

MARE

22 | Audiovisual Competition for the Conservation of the Balearic Sea

Competition Rules 2022

Summary

2022 MARE Competition - Open Call: **15 May to 15 September**

Each participant can submit up to **20 digital photographs** related to the Balearic Sea and the Mediterranean that showcase its richness and beauty, as well as those showing our relationship with it, whether they report on negative or positive actions.

In all cases, **photographs** must have been taken within the Balearic Sea or the Mediterranean in the last 10 years.

For the **Adult participants** (> 18 years old), a distinction is made between Amateur (original JPG essential) and Expert (RAW essential). Each participant may submit up to 15 photographs distributed into 5 categories: 1. **MARE Animalia**; 2. **MARE Plantae**; 3. **MARE Sapiens**; 4. **MARE Denounces**; 5. **MARE Nostrum**.

For the **Young participants**, a distinction will be made between children (< 14 years) and young adults (14-17 years).

Registration is **free for young people**, members of the Associació de Fotografia de Natura de les Illes Balears (AFONIB), the Federación Balear de Actividades Subacuáticas (FBDAS) and associated diving centres. For the rest of participants, the registration fee is **10 euros**.

All entries must be accompanied by a clear conservation message.

The Jury will select the best projects and award the prizes.

A total of € 10,000 will be distributed into 23 prizes - cash prizes for the Adult participants and underwater equipment for the Young participants.

The best projects submitted will be included in the **travelling exhibition** that will tour the Balearic Islands in 2023.

General information of interest

MARE's mission is to create a platform for the best photographs of the Balearic Islands' underwater world and coastline and present them to the public, accompanied by conservationist messages, in order to raise awareness of the richness and beauty of the Balearic Sea.

The Competition organisers will contact you from the following e-mail address: **info@marebalear.org**. Please add it to your address book to avoid communications being blocked by security or anti-spam systems.

We encourage you to take part and support the conservation of the Balearic Sea!

MARE 2022

FORMATS	CATEGORIES	YOUNG PARTICIPANTS		ADULT PARTICIPANTS	
		CHILDREN < 14 years (JPG)	YOUNG ADULTS 14-17 years (JPG)	AMATEUR > 18 years old (JPG)	EXPERT > 18 years old (RAW)
PHOTOGRAPHY	MARE Animalia	Free of charge Maximum of 20 photographs	Free of charge Maximum of 20 photographs	Maximum of 20 photographs in the 5 categories €10 general registration Free for: - AFONIB members - Members of FBDAS - Partner dive centres	
	MARE Plantae				
	MARE Sapiens				
	MARE Denounces				
	MARE Nostrum				
	Honourable Mention: Marine Protected Areas				
	Honourable Mention: Conservation Message				
	Honourable Mention: Empathy				

MARE supports Balearic marine conservation through photography.

MARE showcases the splendour and richness hidden in the Balearic and Mediterranean Sea to promote a responsible relationship with our marine environment: thus, the ability to reflect the state of our sea, messages for a call to action, beauty and empathy all form part of the interconnected values of the Competition.

1. Who can participate?

There are no age restrictions. Anyone from any background is welcome to take part in the Competition, whether they are expert or amateur underwater/coastal photographers. However, members of the Organisation, members of the Advisory Committee, collaborators, sponsors of the Competition or members of the Jury and their families are not allowed to take part.

In view of the above, we have established the following Competition Participant Profiles, which can be selected when completing the registration form:

YOUNG PARTICIPANTS (< 18 years old):

We have established two profiles for young people: Children (< 14 years old) and Young Adults (between 14 and 17 years old).

1. **CHILDREN:** young people under 14 years old, **FREE PARTICIPATION.**
2. **YOUNG ADULTS:** young people between 14 and 17 years old, **FREE PARTICIPATION.**

Children under the age of 18 must have the relevant authorisation from one of their guardians and must not have reached the age of 18 by the closing date of the call for applications.

Those who turn 18 before 15 September 2022 will be automatically recognised by the system as belonging to the ADULT PARTICIPANT PROFILE.

ADULT PARTICIPANTS (> 18 years old):

There are two profiles for adults: Amateur and Expert. The differences lie in the prizes and the requirements for submitting the original file. Each participant must choose which profile to enter, according to his or her photographic experience. You cannot enter both profiles.

3. **AMATEUR:** if the photograph is selected as finalist, the original JPG file will be required.
4. **EXPERT:** if the photograph is selected as finalist, the RAW file will be required.

Adult members of AFONIB or federated with FBDAS: **FREE PARTICIPATION.**

Adults registered through partner dive centres*: **FREE PARTICIPATION.**

Partner dive centres:

- Mallorca: Albatros Diving Center, Tramuntana Diving & Adventure, Skualo and Mar Balear.
- Ibiza: Scuba Diving Ibiza.
- Formentera: Vellmarí.
- Menorca: Binibeca Diving, Diving Menorca and S'Algar Diving Menorca.

Adults in general: **REGISTRATION, €10.**

2. Visual arts disciplines

The 2022 Competition will consider digital visual arts in one format: **digital photography.**

3. Categories

All photographs submitted (a maximum of 20 per participant) must be related to the marine or coastal environment of the Balearic Islands and the Mediterranean, and be accompanied by a conservation message or statement.

Participants are encouraged to submit underwater photographs (100 % of the photograph taken underwater) in all categories. However, photographs taken out of the water, 50% in the water or completely underwater may be submitted in all categories.

Each image may only be submitted in one category.

1. **MARE Animalia.** Marine animals in their environment. Images that highlight the personality of an individual or a group, showcasing the great biodiversity that exists in the Balearic Sea. Special attention will be paid to photographs that focus on new discoveries or species of high conservation interest (rarely seen, unique, endangered, etc.). [#biodiversity](#) [#mammals](#) [#cetaceans](#) [#echinoderms](#) [#stars](#) [#seaurchin](#) [#seacucumber](#) [#reptile](#) [#turtles](#) [#sponges](#) [#fish](#) [#sharks](#) [#ray](#) [#molluscs](#) [#cephalopods](#) [#seahare](#) [#nudibranchs](#) [#octopus](#) [#cuttlefish](#) [#crustaceans](#) [#crab](#) [#lobster](#) [#seabirds](#) [#cnidarians](#) [#corals](#) [#jellyfish](#)
2. **MARE Plantae.** Images showing "marine gardens" at any stage of their life: any type of seaweed, plant or seagrass in general. Photographs portraying the importance of plant species in their environment, showing the richness of colours beneath the sea and on the coast. [#plants](#) [#Phanerogamae](#) [#PosidoniaOceánica](#) [#CymodoceaNodosa](#) [#ZosteraNoltii](#) [#seaweed](#) [#CaulerpaProlifera](#) [#seagrassmeadows](#)
3. **MARE Sapiens.** Images that show us the positive relationship between the sea and humans, and between humans and the sea. What professions are connected to the sea? How do you relate to the sea and what does it give you back? When you think of the sea, what do you imagine? This category invites you to show our social, economic, and cultural relationship with the sea in a positive way. For example: livelihood and environmentally-friendly fishing gear, the sea as a place interconnected with our culture and leisure, or a space to practice countless sports and live new adventures. [#fishing](#) [#tourism](#) [#sailing](#) [#relax](#) [#diving](#) [#sports](#) [#adventure](#) [#explore](#) [#CitizenResponsibility](#) [#SurveillanceBoats](#) [#OceanAmbassadors](#) [#EnvironmentalEducation](#) [#ReintroductionOfSpecies](#) [#ReleasingIntoTheSea](#) [#Rescues](#) [#CitizenScience](#) [#renewableenergy](#)
4. **MARE Denounces.** Images showing the negative human impact on the sea; threats and dangers. For example: loss of biodiversity, global warming, pollution, overfishing, polluted waters, invasive species, etc. [#InvasiveSpecies](#) [#pollution](#) [#plastic](#) [#underwaternoise](#) [#climatechange](#) [#overfishing](#) [#mortality](#) [#underwaterdeserts](#)
5. **MARE Nostrum (New category: the Mediterranean!).** The Mediterranean reaches 21 countries and is comprised of many seas. In this category, we are looking for images of the Mediterranean Sea taken both in and out of the water, telling spectacular stories about its inhabitants, ecosystems and ways of relating to it on any of its shores. Photographs that inspire and bring us closer to the reality of the 2,5 million km² of salty, fertile – as well as endangered – water. [#Med](#) [#landscapes](#) [#SeaOfSea](#) [#SeaAnimals](#) [#SeaScapes](#) [#UnderwaterLands](#) [#MarineHabitats](#) [#MarineFloor](#) [#SeaGrass](#)

#SeagrassMeadows #gorgonianforests #sandybottoms #RockyBottoms #Maerl
#TransparentWaters #TheBigBlue #OpenSea #TheSeaFromOutside
#coastalHabitats #Salinas #Albufera #cliffs #Beaches #Sand #Rocks #Storms
#Weather

Please indicate in the "tags" field if your photograph has been taken in a marine protected area (MPA), so it can also be eligible for the Balearic Sea **Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention** awards: #AMP #Cabrera #SerraTramuntana #BahíadePalma #MigjorndeMallorca #IsladelToro #IslasMalgrats #LlevantdeMallorca #SaDragonera #AlbuferaDesGrau #NortedeMenorca #IllaDeLAire #ReservaBiosferaMenorca #SesSalineslbizayFormentera #EsTrenc-SalobrardeCampos #EsVedràEsVedranellellotsdePonent #FreusdelbizayFormentera #SaPuntaDeSaCreu #NortheastlbizaTagomago

4. Registration and participation

Participation is exclusively online and only photographs in digital format are accepted for submission via the Competition website.

Each participant may submit, in a single entry, a maximum of 20 images that can be freely distributed among the different categories.

Imagine, create and prepare your selection of photographs.

- ✓ Please note our code of ethics for conservation photography, which can be found here: www.marebalear.etic.org.
- ✓ Register via the following link: www.marebalear.certamen.org.
- ✓ Fill in all the information requested on the form. Remember that there is a special section in each photograph for writing your conservation message.
- ✓ We recommend you certify your photographs (prior to submitting them) via IRCC (www.ircc.photo).
- ✓ If you have technical problems or questions about the Competition, please write to us at info@marebalear.org.
- ✓ You may modify the uploaded images at any time before sending in your submission.
- ✓ The deadline for the Competition is 15 September 2022 at 11.59 pm.

5. General rules

1. The photographs submitted must represent reality as closely as possible.
2. The Competition rewards originality and quality along with the marine conservation value the photograph represents.
3. Photographs of domestic or aquarium animals and cultivated marine plants are not permitted.
4. It is mandatory to indicate if the animal portrayed is in captivity, if it has been trained or if any actions were taken to induce its behaviour at the time of taking the picture.
5. Location: in categories 1, 2, 3 and 4, all photographs must have been taken within the Balearic Sea area (the 1,000 m isobath around the Balearic archipelago); in category 5, in the Mediterranean Sea.

6. Temporality: we accept images taken in the last ten years.
7. You cannot submit the same photograph in more than one category (nor a very similar one).
8. We will accept pictures that have received awards in other competitions or have been published previously.
9. **MARE's code of ethics concerning imaging is based on the IRCC Ethical Manifesto and the AFONIB Decalogue. Participants are encouraged to read these and apply their philosophy.**

6. Prepare your images

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- We will only accept photos captured by digital cameras in which the RAW file is preserved (in the EXPERT profile), or the original JPG (in the AMATEUR and YOUNG profiles).
- Photographs must be submitted in JPG format and contain their metadata or shooting parameters with dimensions of a maximum of 1920 pixels of resolution on the longest side of the image and a maximum size of 4 MB, preferably with Adobe RGB 1998 colour profile.
- The technical shooting parameters will be automatically extracted from the data embedded in the image file. They do not need to be detailed and must be present in every JPG photograph submitted (do not remove EXIF/ shooting parameters from the photograph before submission).
- Photos should not have frames, borders, watermarks or captions.
- ADJUSTMENTS: The participating images are expected to represent reality and therefore only moderate processing settings on photographs will be admitted. Moderate settings are those that do not distort the reality of the image, but simply correct hue, light and saturation. The use of settings affecting sensor dust spot correction, lens distortion correction and optical aberrations is permitted.
- COLOUR: Black and white photographs are accepted in all categories.
- Photographs composed by multiple camera exposures are allowed, provided they were taken on the same date (we can detect this by checking the image metadata labels). For certain camera models, the individual files that make up the multiple exposure image may be required (see information available at IRCC).
- In terms of cropping, the high quality version of the developed JPG must have at least 10 MP (megapixels) without interpolation. Therefore, a high resolution file must be available for printing on paper if required by the Organisation.

MARE WITH THE IRCC PHOTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

- **MARE collaborates with the IRCC Photographic Association**, who aims to guarantee the credibility of the context of nature photography through the supervision and certification of photographs, by means of specialised software.
- Participants will have the option to enter the Competition by submitting images that have been previously certified by IRCC, or otherwise.
- The authenticity of all images entering the final phase of the Competition will be verified by checking the original RAW/JPG file of the photograph.
- The verification, revision and accreditation of the authenticity of the finalist photographs will be carried out by IRCC ASOCIACIÓN FOTOGRÁFICA through the IRCC platform (www.ircc.photo), comparing the edited JPG photograph with its original RAW/JPG file, and carrying out a complete diagnosis of the editing/developing actions on the original, measured both globally and by areas, as well as determining the extent to which they have been retouched or manipulated, where/if applicable.
- **The Jury will decide which photographs can be considered NOT APT, based on their criteria as professionals and on the non-binding consultation of the report issued by IRCC.** The reasons why photographs may be deemed NOT APPROPRIATE, following the analysis and verification process, are summarised below:
 - o Unacceptable alteration of the original photograph, such as distortion of dimensions or transformation of perspective
 - o Excessive global processing or zonal processing values
 - o Detection of alteration or modification of pixels in specific areas of the image (deletions, cloning or manipulation)
 - o RAW output options not permitted, such as overlay or non-sequential multiple exposure
- **Although it is not compulsory, we recommend you certify the photographs prior submission through IRCC** (<https://www.ircc.photo/>); this means that your photograph will be automatically accepted as eligible for evaluation by the Jury.
- Anyone participating with IRCC certificates must submit all certified images and will not be required to submit any **original** images during the course of the Competition.
- Under the agreement signed by MARE with IRCC, all participants can obtain free credits for certifying their photographs. Access all the information published on www.ircc.photo and request your free credits at info@ircc.photo.

CAPTION/MESSAGE

Each image must be accompanied by a text with the following information:

- **Title.** The title of the photograph should be in accordance with the message you want to convey.
- **Description of the marine conservation value.** To explain your image, we invite you to think scientifically and poetically. All photographs must be accompanied by a caption describing the main conservation value of the image (key species in the food chain, deteriorating landscape, success stories of adaptation of a species, etc.). All types of text can be submitted: descriptive, reflective, philosophical or even poetic, always with a

maximum length of 1,500 characters (approximately 100 words) and a minimum of 200 characters (approximately 50 words).

- **The shooting parameters are automatically extracted from the EXIF data of the JPG file presented**, and details of the technique or equipment used can be expanded in this section.
- **Choose the tags that best represent your image.** Remember to indicate if you have taken your photograph within a marine protected area (using the MPA tag) so you can qualify for the Marine Protected Areas Honourable Mention.

10 TIPS/ADVICES TO PARTICIPATE

1. **Check out the winning photographs from previous editions.** We are always looking for new images and not replicas of the previous edition.
2. **Trust your vision.** Use your creativity and dare to follow your own style.
3. In conservation photography, the process is very important. Review your practices, be consistent and answer honestly: **“Have I followed the code of ethics from the shore, at sea or under the sea?”**
4. Read the description of each category carefully. **We are looking for photographs that tell stories - amaze the Jury!**
5. **Keep your original image unretouched and unprocessed**, or you won't be eligible for any prizes. We recommend you keep it in a separate folder.
6. **Imperfection is preferable to deception.** If you have a photograph with an element that bothers you, try to cut it out – never erase or clone it.
7. How to find out the limit of permitted settings? Answer the following question: **“Does the retouched image reflect what I saw with my eyes?”**
8. **Narrate from your core!** Find a title and description that invite the viewer to take a closer look at the photograph: words that captivate and excite.
9. **Share your vision with more people**, in other spaces and projects. We need to build #AllEyesOnTheSea to get closer to the sea.
10. **Prepare well: allow yourself time, be dedicated.** Registration closes on 15 September at 23:59, by which time we won't be able to help you with any issues!

Images that do not meet the established format requirements will be rejected. If the author's intention to deceive the public in a malicious way becomes evident, the Organisation reserves the right to disqualify that participant from the Competition.

7. Awards and honourable mentions

Twenty-three prizes valued at more than € 10,000 will be presented to the authors of the best images, selected by the Jury and distributed as follows:

FORMAT	AWARDS	YOUNG PARTICIPANTS		ADULT PARTICIPANTS	
		CHILDREN < 14 years old (JPG)	YOUNG ADULTS 14-17 years (JPG)	AMATEUR > 18 years old (JPG)	EXPERT > 18 years (RAW)
PHOTOGRAPHY	MARE Animalia	Image POOL 1 st : aquatic expedition kit 2 nd : aquatic expedition kit 3 rd : aquatic expedition kit	Image POOL 1 st : camera 2 nd : camera 3 rd : camera	€ 250	€ 1,000
	MARE Plantae			€ 250	€ 1,000
	MARE Sapiens			€ 250	€ 1,000
	MARE Denounces			€ 250	€ 1,000
	MARE Nostrum			€ 250	€ 1,000
	Honourable Mention: Marine Protected Areas			€ 150	€ 500
	Honourable Mention: Conservation Message			€ 150	€ 500
	Honourable Mention: Empathy			€ 150	€ 500

Prizes for **ADULT EXPERTS**: 5 winners (per category) and 3 Honourable Mentions. There will also be 3 finalists in each section, who will each receive a Diploma.

CATEGORY winners with a prize for the best photographic quality (5 prizes of € 1,000):

1. MARE Animalia: 1 prize of € 1,000 for the first winning photograph
2. MARE Plantae: 1 prize of € 1,000 for the first winning photograph
3. MARE Magna: 1 prize of € 1,000 for the first winning photograph
4. MARE Nostrum: 1 prize of € 1,000 for the first winning photograph
5. MARE Denounces: 1 prize of € 1,000 for the first winning photograph

HONOURABLE MENTION winners (3 prizes of € 500):

6. Honourable Mention for the best conservation message: 1 prize of € 500 for the first winning photograph
7. Honourable Mention for empathy: 1 prize of € 500 for the first winning photograph
8. Honourable Mention - Marine Protected Areas: 1 prize of € 500 for the first winning photograph

Prizes for **ADULT AMATEURS**: 5 winners (per category) and 3 Honourable Mentions. There will also be 3 finalists in each section, who will each receive a Diploma.

CATEGORY winners with a prize for best photographic quality (5 prizes of € 250):

1. MARE Animalia: 1 prize of € 250 for the first winning photograph
2. MARE Plantae: 1 prize of € 250 for the first winning photograph
3. MARE Magna: 1 prize of € 250 for the first winning photograph
4. MARE Nostrum: 1 prize of € 250 for the first winning photograph
5. MARE Denounces: 1 prize of € 250 for the first winning photograph

HONOURABLE MENTION winners (3 prizes of € 150):

6. Honourable Mention for best conservation message: 1 prize of € 150 for the first winning photograph
7. Honourable Mention for empathy: 1 prize of € 150 for the first winning photograph
8. Honourable Mention – Marine Protected Areas: 1 prize of € 150 for the first winning photograph

HONOURABLE MENTIONS are awarded to images for the story and message they convey (positive conservation messages; portraits of the Balearic Sea; ability to empathise with the sea). Of course, quality and aesthetics are important, but here we are looking for images that are truly able to connect with the public, even if the photographic quality is not excellent. The winning images of MARE categories cannot be awarded HONOURABLE MENTIONS.

1. **Honourable Mention for best conservation message.** Awarded to the photograph that most powerfully communicates a story of hope, recovery of the Balearic Sea and conservation actions. It can be an abstract photograph, an image of a particular species, a wider ecosystem or anything depicting the human efforts to find solutions to the problems we face.
2. **Honourable Mention for empathy.** This is awarded to the photograph that has the ability to connect with the viewer, tell a story with immediacy and empathise with the public: the image that best represents empathy and connection with the Balearic Sea.
3. **Honourable Mention - Marine Protected Areas.** Awarded to the photograph that best displays the beauty and natural treasures hidden in the MPAs* of the Balearic Islands; the countless benefits they offer (for the fishing industry and the conservation of biodiversity/habitats and species of high ecological value, two interdependent aims); and the activities, events and actions that take place there. The photograph must include the MPA* label and the location of the Marine Protected Area where it was taken.

*Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are sections of the marine environment, whether or not connected to the coast, that are awarded some form of protection. They are globally used as tools for the regeneration of marine ecosystems, with the dual objective of increasing the productivity of fishery resources and conserving marine habitats and species.

MARE will collaborate with different organisations to promote and revitalise the involvement of citizens living close to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Prizes for **YOUNG ADULTS** (between 14 and 17 years old): 3 winners, who will each receive a camera valued at more than € 400.

Prizes for **CHILDREN** (< 14 years old): 3 winners, who will each receive an aquatic expedition kit.

8. Visibility of awards and honourable mentions

All award winners, honourable mentions and finalists will be part of:

- ✓ The online exhibition on our MARE website. We will create an appropriate visual resource to that end (digital publication or similar resource).
- ✓ The Balearic Islands' travelling exhibition during 2023.

9. Jury

The Jury will be made up of professionals from the world of marine photography, with the relevant experience to select those works that deserve special recognition, and will be announced in due course.

The Jury's decision on all matters is final (even if its decision disregards one of the above rules), so no claims or appeals against it will be accepted.

The Jury reserves the right to transfer entries from one category to another if it considers this applicable or appropriate. If necessary, members of the Jury may be replaced.

Calendar

Closing date: **15 September 2022 at 23:59**

Receipt of original files (RAW/JPG): October 2022

Announcement of finalists: October/November 2022

Award ceremony: The ceremony will take place during the summer months. The event can be followed on the website and social media.

Exhibition of the winning and runner-up photographs: Photographs by winners and finalists will form part of a travelling exhibition that will tour the four Balearic Islands during 2023.

10. Legal issues

IMAGE RIGHTS

The participants declare that they are the authors of each work presented to the Competition and that they own all the rights to it.

Photographs showing a recognisable or identifiable person must have their express consent, and permission for the assignment of image rights must be attached. MARE will not be held responsible for any possible claims against the authors, which may result in the disqualification of a photograph.

The author of the photographs will keep the copyright of all his/her images.

Photographers will transfer or loan their reproduction rights to the Competition Organisation for the following purposes:

1. **Loan for MARE:** the use of the image is granted solely for the MARE Competition.
2. **Loan for the conservation of the Balearic Sea:** the use of the image is loaned to be shared for marine conservation purposes with MARE's collaborating entities. Under no circumstances will these images be used for profit.

LOAN OF USE FOR MARE EXHIBITION AND PUBLICATIONS

MARE reserves the right to reproduce the best images with the sole purpose of **sharing the results of the Competition, promoting MARE and carrying out training and educational projects organised by the entity (talks on underwater photography, events promoting conservation photography, etc.).**

All photographs must always be accompanied by the photographer credit (Maria Borrell/MARE 2022, etc.). Photographers will loan their reproduction rights to the Competition Organisation for this purpose. Under no circumstances may these be used for profit.

We hope that our sponsors and a good number of publications will share the results of this Competition and benefit the photographers with high profile exposure. The following exhibitions (not excluding others) will be held by MARE:

- The winning and finalist photographs will be displayed in a travelling exhibition in Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera during 2023
- The Organisation will produce a high quality online publication with all the selected images

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DATA PROTECTION

By submitting images to the 2022 MARE edition of this Competition, you accept all sections in these rules. The Organisation will resolve any unforeseen situation not mentioned here.

We will never share your e-mail address with anyone outside the Organisation. All personal data of participants will be treated with the maximum confidentiality by the Organisation, in accordance with Spanish Organic Law 3/2018, 5 December, regarding Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights (LOPD-GDD).

Participants may contact the Organisation at any time to update their data and/or preferences regarding the authorised use of their personal data.

We will only contact you regarding MARE and any of its associated entities, and for no other reason.

Participation in this Competition implies full acceptance of each and every one of these rules and the indisputable decision of the Jury. The Organisation has the authority to resolve any unforeseen case not included in these rules.

All participants in the Competition accept these rules and the legal terms published in the registration form.