



DANA & IVAN CERNY
FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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1. INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION (DICF) es una organización sin fines de lucro dedicada a la protección de los océanos, de los arrecifes de coral y el futuro colectivo. Su misión es hacer que el turismo sea sostenible creando un entorno seguro para la comunidad submarina.

Su proyecto principal implica la construcción de un parque submarino. Este nuevo y único sitio de buceo en la región proporcionará nuevos refugios para los organismos marinos y un espacio seguro para prácticas de cursos de buceo. Con la creación del parque submarino, se espera reducir la presión asociada al tráfico de buceo en los arrecifes de coral naturales y promover su recuperación.

Otras iniciativas también incluyen el mantenimiento de las boyas de amarre del área de Bayahíbe para evitar daños por las anclas en el arrecife, la organización de eventos de limpieza y el aprovechamiento de las habilidades de buceo del equipo para ayudar a la comunidad.

MISSION

Crear un futuro en el que el turismo de buceo se convierta en una fuerza impulsora para la conservación marina en lugar de representar una amenaza para ella.

A través de la creación del Parque Submarino y otras iniciativas en curso, la fundación trabaja para transformar el turismo de buceo mediante la promoción de prácticas sostenibles que contribuyan activamente a la preservación de los valiosos ecosistemas marinos.

VISION

Impulsar un mundo donde la preservación y la gestión sostenible de los océanos y arrecifes sean prioritarios. En el centro de esta visión se encuentra el Proyecto de Parque Submarino, que mejorará significativamente la conservación marina y el turismo de buceo en la zona. El propósito es que en el futuro el Proyecto del Parque Submarino sea un ejemplo de gestión ambiental, ofreciendo una experiencia distintiva y cautivadora para los buceadores y al mismo tiempo proporcionando nuevos refugios para que florezca la vida marina.

A través de este proyecto innovador y otras iniciativas, la fundación busca inspirar un movimiento de personas conscientes, que trabajen juntas para proteger y valorar los ecosistemas marinos y garantizar su sostenibilidad.

VALUES

ENVIROMENTAL CONSERVATION

DICF valora y prioriza la conservación general de los océanos, de los ecosistemas que los comprenden y su gestión sostenible. Junto al esfuerzo colectivo, está comprometida a salvaguardar los océanos para las generaciones presentes y futuras.

SUSTAINABILITY

Se dedica a promover prácticas sostenibles en el turismo y otros sectores sociales. Aboga por prácticas de turismo de buceo responsables y éticas que minimicen los impactos ambientales negativos y maximicen las contribuciones positivas a la conservación marina.



COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

Reconoce la importancia de involucrar a las comunidades locales en estas iniciativas. Cree en el poder de la colaboración y la asociación. Busca colaborar con individuos, organizaciones y comunidades para amplificar el impacto y trabajar juntos hacia un objetivo común de conservación marina.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Cree que la educación y la sensibilización son esenciales para comunicar la importancia de los ecosistemas marinos. Con las iniciativas de limpieza y talleres educativos, busca crear conciencia sobre el papel de los seres humanos como agentes de conservación para reducir el impacto del turismo y el manejo inadecuado de los desechos sólidos.



OBJETIVES

- Crear un parque submarino de arrecife artificial único en la región sureste para la recreación de los buzos y la provisión de nuevos refugios para las especies marinas.
- Instalar y mantener estructuras seguras para el anclaje de las embarcaciones alrededor de los arrecifes de coral en el área de Bayahibe.
- Promover la educación amistosa con el medio ambiente a través de limpiezas de costa, limpiezas de fondo marino y talleres educativos.
- Colaborar con otras fundaciones dedicadas a la conservación marina y la educación ambiental en la región.





2. WORDS FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear friends, colleagues, partners, and supporters,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I share with you the progress and successes we have achieved in the past year, 2024. My story and the story of our foundation began from a deep love for my late husband, the Dominican Republic, the sea, and diving. These shared passions led me to create the DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION in 2023, with the goal of protecting and restoring the natural wealth of this beautiful land we loved together.

I am very proud that today, two years after the creation of our foundation, we are pleased to announce that the construction of IVAN MARINE PARK, a unique underwater park in the Dominican Republic, is becoming a reality. This park bears the name of my husband, Ivan, and is dedicated to him as a monument to his love for the sea and oceans. I believe this project will not only be a memory of him but also a hope for the future of the marine ecosystem and the local community.

The construction of this park represents something much larger than nature conservation. It is the result of my desire to combine our personal values: nature conservation, support for the local community, and love for the sea. The park will be a place that brings new job opportunities for local residents, creates demand for local materials and services, and at the same time, creates an attractive location for tourism, which will bring positive economic effects for the entire area.

IVAN MARINE PARK will not only be about fun and diving but also about protecting marine animals. By creating an artificial reef, the park will provide a new home for many species of marine life that will find shelter here. Therefore, this project will have a great impact on restoring biodiversity in the region and protecting the local underwater world. We believe the results of our work will have a long-term positive impact on the region and bring not only ecological but also economic benefits to local residents.

The park will be an attractive place for snorkeling, freediving, and classic scuba diving, but also for all those who want to experience the beauty of the underwater world without leaving a negative footprint on nature.

In addition to this ambitious project, we also continue to work on other initiatives that are equally important for the local community and environmental protection. Among them are, for example, the production and placement of fish-shaped waste containers, which are used to collect plastic bottles and then recycle them. This project not only cleans our beaches but also raises awareness about a responsible approach to nature.

One of our permanent projects, of which we are extremely proud, is the care of marine buoys in the Bayahibe area. This project includes not only production but also regular monitoring and weekly cleaning of the buoys, which is key to protecting local waterways and the marine ecosystem. The buoys serve as an indicator for the safe movement of vessels, their fastening without the use of anchors, and also as anchor points for the orientation of divers

and snorkelers. Regular maintenance of these buoys allows us to ensure the safety and protection not only of tourists but primarily of natural reefs.

And we do not forget the protection of the seabed. Cleaning the ocean of trash, fishing lines, and nets is a key part of our activities to improve the quality of the marine environment and promote sustainable development in the area.

In the last year, we have also increased the number of employees to seven from the local population, thus promoting employment and social inclusion. I am proud that we have also offered work to a deaf-mute worker, demonstrating how the labor market can open up to everyone, regardless of physical limitations. He is a very valuable and important member of our great team.

Thank you all for your support, whether in the form of volunteering or spreading the word about our projects. Without you, we could not have achieved what we have already achieved today. There is still much work to be done, but with your help, we believe we will continue to be able to make a positive difference and make our vision a reality.

Thank you for standing by our side, and we look forward to the next steps together with you.

Sincerely,

Dana Černá
Founder, Donor, and CEO



3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION is composed as follows:

Fred Ager – President

Fred Ager comenzó a bucear en 2001 y rápidamente se profesionalizó, acumulando más de 20 años de experiencia en la industria del buceo. Durante casi 20 años, gestionó un centro de buceo en Bayahibe, desarrollando habilidades en la gestión de equipos y empresas, y adquiriendo un profundo conocimiento de la zona y sus normativas. A pesar de su actual rol como agente inmobiliario, su pasión por el mar lo llevó a unirse a la fundación, donde ocupa los cargos de presidente y asesor, guiando proyectos de conservación marina con su amplia experiencia.

Dana Cerna – Vice President

Dana Cerna is the Vice President and founder of the foundation. Her passion for the sea and diving, along with her love for the Dominican Republic and her late husband Ivan, motivated her to create the foundation in 2023. She leads recycling and beach cleanup initiatives and promotes social inclusion through employment in the local community. Her work continues to make a significant difference in marine environmental protection and the sustainable development of the region.

Julie Piron – Member

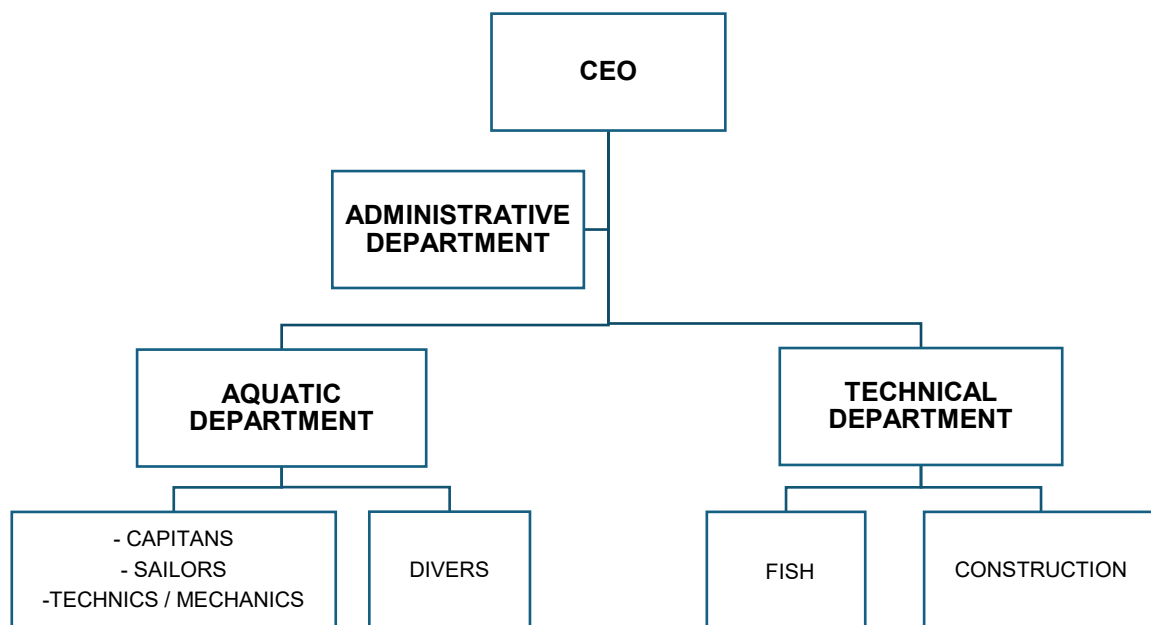
Julie, originally from Belgium, is a scientist and diving instructor. With a background in geography and oceanography, she is dedicated to marine conservation and education. In 2015, together with her husband, she founded an eco-dive center in Bayahibe, where she organizes educational workshops on marine biology and ecological practices for local children. She brings to the foundation her experience in conservation, dive tourism, and environmental sustainability, supporting the foundation's initiatives.

David Pletinckx – Member

David, also from Belgium, began diving in 2006 and moved to the Dominican Republic in 2012 to become a PADI instructor. Together with his wife, he founded an eco-dive center in 2015, focused on marine conservation. He has worked as a volunteer on local environmental projects, including the installation of mooring buoys in Bayahibe.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The current organizational structure of DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION is composed according to the following illustration.



The CEO is responsible for the overall management of the organization, overseeing all departments, setting strategic objectives, and ensuring organizational plans and goals are met.

The Administrative Department is in charge of managing administrative, financial, human resources, and support processes that enable the efficient operation of the Foundation.

The Aquatic Department consists of captains, sailors, boat technicians/mechanics, and divers. This department encompasses more than 80% of the foundation's operational force, as they carry out the execution of the main projects.

The Technical Department functions as an auxiliary department providing operational support to the aquatic department and the rest of the foundation's operations. Additionally, this department handles the maintenance of the collector fish, as well as the manufacturing of cement structures and aggregates, such as bases for the IVAN MARINE PARK structures.

5. OPERATIONS 2024

5.1 IVAN MARINE PARK



The creation of the IVAN MARINE PARK constitutes the main project of the DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION. By installing underwater structures, this project will offer new shelters to marine organisms inhabiting the area, in addition to creating a unique and attractive space for recreational diving in the southeast of the country.

It is important to highlight that the underwater park will also serve as a training area for diving beginners, allowing them to perfect their skills and control their buoyancy before venturing into the natural reef. This will contribute to reducing the impact on the reef and minimizing risks for divers.

After obtaining authorization NMARN-VCM-00740-2024 for the "Installation of Structures to create an Artificial Reef Park in Bayahíbe, La Altagracia" from the authorities of the Ministry of Environment and Natural

Resources, Vice Ministry of Coastal and Marine Resources, the plan to mobilize and sink the structures belonging to *Phase 1* was put into motion.

By the end of 2024, a large part of this first phase of the project was successfully developed. What was initially visualized as "the restaurant" has already materialized and taken shape. Furthermore, during the development of this phase, new ideas came to life, generating great satisfaction in seeing progress on the path toward a goal that is in the process of being fulfilled.



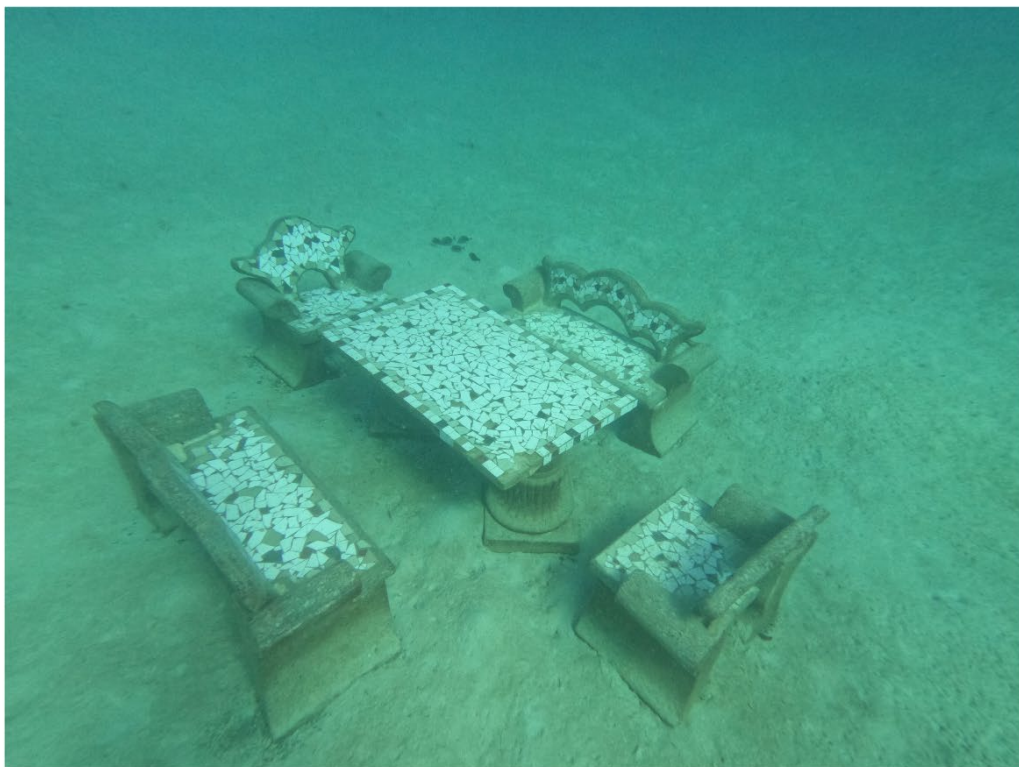
IVAN MARINE PARK

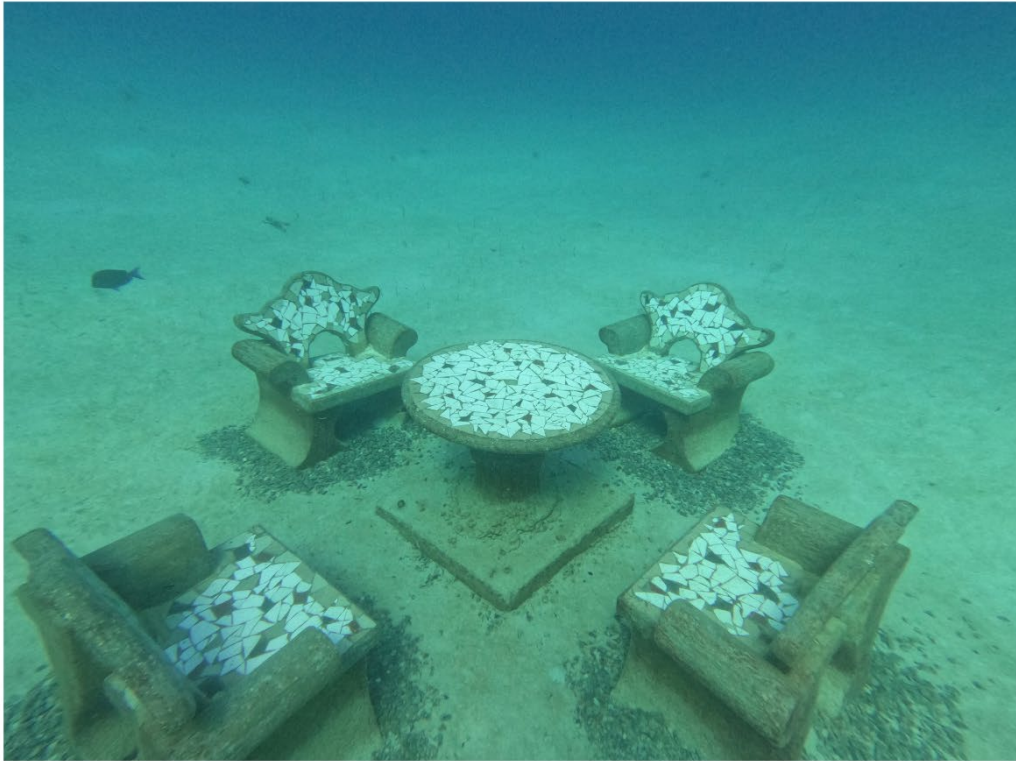
However, despite the progress, the process of sinking the structures has been complex due to the need for a suitable vessel to complete each of the project phases. This is a crucial step to proceed with the installation and successfully complete the first phase.

La adquisición de la embarcación se encuentra actualmente materializado en un 90%, dado a contratiempos inesperados. Se espera completar este proceso durante el primer trimestre de 2025, lo que permitirá continuar con la construcción del IVAN MARINE PARK tal como se ha planeado.

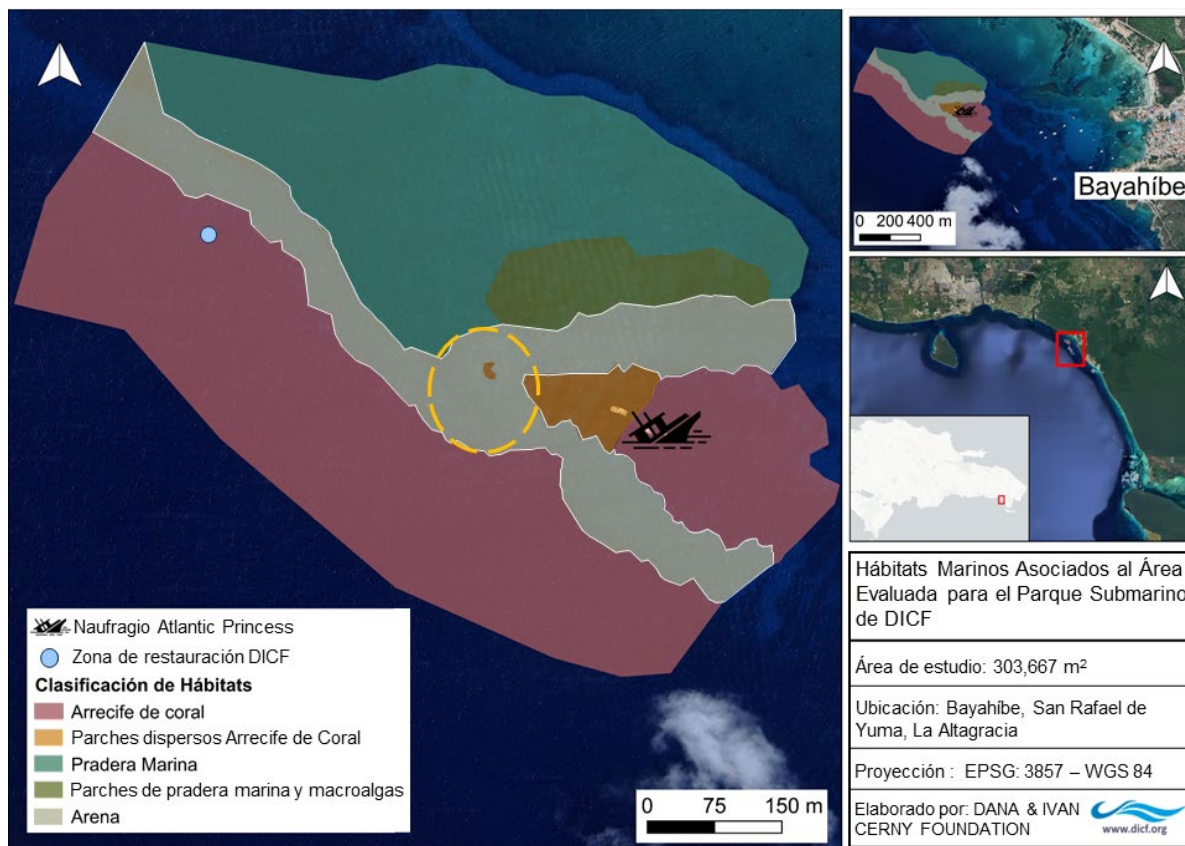
The images shown below are part of the development of Phase 1 of the IVAN MARINE PARK.







5.1.1 AREA MAP FOR IVAN MARINE PARK



Map of the study area for the DCF Underwater Park. The cream-bordered area shows the zone where the installation of structures composing IVAN MARINE PARK is planned. The yellow circle in the center indicates the core area where the first structures are planned to be placed.

5.2. BUOY MAINTENANCE AND INSTALLATION

5.2.1 BUOYS FOR DIVING AND SNORKELING SITES IN THE BAYAHIBE AND SAONA AREA

Since September 2023, the comprehensive remodeling of the dive site signaling buoy project in the Bayahibe - Dominicus area began. These systems provide safe anchorages for vessels, creating easily recognizable reference points, which improves safety at sea.

Furthermore, they are fundamental for protecting delicate local marine ecosystems, as they prevent uncontrolled anchoring of boats on coral reefs. Likewise, these buoys provide clear signaling for other sea users, indicating the location of divers in certain areas.

During 2024, a total of 61 trips were made for preventive maintenance and inspection. Out of the total buoy work trips, the following events were reported:

- **Broken Buoys:** 11 incidents of broken buoys were reported.
- **No Buoy:** 12 incidents of "No buoy" were registered, meaning that on 12 trips the buoy was not found.
- **New Installations:** 18 new buoy installations were completed, replacing the events described above.

The following points presented incidents during the year:

- **Coco Reef I** has been the most affected buoy during the year, presenting 4 "Broken Buoy" incidents and 3 "No Buoy" incidents for a total of 7 events.
- **Coco Reef II, Atlantic Princess I, Dominicus Reef, and St. George** follow with a total of 3 incidents.
- **Atlantic Princess II y El Deseo II** have had 2 events, one of each type.



5.3 COASTLINE AND MARINE FLOOR CLEANUP

1.3.1 SUBPROJECT: COLLECTOR FISH

Within the SHORELINE AND SEABED CLEANUP PROJECT of the foundation, the fish collector subproject was incorporated. This initiative emerged in January 2024, inspired by a trip to the interior of the Dominican Republic. The approved design for this subproject consisted of a structure in the shape of a fish, designed for users to deposit their plastic drink bottles. Additionally, these structures have an iron mesh cylinder integrated with a blue 55-gallon tank intended for general solid waste.

The main objective of placing these structures in the Bayahibe and Dominicus areas is, and will continue to be, to raise awareness among the population, especially beach users, about the importance of preventing solid waste from ending up on the seabed, contaminating and affecting its ecosystem. This objective has been met creatively, successfully capturing the attention of people of all ages.

Additionally, these artistic structures contribute to strengthening Bayahibe's image as a town committed to environmental protection and ocean preservation. During the year, a total of 7 pairs of these structures were installed in various strategic locations.

Once the manufacturing of the structures began, the foundation started searching for a company in charge of the final disposal of the collected plastic bottles. After a process of research and coordination, a collaboration agreement was formalized with **Ecoservices Dominicana**, a company certified in quality and environmental management.

Thanks to the route designated by Ecoservices Dominicana in the Dominicus area, the delivery of the collected bottles was a simple process from the first delivery, ensuring efficient and sustainable waste management.



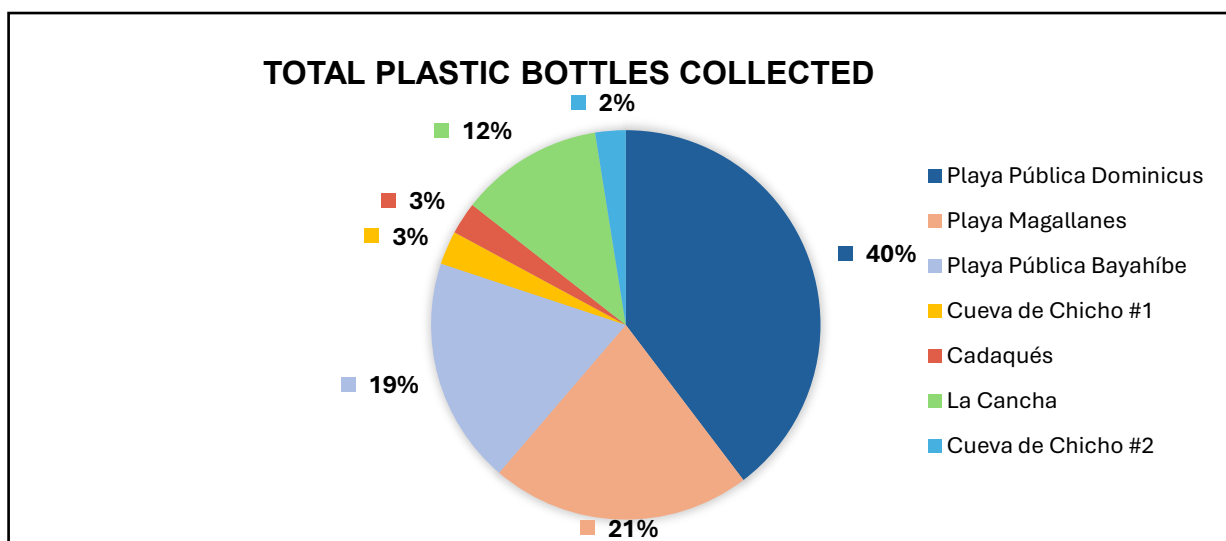
LOCATION	INSTALLATION DATE
Playa Pública Dominicus	22.02.2024
Magallanes	05.03.2024
Playa Pública Bayahibe	28.03.2024
Cueva de Chicho #1	05.04.2024
Parque Nacional Cotubanamá (Cadaqués)	19.04.2024
La Cancha, Bayahibe	24.05.2023
Cueva de Chicho #2	28.05.2024

The table shows the location and installation date of the pairs of structures installed during the year 2024.

The total number of plastic bottles collected during the year was **35,853 units**.

LOCATION TOTAL COLLECTED	TOTAL BOTTLES
Playa Pública Dominicus	14,225
Playa Magallanes	7,745
Playa Pública Bayahíbe	6,746
Cueva de Chicho #1	1,000
Cadaqués	960
La Cancha	4,272
Cueva de Chicho #2	905
Total	35,853

The table shows the total bottles collected by location.



The graphic shows the total bottles collected by location.

5.3.2 SEABED CLEANUPS

During the year 2024, the DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION team carried out intense underwater cleaning work in **11 strategic locations**, successfully extracting a total of **1,604.45 kg** of waste from the seabed. This important intervention was possible thanks to a cumulative effort of **206.81 work hours**, during which approximately **281 scuba tanks** were used, reflecting the technical and human commitment invested in each day.

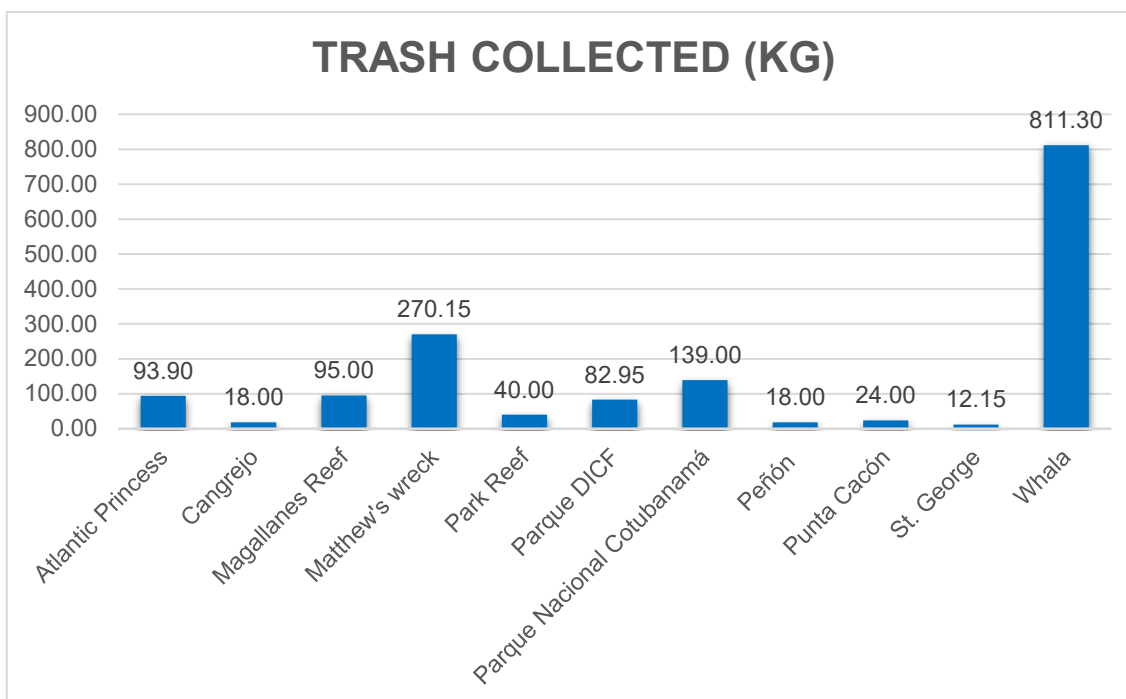
The collected waste reflects the diversity and severity of pollution present in our seas. Among the extracted materials, **+500 glass bottles** stand out, a type of waste particularly dangerous for its ability to fragment and remain in the environment for decades. In addition, more than **+200 kilograms of fishing line and nets** were removed, considered one of the most serious threats to marine fauna, as these elements can cause entanglement and death by asphyxiation or malnutrition in fish, turtles, birds, and marine mammals.

Likewise, large quantities of plastic in its various forms were collected, including bottles, caps, fragments, and containers, as well as a variety of non-biodegradable solid waste such as metals, textiles, cans, household utensils, and boat debris. These wastes not only affect the natural beauty of the environment but seriously compromise the health of the reef and local biodiversity.

This effort is part of the foundation's ongoing mission to promote a model of active conservation, involving both its operational team and strategic partners in activities that generate a positive, tangible, and measurable environmental impact.

DIVE SITE	COLLECTED TRASH (KG)
Atlantic Princess	93.90
Cangrejo	18.00
Magallanes Reef	95.00
Matthew's wreck	270.15
Park Reef	40.00
Parque DICF	82.95
Parque Nacional Cotubanamá	139.00
Peñón	18.00
Punta Cacón	24.00
St. George	12.15
Whala	811.30
Total	1,604.45

This table lists the total kilograms of trash collected per location. These figures represent the annual cumulative total from various dives conducted throughout the year.



The graph illustrates the locations where seabed cleanups were conducted throughout the year. Because multiple dives took place at each site, the waste totals shown represent the annual cumulative amount. Consequently, Matthew's Wreck and Whala show significantly higher volumes of collected waste compared to other locations.

MONTH	COLLECTED TRASH (KG)	TOTAL EFFORT HOURS
JANUARY	0.00	0.00
FEBRUARY	77.00	4.00
MARCH	186.00	12.00
APRIL	263.00	33.30
MAY	122.00	28.02
JUNE	0.00	0.00
JULY	0.00	0.00
AUGUST	283.00	25.03
SEPTEMBER	296.25	38.56
OCTOBER	178.00	30.90
NOVEMBER	199.20	35.00
DECEMBER	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	1,604.45	206.81

The table shows the total effort in hours required on a monthly basis to collect the total kilograms of waste.



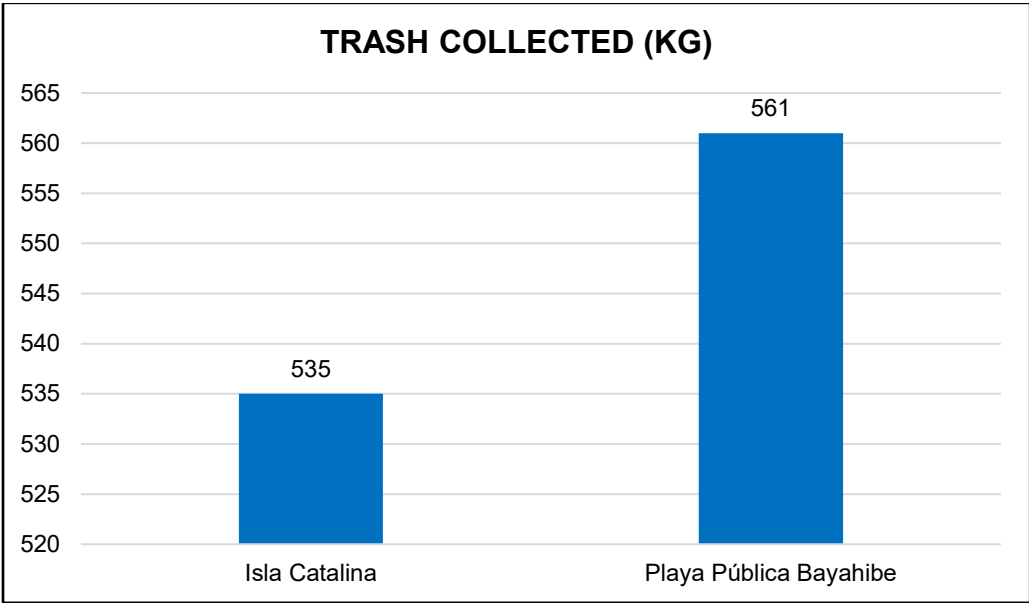


5.3.3 SHORELINE CLEANUPS

During 2024, the DCF team carried out 4 shoreline cleanup activities: 2 activities on Catalina Island and 2 activities in the Bayahibe Public Beach parking lot; collecting a total of 1,096 kilos of trash. To achieve this result, a total effort of 108 hours was required.

CLEANUP LOCATION	COLLECTED TRASH (KG)
Isla Catalina	535
Playa Pública Bayahibe	561
TOTAL	1,096

The table shows the coastal cleanup locations and the total kilograms of trash collected. It is worth noting that two activities were carried out at each location..



The graph shows the locations of the coastal cleanups and the total kilograms of trash collected.

MES	HOURS OF TOTAL EFFORT	TRASH COLLECTED (KG)
JANUARY	16.00	250
FEBRUARY	32.00	285
MARCH	0.00	0
APRIL	30.00	220
MAY	30.00	341
TOTAL	108.00	1,096

The table shows the total effort, in hours, required monthly to collect the total kilograms of trash. Coastal cleanups were carried out during only four months of 2024..





5.4 USE OF SCUBA TANKS

During the year 2024, the DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION performed a significant number of underwater operations, including activities at IVAN MARINE PARK, buoy maintenance, underwater cleanups, and other technical interventions. In total, 1,242 scuba tanks were used, which represents a significant logistical and operational effort by the technical team.

This figure is a direct reflection of the volume of fieldwork and the foundation's commitment to protecting the marine ecosystem. Below is a monthly breakdown of tank usage, allowing for a visualization of operational intensity throughout the year:

MONTH	TOTAL TANKS
JANUARY	19
FEBRUARY	30
MARCH	64
APRIL	70
MAY	85
JUNE	66
JULY	15
AUGUST	80
SEPTEMBER	151
OCTOBER	283
NOVEMBER	210
DECEMBER	169
TOTAL	1,242

Total tanks used monthly for DICF operations.

6. INVESTMENTS

6.1 LAND FOR DICF OPERATIONS BASE

Currently, DICF does not have base infrastructure for manufacturing and storing the materials necessary for its operations. This condition limits operational logistics and, therefore, its impact on the communities of Bayahíbe and surrounding areas. Therefore, it was decided to acquire land to develop this important operations base.

The plot planned for the DICF Operations Base has the original cadastral designation P. No. 17-A-I-A-4, D.C. No. 10/2 and temporary designation P.No.3201407925_I_I. The plot is located in the municipal district of Bayahíbe, municipality of San Rafael de Yuma, La Altagracia province. The plot has a surface area of 2,000.29 m². The land in question adjoins the Propagas gas station.



Map of the land for the DICF Operations Base. The yellow box indicates the location of the site in question.

Understanding the implications of being located entirely within the buffer zone of the Cotubanamá National Park, and embracing Resolution No. 0010/2018, this Base is proposed as minimal impact infrastructure for the area.

Once the environmental authorization VSA-08-2024-1439 for tree cutting was obtained, the land was cleared to have a real appreciation of it and reaffirm the plan for conditioning and developing the Operations Base.



The yellow shape outlines the land acquired for the DICF Operations Center.



Aerial view of the site prior to tree clearing.



View of the site after tree clearing.

Always keeping in mind that DICF wishes to cause the least possible impact on the land area, it was decided to acquire and install **2 containers**, with the initial objective of not placing permanent structures in the area while being able to store materials for manufacturing safe anchoring systems for vessels (ropes, anchors, materials to make concrete 'sinters', etc.), diving equipment, and the foundation's general operation tools and supplies (shovels, wheelbarrows, plastic coolers for ice/water, etc.).



For the next year, the installation of a perimeter fence has been projected with the aim of providing greater security for operations on the land. Once the corresponding authorization is obtained, the process of manufacturing and installing said fence will begin. In the short and medium term, the necessary requests will be managed with environmental authorities to proceed with the conditioning of the land and shape the desired base.

6.2 TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

With the aim of ensuring that the work team can develop their responsibilities efficiently, both inside and outside the office, the foundation remains updated in investing in tools and technological equipment. Since the maintenance of plastic collecting fish was implemented, initially with a frequency of three times a week and subsequently daily, the need to optimize this operation was identified.

It was essential to have a solution that allowed efficient movement between different locations and transport of collected plastic bottles to the designated storage place. It should be noted that the distance between a fish A and a fish B was not feasible to walk, and that the quantity of bottles collected per fish ranged between 150 and 800 units, making adequate logistics indispensable.

In addition to this specific task, the need for the team not to depend on a single vehicle to move equipment, supplies, and tools was detected. As a solution, the decision was made to enable a new resource: an easy-to-operate cart, ideal for covering operational needs and ensuring more efficient handling of the team's daily activities.



7. ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

Administratively, the hiring of a capable team committed to DICF's objectives has been successfully achieved. The foundation is up to date with all its tax obligations and with the TSS (Social Security Treasury). Rigorous management is constantly carried out to ensure timely payment of all services and responsibilities, both with suppliers and employees. Currently, the work team is composed of a total of 7 collaborators, as shown in the table below.

Category	Total	Women	Men
Employees	7	1	6
Dominican Nationality	7	1	6
Persons with Disabilities	1	0	1

DICF has a highly trained team in key areas for the development of its aquatic operations, especially in the field of professional diving and navigation. Of the 7 team members, 6 are men certified as divers. Within this group, 5 divers hold the "Advanced Diver" certification level, allowing them to perform more complex and technical dives with a high degree of safety and efficiency. Additionally, 1 member holds the "Dive Guide" or Divemaster certification, which guarantees not only advanced diving experience but also the ability to lead dive groups and coordinate underwater operations autonomously.

Regarding nautical training, four of the divers hold recreational boating licenses, providing operational versatility that allows them to assume roles both on the surface and underwater. This combination of technical skills ensures the safe and efficient execution of tasks related to buoy maintenance, marine structure installation, and underwater cleanups.

Additionally, three team members (two men and one woman) hold driver's licenses, which facilitates ground logistics and the transport of equipment and materials between locations. This comprehensive staff preparation allows the foundation to act with speed, precision, and professionalism in all its interventions

Skill / Certification	Total	Women	Men
Driver's License	3	1	2
Nautical License	4	0	4
Diver Certification	6	0	6
Advanced Diver	5	0	5
Divemaster	1	0	1

These credentials not only reflect the team's technical readiness but also provide strategic advantages for the foundation. The combination of skills in advanced diving, underwater leadership, and nautical navigation allows for operations to be executed with greater safety, autonomy, and efficiency. This multifunctional versatility minimizes the need for external personnel and strengthens our capacity to respond to complex situations at sea.

Furthermore, having such a comprehensive team instills confidence in allies and partners, positioning DICF as an exemplary organization in terms of professionalism and commitment to marine conservation.

Presented below are the members of the DICF team:



Administrative Manager

This role is key in supervising and coordinating the foundation's administrative functions. Main responsibilities include managing payments, payroll, purchasing, documentation, and communication.



Sailor

Responsible for supporting safe and efficient maritime operations. As a foundation, we consider it fundamental to lead by example. Therefore, we actively promote compliance with Law 5-13, creating opportunities for people with special conditions. An example of this is that the person currently occupying this position is deaf-mute.



Boat Captain and Technician

The captain is responsible for ensuring the safety of the vessel and the crew. Key duties include planning and supervising navigation routes, taking into account meteorological factors, currents, and other maritime conditions.



Captain's Assistant

This role plays a crucial part in the vessel's navigation team and works closely with the Captain to ensure safe and efficient maritime operations. Key functions include supervising the maintenance of deck equipment and safety systems..

Divers

Divers play an essential role in the foundation's underwater operations. Their primary responsibilities include the inspection, maintenance, and repair of underwater equipment and structures. They also collaborate on the installation of buoys and other elements required for maritime activities. Divers must ensure safety during dives and document their findings to contribute to the success of aquatic missions.



8. COLLABORATIONS

8.1 LA ROMANA-BAYAHIBE TOURISM CLUSTER (CTRB)



CLÚSTER TURÍSTICO
LA ROMANA-BAYAHIBE

The La Romana-Bayahibe Tourism Cluster (CTRB) is a non-profit organization that aims to promote the destination and integrate the tourism sector with its communities..

To achieve these objectives, the CTRB provides guidance, leadership, and ongoing support aimed at boosting competitiveness, the inhabitants' quality of

life, economic progress, and the preservation of local culture and the environment. This approach fosters the comprehensive development of the destination.

The **DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION** is a member of the La Romana-Bayahibe Tourism Cluster (CTRB), driven by a shared commitment to enhancing and preserving the rich regional culture and protecting the environment.

8.2 CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

As a foundation committed to the conservation and maintenance of marine ecosystems, DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION was present at a Consultation Workshop organized by various entities together with the Ministry of Tourism. It was pleasing to have the opportunity to share and meet those institutions fighting for a common goal.

Taller de Consulta
Lineamientos para la conservación y restauración de los ecosistemas costeros

03.12.24 09:00 a 13:00 hrs
Hotel Kimpton Las Mercedes.

Confirmar asistencia:
samantha.mercado@giz.de / luz.lantigua@iberostar.com

cooperación alemana
giz
develoPPP
IBEROSTAR
Ministerio de Turismo República Dominicana



8.3 ECOSERVICES DOMINICANA

As mentioned at the beginning of this document, one of our main collaborations of the year was our alliance with Ecoservices Dominicana for the final disposal of plastic bottles collected through the fish collectors.



Thanks to the support of this company, we managed to generate a positive environmental impact. We not only prevented 35,853 collected plastic bottles from reaching the sea thanks to good usage by users, but we also ensured they were recycled, promoting sustainable waste management.

The following image serves as certification from Ecoservices Dominicana of the collaboration between the parties. It is the intention of both parties that this partnership continues, ensuring an even greater impact in the coming year.

Atención:

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Asunto:

Constancia de Disposición Final de Residuos Sólidos Reciclables.

Nosotros, ECOSERVICES DOMINICANA, SRL, con Registro Nacional de Contribuyentes (RNC) No. 130-30508-2, empresa debidamente constituida conforme a las leyes de la República Dominicana y autorizada por el Ministerio de Medio Ambiente mediante el Permiso Ambiental No. 2724-15, certificamos que hemos prestado los servicios de **recolección, transporte y disposición final de residuos sólidos plásticos tipo PET**.

Dichos servicios fueron realizados para la **DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION**, identificada con el Registro Nacional de Contribuyentes (RNC) No. 430-36029-5, con un volumen total aproximado de **1,112 kilogramos**. Esta gestión se llevó a cabo desde el mes de mayo hasta diciembre del año 2024, en cumplimiento de nuestro compromiso de contribuir a la preservación del medio ambiente y generar un impacto positivo en la sostenibilidad.

Este certificado avala que las actividades realizadas cumplen con las normativas ambientales vigentes en la República Dominicana y forman parte de los esfuerzos conjuntos entre las partes involucradas para fomentar prácticas responsables de manejo de residuos.

Constancia que se expide a petición de la parte interesada,



Atentamente,
Ecoservices Dominicana SRL.

8.4 EDUCATION

Taking another approach to raise awareness about environmental impact, DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION gave a talk on microplastics to students at **Dominicus International Academy** in March of this year. At the end of the activity, the students painted a tank for depositing solid waste, focused on what they learned from the talk given.



9. COMMUNITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Since its inception, DANA & IVAN CERNY FOUNDATION has been clear that, in addition to developing its projects, it seeks to leave a positive footprint on the environment and be an active part of the communities where it is present. This year, the foundation decided to sponsor one of the teams in the **Bayahibe Youth Basketball Tournament**, with the main objective of supporting young people seeking healthy entertainment and a healthy life. We hope this is just the first of many contributions that have a direct impact on the well-being of the youth of Bayahibe.





10. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Below are the main results obtained during the year 2024 in the different areas of operation.

Marine Conservation and Waste Management

- **1,604.45 kg** of underwater trash collected at 11 different dive spots.
- **281** scuba tanks used in 206.81 hours of underwater cleaning.
- Realization of **4 shoreline cleanups** in Isla Catalina and Bayahibe, collecting a total of **1,096 kg** of terrestrial trash in 108 hours of work.

Education and Environmental Awareness

- Installation of **7 pairs of fish collectors** on beaches and public areas for waste collection.
- Alliance with **Ecoservices Dominicana** for proper disposal and recycling.
- **35,853 plastic bottles** collected through these artistic structures.
- Educational Workshop: Microplastics, at Dominicus International Academy.

Installation and Maintenance of Buoys

- **61 work trips** for maintenance and inspection of buoys.
- **18 new buoy installations** completed.

Underwater Park Progress

- Obtaining Environmental Authorization **NMARN-VCM-00740-2024** for the development of Phase 1 of IVAN MARINE PARK construction.

Infrastructure and Logistics

- Acquisition of **2,000 m² of land** for the future DICF Operations Base.
- **Preparation of on-site areas** for repairs, storage of underwater sculptures, and parking for vehicles and trailers.
- **Setup of two 40-foot containers** for the storage of diving equipment and operational tools.
- **Utilization of a boat and pickup truck** provided by the founder, enabling more efficient operations across both land and sea. **Addition of logistical resources**, such as a utility cart, to support collection routes and material transport.
- **Installation of collection tanks** for the temporary storage of plastic bottles.

Institutional Strengthening

- Expansion of the team to 7 local collaborators, including the labor inclusion of a person with hearing impairment.
- Technical training: 4 divers are certified captains; 4 are advanced divers and 1 is a Divemaster.

Strategic Alliances and Community Participation

- Participation as a member of the La Romana-Bayahibe Tourism Cluster.
- Attendance at the Consultation Workshop with the Ministry of Tourism.
- Support for local sports by sponsoring a team in the Bayahibe Youth Basketball Tournament.

11. ACTION PLAN 2025

The 2025 Action Plan outlines the key strategic lines that will guide our organization's work during the coming year. These actions have been defined based on experience accumulated in previous years, lessons learned during the execution of our operations in 2024, and a vision to continue strengthening our operational capacity, environmental commitment, and positive impact on coastal communities.

This plan addresses concrete needs identified in the field and seeks to consolidate our efforts in marine conservation, sustainable waste management, institutional strengthening, and inter-sectoral collaboration. To achieve this, we are prioritizing key investments in human capital, the acquisition of new equipment, infrastructure expansion, and an increase in environmental operations throughout the year.

Each proposed action represents a commitment to structured growth, professionalism, and efficiency in our interventions, always with the objective of protecting marine ecosystems, fostering a culture of sustainability, and contributing actively to local development.

Strategic Actions

Strengthening the Human Team

- Increase the workforce to respond more efficiently to the growing operational load.
- Improve current staff training through key technical certifications, such as:
 - a) Rescue Certification for divers, increasing safety and response capacity in the field.
 - b) Obtaining driver's licenses for logistics and internal transport operations.

Optimization of Technical and Operational Resources

- Acquire new equipment contributing to greater efficiency, including:
 - a) Vehicles and specialized tools for cleaning and transport.
 - b) Additional nautical equipment to expand coverage in difficult-to-access marine areas.

Expansion of Waste Management Infrastructure

- Increase the number of structures for plastic bottle collection in coastal areas and strategic high-traffic points.
- Implement community awareness campaigns regarding responsible plastic use and disposal.

Intensification of Marine and Coastal Cleanup Operations

- Increase the frequency and quantity of underwater and shoreline cleanup days.

Expand Logistical Resources and Support Machinery

- Collection trucks and forklifts.
- Work vessels equipped with a crane for extracting bulky waste.

- Construction machinery, including mixers and auxiliary equipment, for the production of marine structures.
- Special molds for manufacturing reef balls and other artificial structures that favor ecosystem regeneration.



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FOUNDATION**

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