



The Formentera Office of Environment (Conselleria de Medi Ambient, CMAF) is pleased to report that 24 January marked the start of a push to remove pine processionary nests. Two employees have been recruited to oversee the drive, which will involve 15 days of operations.

In the first two weeks 5,454 nests were removed by hand. Operations have centred on public, urban areas and, in particular, near the cemetery and hospital in Sant Francesc.

Initially €7,000 was set aside for the initiative, but the pest is now present across a considerably larger expanse of Formentera, making budget and timeline increases likely. Of 4,000 cartridges supplied by the Balearic Ministry of Environment and Territory, over 6,500 are expected to arrive in the next few days and will be used to destroy nests located on higher up branches. The Consell de Formentera relies on the invaluable help of local hunting clubs to destroy the nests.

Antoni Tur, Councillor of the Environment, welcomed the collaboration of "land owners near forests and other residents to locate and combat this pest". Tur pointed out that the CMAF provides information and material to individuals to remove processionary nests. Last year the Consell acquired two telescopic scissors to reach nests as high as six metres from the ground, and this year has acquired two more. Islanders can request to borrow the scissors at no cost by contacting the CMAF.

### **'No time to let our guard down'**

Councillor Tur encouraged the Balearic Healthy Forests Service "not to lower their guard" in the effort to curb the pest and to continue with helicopter dustings of the kurstaki variety of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. "We are far from eliminating this pest, and we think it should be a priority for the Balearic government", said Tur.

For more information contact the CMAF at Carrer Mallorca, 15 (first floor), Sant Ferran de ses

## Land campaign to curb pine processionary removes nearly 5.5K nests in 2 weeks

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Roques, by calling 971 32 12 10 (ext. 1), or by email at [mediambient@conselldeformentera.cat](mailto:mediambient@conselldeformentera.cat)  
. The Healthy Forests Service web site is available  
[here](#)

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