



**MarViva  
Foundation  
Annual  
Report**

# 2023





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Olive ridley turtle

*(Lepidochelys olivacea)*

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Olive ridley turtle

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## Message from the Executive Director

We conclude 2023 proud of our work. In cooperation with authorities, the scientific community, academia, non-governmental organizations, community-based groups in coastal areas, productive sector, media, households and donors, we made progress in addressing multiple challenges and opportunities related to the management and conservation of the Eastern Tropical Pacific to protect our food security, sources of income, and critical ecosystem services for sustainable development in Latin America.

In January 2024 I assumed the Executive Direction of MarViva, after five years in the Management of Policy Advocacy in Costa Rica. I took on this responsibility with great enthusiasm, commitment and motivation to continue building bridges and collaborating with all relevant actors in support of an effective marine governance based on our institutional framework, the exercise of democratic principles and human rights, and integrating inclusion, equity and social progress in contribution to responsible ocean stewardship and human welfare.

To my predecessor, Dr. Jorge Arturo Jiménez Ramón, my congratulations and admiration for 16 years of visionary leadership of the Foundation, placing MarViva as a technical and scientific reference at the local and international levels. Inspired by his determination, MarViva will continue to position itself as a promoter of the generation, dissemination and integration of scientific knowledge in the processes of awareness and decision making.



To the Board of Directors, our work team and allies in all areas and geographies, my sincere thanks for your support and warm welcome, with the absolute commitment to give the best of me to achieve our mission for the conservation and marine sustainability in benefit of the present and future generations.

Katherine Arroyo Arce | Executive Director



# MarViva Foundation

MarViva, founded in 2002, is a regional, non-governmental, non-profit organization.

## Mission

To promote the conservation and sustainability of coastal and marine resources in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP).

## Vision

A biodiverse and healthy ocean generating well-being for the present and future generations.



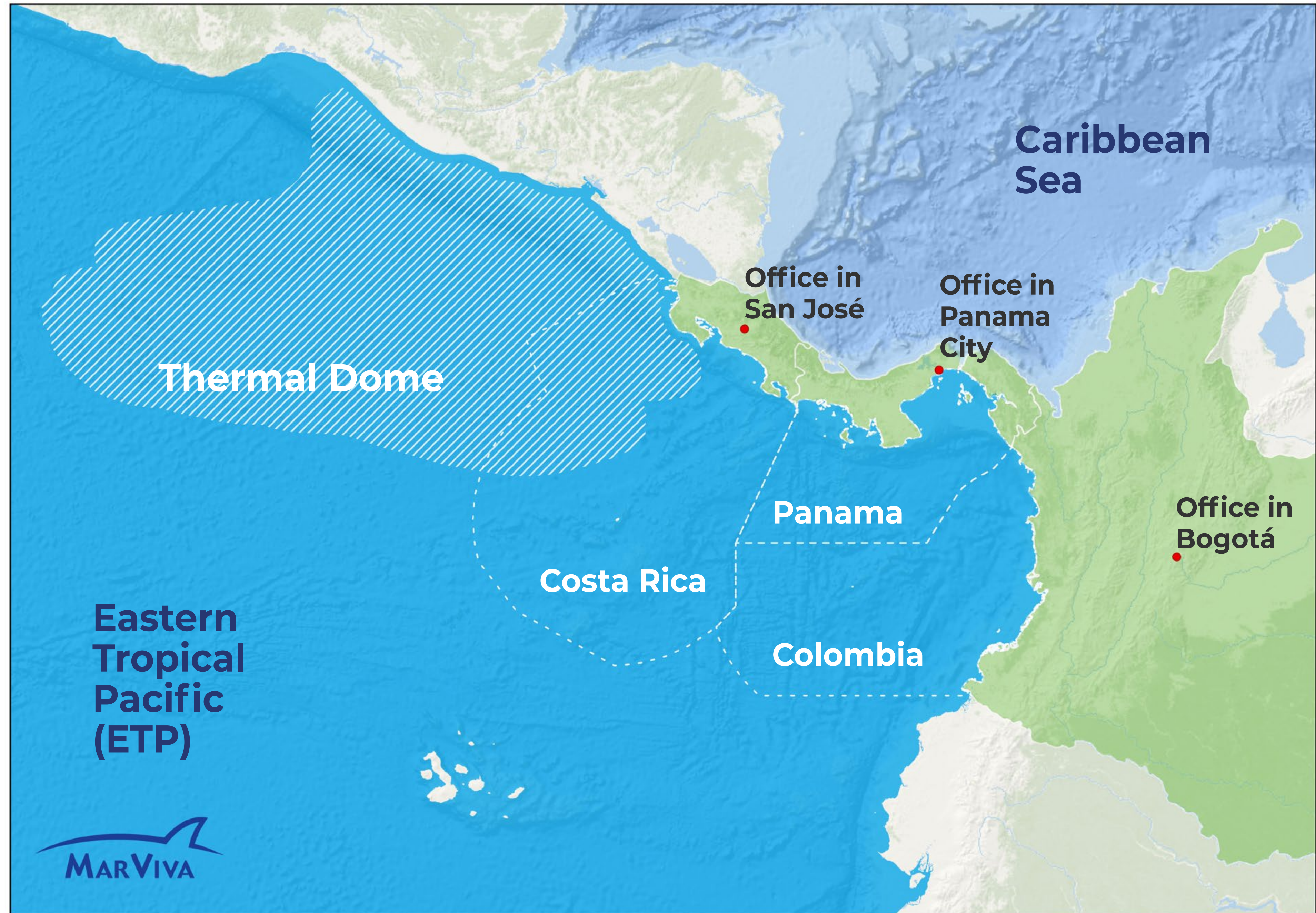
▲ Mangrove in Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica. © Garret Britton/MarViva Foundation.



# Geographic focus area:

## Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP)

MarViva concentrates its work in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and the high seas in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP), with an expanded scope to Ecuador, Peru, and Chile.



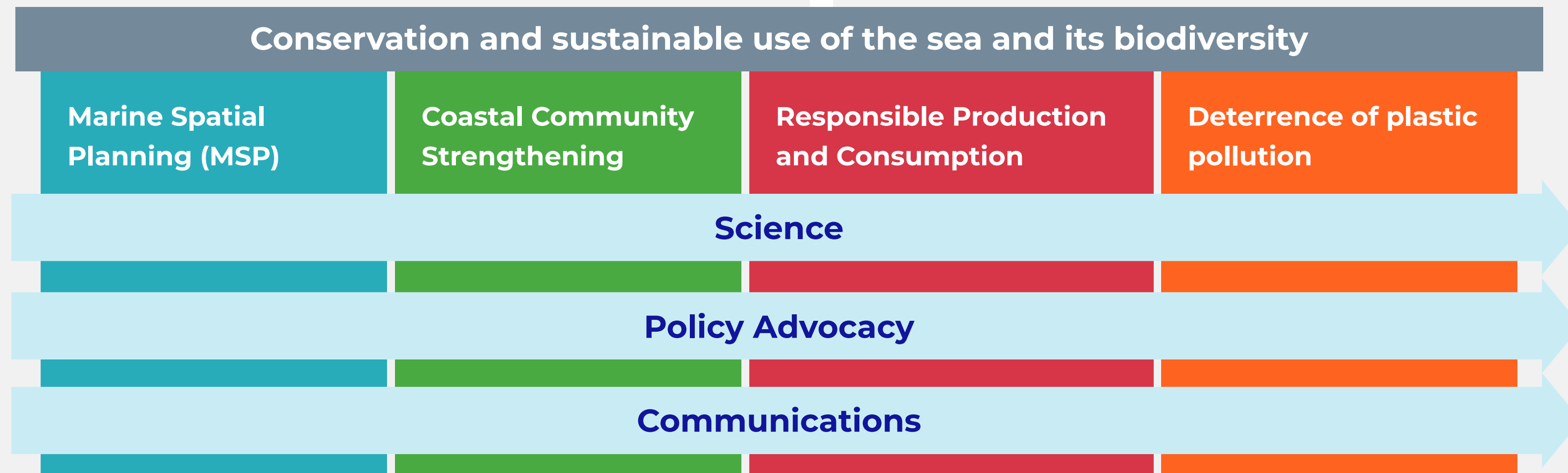


# What we do

MarViva Foundation supports the construction of multi-sectoral visions that optimize the effectiveness of regulations, strategies and measures for marine conservation and sustainable development. We promote access to technical and scientific information, effective and inclusive participation, capacity building and development of partnerships between actors. We promote an ecosystemic, multi-sectoral and inter-institutional approach, based on advisory and empowerment of the various relevant stakeholders for decision-making in the design, implementation and evaluation of regulations and best practices. We also facilitate the establishment and consolidation of participatory governance structures, guaranteeing the insertion of civil society in the integrated management of marine and coastal areas and resources. MarViva´s strategic pillars are:

We address them through a multidisciplinary team that includes specialists in biology, fisheries management, law, geography, business administration, environmental management, international relations, social and political sciences, economics, anthropology, journalism and communication, organized in three regional programs: Science, Policy Advocacy, and Communication.

This Annual Report summarizes the year 2023 achievements and progress towards the attainment of goals and objectives established in our Strategic Plan 2024-2028.





# Strategic pillars



# Marine Spatial Planning

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a public, participatory, and multisectoral process for the integral management of marine and coastal areas and resources. It enables planning the time, location, and ways to conduct human activities in the ocean, considering complementing sustainability and ecological, economic and social prosperity objectives. MSP involves diverse interest groups in the governance, planning, design and implementation of marine conservation and management measures. Relevant stakeholders include public authorities, institutional entities, local governments, productive sectors, local based organizations, coastal populations, scientific community, and non-government organizations (NGO), among others.

Productive activities, like fishing (artisanal, industrial, sport), aquaculture, tourism, mining, navigation, energy generation for the development of oceanic and coastal infrastructure are intensifying with globalization, technological advances and population growth.

The absence of spatial and temporal organization, as well as of regulation and monitoring, generates conflicts between uses and/or between uses and the environment. Together with climate change and pollution, the lack of planning accelerates the degradation of habitats, ecosystems and environmental services, damaging the sustainability of biodiversity, food security, human health and critical sources of income locally, regionally and globally.



▲  
Aerial view of Playa Grande, Costa Rica  
© Stefan Neumann/Shutterstock.



With scope in the local, regional, and high seas areas, MarViva focuses its efforts on:

- Policy and media advocacy to improve the regulation and institutional framework.
- Multisectoral participation in planning and decision-making for the sustainable management of marine and coastal areas and resources.
- Transparency in information access and management.
- Strengthening of participatory governance.
- Establishment of alliances for optimization of resources and capacities aimed at marine conservation and sustainability.
- Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and the overexploitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems.
- Promotion of high seas management and governance mechanisms, highlighting its connectivity with jurisdictional waters.

In cooperation with our funders and partners for the execution of this strategic pillar, the most relevant advances during 2023 include:



▲ Hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*).  
© Alex Rush/Shutterstock.



## Participatory planning

### Costa Rica

- Technical input in the framework of multisectoral working groups to develop:
  - General Management Plan for Cocos Marine Conservation Area Cocos (ACMC, in Spanish).
  - Fishing Management Plan for the Bicentennial Marine Management (AMMB, in Spanish).

### Panama

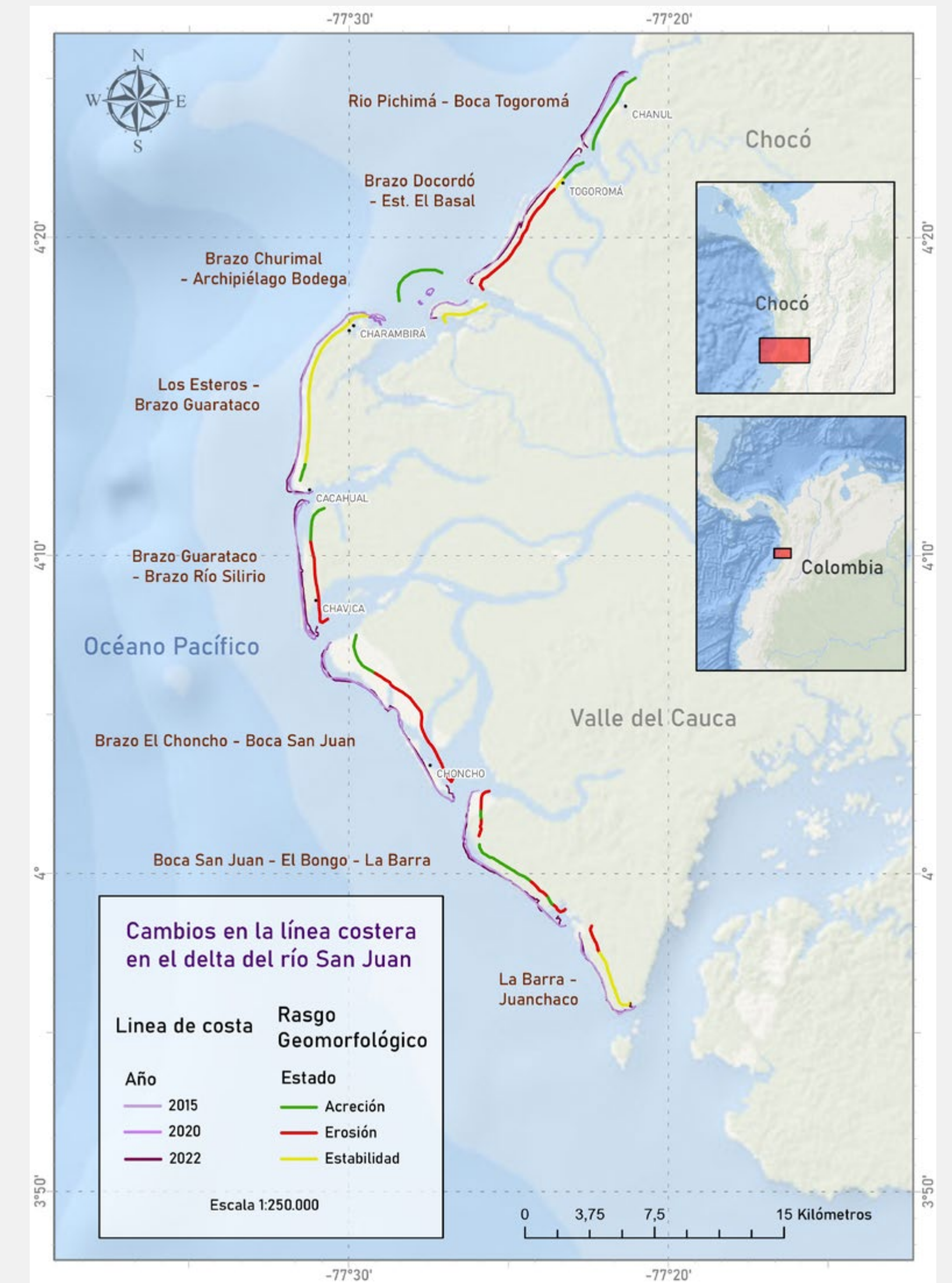
- Comparative diagnosis of governance models in protected areas developed to strengthen the governance proposal in the Managed Resource Area Gulf of Montijo Wetland (ARMHGM, in Spanish).
- Governmental and civil society stakeholders sensitized on the challenges of financial sustainability that limit marine conservation and sustainable management
- 28 officials from environmental, fisheries, ports and public finance authorities trained to support budget planning for compliance with strategies and regulations associated with marine ecosystem management.

### Colombia

- Route for the declaration of a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Litoral de San Juan (Chocó) agreed on, aiming to protect 25% of the territorial waters of the Colombian Pacific Coast. Stakeholders engaged include indigenous and afro communities, as well as the academy, civil society and diverse institutions.
- 6 road maps established to strengthen and consolidate conservation strategies in the Exclusive Artisanal Fishing Zone (ZEPA, in Spanish), the Special Fisheries Management Zone (ZEMP, in Spanish), Utría National Natural Park (PNNU, in Spanish), the Regional District of Integrated Management Golfo de Tribugá-Cabo Corrientes (DRMI-GTCC, in Spanish), Regional District of Integrated Management Encanto de los Manglares del Bajo Baudó (DRMI-EMBB, in Spanish) and the new MPA (in process of being declared) in Litoral del San Juan, with participation of 27 ethnic-territorial authorities (15 community councils and 12 indigenous reserves) in Chocó.



- Strengthened multi-sectoral governance structure in DRMI-EMBB, with the generation and monitoring of the operating manual and action plan for the management of the MPA.
- Sea level rise scenarios on the coast of Litoral del San Juan analyzed as input to the MPA creation process.
- Climate change adaptation measures analyzed, with participation of 89 representatives of the nine coastal communities in the area of influence of the DRMI-GTCC (Chocó), in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the regional environmental authority (CODECHOCÓ).
- Participatory analysis spaces generated, about the perception of benefits of the PNNU, for the assessment of management effectiveness in the MPA.
- Technical input contributed to the proposal to expand the ZEPA, in the northern Pacific region of Chocó, in partnership with the artisanal fishing federation (FEDEPESCA, in Spanish), the socio-legal center for territorial defense (SIEMBRA, in Spanish), municipal mayors' offices, community councils and the coordinating committee of the interinstitutional and communitarian artisanal fishing group (GICPA, in Spanish).



Shoreline changes between 2015 and 2022 in the San Juan river delta. Chocó, Colombia.



## Regional

- Young professionals trained to promote initiatives for sustainable marine management, in the framework of the Youth Leadership Summit, at the Our Oceans conference (Panamá)
- Socioecological and economic valuation information on the environmental services of the Thermal Dome compiled for the Mesoamerican region, in partnership with Duke University and the international center for economic policy for sustainable development (CINPE, in Spanish), to inform potential high seas management measures.
- Criteria and procedures for the designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) and Associated Protective Measures (APM) in the Thermal Dome analyzed, in partnership with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Maritime University (WMU)-Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute (GOI) and the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC).
- The initiative to protect the sustainability of the Thermal Dome incorporated in the Strategic Plan 2024- 2026 of the Central American commission on maritime transport (COCATRAM, in Spanish).
- Technical support offered to Latin-American diplomatic missions in the framework of the V Intergovernmental Negotiation Conference (IGC5), for negotiation of the International Agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (known as the BBNJ Treaty, or High Seas Treaty), approved in June.



▲ Workshop: Particularly sensitive maritime areas in the high seas. © MarViva Foundation.



## Illegal fishing

### Costa Rica

- Joint work plan to combat illegal fishing in Gulf of Nicoya established with the national coast guard service (SNG, in Spanish), national system of conservation areas (SINAC, in Spanish) and the Responsible Fishing Committee (CPR) of the regional network of community-based organizations in Gulf of Nicoya (Red del Golfo, RDG, in Spanish).
- More than 40,000 meters of illegal or non-permitted fishing gear removed through seizures, confiscations and/or findings by the SNG.
- Technical publication "Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the internal zone of the Gulf of Nicoya: problems and recommendations" socialized among the deputies of the province of Guanacaste, legislative advisors, local government of Cañas, and representatives of the RDG, SNG, SINAC, and NGOs.

### Panama

- 50 justice operators and 40 officers of the ecological police trained on issues related to the institutional framework and regulations applicable to the protection and sustainable use of marine-coastal resources.
- 20 naval officers trained in an international course organized by the national naval-air service (SENAM, in Spanish) training school, on Panama's international environmental commitments.



◀ Local leaders active in the fight against illegal fishing  
© MarViva Foundation.

Removal of unauthorized fishing gear  
© MarViva Foundation.





- Key positions in the regional delegations of the environmental, fisheries and security authorities equipped, in support of maritime control and surveillance, within the framework of the Inter-Institutional Coordination Platform (PCII, in Spanish) of the Greater Gulf of Chiriquí (GGCh, in Spanish).
- 166 public officials members of the PCII trained on the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems, marine spatial planning, and regulations applicable to integrated marine management, marine protected areas, and the fight against IUU fishing.
- 2 community-based fisheries surveillance centers established and operated by the federation of artisanal fishers of Coiba National Park (PNC, in Spanish) and its zone of influence (FEPACOIBA, in Spanish), to combat illegal fishing in the Gulf of Montijo.
- Communitarian satellite monitoring program established, including installation of tracking devices on 93 artisanal and tourism vessels in Gulf of Montijo.

## Colombia

- Coast guard, national police, prosecutors, immigration, environmental and protected areas authorities trained on regulations applicable to the deterrence of illegal fishing, with emphasis on strengthening prevention, control and surveillance measures in Utría National Natural Park (PNNU, in Spanish) in Chocó.



▲ Training of officers of the National Aero-Naval Service in protocols for action on illegal fishing. Panama © MarViva Foundation.

Fishing control and surveillance center operated by the Federation of Artisanal Fishermen of Coiba National Park and its area of influence (FEPACOIBA), in alliance with the authorities. © MarViva Foundation.





## National regulations

Strengthened relevant regulation proposals through technical, legal, scientific and media support, promoting marine conservation sustainable management:

### Panama

- Law 365 (2023), which modifies and adds articles to Law 13 (2005), establishing Panama's marine corridor with aim to forbid the capture of sea mammals for recreational or educational purposes (*Approved*).
- Law 371 (2023), which protects sea turtles and their habitats (*Approved*).
- Executive Decree 2 (2023), which expands the limits of the Area of Managed Resources Banco Volcán (ARMBV, in Spanish) (*Approved*).
- Project Bill which modifies the Law 9 (2006), with objective to restore and preserve shark populations in the jurisdictional waters (*undebated*).
- Project Bill on the climate change framework (*undebated*).
- Draft regulation on marine and coastal water quality (*pending public consultation*).

- Agreement proposal for approval of the internal regulations of the National Commission on Responsible Fishing, of the national fisheries authority (ARAP, in Spanish) (*under evaluation by the executive authorities*).
- Legal Agreement proposal whereby the Directive Council of Coiba National Park (PNC, in Spanish) regulates the Fund destined to the MPA management (*under public consultation*).



▲ Working sessions in the National Assembly, with authorities, fishers, NGOs, and academia to address the Bill to restore shark populations. Panama. © MarViva Foundation.



- Request for rejection of the environmental viability of the Puerto Barú project in Chiriquí, in the framework of the public consultation process, aiming to prevent potential environmental and ecological damage to MPA Manglares de David and its zone of influence (*denied request*).

## Costa Rica

- Claim and injunction submitted before the Civil and Administrative Court aiming to stop institutional research to evaluate the sustainability of the semi-industrial shrimp trawling, due to lack of public consultation, incompliance with constitutional and legal requirements, and absence of scientific, technical, and legal rigorousness (*Approved*).
- Writ of amparo presented to the Constitutional Court, due to the authorities' absence of response and transparency concerning institutional research to evaluate the sustainability of semi-industrial shrimp trawling (*Approved*).
- Project bill 23554, about payment for ecosystem services as a financial sustainability mechanism for marine conservation (*under legislative debate*).
- Project bill 23583, on the prevention of skin cancer and promotion of the use of sunscreen, providing criteria about the impact of sunscreens on the marine ecosystems (*under legislative debate*).
- Project bill 23579, to declare Costa Rica as a country free of oil and gas exploitation and exploration (*under legislative debate*).



Printed edition of La Nación in Costa Rica, on the precautionary measure requested by MarViva.

Digital content for social networks © MarViva Foundation.



- Project bill 23643, to declare the sailfish as a patriotic symbol due to its contribution to economic, social, and cultural development (*under legislative debate*).
- Project bill 23666 to prohibit hunting of hammer sharks (*under legislative debate*).
- Project bill 21754, to protect threatened shark species (*archived*).

## Colombia

- Law 2313 (2023) for approval of the Protocol of Amendment to the Marrakech Agreement which regulates fisheries subsidies, adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization (*Approved*).
- Project Bill to restrain the manufacturing, possession, storage, distribution, trade, and use of nonregulated fishing gear and promote responsible fishing (*in process*).

## International regulation

- Promotion of the United Nations Agreement for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) (*Approved*).

- Strengthened technical position for adoption of the BBNJ Agreement:
- Costa Rica (*signed by Foreign Affairs authority*).
- Panamá (*signed by Foreign Affairs authority*).
- Colombia (*signed by Foreign Affairs authority*).



▲ Participatory construction of bill proposal with coastal community stakeholders. Chocó, Colombia.  
© MarViva Foundation.



# Coastal Community Strengthening

MarViva promotes capacity building for community advocacy in local, regional and national policies that impact the welfare and social progress of the coastal population. The strengthening processes include development of skills and abilities, as well as support for local empowerment for public participation in the management of marine and coastal areas and resources, under an integral approach, towards improved ocean sustainability and quality of life of the relevant stakeholders.

With outreach along the Pacific littoral of Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia, MarViva focuses its efforts on:

- Enhancing multisectoral planning and governance.
- Insertion of community stakeholders in policy and media advocacy processes to improve the regulatory and institutional framework.
- Information assessment, access, dissemination, and local management.
- Promotion of gender equity and social inclusion of vulnerable community stakeholders in productive dynamics and local governance.
- Establishment of public-private partnerships to optimize resources and capacities for marine conservation and sustainability.

In cooperation with our funders and partners for the execution of this strategic pillar, the most relevant advances during 2023 include:



▲ Coastal community of Tribugá. Chocó, Colombia.  
© MarViva Foundation.



## Participatory governance

### Costa Rica

- Local control and surveillance actions in Gulf of Nicoya strengthened through technical, technological, and financial support for maritime patrolling, in alliance with security and environmental authorities and the Responsible Fishing Committee in the 'Red del Golfo' (regional network of community-based organizations).

### Panama

- 30 representatives of FEPACOIBA Gender Committee, artisanal fishers, and authorities with competencies and responsibilities associated with the fishing sector certified through a specialized course on gender equity, taught by University of Panama's Regional University Center in Veraguas.
- 800 coastal communities stakeholders, including residents, authorities and students, sensitized on gender equity in marine governance.
- FEPACOIBA representation in the Network of Rural Women of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC Network) established.

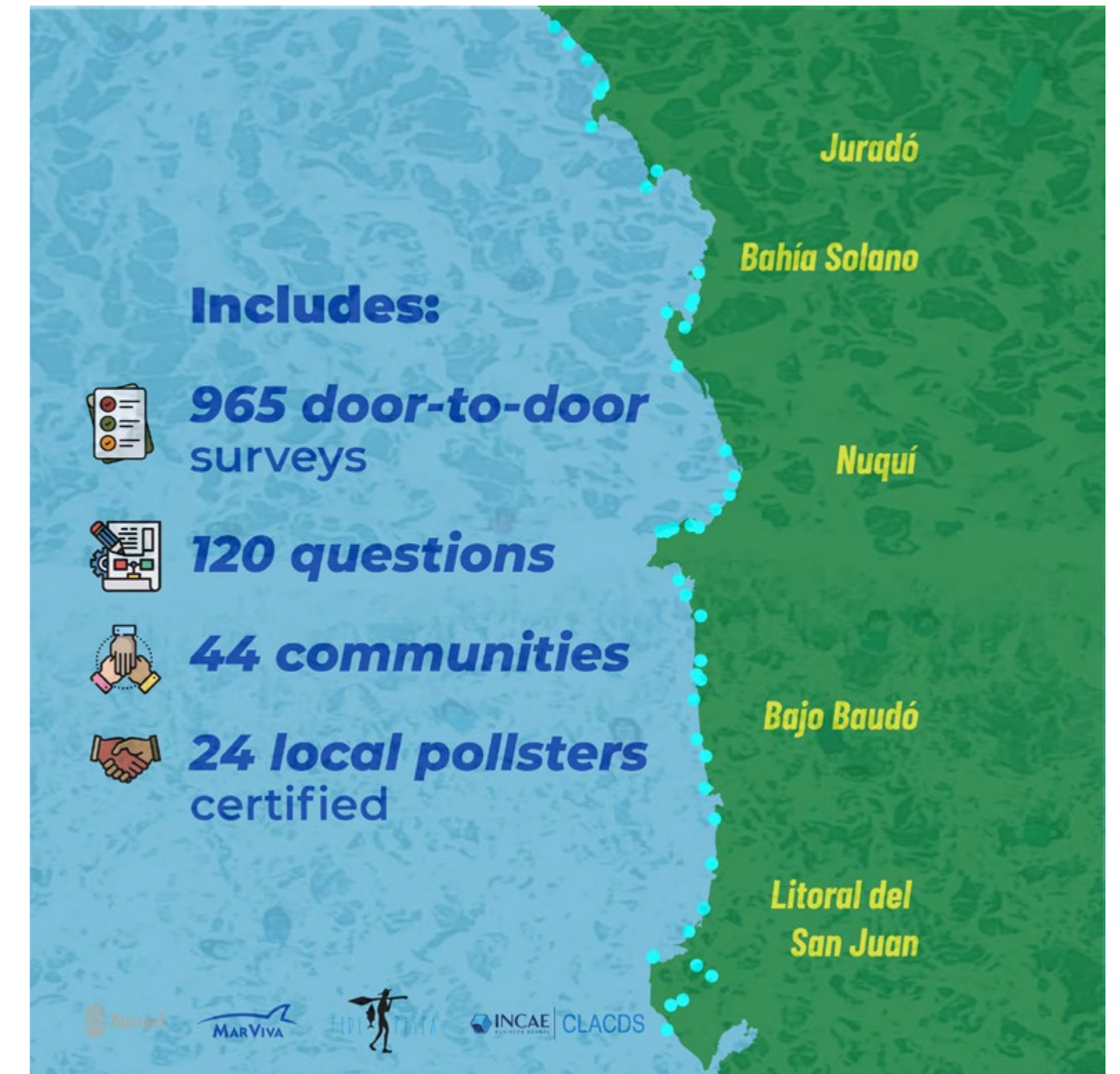


▲ Aerial photo of the Gulf of Nicoya, in the Pacific of Costa Rica.  
© Joshua ten Brink/Shutterstock.



## Colombia

- Board of Directors of FEDEPESCA, which represents 54 artisanal fishing associations on the Pacific Coast of Chocó, strengthened through technical support and training on administrative management.
- 10 artisanal fishing organizations in the northern Pacific region of Chocó strengthened to implement internal regulations and self-management mechanisms, including a solidarity fund, sustainability strategy, and guidelines for securing commercial allies.
- 7 community leaders trained as interlocutors with national authorities, on matters related to fisheries planning and ethnic-territorial rights in the Special Artisanal Fishing Zone (ZEPA, in Spanish) in the northern Pacific region of Chocó.
- Local data collected for the first measurement of the Social Progress Index (SPI) in Litoral del San Juan (Chocó), including social, environmental and cultural indicators describing challenges and opportunities for the well-being of coastal communities.
- 29 local data collectors trained and certified to enable assessment of the SPI, with support from the Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development (CLACDS, in Spanish) of INCAE Business School.
- 14 community councils associated to Afro-descendant populations on the Pacific coast of Chocó made aware about threats to sustainability of the ocean and dependent productive activities, responsible fishing criteria, and social progress, towards promoting actions for the management, conservation, and responsible use of marine and coastal resources.



▲ Baseline survey of the Social Progress Index (SPI) in the Pacific coast of Chocó. Colombia.



## Regional

- Experience exchange between artisanal fishing organizations in Panama and Costa Rica, on traceability of fishery products and community control and surveillance.



▲ Exchange of experiences between artisanal fishers of Costa Rica and Panama.  
© MarViva Foundation.



▲ Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) used by artisanal vessels members of FEPACOIBA, Gulf of Montijo, Panama. © MarViva Foundation.



## Responsible production and consumption of marine products and services

The world population surpassed 8 billion in 2022, and is estimated to reach close to 10 billion in 2050 (UN, 2023). On the other hand, about 35% of marine fish species are overexploited (FAO, 2022), due to pressures generated by human consumption, pollution, and climate change, among others. The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) indicates that 66% of marine ecosystems worldwide have been drastically altered by human intervention (UN, 2019). The United Nations calls to "decouple economic growth from environmental degradation by increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles that contribute to reducing poverty and the impacts of climate change" (Sustainable Development Goal #12). Within this framework, the World Bank defines the blue economy as the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and employment, while preserving ecosystem health", which constitutes both challenges and opportunities to achieve a balance between increasing consumption and sustainability of natural resources.

Through market mechanisms, MarViva supports the consolidation of sustainable productive activities by promoting environmental and social responsibility criteria in the demand for marine products and services. It encompasses multisectoral awareness generation, creation of value chains under fair trade principles, and provision of tools to facilitate institutional, corporate and personal purchasing decisions to maintain the productivity and resilience of marine and coastal habitats and biodiversity.



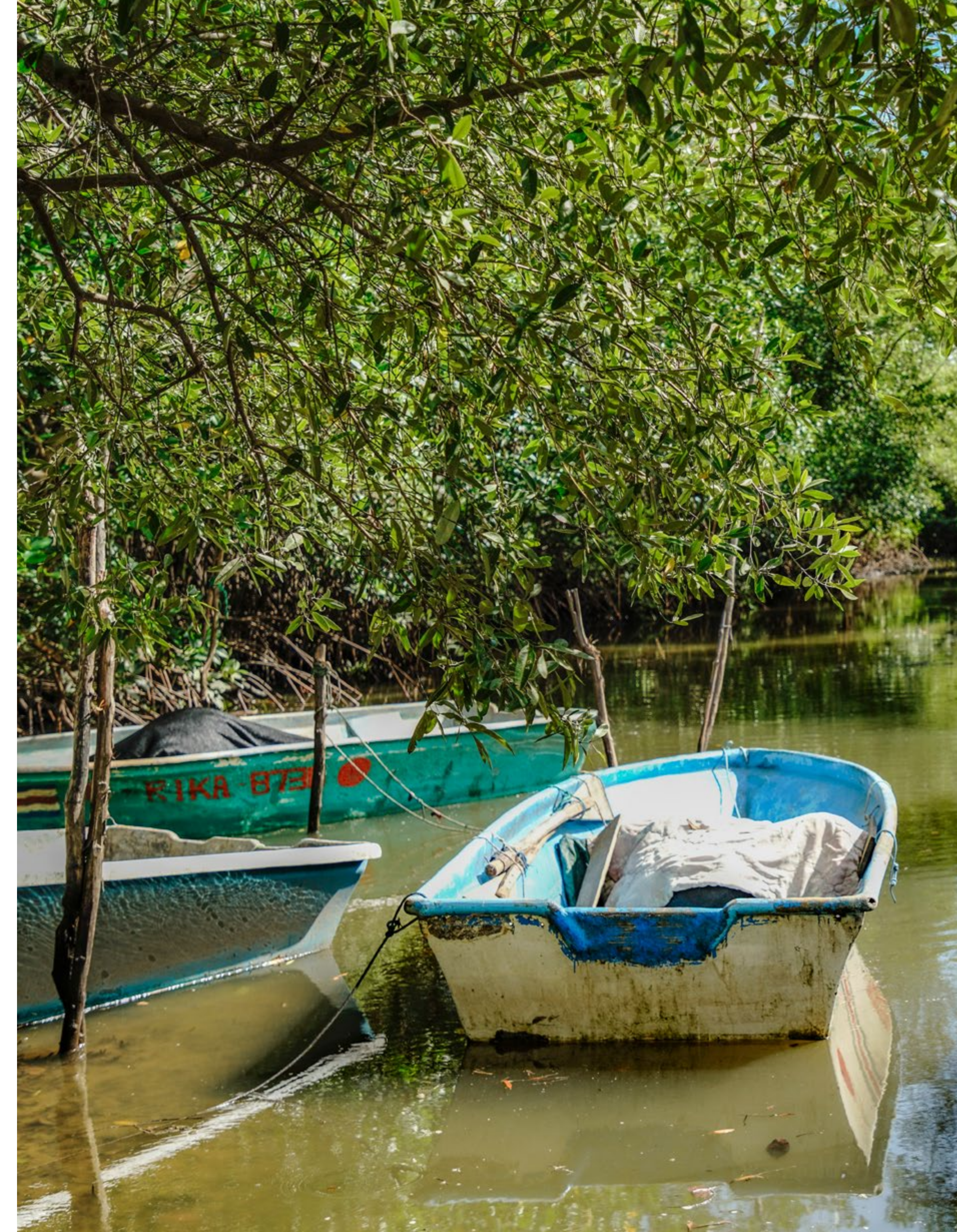
▲ School of jack mackerel (*Caranx caninus*) in Coco Island, Costa Rica © Shutterstock/Ethan Daniels.



We focus our efforts on:

- Local capacity building for the consolidation of sustainable livelihoods.
- Promotion of good practices in the use of marine and coastal ecosystem services.
- Support for the adaptation of responsible productive activities to the effects of climate change.
- Promotion of productive linkages and value chains for the commercialization of marine products and services with social, environmental and economic benefits.
- Fostering of technical and financial incentives for marine conservation and the sustainability of ocean-dependent productive activities.
- Support for the participatory generation of fisheries information and traceability on the origin and environmental responsibility of artisanal fishing and rural community tourism.
- Sensitization of market actors to good practices in the consumption of marine products and services.

In cooperation with our funders and partners for the execution of this strategic pillar, the most relevant advances during 2023 include:



▲ Artisanal fishing boats. ©MarViva Foundation.



## Sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities

### Costa Rica

- 50 artisanal fishers in Gulf of Nicoya sensitized on the impacts of illegal fishing on marine biodiversity and the sustainability of marine-dependent productive activities, in alliance with coast guard authorities.
- 30 representatives of five artisanal fishing organizations and five collection centers trained on the traceability of artisanal fishing.
- 23 satellite tracking devices installed to monitor artisanal vessels and collect information on catches, verification of fishing zones, and support to fishers' safety.
- 12 companies (hotels, restaurants, supermarkets) in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM) and Monteverde (Puntarenas) sensitized on responsible fishing principles and criteria.
- 40 members of 10 artisanal fishing 10 associations and the Responsible Fishing Committee and Board of Directors of the 'Red del Golfo', as well as 16 officials from environmental, municipal, legislative, and coast guard authorities trained on good practices that discourage illegal fishing.



Training of artisanal fishers on responsible fishing practices in Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica. ©MarViva Foundation.

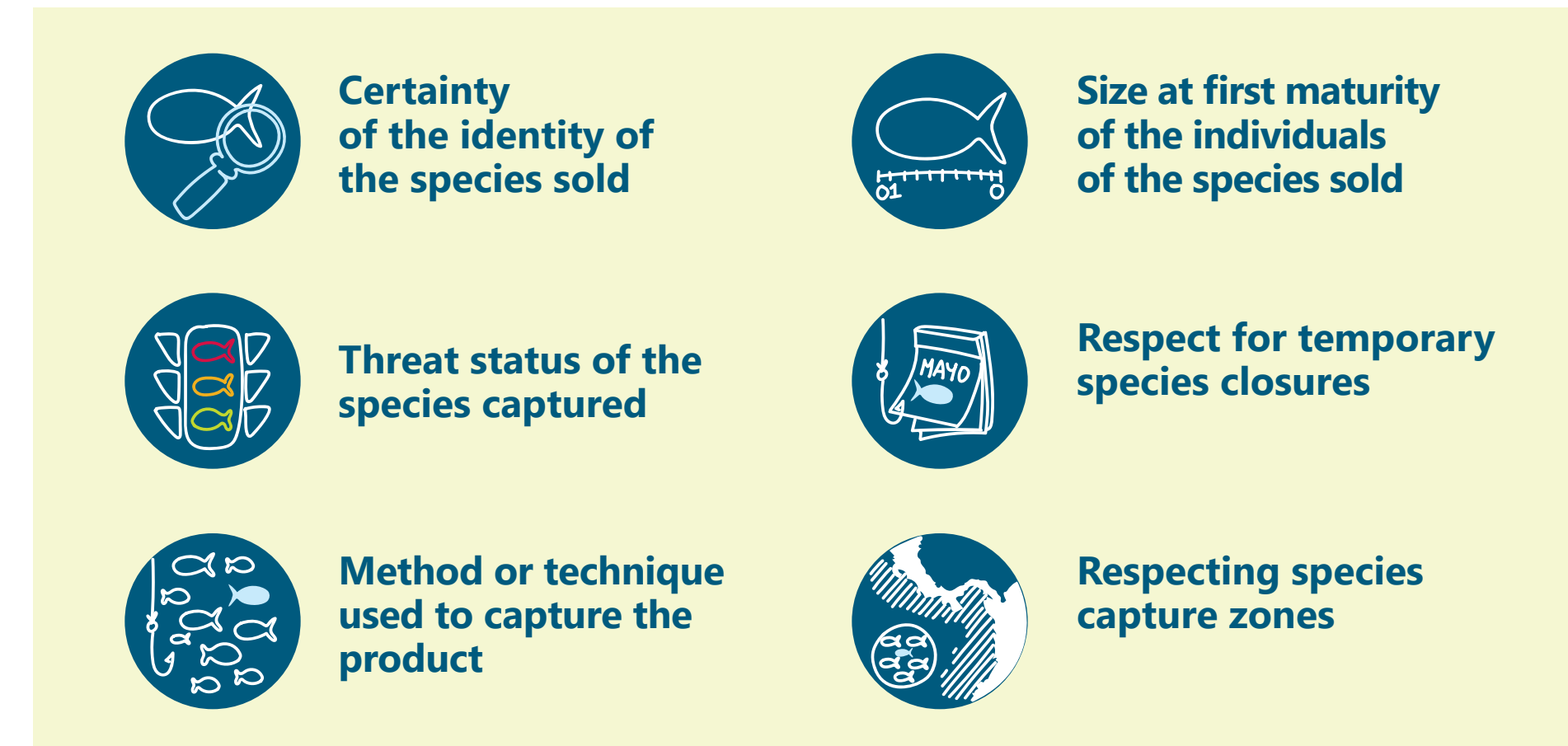


Preparation for the monitoring of artisanal vessels in Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica. ©MarViva Foundation.



- Secured sale of 33 tons per year of artisanal fishery products in compliance with sustainability principles in the use and commercialization of the resource, through 2 responsible artisanal fishing value chains.
- Participatory monitoring of the artisanal fishery product of 6 fishing organizations in Gulf of Nicoya strengthened, associated with 87 fishing grounds and 40 species of commercial and ecological interest.
- Piel Marina women's organization formalized in Barrio del Carmen (Puntarenas), dedicated to the production of leather from fish skin discarded in artisanal fisheries, under environmentally responsible criteria.
- Api Mangle women's organization in Pitahaya (Puntarenas), dedicated to the production of honey linked to the protection of mangrove areas strengthened with the commercialization of 90 kg of artisanal honey, corresponding to 100% of production in its first year of operation.
- 28 opportunities identified for the potential development of tourism routes in Puntarenas and Gulf of Nicoya, promoting productive diversification through activities other than fishing, under environmental and social sustainability criteria.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR GOOD FISHING PRACTICES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 'STANDARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF MARINE FISH**  
© MARVIVA FOUNDATION



◀ Promotion of productive alternatives in coastal communities, under principles of environmental and social sustainability. Production of leather from discarded fish skins. © MarViva Foundation.



## Panama

- Artisanal fishing women association of Isla Leones (Gulf of Montijo), dedicated to traditional gastronomy based on responsible fishing products, ranked among the best community tourism products in the country, in the framework of the national award "Experiencias Innovadoras de Turismo Comunitario" (Innovative Experiences in Community Tourism) of the Panama Tourism Authority (ATP, in Spanish).
- "Shark-Free Ceviche" seal implemented at 25 points of sale of 8 commercial companies, enabling verification of absence of vulnerable and endangered species in 100 annual tons of seafood products.
- 45 random samples of fish products analyzed, providing genetic information on fish species for popular consumption, in alliance with the laboratory of the Coiba Scientific Station (ECC, in Spanish).
- 70 artisanal fishers in 14 community-based organizations trained on the management measures of the Golfo de Montijo fisheries plan.
- 56 representatives of the artisanal fishing, sport fishing and tourism sectors in 13 coastal communities in the gulfs of Chiriquí and Montijo, as well as environmental and fishing authorities, trained on the methodology for capturing and analyzing fishery data.



▲ Aidali Caballero (Montijo Fishing Association), Izabela Matusz (Ambassador of the European Union in Panama), Paula Serrano (President of FEPACOIBA), and Guzmán Palacios Fernández (Ambassador of Spain in Panama) at the Meeting on Sustainable Tourism in Communities. Montijo, Panama. © MarViva Foundation.



◀ Promotion of responsible consumption of marine products. Shark-free Ceviche Seal. © MarViva Foundation.



- Web platform developed to capture and systematize data from the community participatory fisheries monitoring program (PFM) in the gulfs of Montijo and Chiriquí, in partnership with the Center for Training, Research and Monitoring of Biodiversity (CCIMBIO, in Spanish) of the University of Panama.
- 70 leaders of the artisanal fishing, sport fishing and tourism sectors sensitized on the findings of the PFM programs in the gulfs of Montijo and Chiriquí.

## Colombia

- Raised awareness in 13 communities in Bajo Baudó (Chocó) on the importance of sharks for the sustainability of marine ecosystems, good practices to prevent bycatch, and the regulatory framework for their protection.
- 200 fishers and female cockle collectors in 10 artisanal fishing organizations in the northern Pacific region of Chocó trained on responsible fishing, including species identification, respect for minimum maturity sizes, use of selective fishing gear, and cold chain management.
- 10 artisanal fishing organizations equipped with low-impact gear, as well as attires to strengthen their identity.
- Fishing traceability system implemented by 10 community-based organizations, including through training of 30 artisanal fishers and receivers, as well as the installation of 10 satellite tracking devices for vessels, allowing the collection and systematization of catch and landing records, while contributing to the safety of fishers at sea.



Systematization of statistical information to raise awareness on good artisanal fishing practices. © MarViva Foundation.



Training of artisanal fishers on responsible fishing and shark protection. Chocó, Colombia. © MarViva Foundation.



Local collection of fishery information in coastal communities. Chocó, Colombia. © MarViva Foundation.



- Participatory monitoring of artisanal fishing in the Pacific coast of Chocó strengthened, through census of 542 vessels registering 134 tons of fish at 27 landing sites.

### Regional

- 'Standard for Environmental Responsibility in the Commercialization of marine Fish' (© MarViva Foundation) promoted for the certification of buyers that contribute to environmental and coastal livelihoods sustainability, including wild and farmed products.
- 114 fishers and 37 institutional, private sector and academia representatives in Chile trained, with emphasis on responsible fishing, sea turtle monitoring, and techniques for the management and release of sea turtles from bycatch in the longline fishery.



◀ Provision of low-impact fishing gear in coastal communities in Chocó, Colombia. © MarViva Foundation.



▲ Practice on turtle measurement during training for fishers and officials. Chile. © MarViva Foundation.



## Deterrence of marine pollution by plastics

Plastic pollution is a global crisis that affects human rights, human health, climate change, and all of the planet's ecosystems. It is estimated that the amount of plastic in the world's oceans is between 75 and 199 million tons, with the possibility of tripling by 2040, reaching up to 37 million additional tons of plastic in the sea each year (UNEP, 2022).

Nearly 500 million tons of plastic materials are produced annually, with only 9% being recycled once, thus invading the environment and even our own bodies. Thirteen thousand chemical substances make up all plastic materials of which, with scientific certainty, it is known that at least 4,200 could be lethal to mankind (PlastChem, 2023). Society lacks sufficient knowledge about the characteristics and polluting impacts of plastic materials, while the States have deficient capacities for integrated waste management. The result is an exponential increase in pollution, with significant impacts on the ocean and its biodiversity, human health, the climate crisis, and the livelihoods of millions of coastal inhabitants on all continents (Richardson et al., 2023).



Disposable plastic trash. © kamienczanka/Shutterstock.



Focusing on the life cycle of plastic, from the extraction of the raw material to its final disposal, MarViva focuses its efforts in:

- Multisectoral awareness-raising on good consumption practices to encourage the rejection and reduction in the use of disposable, problematic and/or hazardous plastic materials, as well as the chemicals associated with them.
- Capacity building for the proper management of plastic waste, including fishing gear.
- Fostering of market transparency to make visible the true impacts of plastic materials erroneously marketed as recyclable, degradable, compostable, green, ecological, or environmentally friendly.
- Promotion of municipal and national legislation, as well as international agreements and commitments, for the reduction of marine pollution by plastics and associated chemicals, including the establishment of extended, shared and differentiated responsibilities.
- Technical support for the corporate sector and municipal governments in the integrated management of solid waste.



Promotion of practices to encourage the reduction of single-use plastics.



In cooperation with our funders and partners for the execution of this strategic pillar, the most relevant advances during 2023 include:

### Local initiatives

- 630kg of gillnets disposed of responsibly (and replaced by selective fishing gear) in the community of Tribugá (Chocó, Colombia), contributing to the sustainability of the Regional District of Integrated Management Golfo de Tribugá-Cabo Corrientes (DRMI-GTCC, in Spanish).
- Technical input contributed to studies by the Microplastics Laboratory of the Center for Hydraulics and Hydrotechnics Research (CIHH, in Spanish) of the Universidad Tecnológica de Panamá (UTP) and the Institute for Scientific Research and High Technology Services (INDICASAT-AIP, in Spanish), to determine the presence of microplastics in commercial fish in the Panamanian Pacific.
- Challenges and opportunities faced by producers and distributors of plastic products in Colombia and Panama identified with representatives of unions, business sector, authorities, academia, research centers and NGOs, in support of the generation of regulatory instruments to promote the production, use, and consumption of alternative and substitute materials.

### National Regulations

- Strengthened proposals for relevant regulatory projects through technical, legal, scientific and media support, promoting the plastic life cycle approach:

#### Costa Rica

- National Circular Economy Strategy (*Approved*).
- National Waste Management Policy and its Action Plan (*Approved*).
- Project Bill for the creation of extended producer responsibility mechanisms related to bottles (*under legislative discussion*).
- Project Bill for the prohibition and substitution of single-use plastics, and for the regulation of chemical substances associated with their production (*under legislative discussion*).



- Project Bill 23428, to combat environmental pollution by cigarette ends (*under legislative discussion*).
- Project Bill 23571, for the proper disposal of fishing nets (*under legislative discussion*).
- Project Bill 23694, to combat contamination by microplastics added in cosmetic, personal care and cleaning products (*under legislative discussion*).
- Project Bill 23847 of 2023, on the circular economy in Costa Rica (*under legislative discussion*).

## Colombia

- Adherence to the "National Pact to Replace Single-Use Plastics", led by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, in compliance with Law 2232 (2022) (*Signed*).
- Regulation of Law 2232 (2022), on the promotion and certification of sustainable alternative materials, adoption of an extended producer responsibility mechanism, promotion of a productive reconversion plan, and prohibition of the entry of single-use plastics into protected areas and sensitive ecosystems (*in formulation by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development*).

- Restructuring of the governance of the National Roundtable for the Sustainable Management of Plastics and formulation of the extended producer responsibility mechanism, for generation of sustainable and economic alternatives to substitute these products, in support of the implementation of Law 2232 (2022), which establishes measures for the gradual reduction of the production and consumption of certain single-use plastic products.

## International Regulations

- International legally binding instrument to reduce plastic pollution in all ecosystems, including the marine ecosystem, promoted through:
  - Technical input for the drafting of the standard, with focus on the life cycle of such materials, in the framework of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP).



- Participatory construction of homogeneous governmental positions at the regional level, involving 100 officials representing Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, in preparation for the global negotiation.
- Training of official delegations and institutional authorities of Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala participating in the international negotiations, for the design of relevant public policies considering regional experiences, scientific research, and legal analyses.
- Execution of a regional informative campaign (Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica) on the objectives and progress of the negotiation process.

## International initiatives

- Implementation of the 'Regional Action Plan on Marine Debris for the Northeast Pacific' (approved in 2022) promoted, in coordination with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), with active involvement of institutional representatives from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia.
- 23 representatives of academia, civil society and institutions in the Biodiversity Roundtable of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR, in Spanish) informed on the need to advance in actions with coastal communities to mitigate marine pollution, prioritizing the reduction in the production, commercialization, and use of plastic, as well as its replacement by sustainable alternatives.



Participation in panel on environmental impacts and repercussions of inadequate management of single-use plastics. Bogotá, Colombia. © MarViva Foundation.



◀ The Plastics Treaty has the potential to be one of the most important environmental agreements in history.



- 4 technical documents (policy briefs) generated, with public policy recommendations to strengthen the position of authorities and decision-makers in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia regarding the formulation of regulations for the prevention, reduction and management of plastic pollution.
- 5 technical documents (policy briefs) generated for Latin America and the Caribbean, with public policy recommendations on: human rights and the Escazu Agreement; alternative materials and substitutes for disposable plastics; potential provisions to regulate abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), with emphasis on nets; elements for an international agreement to combat plastic pollution; measures and obligations for plastic management with a life-cycle approach.
- More than 200 representatives from academia, civil society and decision makers in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia sensitized on the importance of adopting and implementing the life cycle approach standards to address marine pollution from plastic waste.



Plastic garbage on beaches. ©MarViva Foundation.



# Knowledge Management



MarViva produces synthesis and informative documents aimed at multi-sector audiences, including decision-makers, institutional and civil society stakeholders. The objective is to disseminate scientific and technical fundamentals, recommendations, lessons learned and best practices for the conservation and sustainability of the sea and its resources.

During 2023, Fundación MarViva produced 22 new publications:




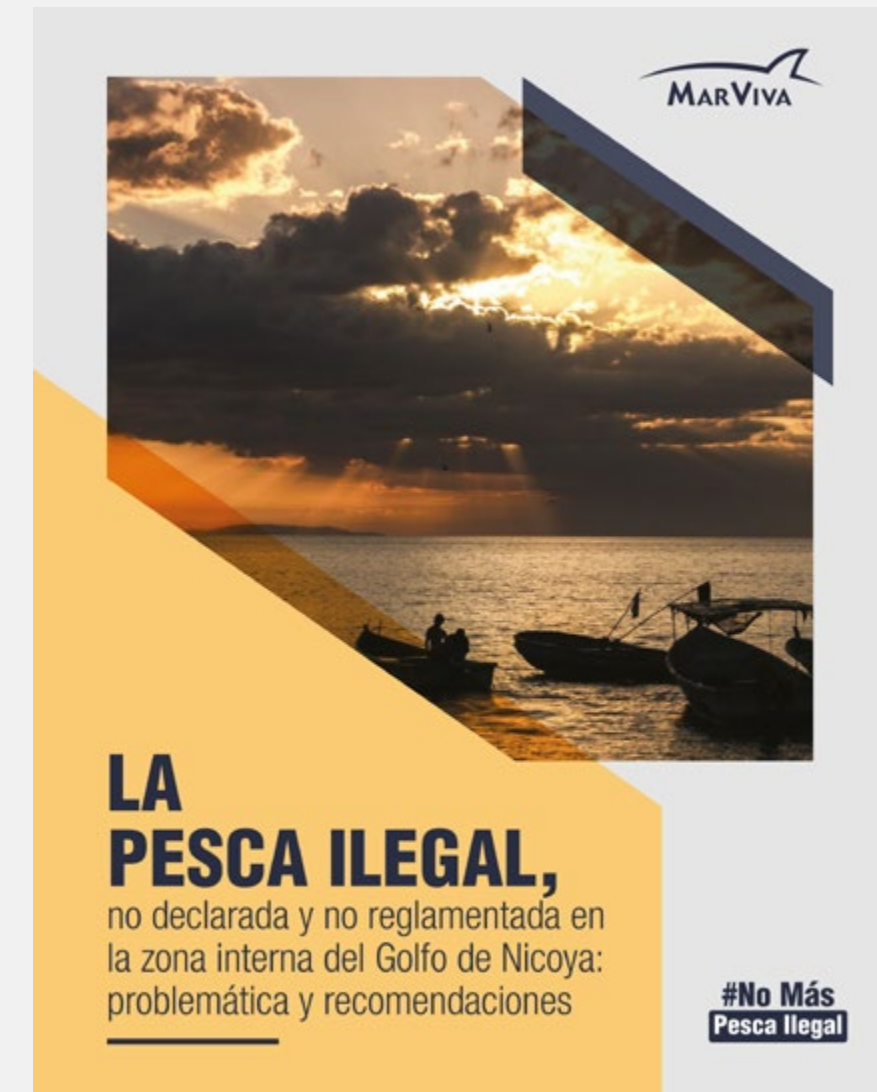
 **An Analysis of Policy Options Available to the International Maritime Organization to Protect the Costa Rica Thermal Dome: Building the Case for a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area**




 **Marine corridors: The swimway in Gulf of Chiriquí, Panama**




 **Guide for the analysis of environmental crimes in Panama**

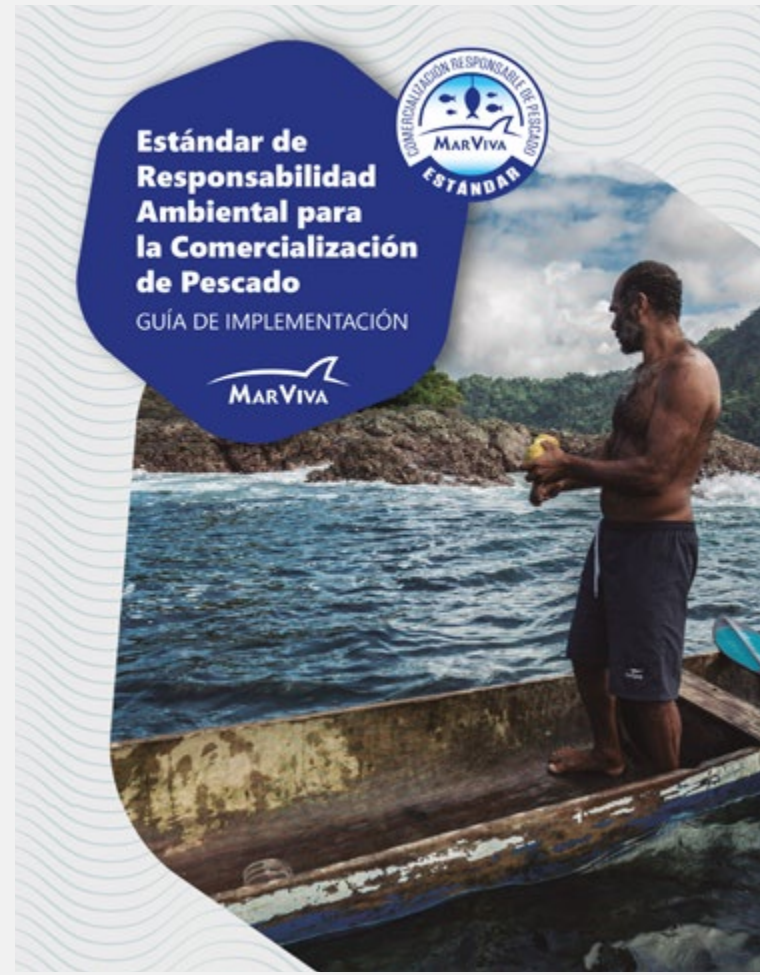


 **Illegal, undeclared and non-regulated fishing in Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica: Problem and recommendations**

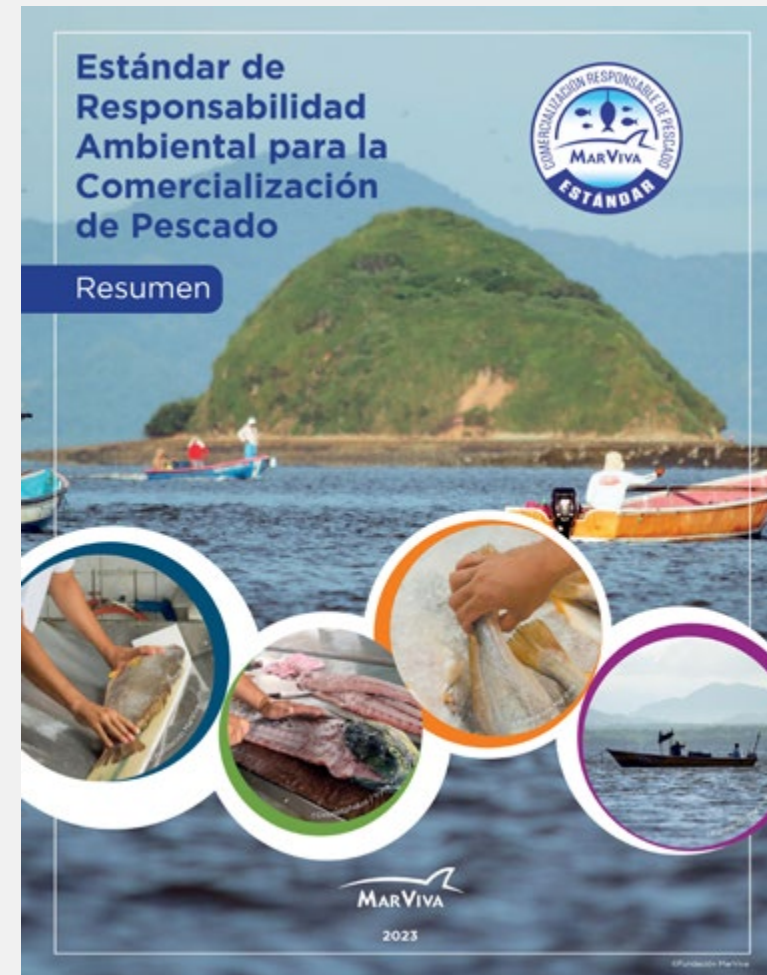


 **Are we managing marine resources correctly in Costa Rica?**

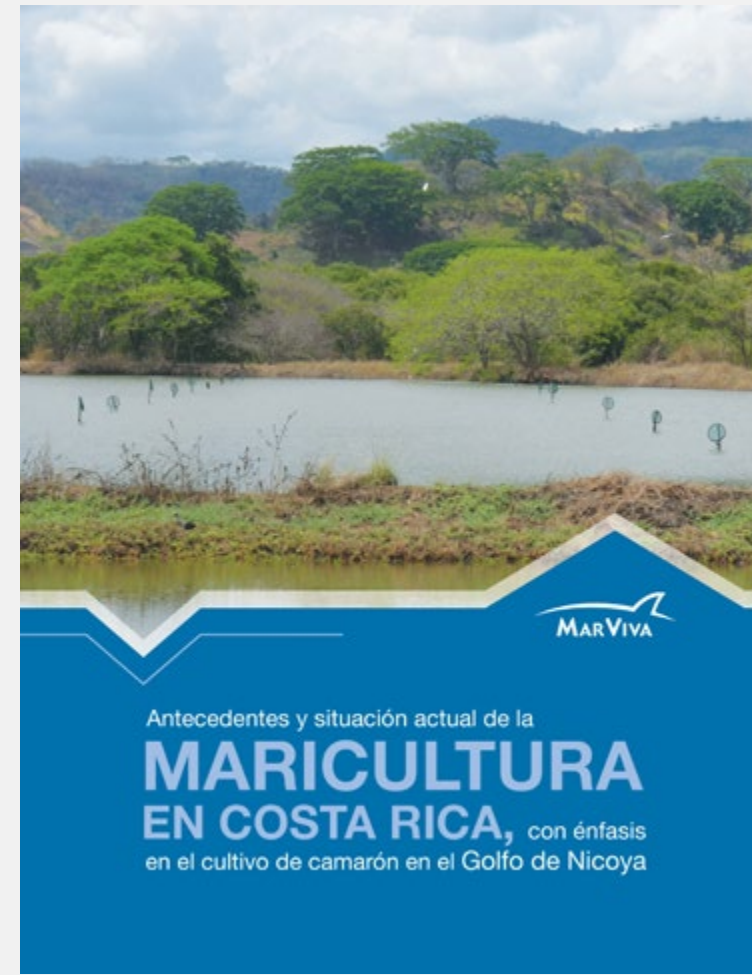




Standard for Responsible Commercialization of fish. Implementation guide (Version 3.0)



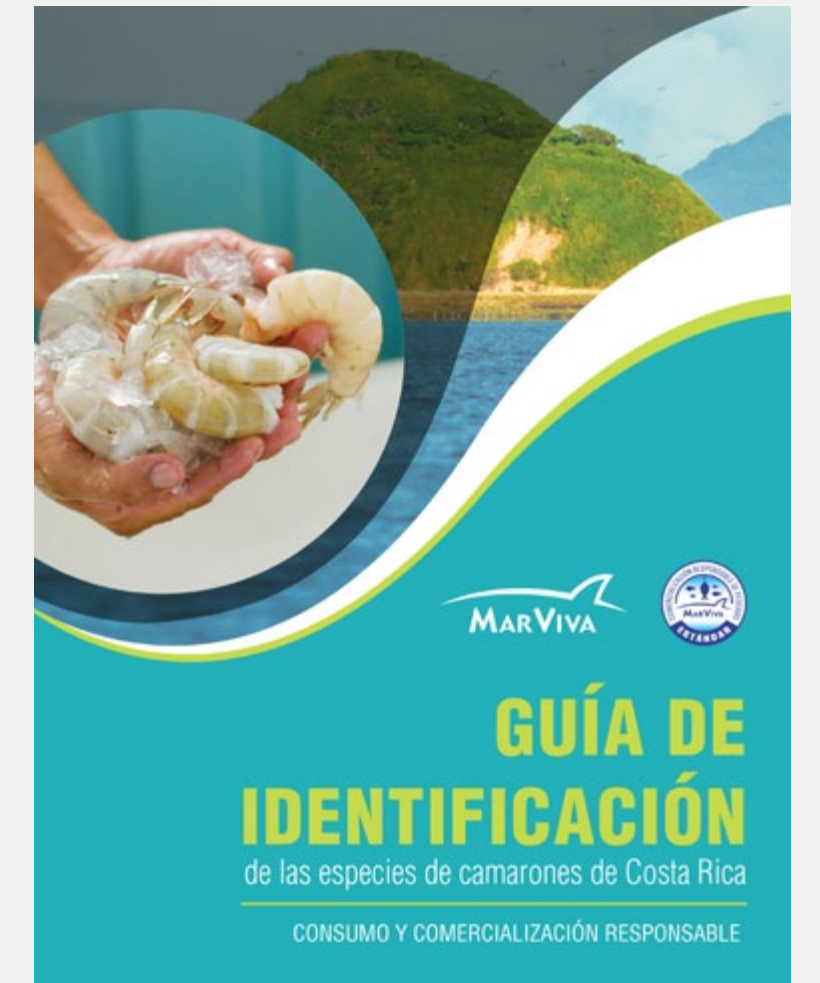
Standard for Responsible Commercialization of fish (Executive summary)



Current situation and precedents of mariculture in Costa Rica, with emphasis on shrimp farming in Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica



Commercialization of marine shrimp of the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica



Guide for identification of shrimp species in Costa Rica: Responsible consumption and commercialization



Best practices guide for tourist and sport fishing in Costa Rica (Spanish)



Best practices guide for tourist and sport fishing in Costa Rica (English)

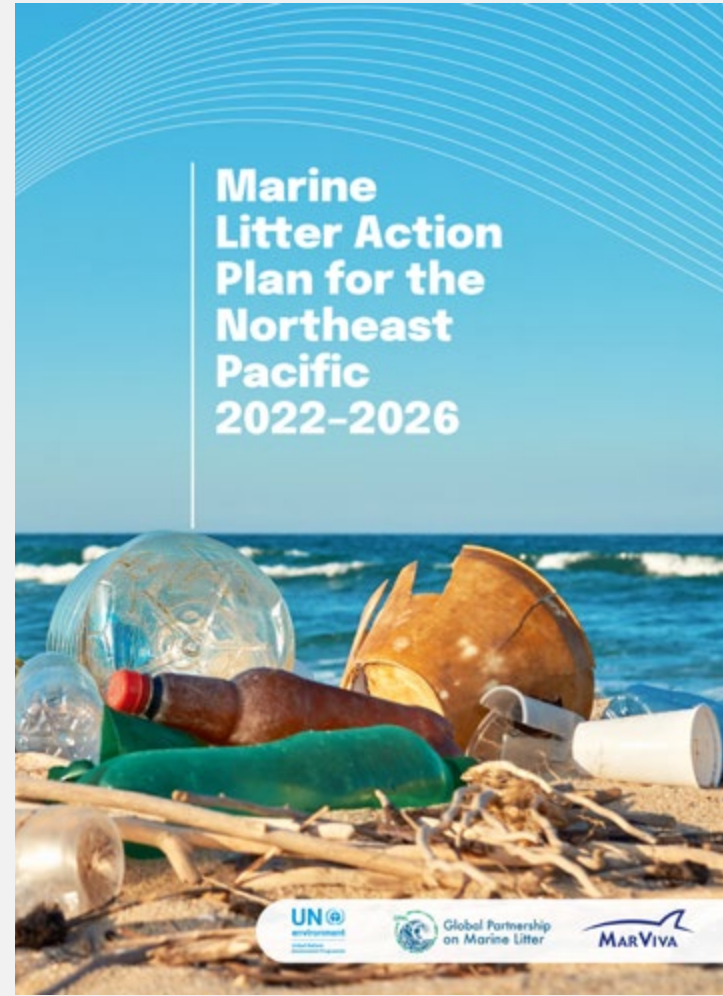


Market transparency in the trade of fishing products in Bogotá, Colombia



Handbook Manual for gender management in artisanal fishing organizations in Panama





👉 Marine Litter Action Plan for the Northeast Pacific 2022-2026



👉 Technical guideline for the correct labeling of plastic products of biological origin purchased in Costa Rica



👉 Marine Pollution by Plastics: A Comprehensive Analysis by MarViva Foundation



👉 Guidelines for the design and implementation of regulations to prevent single use plastic pollution with a life cycle approach (Colombia)



👉 Ocean Heroines



👉 MarViva Foundation: Annual Report 2022 (Spanish)



👉 MarViva Foundation: Annual Report 2022 (English)

As of December 2023, MarViva has generated 191 publications, including: 150 technical and informative publications, 21 institutional information publications, 7 refereed scientific publications, and 13 non-refereed technical documents and executive summaries.

**The complete catalog is available in our Digital Library**





In addition, MarViva constantly produces informative material in support of our lines of work:

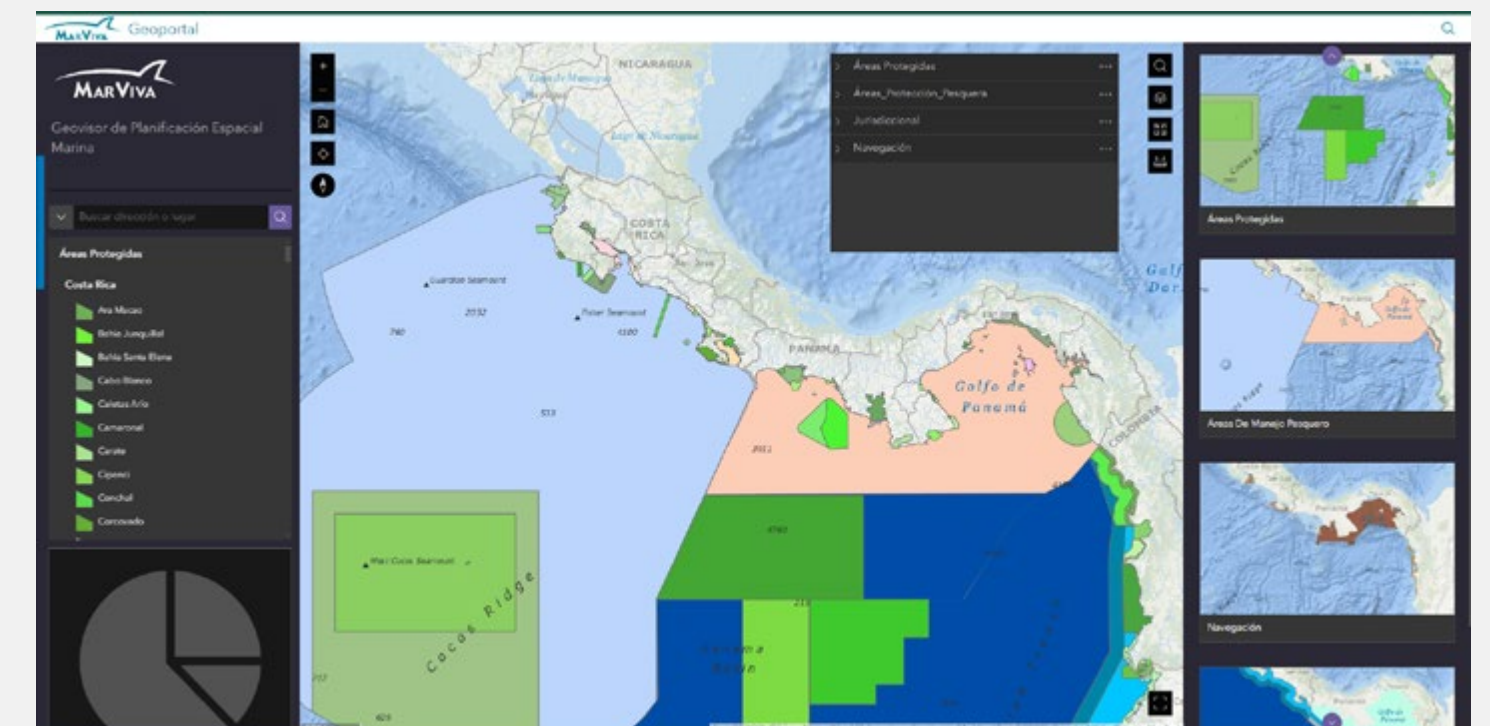
## GEOPORTAL

MarViva makes geospatial information available to all interested parties, with ease to visualize and download the data, as well as to navigate through different applications or pages related to the Foundation's publications.

Of open access, at the close of 2023, the geoportal contains:

- 10 downloadable layers
- 35 applications, including:
  - Geovisor of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) of Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia- Relating national maritime jurisdictions with layers of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), fishing management zones and navigation.
  - Digital guide on marine and coastal areas dedicated to conservation on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica- Compiling information on 49 MPAs established by 2021, including Coco Island National Park (PNIC, in Spanish), the Bicentennial Marine Management Area (AMMB, in Spanish) and 12 Responsible Fishing Marine Areas (AMPR, in Spanish) (update in process). It also contains information on Wetlands of International Importance, World Heritage Sites, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA), and the Thermal Dome, among others.

- Marine Corridor as a planning element in the Gulf of Chiriquí (Panama).
- Storymap on the spatial zoning of the Managed Resources Area Gulf of Montijo Wetland (ARMHGM, in Spanish) in Panama, as a result of the development of the management plan.





# INFOGRAPHICS

## Panama



When does illegal fishing take place?



Why does illegal fishing affect so much?



How does the new law discourage illegal fishing?

PROMOVIENDO LA IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO EN ORGANIZACIONES PESQUERAS DEL GOLFO DE MONTIJO

¿SABÍAS QUE SEXO Y GÉNERO NO SON LO MISMO? ENTONCES, ¿QUÉ ES IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO?

Lo primero se refiere a las características biológicas con las que nacen mujeres y hombres; y lo segundo se refiere al conjunto de características sociales y culturales asignadas a las personas, según su sexo.

Es la eliminación de barreras para otorgar a mujeres y hombres igual valoración, derechos y oportunidades, acabando así con las discriminaciones.

¿Y CÓMO PUEDO COMENZAR A PROMOVER LA IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO?

Un primer paso es utilizar un lenguaje incluyente y no sexista. Algunos ejemplos son:

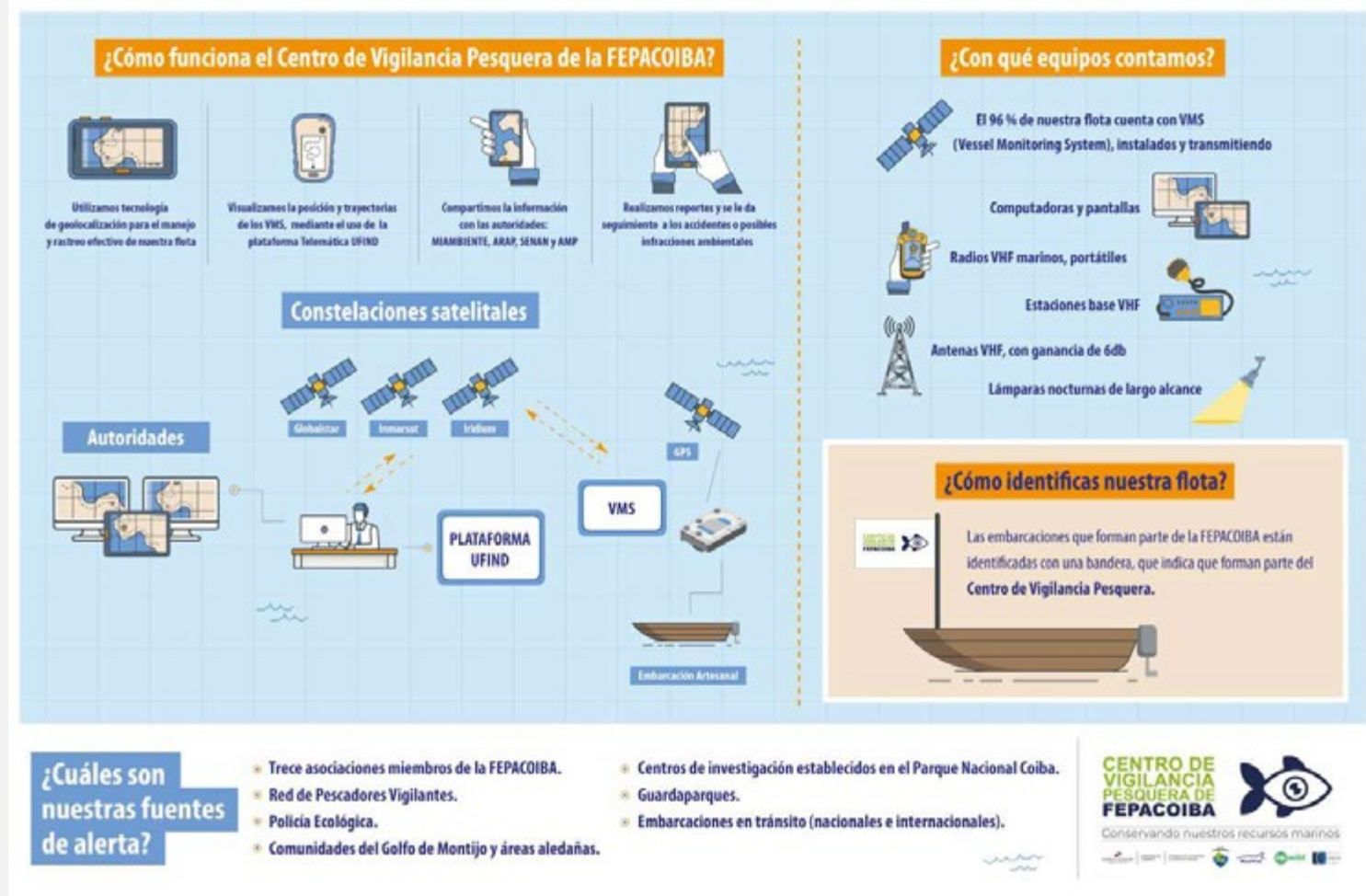
X No Incluyente		✓ Incluyente	
Los hombres	USA SUSTANTIVOS COLECTIVOS	La humanidad	
Los niños	USA SUSTANTIVOS COLECTIVOS	La niñez	
Los estudiantes	USA SUSTANTIVOS COLECTIVOS	El estudiantado	
El director recibió a los agraviados	PERSONA / PERSONAS	El director recibió a las personas agraviadas	
Los trabajadores de...	PERSONA / PERSONAS	Las personas que trabajan en...	
Señores	DESDOBLAMIENTOS	Señores y señoras	
Niños	DESDOBLAMIENTOS	Niños y niñas	
Los jefes	NOMBRES ABSTRACTOS	Las jefaturas	
Los coordinadores	NOMBRES ABSTRACTOS	Las coordinaciones	
Los directores / El director	NOMBRES ABSTRACTOS	La dirección	
Los clientes	NOMBRES ABSTRACTOS	La clientela	
Los trabajadores	NOMBRES ABSTRACTOS	El personal	
Estimado	USO DE BARRAS Y PARENTESIS	Estimado/a	
Sr.	USO DE BARRAS Y PARENTESIS	Sr./a.	
Socios	USO DE BARRAS Y PARENTESIS	Socios(as)	
Todos estamos muy contentos con la asociación	SI ERES MUJER, INCLÚYETE	Todas y todos estamos muy felices con la asociación	
Todos están invitados a la reunión	SI ERES MUJER, INCLÚYETE	Se invita a todas y todos a la reunión	
Los socios son la base de la organización	SI ERES MUJER, INCLÚYETE	Los socios y socias son la base de la organización	

ESTE AFICHE HA SIDO ELABORADO CON EL APOYO FINANCIERO DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA. SU CONTENIDO ES RESPONSABILIDAD EXCLUSIVA DE SUS AUTORES Y NO NECESARIAMENTE REFLEJA LOS PUNTOS DE VISTA DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA.

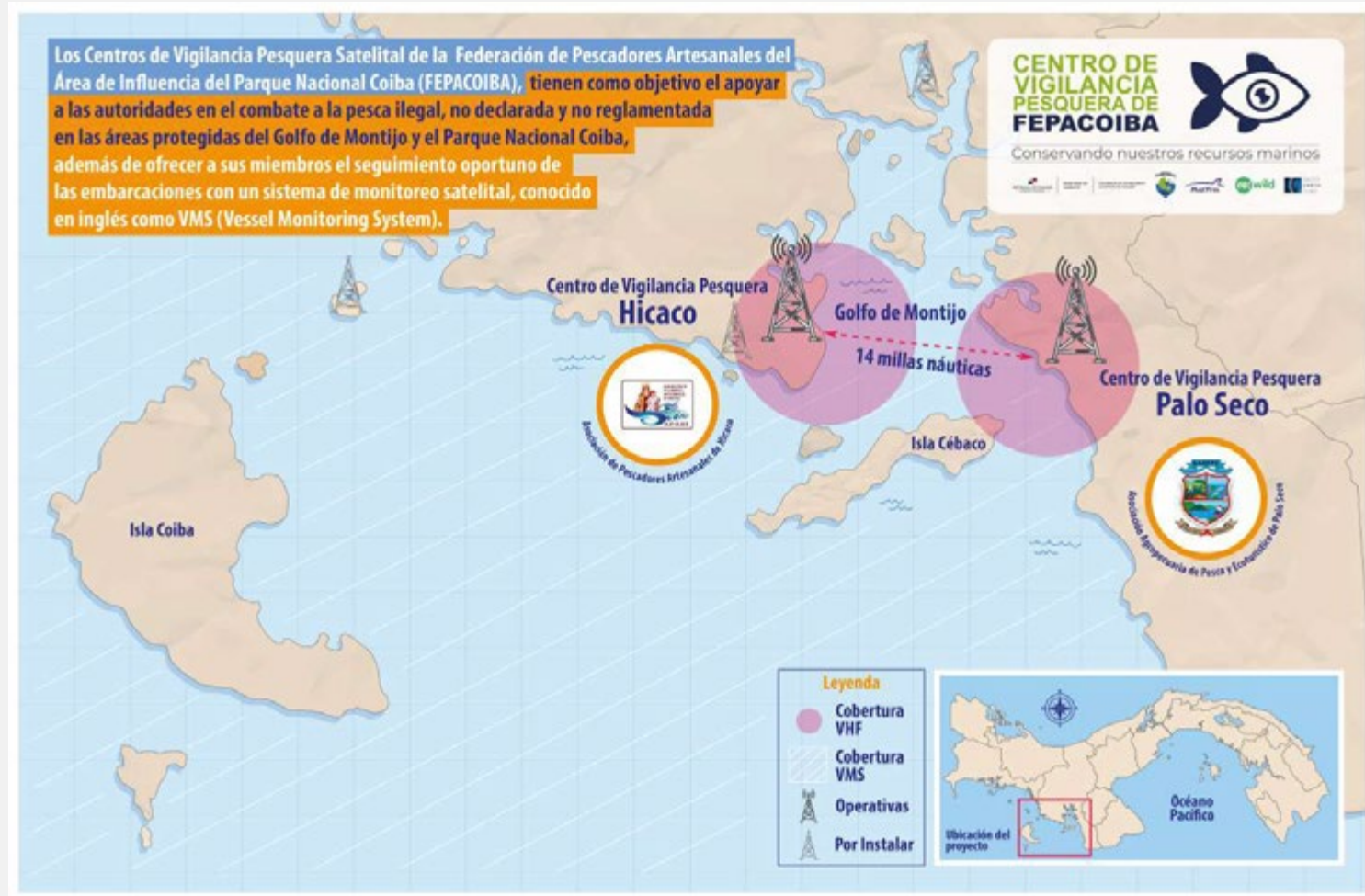
“El lenguaje sexista hace referencia a las expresiones que denigran o excluyen a hombres y mujeres, respecto a sus atributos o funciones dentro de la sociedad o entorno”

What is gender equity?





Operation of the FEPACOIBA Fishery monitoring centers



Objective of the FEPACOIBA Fishery monitoring centers



Steps to follow by the FEPACOIBA Fishery monitoring centers



## Regional

**EL DOMO TÉRMICO,**  
un área de gran relevancia  
ecológica y económica para la región

El Domo Térmico (el Domo) es un área de alta productividad primaria de gran relevancia tanto ecológica, como económica. De ella dependen hábitats críticos para múltiples especies, así como actividades económicas en la región centroamericana.

El Domo sirve de hábitat a cetáceos, como la ballena azul, en peligro de extinción, la ballena jorobada y la ballena gris; por lo que ha sido declarado Área de Importancia para Mamíferos Marinos.


El Domo es una zona importante para especies de tortugas marinas, como la tortuga lora y la tortuga baula, catalogadas por la Lista Roja de la Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (IUCN) como vulnerable y en peligro crítico respectivamente.

El Domo mantiene grandes poblaciones de tiburones y rayas, varias en peligro de extinción como el tiburón martillo, por lo que ha sido declarado área de Importancia para tiburones y rayas.

El Domo es una zona de relevancia económica para la región debido a su influencia sobre poblaciones de especies de interés comercial y deportivo tales como los picudos y los atunes. Muchas de las especies asociadas con el Domo mantienen actividades económicas como el avistamiento de ballenas, el buceo y la observación de tortugas marinas.

En Guatemala se calcula que la pesca deportiva genera ingresos por US\$25 millones anuales (Villagrán, 2015). En Costa Rica, la Universidad de Costa Rica calculó el aporte de la pesca deportiva a la economía nacional en US\$599 millones por año (Yong-Chacon et al., 2010). Mientras que, en Panamá, los pescadores deportivos aportan US\$170.4 millones anuales a la economía local (Southwick et al., 2013). Atlas, Domo Térmico de Costa Rica. MarViva, 2019. Pág. 56.

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 **The Thermal Dome, an area of great ecological and economic importance for the region (Spanish)**

**THE THERMAL DOME,**  
an area of great ecological and  
economic importance for the region

The Thermal Dome (the Dome) is an area of high primary productivity of great ecological and economic importance. Critical habitats for multiple species depend on it, as well as economic activities in the Central American region.

The Dome serves as a habitat for cetaceans, such as the endangered blue whale, the humpback whale, and the gray whale; therefore, it has been declared an Area of Importance for Marine Mammals.


The Dome is an important area for species of sea turtles, such as the ridley and the leatherback sea turtles, listed in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as vulnerable and critically endangered respectively.

The Dome supports large populations of sharks and rays, several in danger of extinction such as the great hammerhead shark, which is why it has been declared an Area of Importance for sharks and rays.

The Dome is an area of economic importance for the region due to its influence on populations of species of commercial and sporting interest such as marlins and tunas. Many of the species associated with the Dome enable economic activities such as diving, as well as whale and sea turtle watching.

In Guatemala, sport fishing revenue is estimated to be approximately US\$25 million per year (Villagrán, 2015). In Costa Rica, the University of Costa Rica estimated the contribution of sport fishing to the national economy at US\$599 million per year (Yong-Chacon et al., 2010). Meanwhile, in Panamá, sports fishermen contribute US\$170.4 million annually to the local economy (Southwick et al., 2013). Atlas, Costa Rica Thermal Dome. MarViva, 2019. Page 56.

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 **El Thermal Dome, an area of great ecological and economic importance for the region (English)**

## Colombia

**NORMATIVIDAD PESQUERA EN EL DRMI ENCANTO DE LOS MANGLARES DEL BAJO BAUDÓ.**  
Resolución 2734 de AUNAP.

re:wild MARVIVA

 **Fishing regulation in the DRMI Encanto de los Manglares in Bajo Baudó**

re:wild MARVIVA

**HABLEMOS DE TIBURONES EN EL BAJO BAUDÓ**

**Los tiburones tienen un rol esencial para mantener los servicios que pueden ofrecer los ecosistemas marinos, como alimento y fuentes de ingreso a través de las actividades pesqueras y turísticas.**

En 2018 se registraron **308 capturas de tiburones** en el Bajo Baudó, equivalentes al **1,5 % (4,2 toneladas)** de los desembarcos de ese año.

Las especies más representativas son **el tiburón toro (Carcharhinus leucas)** con el 29 % del volumen, seguido por **el tiburón martillo (Sphyrna lewini)** con el 17,8 %, que fueron capturados incidentalmente generalmente con redes de enmalle en zonas someras y cercanas a la costa.

La concentración más importante de tiburones se encuentra en la **Bocana Purricha**. Los ejemplares más pequeños fueron registrados al norte en **Bahía Cuevita** y al sur en la **Ensenada de Docampadó**, donde se detectaron zonas con alta captura de juveniles.

 **Let's talk about sharks in el Bajo Baudó**



# VIDEOS

## Regional



➤ Bioplastics: Common plastics in disguise (Spanish)



➤ Bioplastics: common plastics in disguise (English)



➤ Plastic is omnipresent (Spanish)



➤ Plastic is omnipresent (English)

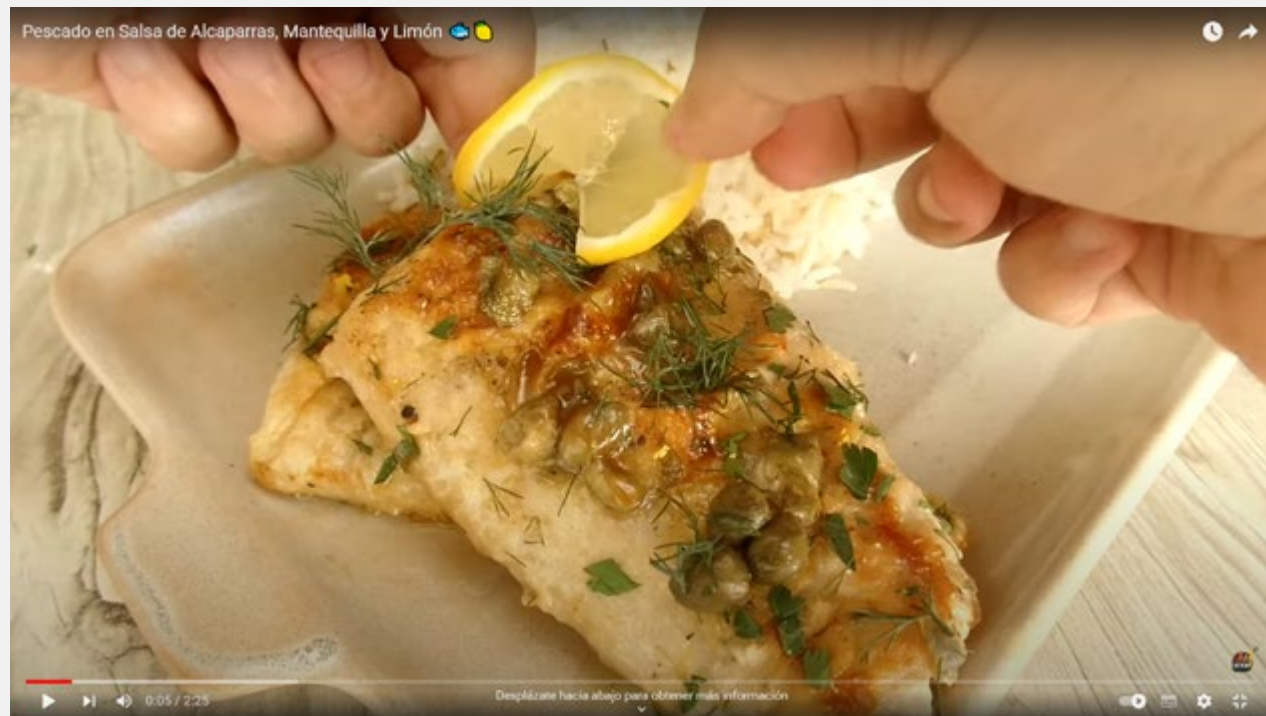


➤ Are "biodegradable" plastics a real alternative to solve plastic pollution?

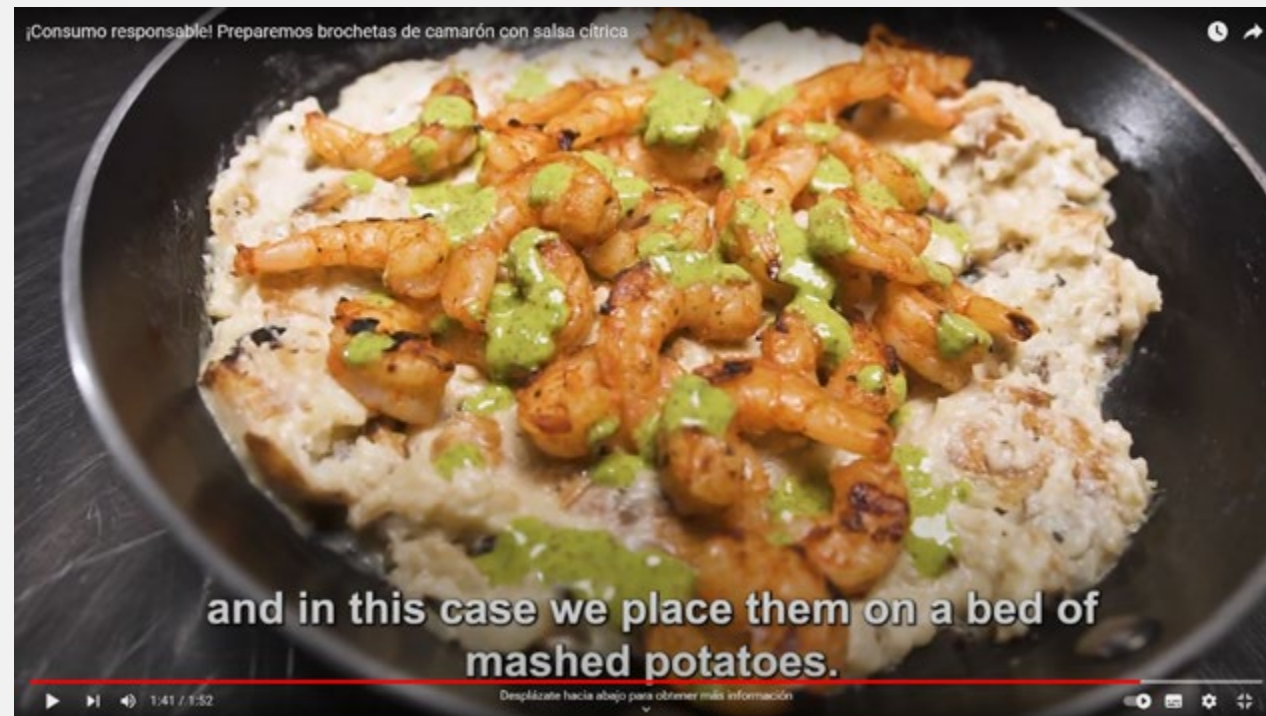


➤ Ocean Heroines





Responsible consumption! Let's prepare a roasted queen sea bass with pistachio crust

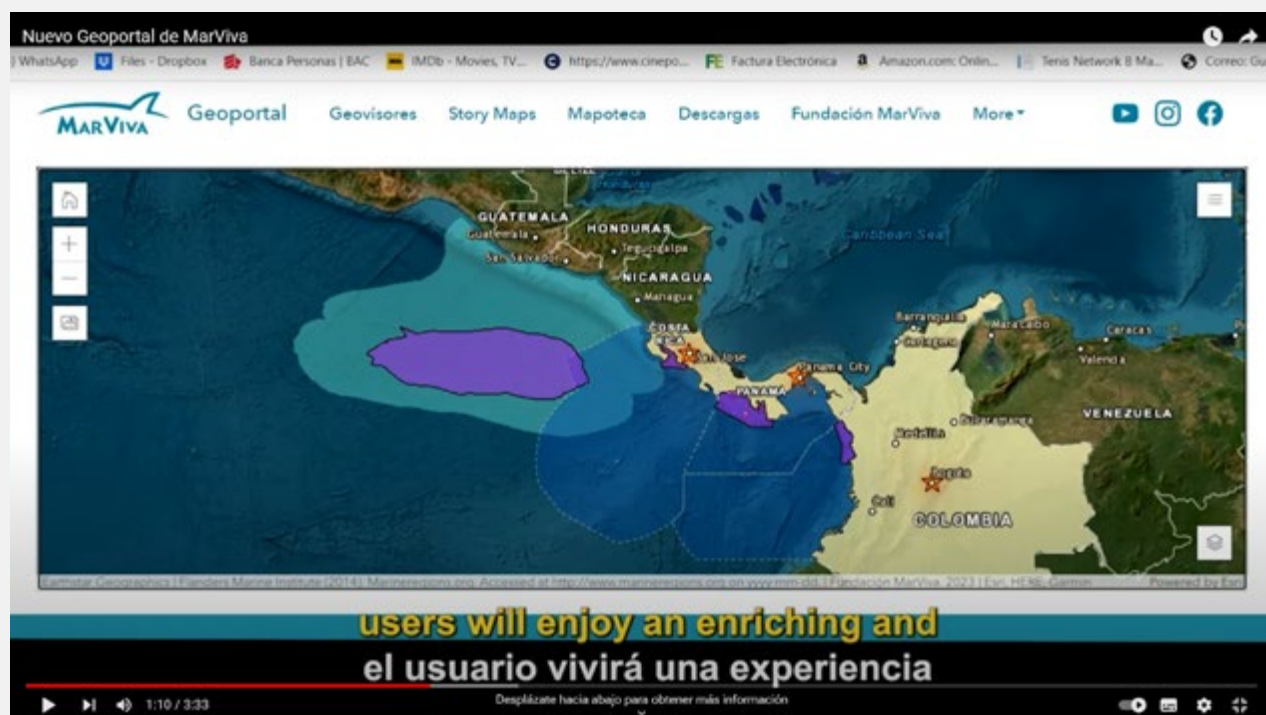


Responsible consumption! Let's prepare shrimp skewers with citrus sauce



Are "biodegradable" plastics an alternative to solve plastic pollution?

### Colombia



MarViva's new Geoportal



Thermal Dome: a wonder of the ocean (subtitled in Spanish)



Mangrove repopulation: Pacific-Caribbean experience exchange



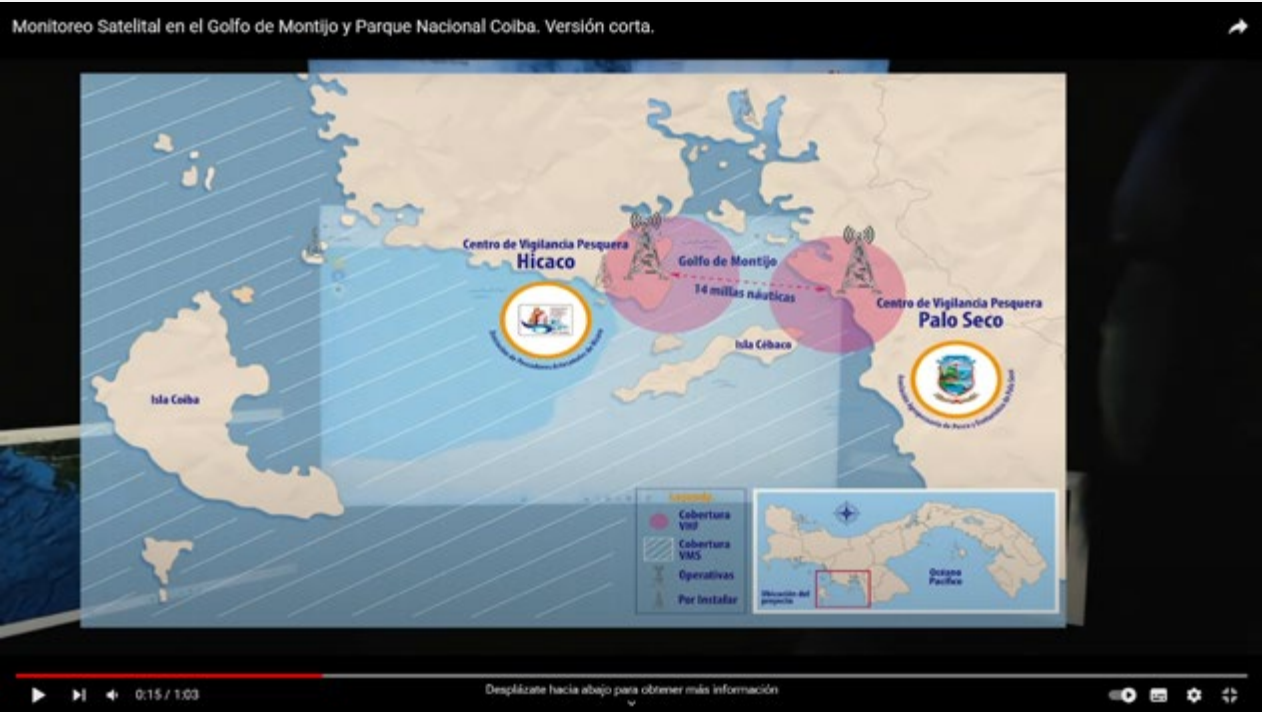
# Panama



➤ No to illegal fishing



➤ Marine corridors



➤ FEPACOIBA Fishery monitoring centers



➤ Gender equity in fishing communities



➤ Testimonial: Gender equity in fishing communities



# Costa Rica



➤ Puntarenas women venture into fish skin production



➤ Participatory Fisheries Monitoring in Gulf of Nicoya



➤ Discovery of octopus breeding site in Costa Rica



➤ What is Costa Rica's posture on ocean mining?



➤ Participatory Fisheries Monitoring in Gulf of Nicoya



# COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

## Regional

#ChaoPlásticoDesechable  
Goodbye disposable plastic



#Bioplásticos  
Bioplastics



#Altamar  
High Seas



#ProtecciónParaAltamar  
High Seas protection





#HeroínasDelMar  
Ocean heroines



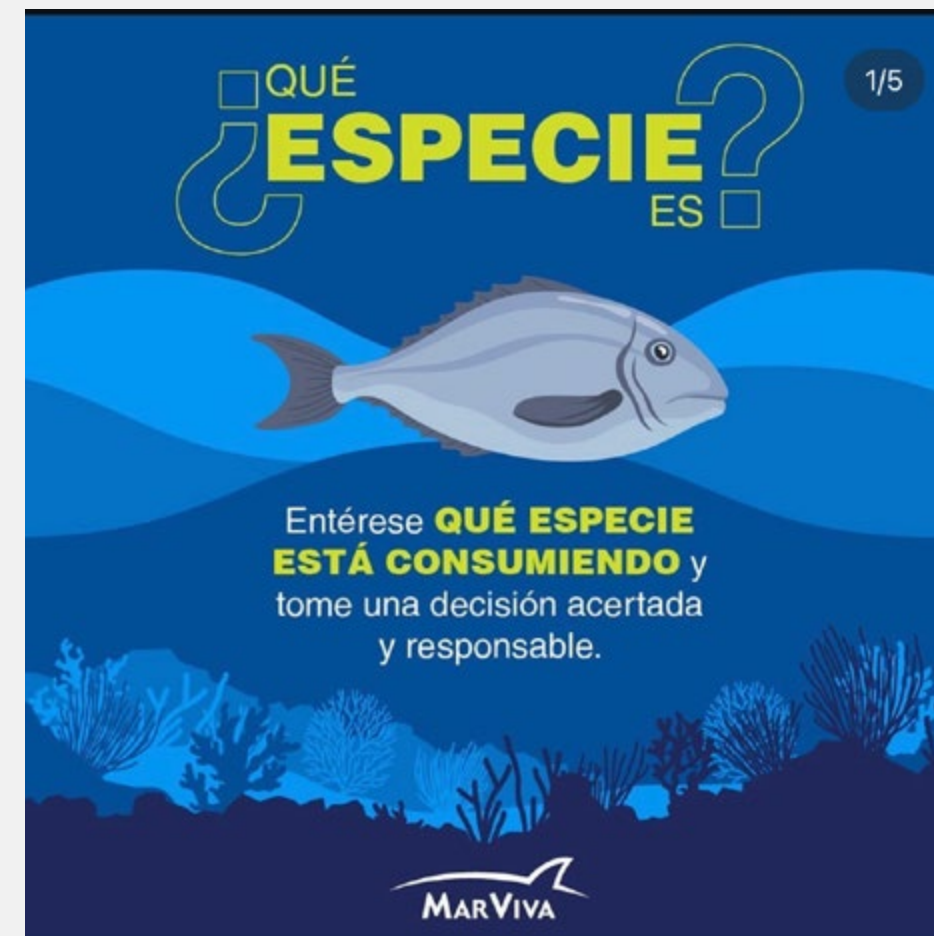
#NoALaPescalegal  
No to illegal fishing



#Geoportal



#ConsumoResponsable  
Responsible consumption



Costa Rica

#NoALaPescaDeArrastre  
No to Shrimp Trawling



#NoCaigásEnLaRed  
Don't fall in the net





#MineríaOceánica  
Ocean mining



#PescaResponsable  
Responsible fishing



Panama

#NoALaPescaIlegal  
No to illegal fishing



#PescaIlegal  
Illegal fishing



#ConsumoResponsable  
Responsible consumption



#CorredoresMarinos  
Marine corridors





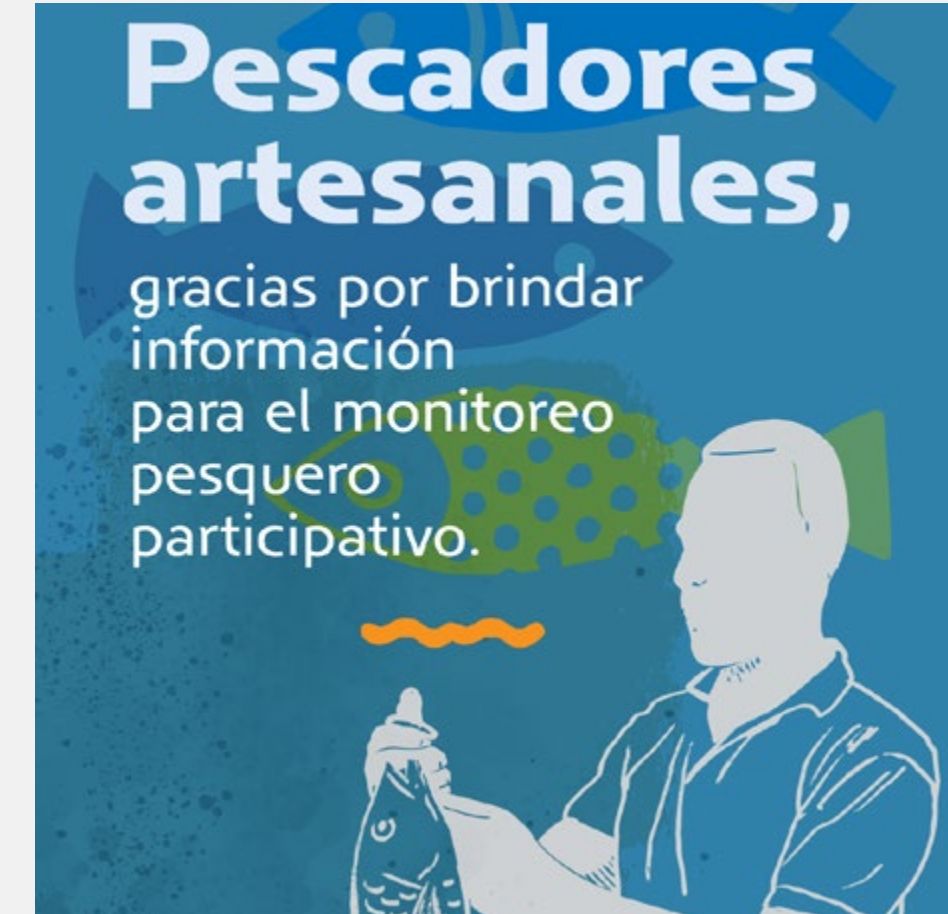
#InversiónEnConservaciónMarina  
Investment in marine conservation



#AlternativasProductivas  
Productive alternatives



#MonitoreoPesqueroParticipativo  
Participatory fishing monitoring



Colombia

#Pesca&ConsumoResponsables  
Responsible fishing and consumption



#IndiceProgresoSocial-PacíficoChocoano  
Social Progress Index (Pacific Chocó)





# Contributions in technical fora and conferences



MarViva Foundation regularly participates in fora, conferences, lectures, workshops and working groups at the international level. Examples of relevant participations during 2023 are:

**LECTURE:**

Inter-institutional Coordination Platform in Panama  
 Eastern Tropical Pacific Conservation Partners Workshop  
 Organizers: Re:wild, Bezos Earth Fund  
 Panama, February 2023

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**LECTURE:**

The Thermal Dome  
 Symposium. Making it count: Science in support of ocean conservation and governance  
 Organizer: Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI)  
 Canada, February 2023

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**PRESENTATION:**

Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Thermal Dome (SARGADOM project)  
 Organizer: IUCN  
 Canada, February 2023

**LECTURE:**

The Thermal Dome: An upwelling in the Eastern Tropical Pacific  
 International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5)  
 Organizer: High Seas Alliance  
 Canada; February 2023

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**PANEL:**

Global Action Against Plastic  
 Our Oceans Conference  
 Organizer: Plastic Oceans  
 Panama; March, 2023

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**LECTURE:**

Marine Spatial Planning beyond borders: the Thermal Dome  
 Event: Ecological and socioeconomic sustainability through integrated MSP covering jurisdictional waters and the High Seas.  
 Our Oceans Conference  
 Organizer: MarViva, SARGADOM Project  
 Panama; March 2023

**LECTURE:**

Legislative initiative promoted by MarViva for the correct management of ghost fishing gear in Costa Rica  
 Our Oceans Conference  
 Organizer: Plastic Oceans  
 Panama; March 2023

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**PANEL:**

Ecologic and socioeconomic sustainability through an integrated sea space planning which includes the jurisdictional waters and open sea  
 Organizer: MarViva, SARGADOM project  
 Panama; March 2023

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**LECTURE:**

Challenges in the use and recycling of plastic  
 Event: Seminar- Cities, Business and the Environment  
 Organizer: Universidad Externado  
 Colombia; March 2023



**LECTURE:**

Challenges of environmental pollution. Cruise tourism.  
 Event: Seminar- Panama as a tourism, maritime and port city. Challenges, strategies and opportunities for sustainable development.  
 Organizer: Vicerrectoría de Extensión de la Universidad de Panamá  
 Panama; March 2023

**WEBINAR:**

Circularity of Plastics, human health and environment  
 Organizer: High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution  
 Virtual; April 2023

**LECTURE:**

Ocean economy: The maritime industry and ecosystem assets  
 Symposium: Understanding of mathematical language and its applications in the country's social, economic, scientific and technological development.  
 Organizer: Universidad del Istmo  
 Panama; April 2023

**REGIONAL WORKSHOPS:**

Towards an international agreement to end plastic pollution  
 Organizers: WWF, MarViva  
 Virtual; April 2023

**LECTURE:**

Manglares de David, preservation and ecosystem services  
 Organizer: Movimiento Ambiental de Chiriquí  
 Panama; May 2023

**LECTURE:**

5<sup>th</sup> extraordinary meeting of the Latin American alliance for sustainable fishing  
 Organizer: Cámara Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura  
 Panama; June 2023

**PANEL:**

Innovation for Adaptation: Challenges of the private sector. Latin American experiences.  
 Organizers: IADB-ProAdapt, FIMA  
 Colombia; June 2023

**WORKSHOP:**

Maritime navigation in the Thermal Dome  
 Maritime authorities from Central America meet to address the impacts and opportunities on maritime traffic issues in the Thermal Dome.  
 Organizers: MarViva, SARGADOM project  
 Costa Rica; July 2023



◀ Workshop: Impacts and opportunities for maritime navigation in the Thermal Dome. Costa Rica. © MarViva Foundation.



**LECTURE:**

Marine protection and its strategic potential for sustainable development.

First Congress on the relevance of security and protection of Natural Heritage

Organizers: Ministerio de Ambiente, Ministerio de Seguridad y Policía Ambiental

Rural y Turística

Panama; August 2023

**LECTURE:**

MarViva's Geoportal

Organizer: ESRI

Panama; August 2023

**LECTURE:**

The Thermal Dome, features, threats and efforts for high seas management

CMAR Marine Protected Areas Group

Organizer: CMAR

Virtual; August 2023

**LECTURE:**

MarViva's Geoportal, a window to the Eastern Tropical Pacific

Organizer: ESRI

Colombia; September 2023

**LECTURE:**

MarViva's Geoportal, a window to the Eastern Tropical Pacific

Organizer: ESRI

Panama; September 2023

**WEBINAR:**

Turning waste into resources- Fish leather manufacturing in Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Organizer: Blue Action Fund

Virtual; October 2023

**LECTURE:**

Strategies to reduce the production of solid waste.

V Meeting of the Biodiversity Board

Organizer: National Technical Committee of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Corridor (CTN-CMAR)

Colombia; October 2023

**LECTURE:**

Thermal Dome- Experiences and lessons learned for high seas governance and sustainable management

Symposium: The BBNJ Treaty. From negotiation to implementation.

Organizers: GOBI, Edinburgh University, Atlantic, Aberdeen University, Heriot-Watt University

Edinburgh; October 2023



▲ Dissemination of contents to national and international audiences. © MarViva Foundation.



**LECTURE:**

Environmental impacts of single use plastics and solution perspective  
National Pact for a single-use plastic-free Colombia  
Organizers: Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, El Espectador Colombia; November 2023.

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**WORKSHOP:**

Maritime areas especially sensitive on the high seas  
Maritime authorities of Central America, as well as international experts, come together to address impacts and opportunities in maritime traffic issues in the Thermal Dome.  
Organizers: SARGADOM project, MarViva Costa Rica; November 2023

Landscape in Nuquí, Chocó. Colombia. ►  
© MarViva Foundation.



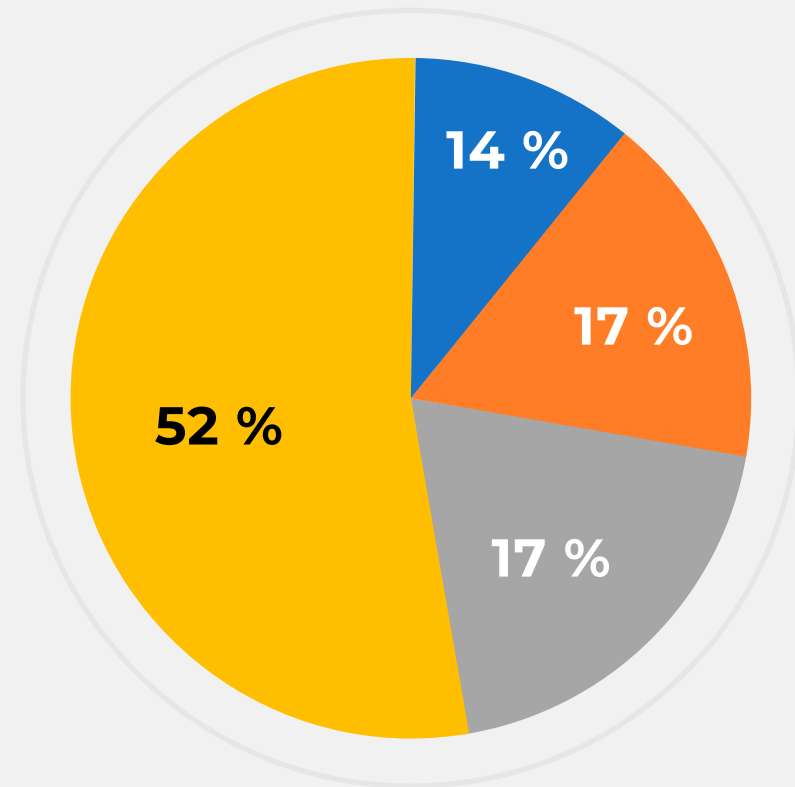


# Financial Report



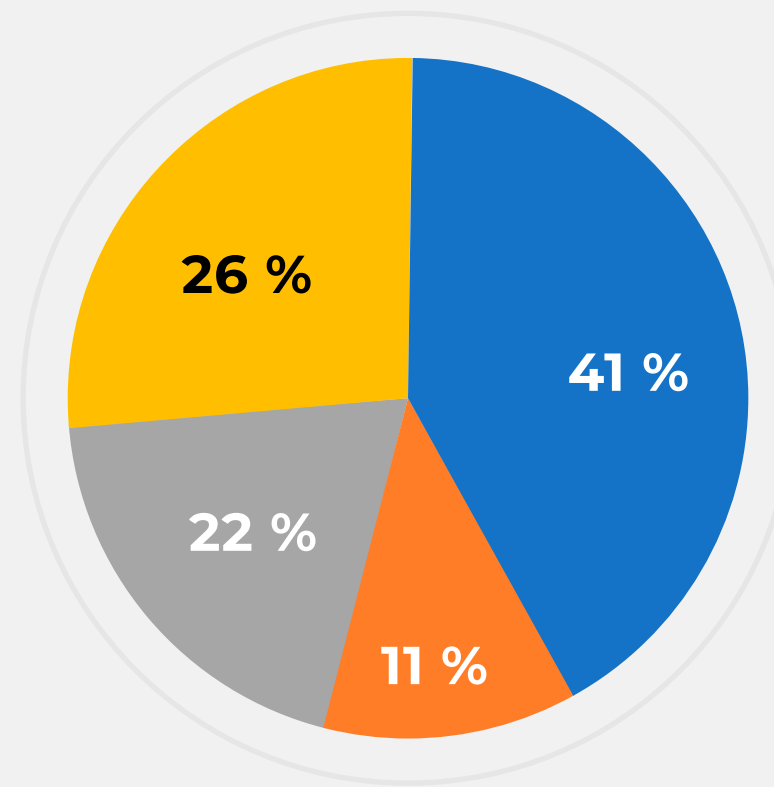
In partnership with our donors, during 2023, MarViva Foundation invested USD 3,678,099 to strengthen coastal community development, marine spatial planning, responsible production and consumption of marine products and services, and deterrence of marine pollution by plastics in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and the Eastern Tropical Pacific:

**Geographic destination of the investment**



- Panama
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Regional

**Investment by strategic pillar**



- Deterrence of marine pollution by plastics
- Responsible production and consumption of marine products and services
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Coastal community strengthening



▲ Artisanal fisherman of the Pacific coast of Chocó. Colombia. © MarViva Foundation.





# Acknowledgements



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**Staff and collaborators** in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia;

**Partners** in project implementation, including public authorities, local leaders, community-based groups and stakeholders, private sector, scientific community, NGOs, media;

**Board of Directors:** Roberto Artavia, Gian Castillero, Sibylle Feltrin, Jorge Jiménez;

**Financial Advisor:** Alonso Betancourt.

We especially highlight the financial and technical support of our donors during 2023, including:

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- Viva Trust
- Re:wild
- Blue Action Fund
- French Global Environment Facility (FFEM)
- European Union
- Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI)
- University of British Columbia-Lenfest Ocean Program
- Islas Secas Foundation
- German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)-International Climate Initiative (IKI)
- Asociación Costa Rica por Siempre
- Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)
- Multiplier
- Moody's Foundation

and the Norwegian Research Center (NORCE), Automercado, Overbrook Foundation and the United States Public Affairs Section (PAS),

As well as the valuable contribution of the media and corporate allies who support our programs through in-kind contributions, such as:

- Televisora Nacional de Panamá (TVN)
- Grupo Jurado
- Feedback Internacional
- IMC Medios

and Radio La Movida, Okey 96.3 and Mercadeo Dirigido,

and the multiple friends of MarViva who contribute with their personal, corporate or institutional donations in support of our work.

***Thank you for contributing to the fulfillment of our mission towards marine conservation and sustainability!***



# MarViva Foundation

MarViva Foundation, established since 2002, is a regional, non-government, non-profit organization. Our mission is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP), with vision of healthy and biodiverse oceans in benefit of the present and future generations.

## CONTACT

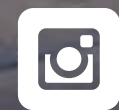
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