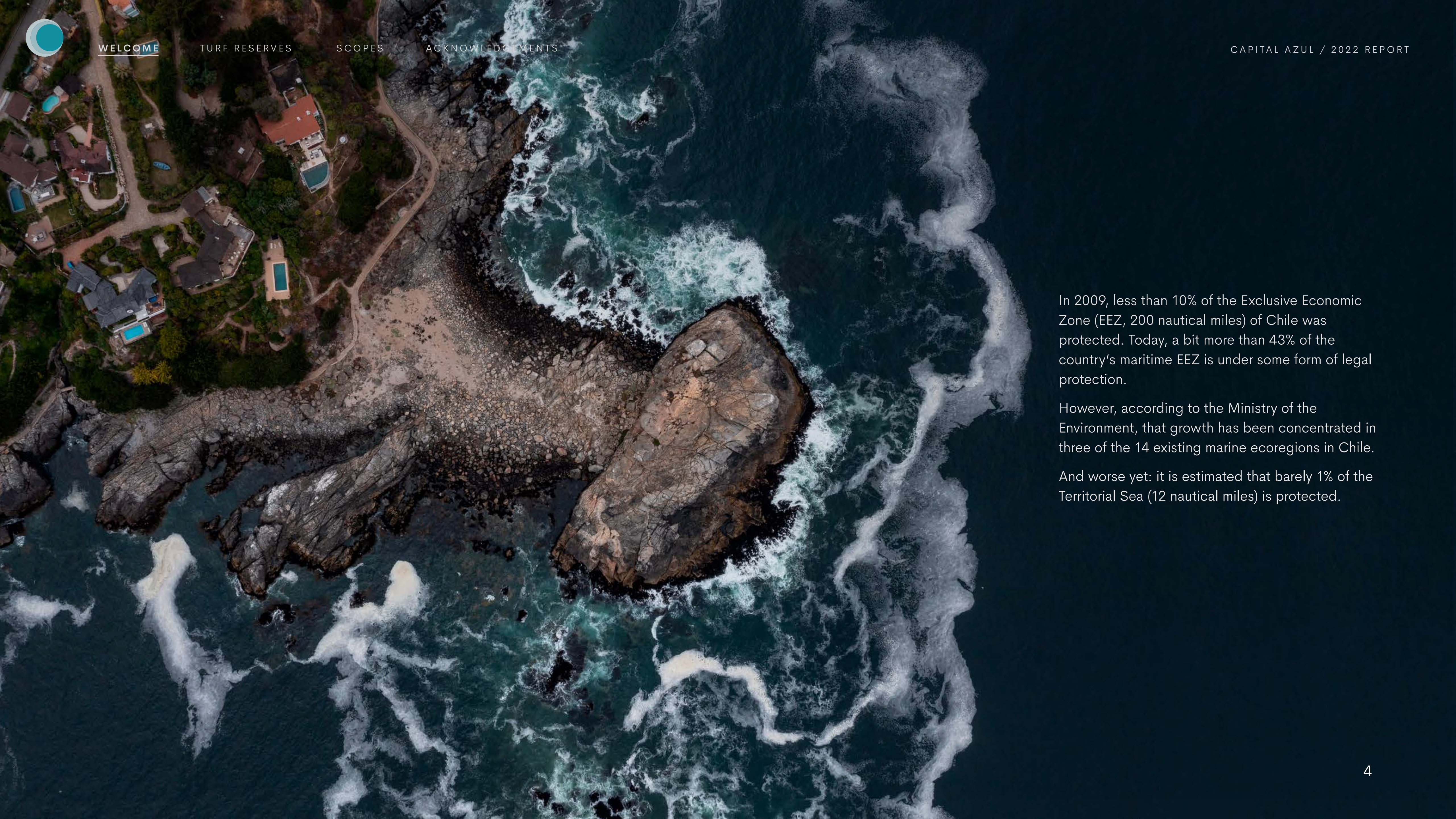
Welcome





Did you know that barely 1% of the Chilean Coast is protected?





In 2009, less than 10% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ, 200 nautical miles) of Chile was protected. Today, a bit more than 43% of the country's maritime EEZ is under some form of legal protection.

However, according to the Ministry of the Environment, that growth has been concentrated in three of the 14 existing marine ecoregions in Chile.

And worse yet: it is estimated that barely 1% of the Territorial Sea (12 nautical miles) is protected.



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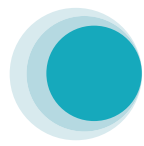
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1.1 Consolidating the TURF Reserve Program



Rodrigo Sánchez Grez

Executive Director
Fundación Capital Azul

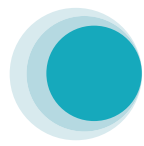
In these early days of 2023, looking back, none of my plans was aimed at leading the project behind Fundación Capital Azul. But sometimes the universe works in mysterious ways, and I must now navigate one of my greatest professional challenges after a year of great changes in the organization.

After the pandemic, everything pointed toward us returning to the desired "normalcy" and that we would resume in-person activities forcefully in the fishing coves associated with the TURF Reserves Program. However, a treacherous disease took Benjamín Lagos, the first Executive Director of Capital Azul, from us. It was a hard blow to our team and also to everyone who had been lucky enough to encounter him during his trip through marine conservation. From one moment to another I unexpectedly assumed the challenge of leading his beloved project. My grief is still painful, but the truth is that there was not much time to stop or adapt.

The desire to keep his legacy alive made both the human team at Capital Azul and the associated fisher unions push toward an unbreakable commitment. The Socialization Phase of the Zapallar TURF Reserve became a true snowball thanks to the drive of Sergio Veas, president of the Zapallar Fishers Union, bringing with it a series of lessons learned that we integrated bit by bit to the Program.

To be honest, I am now witness to the spring bloom of the garden that Benjamín planted silently, with such effort and passion, for 5 years. Now we have to take care of it. This will require energy, science and, most importantly, the commitment and collaboration of the protagonists of the TURF Reserves Program: the Artisanal Fisher Unions, who have found an innovative way to restore and regenerate the marine coastal ecosystems that are essential to the wellbeing of the communities that live beside them.

The challenges that we see for the future are to strengthen, consolidate and make the program scalable to other regions in Chile. Funding will be key in this respect, which is why efforts in 2022 were focused mainly on developing a revamped strategic plan and on searching for new associations that will enable us to work integrally in the long term. Substantial lessons have been learned along this path and the 2022 Annual Impact Report is proof of this. It was a year plagued by emotions but it taught us that we are a resilient organization that is just now beginning to flourish.



1.2 About Us

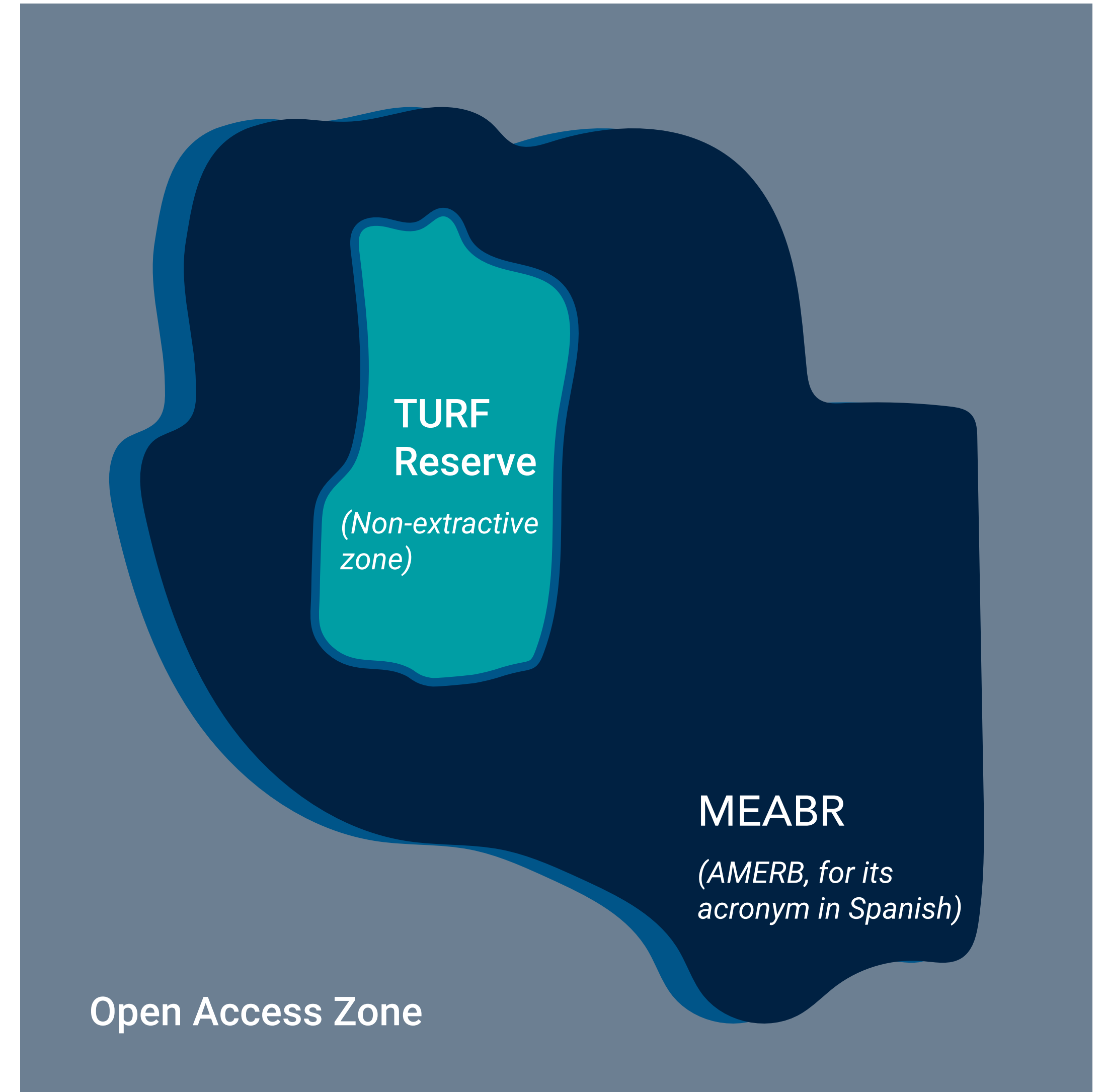
Since 2016, Fundación Capital Azul has been heading an ambitious science-based program to establish TURF Reserves, ocean areas of around 15 hectares from which no type of resource can be extracted. These zones of protection are inside the Management and Exploitation Areas for Benthic Resources (or AMERB, for its acronym in Spanish) that are managed by artisanal fisher unions.

This voluntary alliance with artisanal fisher unions combines productivity and conservation in one same system, an innovation that aims to increase biodiversity while improving the sustenance and resilience of the coastal communities of Chile. The fishers themselves lead the conservation and restoration of the marine coastal ecosystems which, at the same time, strengthens the role that artisanal fishing plays in ocean sustainability.

To put this type of agreement into practice, Fundación Capital Azul has developed a multi-

component model that includes support in coastal surveillance, biodiversity monitoring, social science research and environmental education.

By 2022, in an alliance with different artisanal fisher unions, five TURF Reserves had been established in the Region of Valparaíso, in central Chile: La Ballena-La Polcura, Zapallar, Cachagua, Maitencillo and Ventanas. Of those five, the Zapallar and Maitencillo TURF Reserves are today in the socialization stage, a process in which these zones of protection are opened to the rest of the coastal community to encourage community involvement.





About Us

Board of Directors



Stefan Gelcich Crossley

Professor of the School of Biological Sciences of the Catholic University and Director of the Coastal Social-Ecological (SECOS) Millennium Institute



C. Josh Donlan

Founder 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.

Team



Rodrigo Sánchez Grez

Executive Director



Paulina Martínez Marín

Head of Education and Communities



Andrés Smith Toledo

Scientific Diver



Pablo González Rivas

Territorial Coordinator



Tomás Moggia Cárdenas

Head of Communications



Giovanni Tasso Romanoff

Data Scientist



Mission

Our mission is to create the first TURF Reserves network in Chile together with artisanal fishers 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.

**TURF Reserves Program
puts artisanal fishing in
a leading role in marine
conservation, marine
sustainability and coastal
resilience.**



Values

Action-oriented

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

People-centered

Conserving nature is achieved together with and for people: an increase in marine life must create benefits for local communities, who must assume a leading role in this challenge.

Co-creation

We are involved with different actors and recognize expertise and knowledge to create situated, feasible and complex proposals that are enriched by multiple perspectives.

Holistic

We propose innovative solutions based on the intersection of sectors and disciplines.

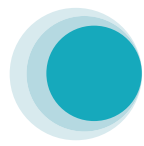




II.

TURF Reserves Program





2.1 Why create TURF Reserves?

In recent decades, Chile has become a world leader in marine conservation thanks to the creation of large-scale marine protected areas (MPAs) like the Motu Motiro Hiva Marine Park (15 million hectares), Nazca-Desventuradas Marine Park (30 million hectares), the Rapa Nui Protected Marine Coastal Area (58 million hectares), the Juan Fernández Sea Marine Park (2,400,000 hectares), and the recent Tictoc-Corcovado Gulf Marine Park (101,900 hectares). These efforts have helped the country increase, since 2009, the marine protected area of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from a measly 0.03% to more than 40%.¹

A priori, this could lead one to think that Chile has amply surpassed the challenge of protecting at least 30% of coastal and marine zones according to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. However, reading more in depth brings to light at least two key aspects.

First of all, according to the Ministry of the Environment, a good part of that percentage

of the EEZ that is protected is concentrated in three of the 14 existing marine ecoregions in Chile, such as Easter Island, the Juan Fernández Archipelago and Desventuradas Islands. On the other hand, a bit more than 10% of the expanse of the Kawésqar, Magellan and Southern Pacific Ocean ecoregions is protected. What is happening with the remaining 8 marine ecoregions? All have less than 10% of their area under some type of protection.

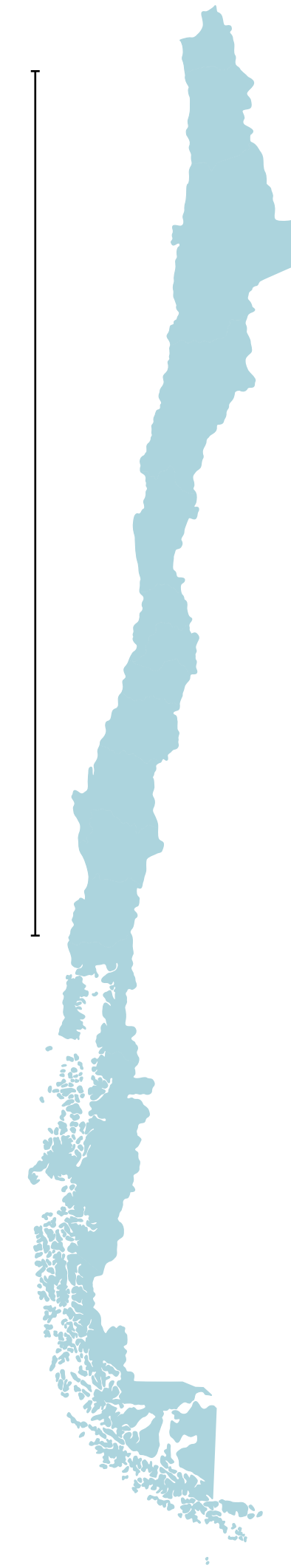
Secondly, evidence shows that a large majority of these large-scale MPAs are not being effectively managed or supervised and are not situated on the coast, which prevents fishing and coastal communities from receiving tangible benefits. Nowadays, the country's greatest challenges come from making conservation of marine coastal systems of the "Territorial Sea" of continental Chile, a coastal strip 12 nautical miles wide where multiple interests and economic activities converge, compatible with a sustainable use.

less than 1%

of the coast is protected

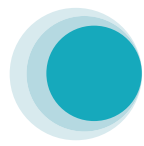
43%

of the EEZ is protected



Although more than 40% of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Chile's maritime area is protected, the truth is that that conservation is concentrated in three marine ecoregions: Easter Island, Juan Fernández Archipelago and Desventuradas Islands. The country's protection is less than 1% from Puerto Montt northward.

¹ SEXTO REPORTE DEL ESTADO DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE (2021).



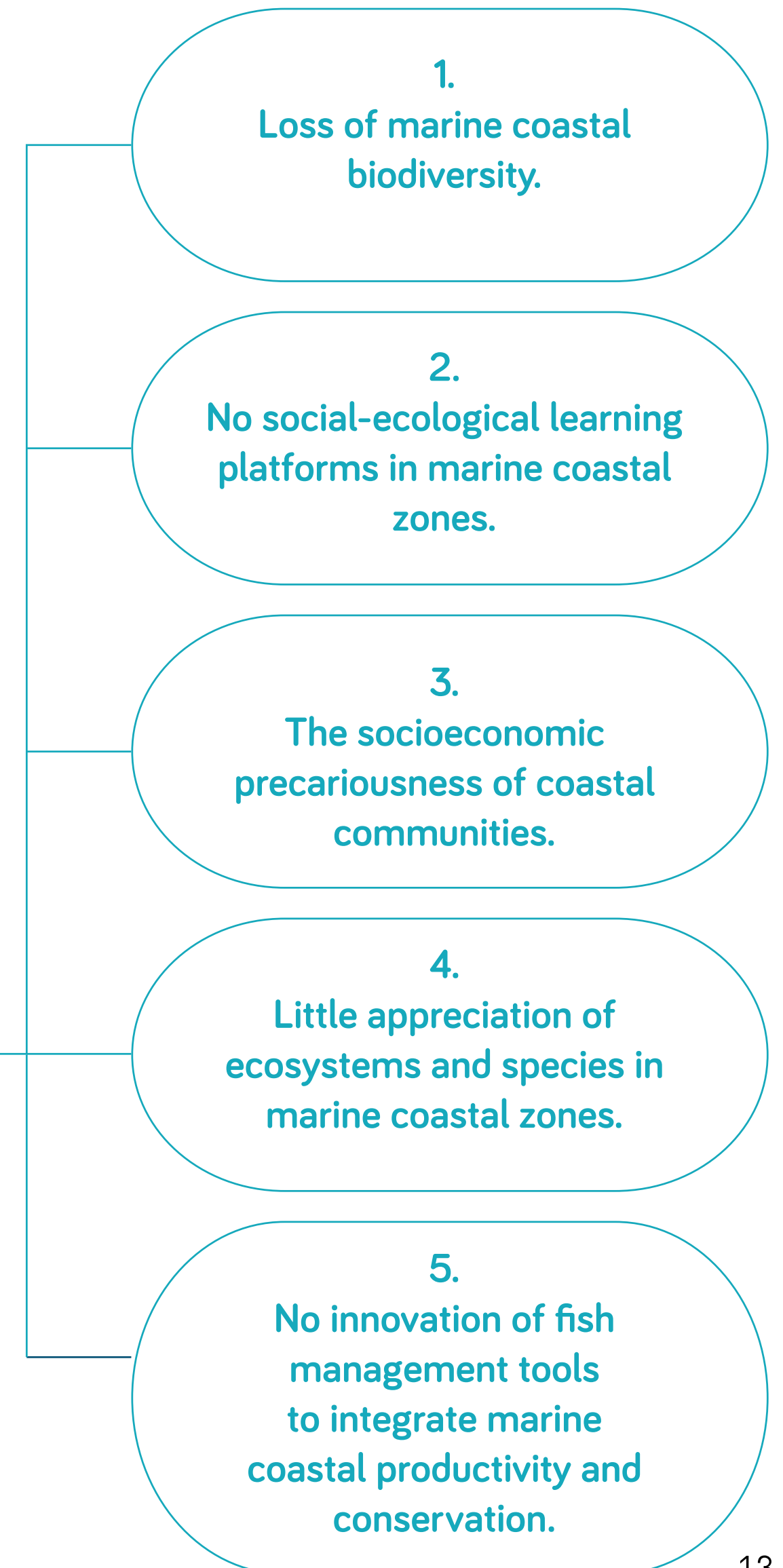
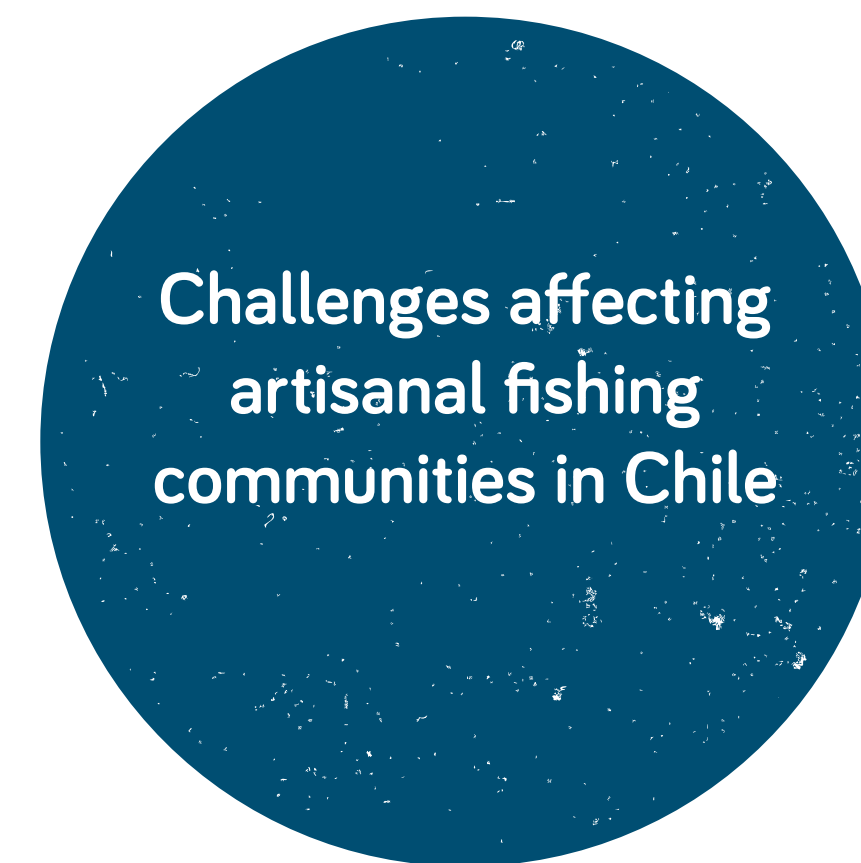
The TURF Reserves Program is an approach complementary to that of the MPA, and it represents a conservation model based on coastal communities that combines protection of marine biodiversity with resource productivity. The basis of the program are studies on social-ecological systems present on the coasts of Chile, particularly the Management and Exploitation Areas for Benthic Resources (MEABR or AMERB, for its acronym in Spanish), a seaboard system for which rights of exclusive use or exploitation of benthic resources are granted to artisanal fisher organizations.

We have used this system to create an incentives program for the establishment of non-extractive zones. The program targets individuals who are members of these organizations. These zones of protection, where extraction is not allowed, promote the safeguarding and conservation of the marine biodiversity both by fisher organizations unions and by the local community. This combined TURF Reserve-Management Area is known internationally under the concept of Territorial Use Rights for Fisheries-Reserves (TURF-Reserves) and builds benefits for fishers, coastal communities and marine ecosystems.

There are around 800 MEABRs along continental Chile, so the TURF Reserves Program has a huge potential to take on these challenges. It is aligned with several U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, TURF Reserves could represent an opportunity for Chile, like other effective area-based conservation measures, or OECMs, that contribute to the conservation of the biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework.

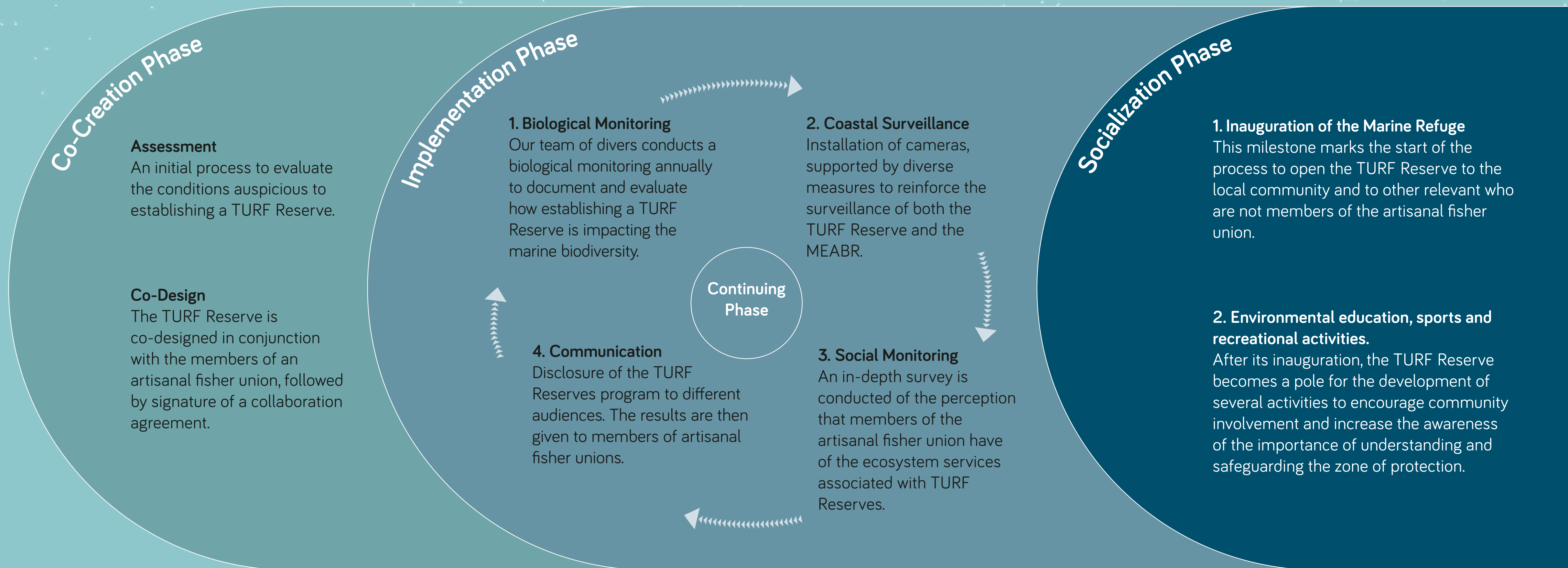
Although each TURF Reserve has its own reality, these six years of work in the Region of Valparaiso have led to the development of a learning platform based on the lessons learned from the experience with each. These findings have been added to our model and to the design of specific actions, which shows our openness to change and the importance of learning from the members of artisanal fisher unions.

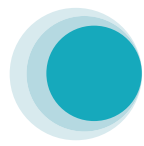
In 2022, we were able to systematize these first lessons learned and draft a work plan for the period 2023–2029. The main objective of this plan is to strengthen the Valparaíso Region learning platform and explore the possibility of scaling the program to other territories.





2.2 The model





2.3 Strategic Lines

1.

Biological and Social Monitoring

We use sound scientific data to evaluate the implications that the TURF Reserve has for the biodiversity and productivity of the MEABR where it is located.
We also develop tools to measure the effects of the program on the perception of fishers and communities.

2.

Education and communities

We promote the empowerment of members of fisher unions so that they adopt the TURF Reserves Program and its different components in the aim of having a greater impact on each coastal community.
We also hold and support activities to encourage community involvement.

3.

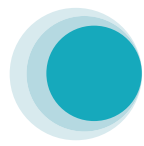
Surveillance and compliance

We reinforce the means of surveillance of the TURF Reserves and MEABRs, mainly by installing remotely operated cameras and supporting other active oversight measures in close coordination with fisher unions and associated organizations.

4.

Sustainable economies

We promote and help design, implement and improve economic activities for the development of coastal communities, focused in particular on activities that maintain or increase the state of conservation of coastal and marine resources.



5.

Regulatory framework

We analyze and promote the design of a public policy that contains and integrates the definition of TURF Reserves to Chilean law.

6.

Financial sustainability

We work on developing a sustainable financial model for our organization in which resources are obtained from different sources. We also promote the design of a model for the financial sustainability of each TURF Reserve.

7.

TURF Reserves Network

We aim to promote, among the different TURF Reserves, the exchange of experiences, good practices, tools and lessons learned from implementation of the program in each TURF Reserve while at the same time identifying ways to strengthen or widen the network.

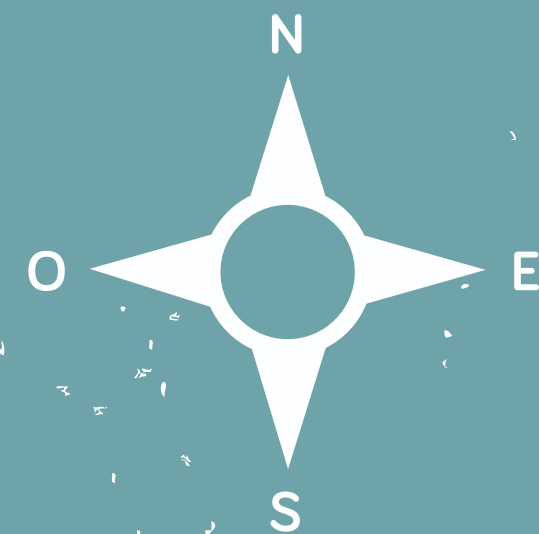
8.

Communications

Hand in hand with the Education and Community strategy, we endeavor to connect to diverse audiences to achieve the greatest local impact and community involvement while also transcending the limits of each coastal community.



2.4 The TURF Reserve Network in the Region of Valparaíso



La Polcura



Zapallar



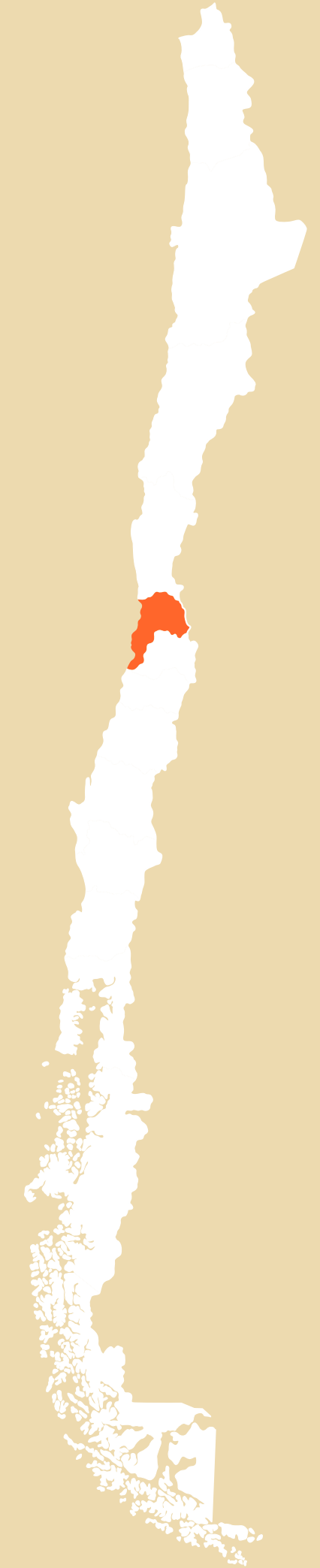
Cachagua



Maitencillo



Ventanas





III.

Scopes





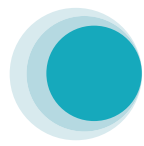
3.1 La Polcura TURF Reserve

John Gallardi, President of the La Polcura Union of Algae Collectors and Related Activities

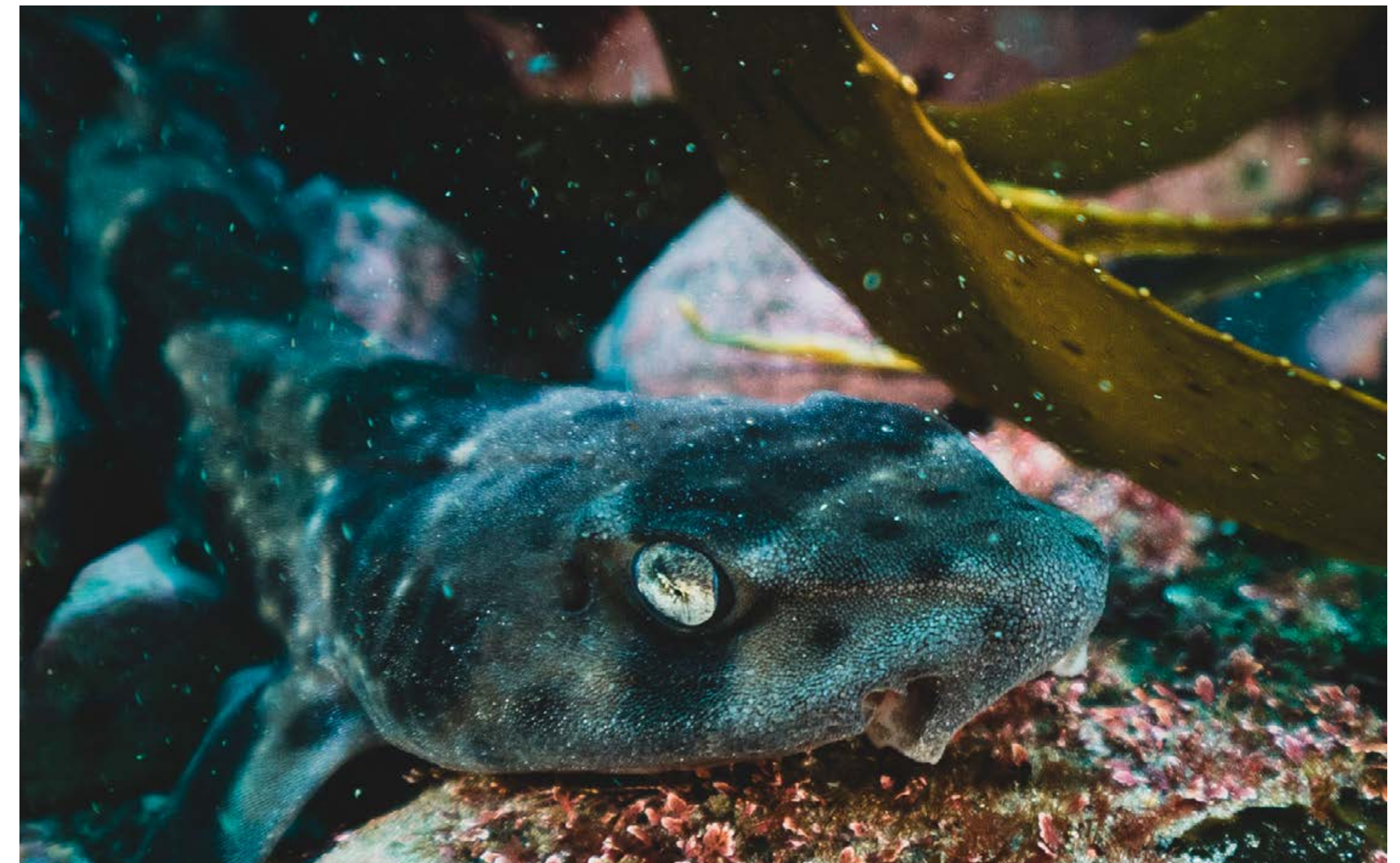
“

Capital Azul has motivated us to undertake activities, to believe in an association of artisanal fishers and that activities related to our type of work can be done.

”



With our support, from 2021 to 2022, the La Polcura Union of Independent Algae Collectors and Related Activities implemented a Global Greengrants Fund award that helped it strengthen the active surveillance of its MEABR and the TURF Reserve to combat the illegal extraction of resources. A four-wheel motorcycle, a drone and night vision binoculars were acquired with this funding.



LA POLCURA



In numbers

260

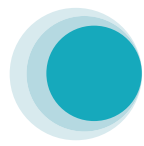
is the number of **hectares** comprising the MEABR where the La Polcura TURF Reserve is located, in La Ballena

15

is the number of **hectares** comprising this TURF Reserve.

US\$ 5 thousand

was awarded by Global Greengrants Fund to the Union for the project to strengthen coastal surveillance.



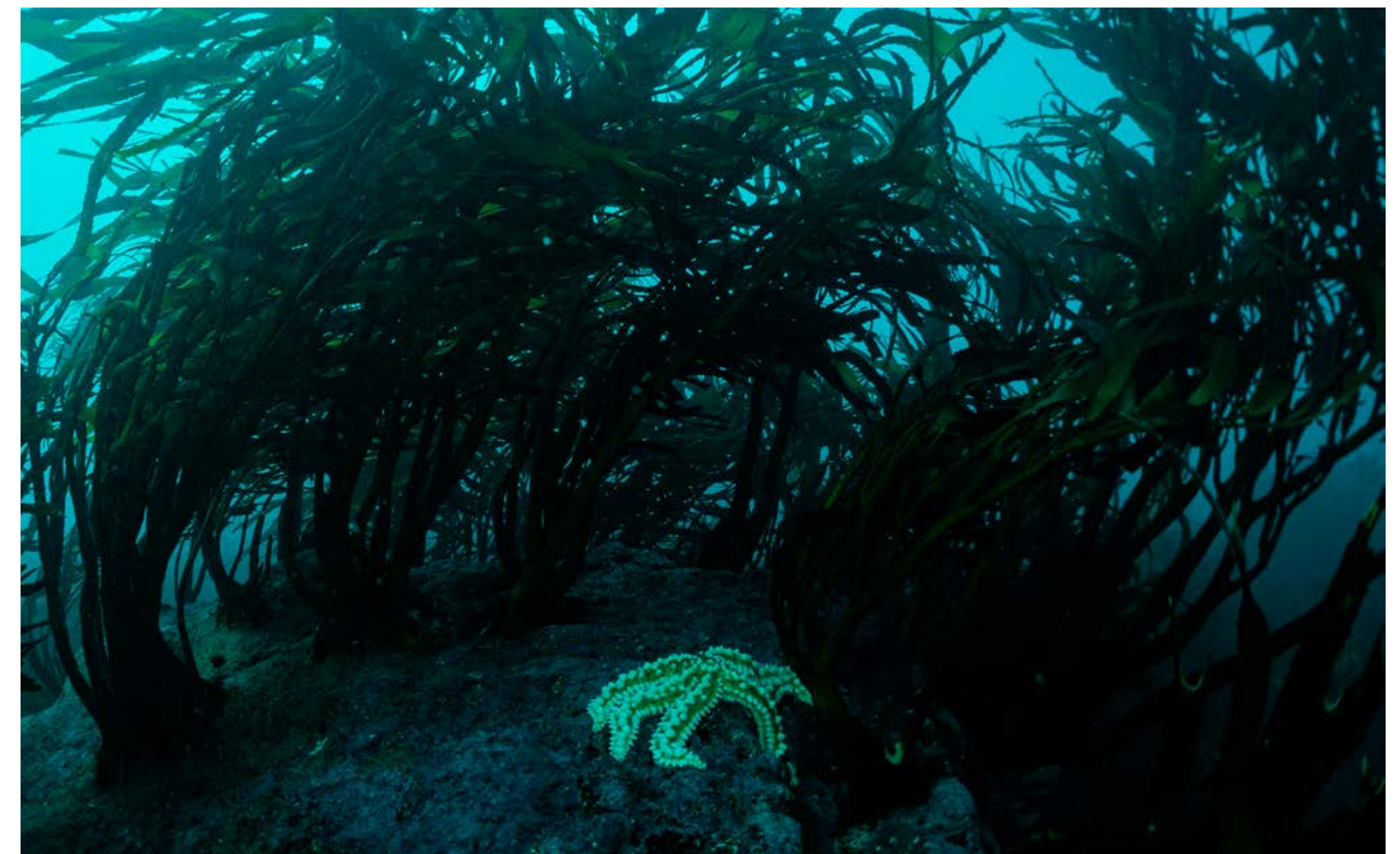
Inauguration of the Cove

In mid-2022, we participated in the inauguration of La Polcura Cove, which took place as part of the celebration of the Feast of Saint Peter, who is the patron saint of fishers. It was a very colorful, joyful party at which traditional "Chinese dancers" performed and the local community actively participated.



Progress in implementing the TURF Reserve

The implementation phase of this TURF Reserve continued forward during the second half of 2022 with the installation of a surveillance camera and the annual biodiversity monitoring. High-quality underwater photographs were taken of the MEABR and the TURF Reserve during the monitoring, which have been used to spread information on the TURF Reserves Program and marine biodiversity through different channels and support.





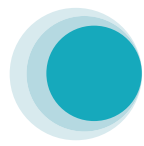
3.2 Zapallar TURF Reserve

Sergio Veas, President, Zapallar Cove Fishers Union

“

Not even in our wildest dreams did we imagine something like the TURF Reserve. It was magical, no one predicted that so many schools were going to visit us. And the interest that children have is very important, they are anxious to learn.

”



After its inauguration in December 2021, the Zapallar TURF Reserve became the first to enter the socialization phase, the stage in which the TURF Reserve is opened to the community to foster community involvement. Encouraged by this, during the annual biodiversity monitoring we held a submarine photograph session to record part of the inhabitants in the zone of protection. Large prints were made of some of the images for exhibition during the first anniversary of the Zapallar TURF Reserve. Afterwards, these materials were given to the union for use in different activities.

Thanks in part to the leadership of the Zapallar Fisher Union Board, what occurred in this TURF Reserve has set the stage for the different environmental education activities and for the involvement of the community and of other actors near this area of ocean in conservation efforts.



In numbers

4

The Zapallar TURF Reserve was inaugurated on **December 4, 2021**

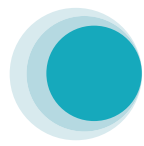
17

The first anniversary of this TURF Reserve was celebrated **December 17, 2022**

12

submarine photographs were printed for exhibition for the first time during the first anniversary of this TURF Reserve.





Cultivating the future

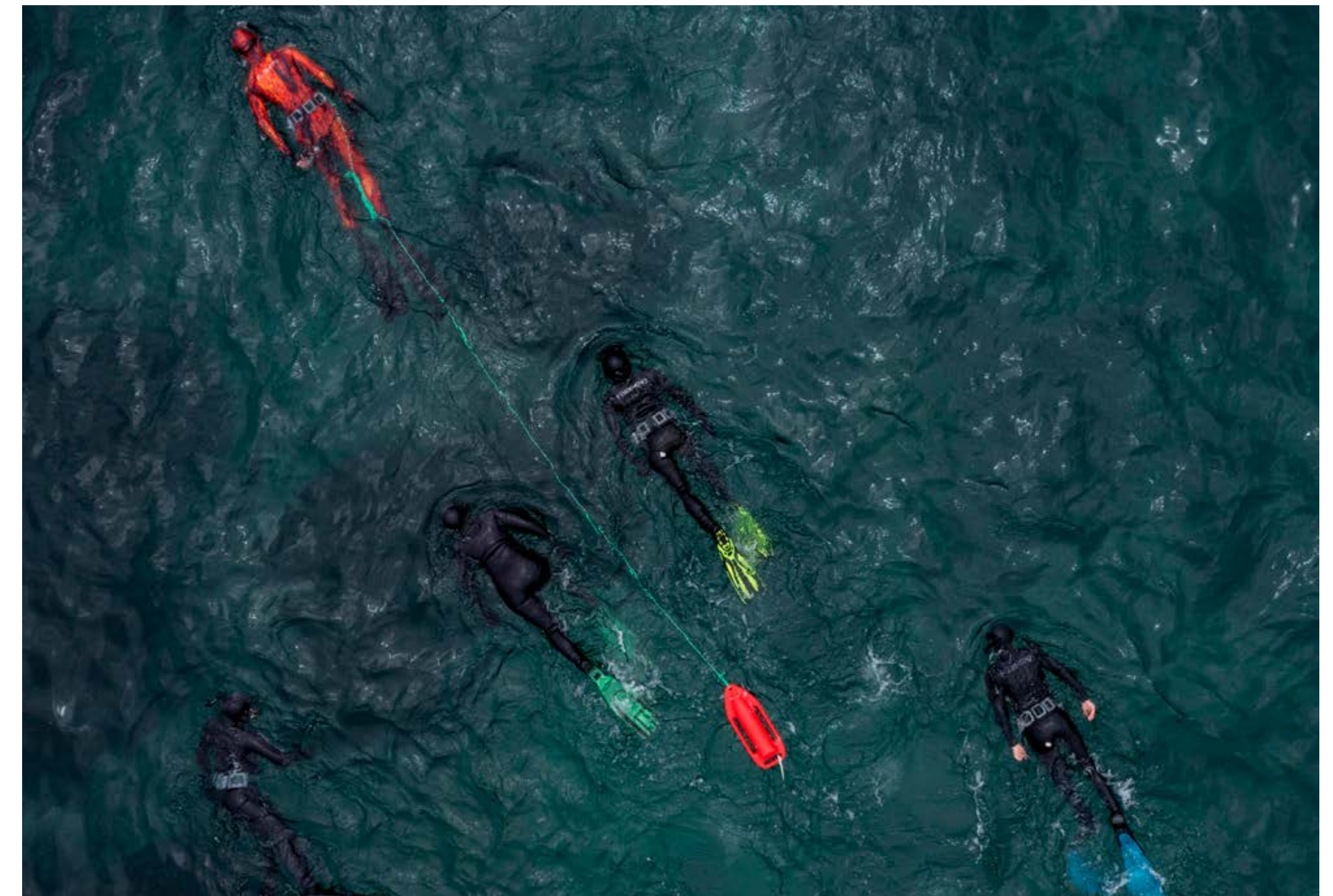
More than 1,200 children and adolescents visited the Zapallar Cove during 2022 to see more about the work that is being done at the TURF Reserve. The visits were led by Sergio Veas, Union President, who is working passionately to create an awareness of the importance of caring for and protecting this marine coastal conservation zone. The students came from different parts of Zapallar and from places like Cabildo, La Ligua and Petorca. With the collaboration of our partners The Nature Conservancy Chile, SECOS Millennium Institute and Oceanósfera Foundation, this environmental education has been supported by gifts of materials, such as the booklet "Seaboard Fish of Chile" and other publications on marine biodiversity.



One year of life

The first anniversary of the Zapallar TURF Reserve was celebrated on December 17, 2022. Boats went sailing in the Isla Seca sector, where the TURF Reserve is located, and the Zapallar Diving School, kayakers and swimmers from different parts of the Region of Valparaíso participated. A submarine photograph exposition

was set up during the event as well as environmental education modules with the support of Aula de Mar (translated as Ocean Classroom) and The Nature Conservancy Chile. The celebration of the first year of life of this TURF Reserve concluded with a cocktail party and discussions that invited the community and different actors to reflect on the zone of protection.





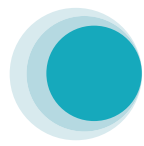
3.3 Cachagua TURF Reserve

President of the Los Pinguinos - Las Cujas Fisher Union in Cachagua Cove

“
To us, it is having an ocean garden and housing many species of marine flora and fauna.
”

CACHAGUA

Credit Cachagua's Fishers Union



The collaboration agreement with the Los Pinguinos–Las Cujas Fisher Union in Cachagua Cove was signed in September 2020 to establish this new zone of protection, the last to be added to our TURF Reserves Program. The Cachagua TURF Reserve measures a bit more than 10 hectares and occupies nearly 15% of the expanse of the Management and Exploitation Area for Benthic Resources (MEABR) called Cachagua Sector A. It is located between two iconic sites in the zone: the idyllic Las Cujas Beach and the Cachagua Island Natural Monument that is home to one of the five most important places where Humboldt penguins nest.



In 2022, we began work with members of the Cachagua Fisher Union to involve the community by presenting the collaboration agreement. This work helped us introduce and rejuvenate ideas about the TURF Reserves program, hear concerns and delineate future work.

Added to this, we took part of the board of this Union to see other TURF Reserve so that they could become well versed in the scopes of the program. Although the board of this fisher organization was changed mid-year, the interest continues in conducting activities regarding this conservation area.

In numbers

10

Is the number of **hectares** comprising the Cachagua TURF Reserve.

70

hectares is the area of the MEABR in which this TURF Reserve is inserted.

2020

is **the year** when the collaboration agreement was signed with the Los Pinguinos–Las Cujas Fisher Union in Cachagua Cove.





3.4 Maitencillo TURF Reserve



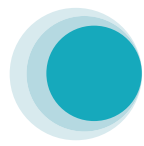
Mataly Olivares, Member of the Maitencillo Cove Fisher Union

“

The TURF Reserve is a new environment where submarine life can be repopulated.

”

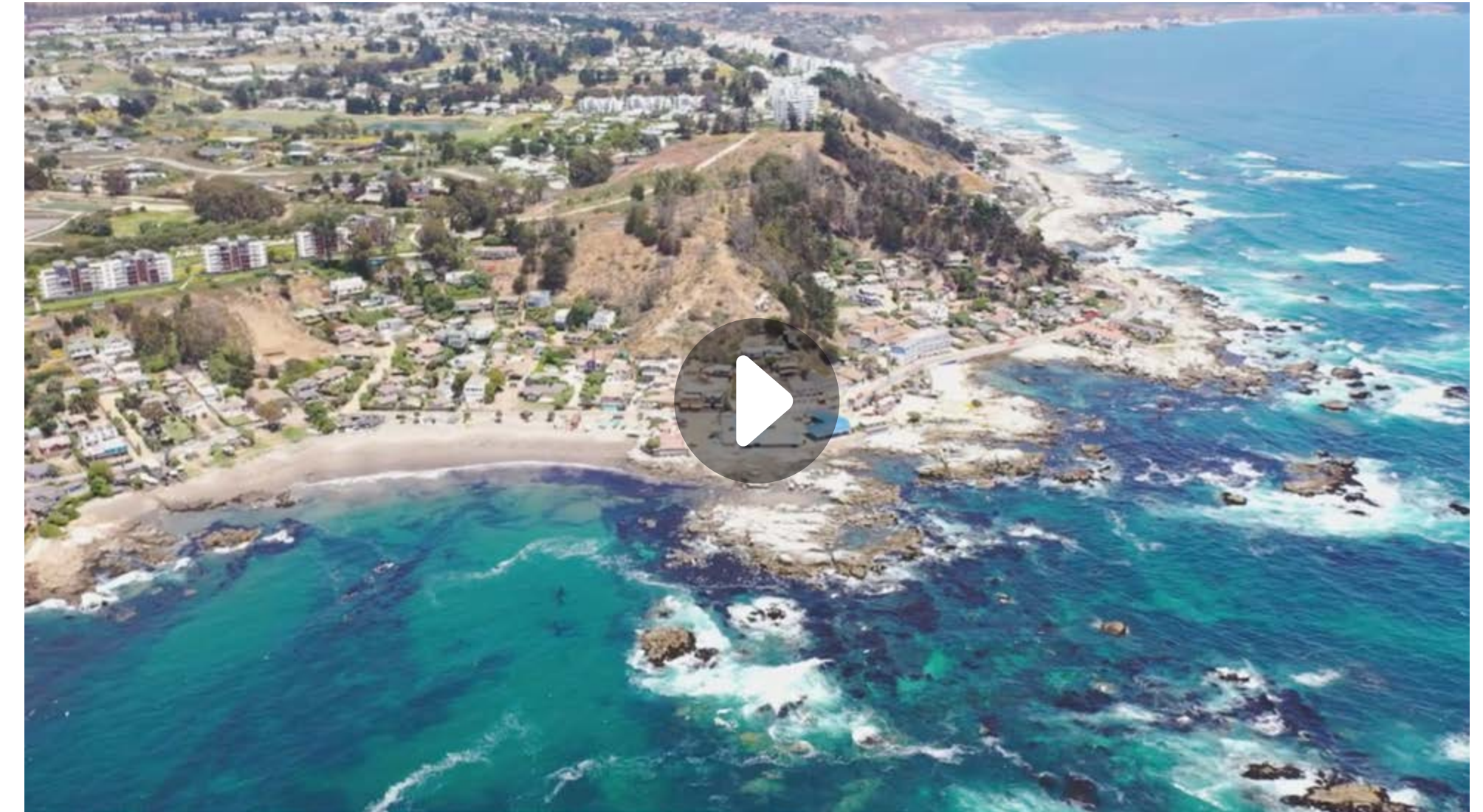
MAITENCILLO



During 2022, we presented a collaboration agreement to begin community involvement work with members of the Maitencillo Fisher Union agreement. We later met some of the members of this Union at the activity we called "What connects us to the ocean?." This was an intimate gathering where we got to know each other better, improve ties and trust, and talk about the TURF Reserve. We became engrossed in stories of the sea, of effort and gratitude to the ocean.

The Maitencillo TURF Reserve Commission arose from that gathering, a work group whose purpose is to develop socialization and environmental education initiatives targeting the local community. This Commission has set a precedent for work at different TURF Reserves and is an example of collective organization that promotes the participation of diverse actors in the Union.

Moreover, biodiversity monitoring was conducted in July during which audiovisual material was recorded that has enriched our publications.



In numbers

109

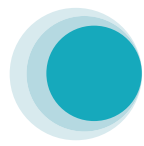
hectares is the expanse of the Maitencillo MEABR.

15

hectares is the area of the Maitencillo TURF Reserve that is located along La Caleta beach.

4

The Maitencillo TURF Reserve was inaugurated **November 4, 2022.**



Guided by the Commission's work, the TURF Reserve was officially inaugurated on November 4, 2022. The event marked the start of the socialization phase of this TURF Reserve with a view towards getting the local community involved. Children from the Maitencillo School were enthusiastic participants who were able to learn about marine biodiversity through tanks containing diverse species. These lessons, guided by members of the union, were then put on paper in colorful drawings. Authorities and representatives from diverse local environmental organizations also attended this event.

After the inauguration, the Maitencillo TURF Reserve Commission and other actors in the community promoted the Low Tide Festival, a cultural and gastronomic event held in Maitencillo Cove. During the festival, we offered a children's marine water painting workshop with the support of Connie Cortés (@flordelchanar) that emphasized the TURF Reserve and its biodiversity.



MAITENCILLO



3.5 Ventanas TURF Reserve



“
The TURF Reserve is a legacy that could continue over time. And also, research on environmental topics that are relevant there.
”

Carlos Vega, Member of the Ventana Cove Union of Artisanal Fishers, Divers, Shellfishers and Similar Occupations



In 2022 we had to replace the coastal surveillance camera that was being used to create alerts about illegal extraction in the Ventanas TURF Reserve. The installation of the new camera, which has artificial intelligence that can detect movement and send notices through an application, coincided with the hiring of a new, quicker and more efficient data provider. Since this coastal surveillance camera is far from populated locations, its replacement also involved installing a solar panel so that it can function completely autonomously.



In numbers

11,7

hectares is the expanse of the Cachagua TURF Reserve.

84

hectares is the expanse of the MEABR where this TURF Reserve is located.

2020

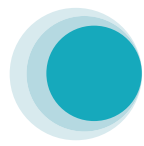
was the year when the voluntary agreement was signed to establish the Ventanas TURF Reserve, thereby formalizing work begun in 2017.





3.6 Transversal Scopes of the Program





3.6.1 Social Monitoring

In collaboration with the SECOS Millennium Institute, in 2022 we began an investigation to explore the perceptions that fishers have of the ecosystem services provided by TURF Reserves. We understand marine ecosystem services to mean the benefits that the coastal social-ecological systems provide to humans (Barbier, 2017; Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). Diverse efforts have been made to classify them in order to recognize them and evaluate their presence in different settings, which became urgent given the rapid disappearance of marine ecosystems (Barbier, 2017; Gelcich, et al., 2019).

Both artisanal fisher organizations that have a TURF Reserve inside their Management and Exploitation Area for Benthic Resources (MEABR) and those that do not participated in the study.

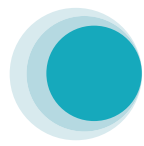
We conducted 9 interviews and 65 surveys among members of the La Polcura, Maitencillo, Zapallar and Ventanas Fisher Unions (unions with a TURF Reserve); and the Los Molles, Pichicuy, Quintay, Papudo and Horcón fisher unions (that have an MEABR but no TURF Reserve). We also held different meetings with the team from the SECOS Millennium institute to review the study tools and the preliminary results.

The analysis of this investigation will be made during 2023. We expect this tool to be used in the future to evaluate the conditions auspicious for new TURF Reserves and that the results can be a contribution to the recognition, care and promotion of different marine ecosystem services.



References:

- Barbier, E. B. (2017). Marine ecosystem services. *Current Biology Magazine* (27), R431–R510.
- Gelcich, S.; Martínez-Harms, M. J.; Tapia-Lewin, S.; Vásquez-Lavín, F. & Ruano-Chamorro, C. (2019). Comanagement of small-scale fisheries and ecosystem services. *Conservation Letters*. (12), e12637. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12637>



3.6.2 Working to improve the regulatory framework

Our co-founder, Stefan Gelcich, presented the TURF Reserves Program to the Fishing, Aquaculture and Maritime Interests Committee of the House of Representatives as part of the discussions being held by Congress regarding the Benthic Bill of Law. In that context, towards the end of 2022, members of that Committee, Maisa Rojas, Minister of the Environment, and Julio Salas, Undersecretary of Fishing and Aquaculture, were given the [video \(watch here\)](#) of the inauguration of the Maitencillo TURF Reserve, an audiovisual documentary that describes several aspects of the TURF Reserves Program.

Our team was also invited to attend a workshop organized by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Chile on implementation of the FishPath process focused on recreational and commercial seaboard fish fisheries. This is a process conceived to support fisheries on which there is little information or that are very difficult to manage because of their social-ecological contexts.

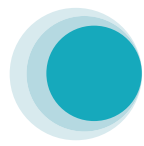
The activity showed that a group of 17 to 20 species of seaboard fish would respond to a

similar management measure that, in this case, would be a temporary ban. Experts from different NGOs, academia and government institutions participated in the event, held in Viña del Mar, and we expect to continue working jointly during 2023 to progress towards rock fish regulation.

[MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)



Credits: TNC Chile.



3.6.3 Collaboration and networking

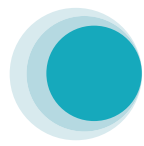
In this section we want to highlight the activities that were intended to promote alliances and collaboration with different actors like municipalities, schools and non-governmental organizations. We want to articulate and support those with whom we share the commitment to care for TURF Reserves and the environment.

An important part of the environmental education work headed by artisanal fishers has received great support from organizations like The Nature Conservancy Chile, which has become a strategic ally by providing diverse printed materials like the booklet "Seaboard Fish of Chile," in addition to guides and posters explaining marine species. These materials have been distributed at no charge to everyone participating in the different TURF Reserve activities, with a special emphasis on Zapallar.

In July, officers from the governance department of the U.S. Embassy and part of the ocean team of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) visited Zapallar and Maitencillo Coves as part of the closing of the FishPath workshop. Participants in the activity received an explanation of the TURF Reserves Program directly from its leaders, and they were even able to take a boat ride through the Zapallar TURF Reserve to see firsthand how artisanal fishers have incorporated diverse ocean conservation and sustainability concepts to their discourse.

As part of our work to involve the community in caring for TURF Reserves and the environment, we accepted an invitation from the Municipality of Zapallar to attend the Zapallar Municipal Science Fair held at the Mercedes Maturana Gallardo Technical-Professional School in Catapilco. Rodrigo Sánchez Grez, our Executive Director, gave a talk entitled "TURF Reserves: a tool to mitigate climate change," to children and youths from diverse schools in the Municipality.





3.6.4 Strengthening the TURF Reserves Network

In the interest of promoting an exchange of experiences and lessons learned among TURF Reserves and articulating the TURF Reserves Network, halfway through the year, members of the Cachagua Fisher Union accompanied us to La Ballena, at the north gate to the Region of Valparaíso. There they saw firsthand the work that their peers in the La Polcura Union of Independent Algae Collectors and Related Activities have undertaken in this TURF Reserve. John Galiardi, President of this artisanal fisher association, also visited Maitencillo and Zapallar Coves to gain other perspectives and see other realities. These exchanges of experiences are part of our efforts to strengthen the TURF Reserves Network.

A little bit later, Sergio Veas, President of the Zapallar Cove Fisher Union, arranged an outing with children from the Cachagua Balneario School together with his peer, Manuel Figueroa, the leader of the Los Pinguinos-Las Cujas Fisher Union in Cachagua Cove. These leaders walked with students from the Cachagua Beach to the TURF Reserve near Las Cujas Beach. It was a hike where the importance of protecting and caring for these spaces, allocated to conservation and restoration of marine coastal ecosystems and their biodiversity, was explained in depth, supported by the handing out of the booklet "Seaboard Fish of Chile."

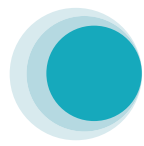




In October, we attended a coastal resilience workshop in Zapallar with the support of BHP Foundation. At that workshop, Sergio Veas and John Galiardi, presidents, respectively, of the Zapallar and La Polcura Artisanal Fisher Unions, spoke in depth of the impacts that the TURF Reserves Program has had on their associations and on the coastal communities where they are located.

To close the year, the Maitencillo TURF Reserve was officially inaugurated and the first anniversary of the Zapallar TURF Reserve was celebrated, two major events in continuing to strengthen the TURF Reserves Network, especially given the participation that leaders from other unions had in each activity, bringing peers closer together and sharing experiences.





3.6.5 Communications

In 2022 we were able to take high-quality submarine photographs of the TURF Reserves and Management Areas of La Polcura, Zapallar and Maitencillo. These materials have enriched the dissemination of our work through different channels ranging from our presentations targeting diverse actors of interest as well as social networks and the media.

Moreover, large canvas prints were made of some of the images of biodiversity taken in Zapallar and then exhibited for the first time to the public that attended the first anniversary of the Zapallar TURF Reserve. These photographs were given to the Fisher Union, whose members have used them in different environmental education activities in the cove.

Compared to previous years, the Foundation's presence in media was greater throughout 2022. One of the great milestones in the year was the special report published by Mongabay Latam, which was replicated in several other media, including the national portal *El Desconcierto*, and even abroad, in *El Comercio* in Peru. We also published an opinion column in the *El Mercurio* newspaper of Valparaíso.



Columna

Rodrigo Sánchez Grez
Director de Programas, Fundación Capital Azul

Restauración de ecosistemas marino-costeros

Con más de 100 mil kilómetros de línea costera, que equivalen a dos vueltas y media al planeta por la línea del Ecuador, Chile ha ejercido una presión enorme sobre esta zona y sus recursos, que han sido sobre-explotados durante décadas. La abundancia y biodiversidad que antes caracterizaban a la costa del centro del país, hoy solo permanece atesorada en la memoria de los habitantes de las comunidades costeras. Sus relatos son estrecheces: peces litorales como el pejeperro (*Semioscyphus darwini*) o la mulata (*Graus nigra*), que antes proliferaban, ya no son más que un recuerdo. Esto es parte de lo que algunos científicos catalogan como la sexta extinción masiva de especies.

Pero esta crisis también representa una oportunidad. En diciembre de 2021, el Sindicato de Pescadores de la Caleta Zapallar inauguró de forma oficial su Refugio Marino, una zona de 15 hectáreas en la que no se pueden extraer recursos y que se encuentra inserta dentro del Área de Manejo y Explotación de Recursos Bentónicos (AMERB) que administran los pescadores artesanales de este balneario. Así se espera que espacios como éste se regeneren y vuelvan a florecer.

Con más de 700 AMERB a lo largo de la costa de Chile, incentivar la creación de refugios marinos es una respuesta concreta ante la necesidad de conservar y utilizar sosteniblemente los océanos y sus recursos, tal como lo establece uno de los 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de la ONU. En medio de una crisis climática global desatada, más de 3 mil millones de personas dependen de la biodiversidad marina y costera para su sustento, por lo que es urgente impulsar este tipo de modelos colaborativos.

Desde el año 2016 que en Fundación Capital Azul encabezamos un ambicioso programa basado en ciencia para establecer refugios marinos en alianza con sindicatos de pescadores artesanales. Además de Zapallar, hemos apoyado la creación de otros cuatro refugios marinos en la Región de Valparaíso, en La Ballena, Cachagua, Maitencillo y Ventanas, marcando los primeros pasos para la conformación de una red de refugios marinos.

Estas áreas marinas no extractivas combinan uso y conservación en un mismo sistema. En este paradigma de conservación, son los propios pescadores los que lideran la restauración de ecosistemas marino-costeros para aumentar la biodiversidad y obtener beneficios tangibles en la productividad de sus pesquerías. Para ello contempla elementos como vigilancia costera, monitoreo de biodiversidad e investigación en ciencias sociales. De esta manera, las comunidades se encargan de gestionar y proteger de forma sostenible los ecosistemas marino-costeros con miras hacia su conservación y regeneración, fortaleciendo a la vez su adaptación y resiliencia en un escenario climático cambiante.

austerra

Inicio Revista Tienda Travel Tribu Austerra

Pescadores artesanales de Maitencillo inauguran un refugio para la conservación marina

por Austerra Society | Nov 30, 2022 | Destacados, Portada

SECCIONES FUTURO360

DESAFÍO TIERRA CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO 15.06.2022 / 11:01

Científicos y comunidades se unen para conservar el océano chileno

Son cinco los refugios marinos que están funcionando en las costas chilenas, áreas donde se impulsa un equilibrio entre la pesca y la regeneración de los recursos.

Sigue la cobertura en CHN Chile

MIRA MÁS HISTORIAS

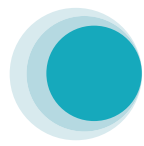
MONGABAY

BOSQUES OCEANOS PUEBLOS INDIGENAS INVESTIGACIONES ANIMALES MULTIMEDIA SOLUCIONES ENTREVISTAS

Para buscar, lectos y haga clic

Chile: pescadores artesanales crean sus propios refugios marinos para proteger la biodiversidad costera

por Michelle Carrere en 4 octubre 2022



Our Executive Director was interviewed extensively by TELL Magazine while CNN Chile broadcast the report "New ways to conserve the ocean" in which the TURF Reserves were protagonists. Both the inauguration of the Maitencillo TURF Reserve and the celebration of the first anniversary of the Zapallar TURF Reserve were reported in diverse media, among them Ladera Sur and Austerra Society, as well as the portals Soy Chile, Aqua and Mundo Acuícola.

In 2022, we were also invited to participate in the first version of the Blue Action Festival (Festival Acción Azul, in Spanish) that was held in early November in Valparaíso, where both our Executive Director and our Communications Director spoke in greater detail about the work we have been doing for the conservation and restoration of marine coastal ecosystems in alliance with artisanal fisher unions.

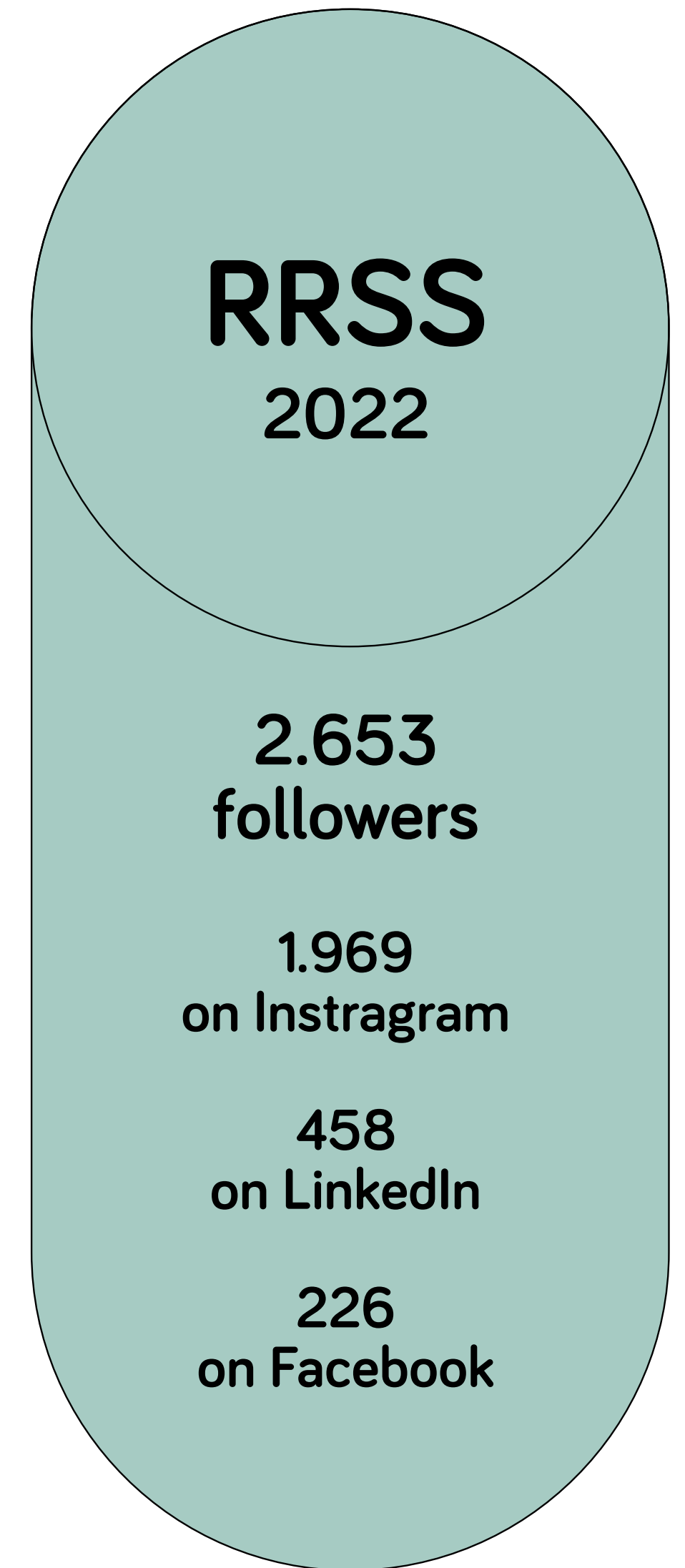


Credit: Festival Acción Azul.



On social networks, we also closed the year with 2,653 followers, divided into 1,969 on Instagram, 458 on LinkedIn and 226 on Facebook. Although it was not possible to gain access to much information on the previous year, we were at least able to establish that interactions grew considerably (239% on Instagram and 92% on Facebook). Instagram was undoubtedly the social network of greatest growth, with around one thousand new followers, and +233% likes, +341% comments and +22% in engagement.

On the other hand, 5 postings were made in the news section of the website, visited by nearly 1,500 people, more than 80% from Chile, making it nearly 2 thousand sessions and 3,500 pages viewed.





3.6.6 Financial Sustainability

By the end of 2022, in a process conducted by NGOsource, we received an Equivalency Determination, so we are considered to a U.S. public charity, a 501(c)(3) organization, which paves the way to receiving donations from that country. Along those lines, in 2022 we were also awarded funding from International Community Foundation (ICF) to evaluate the conditions auspicious to scaling the model to other regions in the country.

Most of the efforts towards financial sustainability were focused on preparing the application for funding to be able to strengthen the social-ecological resilience of the TURF Reserves managed by fisher unions in central Chile in the framework of the Coastal Community Network promoted by BHP Foundation, an initiative that aims to promote local leadership, establish alliances, and support models that promote the wellbeing of coastal communities and care of marine resources. BHP Foundation could thus become a potential member of the TURF Reserves Program.

We also achieved another milestone within this strategic line: La Playa Wines became the first national company to support our work.

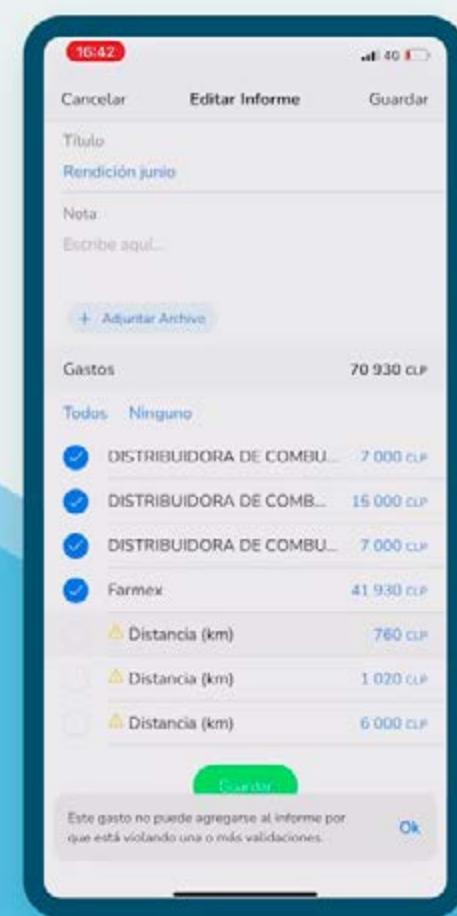




3.7 Complementary actions

a. We digitalized our expense accounts

We closed the year by making an alliance with Rindegastos in order to facilitate expense accounting, thereby eliminating the paperwork and headaches that Excel spreadsheets and reports were giving us.



"Rindegastos has become a tool of great help to our organization. We have been able to make a leap in quality for transparency and compliance in managing expense accounting. At the same time, we are making processes more agile and facilitating the work of the members of our team. Fundación Capital Azul is working mainly with international donors whose transparency, regulatory compliance and accounting requirements are significant, so Rindegastos has become a major ally in our daily operations."

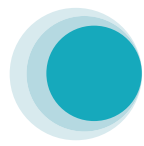
Rodrigo Sánchez Grez
Executive Director
Fundación Capital Azul

We offer design students the chance to become involved in ocean conservation and sustainability through a meaningful project



b. Internship Program

As one way of broadening our impact on society, since late 2022 we have been offering design students the chance to become involved in ocean conservation and sustainability through a meaningful project, giving them space to develop and improve their talent and skills.



3.8 Impact data – 2022 Milestones

64

hectares is the area protected as a TURF Reserves.



5

TURF Reserves have been established in an alliance with artisanal fisher unions in the Region of Valparaíso: in La Ballena, Zapallar, Cachagua, Maitencillo and Ventanas.



26

was the number of **dives** during the 8 biodiversity monitoring campaigns conducted in 2022.



+1.500

students from different schools in the Region of Valparaíso participated in environmental education activities in 2022 relating to the Zapallar TURF Reserve.



+150

artisanal fishers and their respective families are benefitting from the TURF Reserves Program of Fundación Capital Azul.





IV.

Acknowledgements





1 Our thanks to the partners of Fundación Capital Azul

LOS PINGUINOS-LAS CUJAS
INDEPENDENT FISHER UNION OF
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INDEPENDENT UNION OF ARTISANAL
FISHERS OF MAITENCILLO COVE

VENTANA COVE INDEPENDENT
UNION OF ARTISANAL FISHERS,
DIVERS, SHELLFISHERS AND SIMILAR
OCCUPATIONS

ZAPALLAR COVE INDEPENDENT FISHER
UNION

MAITENCILLO COVE INDEPENDENT
UNION OF ARTISANAL FISHERS

JUAN SILVA

DIEGO TABILO

ALEJANDRA GARCÉS

FRANCISCA BARDI

JOSÉ MELEJ

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EGLÉ FLORES

OCEANKIND

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CHILE

VALENTINA ZAMORANO GALLEGUILLOS

MIGUEL HERRERA

TO THE FAMILIES OF THE ENTIRE TEAM AT
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