

BioMARathon and its replication model: **Terms and conditions**

The BioMARathon is an international citizen science event promoted by the [Institute of Marine Sciences \(ICM-CSIC\)](#), designed to monitor marine and coastal biodiversity on a global scale integrating different local events. Is a friendly competition between participants to record the maximum number of observations. In addition, competing between different regions within the same territory to maximise the achievement of this goal.

The first BioMARathon emerged in Catalonia in 2021, it was successfully replicated in northern Portugal in 2024. This document establishes the general terms of participation for users and the conditions for replicating the BioMARathon model in other regions of the world.

1. Global Objective and Impact

The BioMARathon seeks to mobilise local communities to identify marine and coastal species through the [MINKA](#) citizen science platform. The event encourages the active participation of citizens from different regions to contribute to the knowledge of global biodiversity and improve the management of coastal areas.

2. Replicability of the model

The BioMARathon model is replicable in other regions and countries. Organizations interested in organizing a local edition of the BioMARathon can follow the guidelines provided by ICM-CSIC, using the MINKA platform and adapting the activities to regional and local needs. Organizers will be responsible for coordinating data collection activities, with the possibility of establishing collaborations with local NGOs, small companies, federations, etc.

3. Terms and conditions for users

- Over 18 years old
- Hold an active account on the MINKA platform.
- Participants must comply with applicable national and international environmental laws, including the prohibition of harming marine and coastal ecosystems. It is recommended to avoid direct contact with wildlife and flora, and to maintain a safe distance to prevent disturbing the observed species.
- Document: [Terms and Conditions for MINKA](#)

4. Right to have a dedicated site on the website

Entities committed to organizing and sustaining a BioMARathon initiative in their region may be granted a dedicated minisite on the event website. This space is designed to provide visibility for engaged organisations and facilitate communication of results. This minisite will include a customized dashboard to monitor participation and results, following the standardized format used for regional dashboards.

Additionally, research institutions participating in the BioMARathon may be eligible to contribute to scientific publications derived from MINKA data. Relevant scientific articles will be featured on the MINKA website, offering recognition to contributors and serving as a reference for future participants.

5. Reward and incentive systems

- Each organizer can choose whether to recognise participants for their contributions.
- These can be based on rankings displayed on the MINKA platform for each project or on the data shown in the dashboards.
- These rewards can be either prizes or other incentives.
- Each organizing entity is responsible for its own incentives.

6. Event duration

The duration of the event should be from the first weekend of May until October 15th. The BioMARathon lifespan should be the same in all replication sites, to be able to compare the results between regions. The first weekend of May will mark the beginning of the BioMARathon, after the City Nature Challenge (CNC), one of the most popular bioblitz, and it will always end on October 15th, as October is Ocean Cities Month.

7. Civil Liability

The CSIC's role as a driving force behind the BioMARathon does not extend to the responsibility for the natural environment or the safety of participants during activities. It is the responsibility of each BioMARathon's organizing team, in their region, or the mobilizing organizations if applicable, to ensure they have the appropriate insurance to cover these civil liabilities. The mobilizing organization must meet the necessary civil liability requirements for all organized activities and comply with the current regulations on safety and environmental protection during these activities.

8. Communication

It is mandatory to:

- Share and communicate the BioMARathon results with the ICM-CSIC team at the end of the event.
- It is compulsory to use the official logos of MINKA, BioMARathon, and ICM-CSIC in all communication activities, actions and channels (It would include in training materials and other printed/digital materials).
- If you want to translate the name BioMARathon to your language or adapt the BioMARathon logo, you must contact the coordinating team first at Biomarato@minka-sdg.org.
- MINKA observations must be properly cited as well as the MINKA Observatory according to the [MINKA Citation Guidelines](#).

Desired conditions:

- We encourage you to create your own Instagram account for each BioMARathon, to engage with your target audience and disseminate knowledge and activities.
- The content creation and its management are the responsibility of each organizer for their BioMARathon social media account.
- When general event information is published, it should be an interaction and mention the Instagram account [@BioMARathon.international](#)

10. Acceptance of conditions

Participation in the BioMARathon as an event organizer in any region of the world implies acceptance of these terms and conditions. For any questions or inquiries, participants can contact the organization via email at biomarato@minka-sdg.org.