

In 1976 the first edition of the book *Llibre blanc de la gestió de la natura als Països Catalans* (*White paper on the management of nature in the Catalan Countries*) considered the coastline to be the most highly endangered area of the country as regards the conservation of nature. Forty years later it may be said that although the most interesting or problematic spaces have some type of protection, the pressures on the Catalan coastline and the threats to it have not disappeared or diminished in intensity. Indeed, in some cases they have grown and new pressures and threats have even arisen, such as global climate change. Today, just like forty years ago, the coastal areas are endangered by an excessive demographic pressure, the avalanche of “sun and beach” tourists, urban sprawl and the increasing artificialisation of the coastline.