

**Annual Report
2025-2026**



latitudazul.org
info@latitudazul.org





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Latitud Azul Association is a non-profit organization committed to marine conservation, scientific research, environmental education, and the protection of marine biodiversity.

Our work focuses on promoting marine conservation actions, raising public awareness about the importance of ocean ecosystems, encouraging citizen participation in environmental initiatives, and developing projects that foster equality, inclusion, and equal opportunities within environmental and social sectors.

During 2025, Latitud Azul developed research projects, awareness campaigns, educational activities, and conservation actions in collaboration with public institutions, private organizations, and social entities.



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Latitud Azul 's Approach



Mission

To promote marine conservation through research, environmental education, social participation, and the development of sustainable initiatives.



Vision

To become a leading organization in marine conservation and environmental awareness, fostering a responsible relationship between society and the oceans.



Values

Conservation and sustainability
Scientific rigor
Environmental education
Citizen participation
Equality and cooperation
Transparency



During 2025, Latitud Azul Association worked towards the following objectives:

- Develop marine conservation projects.
- Promote environmental education initiatives.
- Support scientific research on marine biodiversity.
- Raise public awareness about ocean-related environmental issues.
- Build collaboration networks with scientific and social organizations.
- Promote equality and inclusive participation



CONSERVATION, PARTICIPATION AND EQUALITY



Projects 2025

Conservation Strategies for Sharks and Rays in the Canary Islands: A Scientific Approach and Stakeholder Review

The project aims to compile and analyze existing data on the seventy-eight shark and ray species present in the Canary Islands and identify their main threats in order to develop a vulnerability map and detect key information gaps and research priorities. Based on these findings, and through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the project seeks to develop a consensus-based conservation strategy and propose protection measures for policymakers. The initiative will also strengthen long-term alliances for elasmobranch conservation. In parallel, the project will promote public outreach and education, particularly within the fishing and tourism sectors, to reduce shark and ray mortality, minimize disturbance to vulnerable species, and encourage coexistence between people and elasmobranchs.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Objetives



Activities carried out

1. Conduct a Comprehensive Scientific Study

- Activity 1.1: Compile and analyze data on the biology, ecology, and behavior of local elasmobranch populations in the Canary Islands.
- Activity 1.2: Identify and map critical areas for the reproduction, feeding, and migration of sharks and rays in the region.
- Activity 1.3: Assess Threats and Pressures. Identify and evaluate the main threats facing elasmobranchs in Canary waters, including unsustainable fishing, habitat loss, pollution, and other anthropogenic factors. Create a pressure map overlaid on the abundance map to determine species vulnerability.



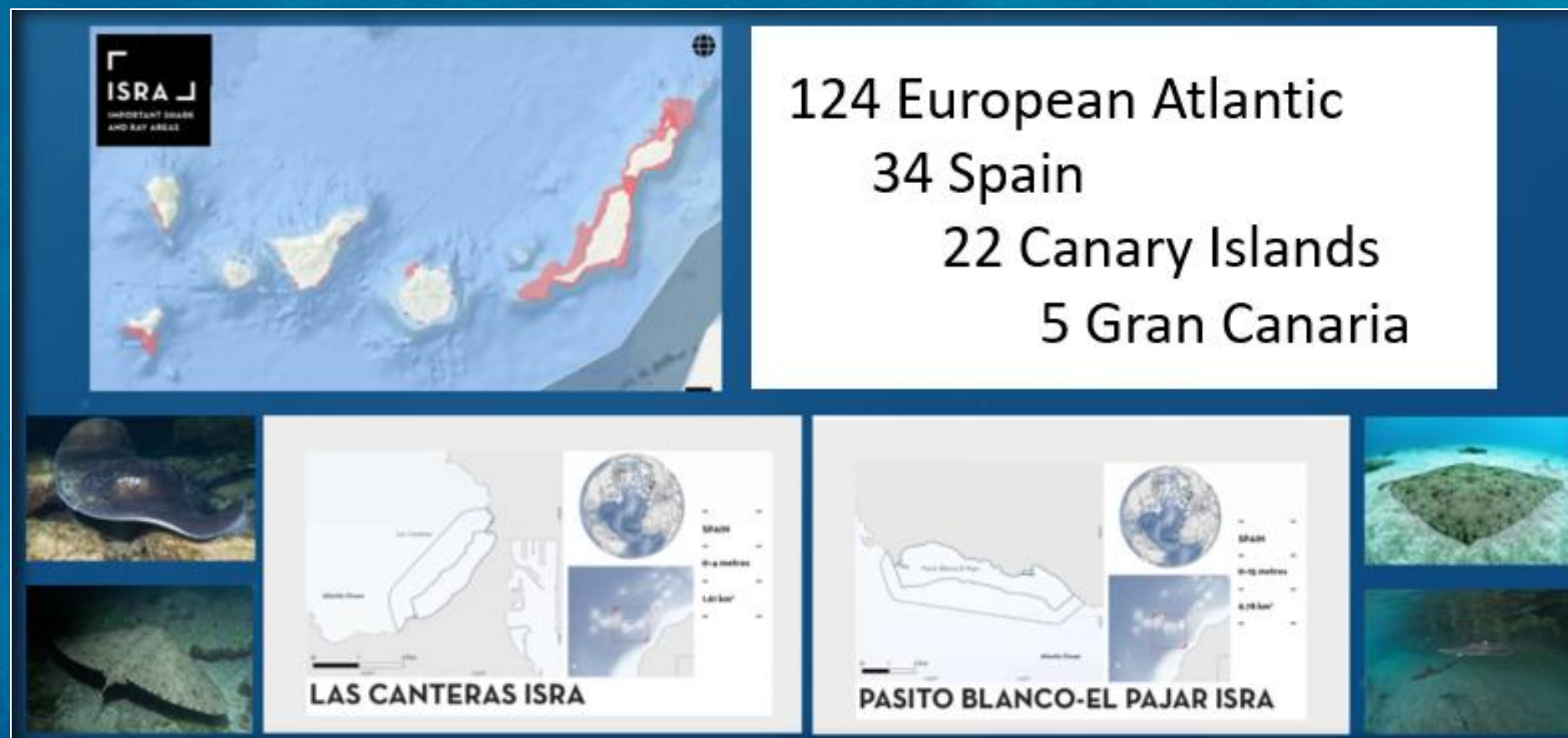
2. Collaborate with the "Important Shark and Rays Areas" Initiative

- Activity 2.1: Establish active collaboration with the "Important Shark and Rays Areas" Initiative to strengthen the conservation voice of elasmobranchs at the regional and global levels.



SHARKS
INTERNATIONAL
SRI LANKA 2026

Las Canteras Beach as an ISRA: A community-Driven Model Integrating Coastal Ecotourism, Outreach and citizen Science for Elasmobranch conservation



3. Conduct a Stakeholder Review

- Activity 3.1: Collaborate with local communities, fishermen, scientists, government authorities, and non-governmental organizations to understand their perspectives, concerns, and knowledge regarding shark and ray conservation.
- Activity 3.2: Collaborate with active elasmobranch research projects in the Canary Islands



Promote Community Participation and Develop an Awareness Campaign

- Activity 4.1: Design and implement education and awareness programs to engage local communities in shark and ray conservation, promoting harmonious and sustainable coexistence.
- Activity 4.2: Create a short film about the importance of protecting sharks and rays
- Activity 4.3: Conduct participatory workshops with all stakeholders to develop sustainable conservation strategies over time and propose agreed-upon protection measures for elasmobranchs to local and state authorities.



Projects 2025



Project to Promote Citizen Participation

Citizen Forum of the Las Canteras Microarea: participation, marine stewardship and democratic culture.

This project continues the Citizen Forum of the Las Canteras Microarea, a pioneering initiative in Spain that promotes active citizen participation in the sustainable management of coastal areas. Through deliberative spaces, environmental education activities, and the creation of a citizen club linked to the beach, the project encourages shared responsibility in marine stewardship, strengthens community ties, and brings participation closer to everyday life. The initiative aims to consolidate a local democratic culture through the collective care of an emblematic coastal environment.



Activities carried out



1. Marine Laboratory

Environmental education and citizen engagement activity at Las Canteras Beach, bringing together science, marine conservation, and public participation. The workshops were led by master's and PhD students from ULPGC, who shared recent research findings and demonstrated scientific sampling techniques developed within the IMPLAMAC and ASTRESS projects.

As part of the activity, participants took part in a surface microplastics sampling exercise using a manta net towed by kayak, in collaboration with Salitre Sport. The session also highlighted shark and ray conservation through the BestLife2030 project, emphasising the recent recognition of Las Canteras as an IUCN Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA).

This initiative strengthened the connection between science and citizens while promoting environmental awareness, marine stewardship, and the value of Las Canteras as a key site for research and conservation.





2. Citizen Participation Project for the Las Canteras Ecotourism Microarea

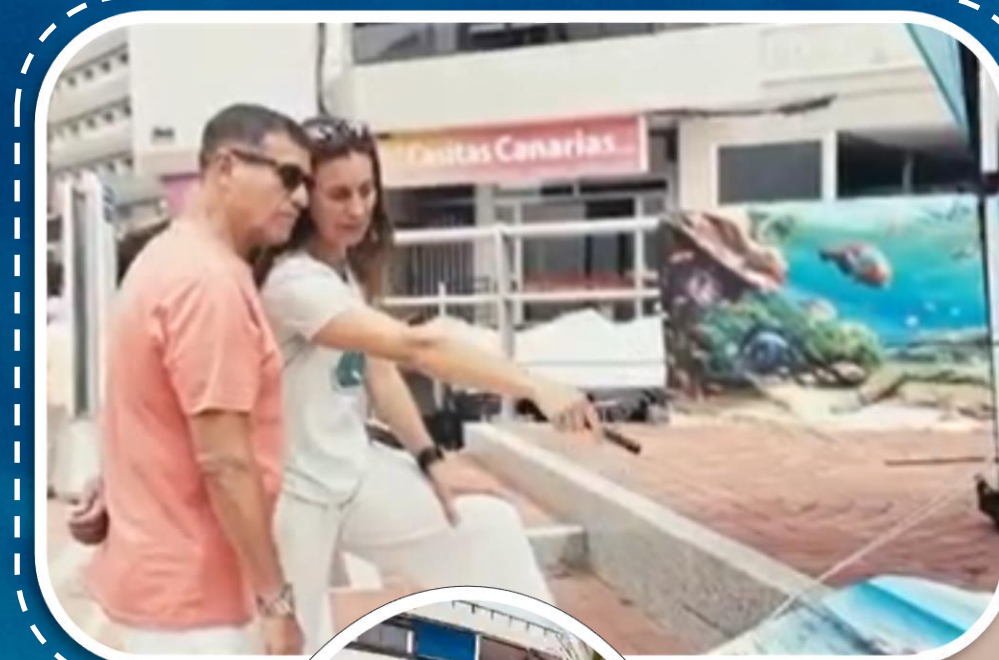
Topics discussed during the 23rd Microarea Forum:

- International recognition of Las Canteras as an Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA).
- Analysis of user profiles and their perception of coastal and shoreline spaces: The Confital case study (Master's Thesis).
- Proposal to extend the Microarea to the coastal zone of Bahía del Confital.
- Management of beached seaweed accumulations :alternatives and concern



3. Community mural

The initiative, focused on the creation of a community mural, enabled participants to express experiences, memories, favourite species, and personal connections to the sea. Designed as an open and inclusive activity, the project encouraged participation both from people attending specifically for the event and from passers-by along the promenade, who spontaneously joined the collective artwork reflecting the diverse perspectives and relationships with the coastline.



Projects 2025



Equality: Stories of the Invisible

The “Stories of the Invisible” project is aimed at the general population of Gran Canaria, women caregivers, and healthcare professionals from the Canary Islands Health Service. This year, it also includes professionals from the Island Network for the Prevention and Comprehensive Care of Women and Minors Victims of Gender-Based Violence, as well as students from educational centers.

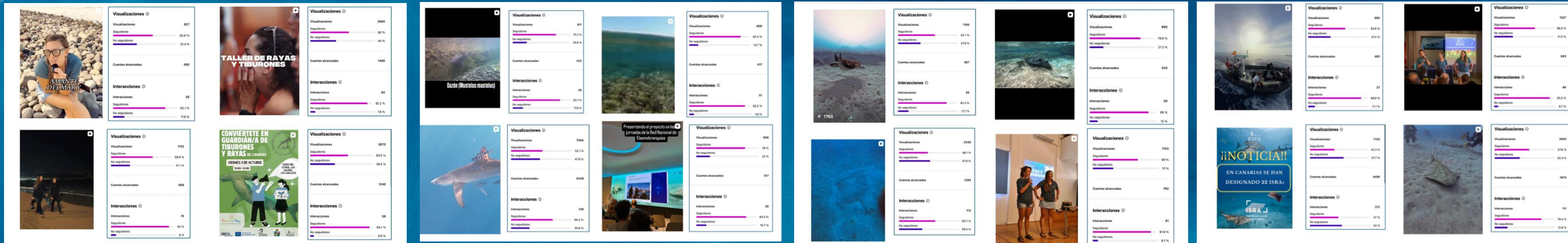
The initiative focuses on promoting gender equality by creating spaces for reflection on the social impact of inequality and the value of care work. It highlights both those who provide care and those who support caregivers, encouraging dialogue on visibility, recognition, and the connection between care responsibilities and the gender gap.

The project also fosters community building and engagement with public spaces and local resources, strengthening awareness of equality and shared responsibility in care.



Strategic Communications

Latitud Azul's team develops communication and outreach strategies aimed at key stakeholders, raising public awareness and supporting the achievement of conservation and research objectives. Our scientists and collaborators contribute to public dialogue on marine conservation and are regularly featured or referenced in media outlets, scientific forums, and outreach platforms. Through these channels, Latitud Azul helps translate scientific knowledge into accessible information for the wider public and decision-makers. Here are some of our communication and media highlights from 2025.



Jueves 21 de marzo de 2024
El foro de la Microárea Ecológica de Las Canteras pide que no se celebren eventos masivos en la arena de la playa

Los miembros de este foro consultivo se alinean con el objetivo de la restauración del principal arenal de la ciudad en el marco de la Ley de Restauración de la Naturaleza de la UE, aprobada el pasado febrero. La reunión contó con la participación de 40 personas, representantes de instituciones públicas, empresas turísticas y de ocio, la Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, asociaciones y residentes a título personal.

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, jueves 21 de marzo de 2024.- El foro de participación de la Microárea Ecológica de Las Canteras acordó en la reunión celebrada en la tarde de ayer, miércoles 20 de marzo, solicitar que la arena del principal arenal de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria quede libre de eventos masivos y conciertos, con el objetivo de preservar la calidad ambiental de este recurso icónico y garantizar el proceso de restauración del mismo.

Los miembros de este foro, el órgano de participación, consulta y asesoramiento municipal en la gestión sostenible de la Playa de Las Canteras, debatieron la necesidad de 'hacer de la arena de la playa los eventos masivos y programarlos en otras localizaciones cercanas' a fin de mitigar cualquier impacto sobre este 'ecosistema sensible y vulnerable que precisa protección'.

En este sentido, el foro basa su propuesta en los resultados del estudio multidisciplinar realizado por la Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria y coordinado por la catedrática Emma Pérez Chacón, en 2018 y 2019, sobre el impacto de este tipo de eventos masivos en el ecosistema de la playa.

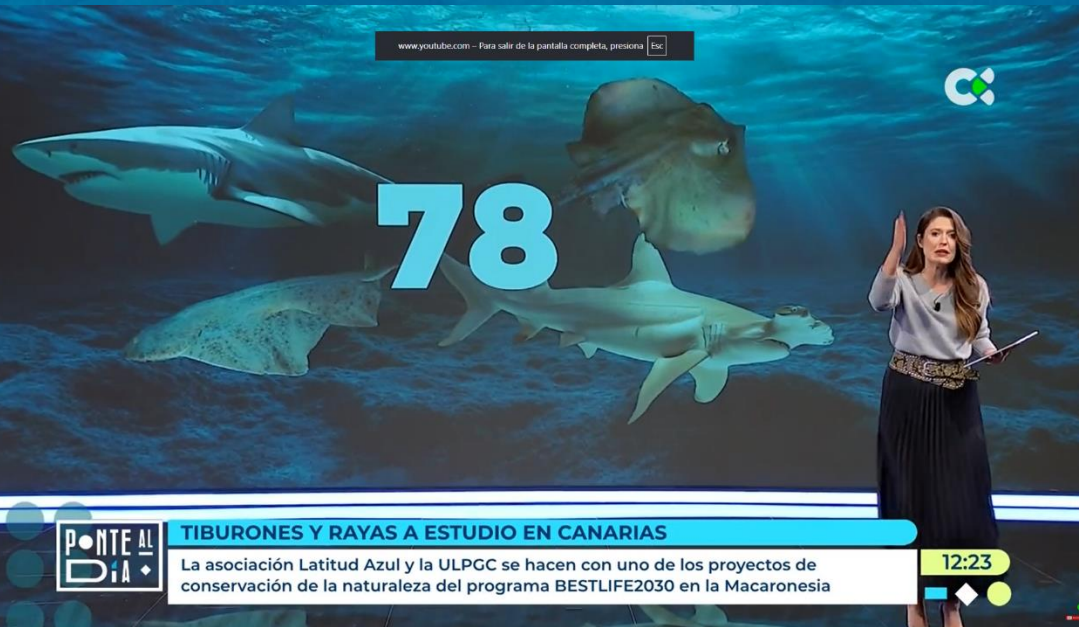
El concejal de Turismo y Ciudad de Mar, Pedro Quevedo, participó en el encuentro, el número 20 desde la constitución de la Microárea, celebrado en el Real Club Victoria, junto con otros 40 representantes de instituciones públicas, empresas turísticas y de ocio, la Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, asociaciones y colectivos, y residentes a título personal.

El foro apuntó a una estrategia continuada de gestión de los objetivos de sostenibilidad de Las Canteras 'que debe incluir el uso responsable del arenal'. La playa de Las Canteras es 'un ejemplo a imitar de resiliencia y gobernanza, a pesar de la presión humana que soporta todo el año. Por eso, es un espacio sobre el que hay que estar muy alerta y evitar que se produzcan impactos'.

La decisión del foro de participación de Las Canteras se alinea con el objetivo municipal de restauración del principal arenal de la ciudad y la Ley de Restauración de la Naturaleza de la UE, aprobada el pasado febrero. Una norma que pretende rehabilitar, al menos, el 30% de los ecosistemas marinos y terrestres de los estados miembros para 2030, incluyendo los territorios urbanos y costeros. Este porcentaje aumentará al 60% en 2040 y al 90% en 2050.

La Microárea de Las Canteras ha sido pionera con el desarrollo de un modelo de gestión propio, diferente, gracias a la implicación de todas las personas, instituciones y colectivos que han formado parte de su Consejo de Participación Ciudadana. Este órgano ha impulsado decididos debates sobre la gestión y el uso de este espacio natural, social y económico, e iniciativas como la de eliminar el tabaco de los arenales de la ciudad, el desarrollo de estudios científicos con la firma del convenio Investiga Las Canteras, con la Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria o el proyecto de reducción y mitigación de la huella de carbono entre las empresas que operan en el entorno de la playa, entre otros.

El orden del día de la reunión del foro de la Microárea fue una propuesta del último encuentro celebrado el pasado mes de noviembre y estuvo coordinado por la asociación para la Conservación Medioambiental Latitud Azul, en el marco del proyecto que desarrollan con el área Insular de Participación Ciudadana del Cabildo de Gran Canaria.



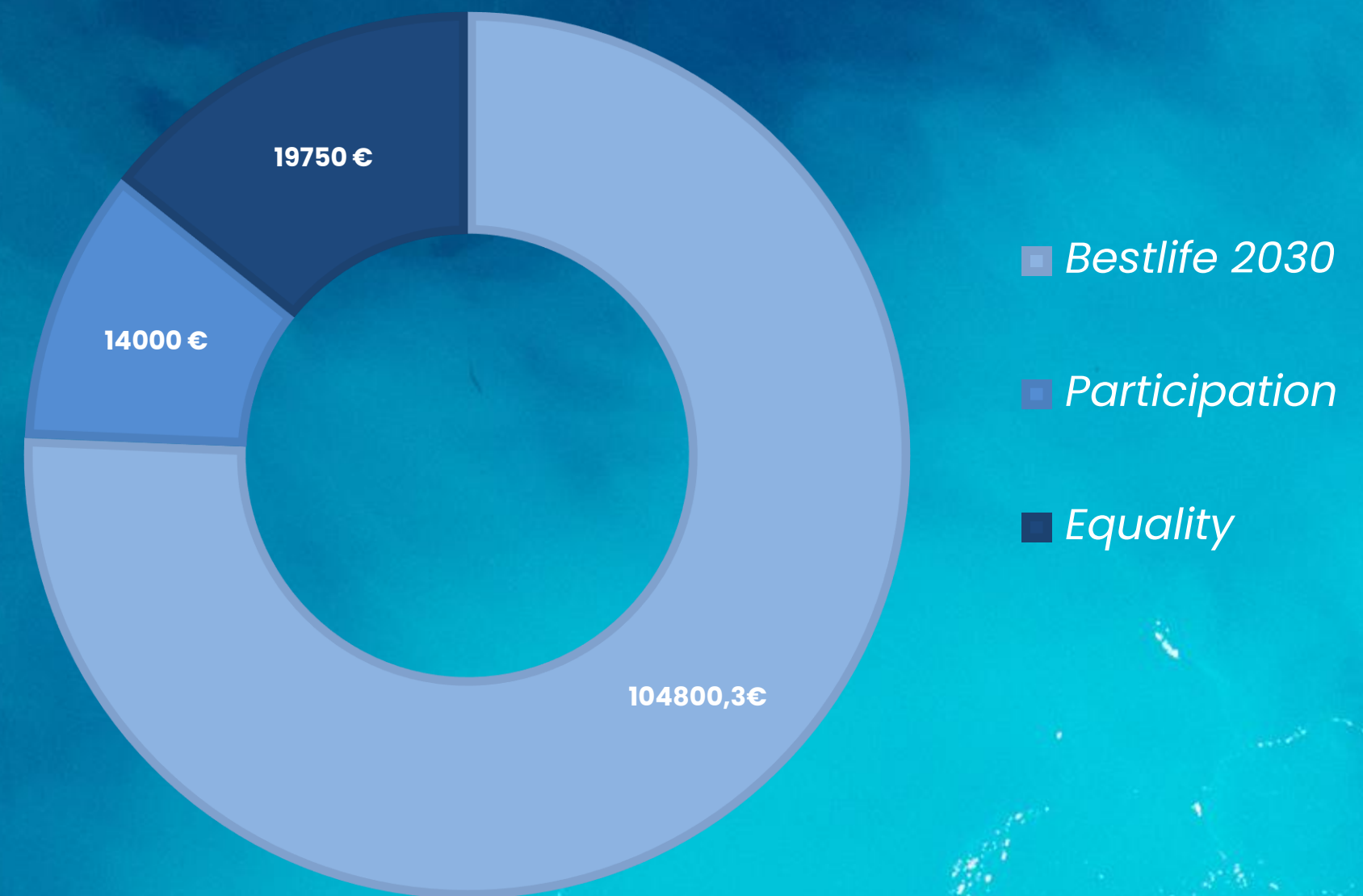
La reunión de la Microárea, órgano de participación, convocó en el local municipal La Plaza, junto al Auditorio Alfredo Kraus, a más de una veintena de representantes de instituciones públicas, empresas y colectivos ciudadanos. El Foro de la Microárea se celebró con la coordinación de la Asociación Latitud Azul, con la financiación de la Unidad de Participación Ciudadana del Cabildo de Gran Canaria.

Financial Summary

Latitud Azul is funded through public grants linked to specific conservation and research projects. These project-based funds constitute the main financial support that enables the association to carry out its work in marine conservation, environmental education, citizen science, scientific outreach, citizen participation and equality.

All funds are allocated in accordance with the objectives and requirements of each project, ensuring efficient and transparent use of resources to achieve measurable conservation and research outcomes.

GRANTS



Latitud Azul



"The ocean doesn't need us to save it; it needs us to stop destroying it"

