

The banquette



They are a typical feature of the Mediterranean sea beaches and are completely harmless



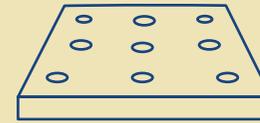
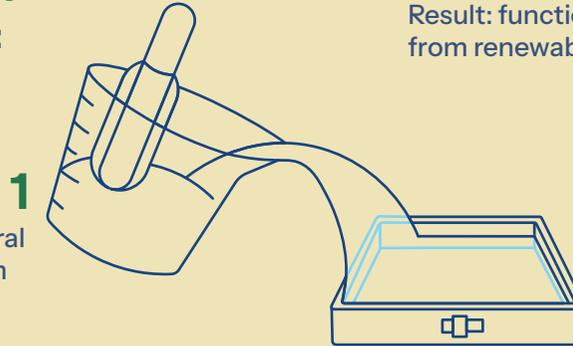
They combat coastal erosion, retain sediment and contain nutrients that are valuable for beaches

A DIY approach

The project adopts a DIY approach to explore and prototype bio-based materials using local marine biomass fostering hands-on engagement

How it works:

1 Heat and mix natural ingredients to form a sticky blend



2 Result: functional object from renewable resources

3 Let cool into molds

A new approach!



Avoid sending the banquette to landfill and encourage the maintenance



Projects focused on the reuse of natural materials



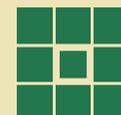
Living matter, not waste

100% local, organic renewable material



Ecosystem regeneration

Contributing to marine biodiversity, water quality and climate resilience



Material driven design

A low-tech, moldable, non-toxic composite



System thinking

The material evolves through experimental iterations inspired by the local context



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Regenerative design with the *Posidonia oceanica* banquette

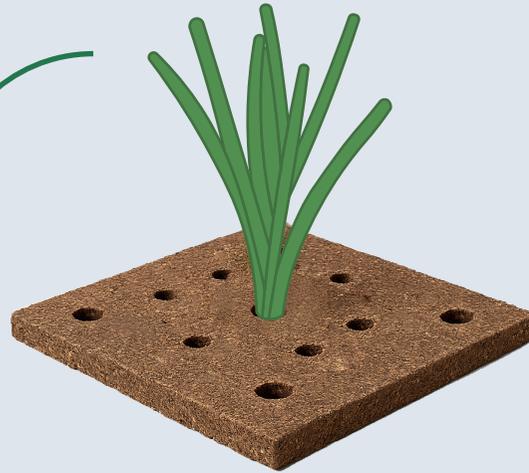


Flowering
pollination

Fruiting
and seed
release

Germination

Vegetative
expansion

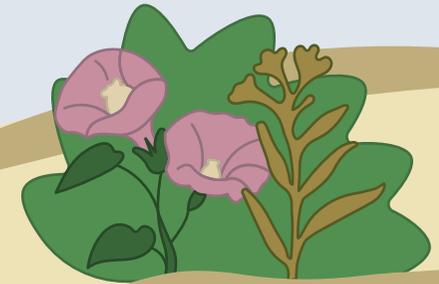


Bio-based Reuse and Regeneration

Banquette-derived material is transformed into substrates for assisted *Posidonia* transplantation, closing the loop from waste to ecological restoration

Sustainable recovery

When it is not possible to leave the bench seat in place, targeted, local and non-invasive recovery are used to enhance its value



Ecological value

Banquettes enrich dunes, support vegetation, and protect coastlines with nutrients and structure

Mismanagement

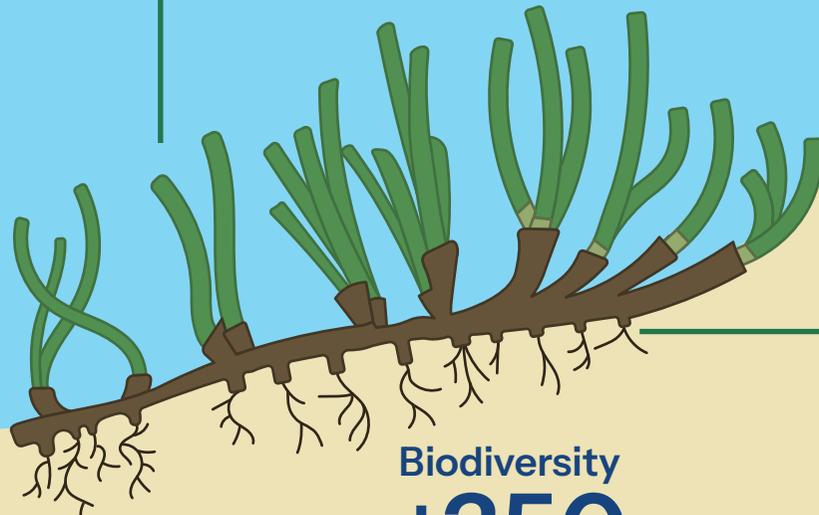
Often removed as waste due to poor public perception, invasive and unsustainable

Photosynthesis

20L
O₂/m³/day

Meadow and Matte formation

Interwoven networks of rhizomes and sediments stabilize and protect the seabed



Biodiversity
+350
species/hectare

Leaf detachment and Banquette formation

These are compact, elastic structures formed by clumps of leaves mixed with sand and can reach up to a couple of metres in high



0.5 m
Depth limits
-45m

Submerged beach

Shoreline

Emerged beach

Dunes with vegetation