

Marine Monitor: 24 hours of effective surveillance against irregularities in marine protected areas

PARQUE NACIONAL CABO PULMO



Pronatura Noroeste installed one of the most innovative video and radar surveillance systems in the world, the Marine Monitor (M2), in the Cabo Pulmo National Park, with the aim of strengthening surveillance by supervising the activities carried out in this marine protected area.

The M2 is a tool that allows accurate detection of the presence of vessels and their navigation

patterns, trajectories, speed, and schedules. The system consists of a radar that operates 24 hours a day, a long-range daytime camera, and a software that integrates both to generate and analyze the information collected. When the program detects alleged irregularities, the system automatically takes photographs and issues alerts, which are received and dealt with by the protected area authorities.

During the pilot phase, the M2 proved to be a very useful tool to understand and identify patterns of irregular activities in Cabo Pulmo, which will ultimately allow for better design of the authority's patrol, thus increasing the effectiveness of the activities in the sea.

It is expected that by the year 2019 the use of this system will promote greater compliance with environmental regulations in Cabo Pulmo, a fundamental component of strengthening governance of this NPA. There are additional plans to install similar systems in other protected areas and fishing sites, including Bahía de Loreto and the Pacific Islands.

The project has been made possible thanks to the residents of Cabo Pulmo, Anthropocene Institute, Baja Coastal Institute, the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), Global Conservation, LegacyWorks Group, and many other partners.