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*Common Blue on Buddleia flowers - from our recently funded Gardening for Butterflies Poster*



## **IEF Spring News from The Ionian Islands!**



From successful fundraising campaigns to collaborations with new partners and

grantees, the IEF continues to consolidate strong relationships and impactful projects across the Ionian Region. This year we aim to award 9 new grants with diverse conservation actions all supporting the IEF's core areas of concern:

**Marine Conservation; Habitat & Biodiversity Protection; Sustainable Development & Resource Management; Civil Society & Capacity Building**

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## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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### THE CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE'S GLOBAL GATHERING IN CORFU



Every year, members of the Conservation Collective's global network meet to learn new skills, exchange best practices and form new synergies. Happily, this year's gathering took place in Corfu, co-hosted by the Ionian Environment Foundation. An integral part of the gathering was conducting site visits to some of our local projects. The team had the opportunity to visit and hear from [SIN. PRAXI – Sinies Community Project](#), [Erimiti Plous](#) and [Corfu Butterfly Conservation](#) to learn more about their efforts to protect and preserve the precious and threatened biodiversity of the island.

On the final evening we hosted a prize giving event, presented by the IEF’s ambassador, Lee Durrell, to recognise and celebrate the work of the foundations from around the world. Lee poignantly illustrated the fragility of Corfu’s rapidly changing natural landscape with extracts from her late husband’s book My Family and Other Animals and his subsequent concerned observations years later. **Read about his wonderful event, including extracts from Lee Durrell's speech, [HERE](#).**



## IEF WINNERS AT THE COLLECTIVES AWARDS 2023



We are proud to announce that, in the category of Fundraising, the **IEF Villa Alliance** was this year's Collectives Awards Winner!

The Collectives Awards consist of an annual celebration of local achievement and project impact throughout our global network, the Conservation Collective (CC). Awards in 6 different categories were given out, with winning projects creating a much needed impact on the conservation and regeneration of local ecosystems across our global network. Projects were assessed by the CC’s Global Advisory Panel for their potential for replicability, scalability, the urgency of the issues being addressed and the impact created by the grant.

The IEF hopes to see the Villa Alliance model replicated across our sister foundations within the Conservation Collective for global impact!



## THE IEF VILLA ALLIANCE INFORMATION SHARING

## EVENT ON PAXOS



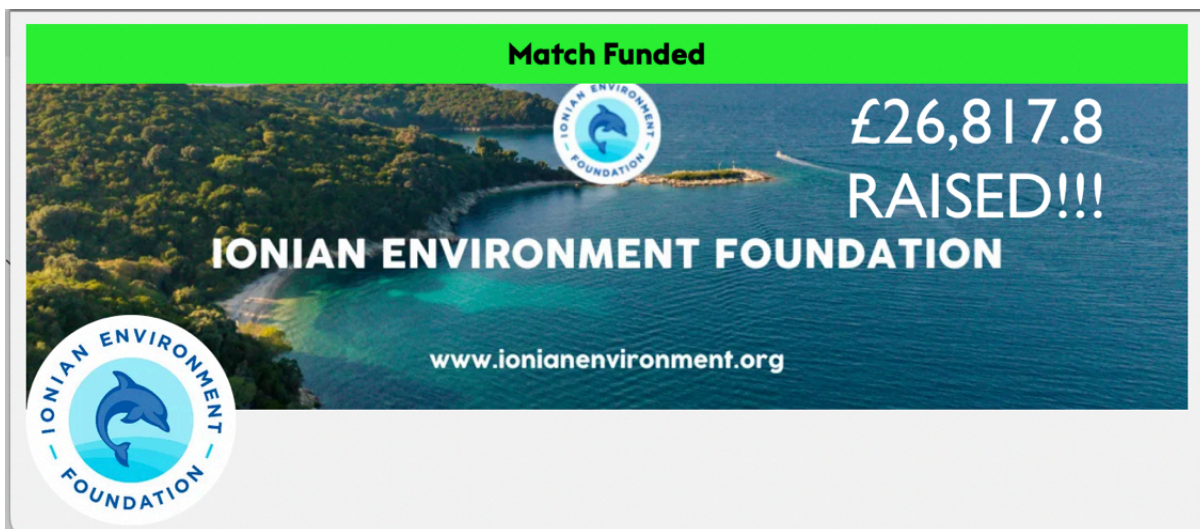
The second IEF Villa Alliance knowledge sharing event took place in May on Paxos. Joined by villa managers, gardeners, cooks and owners, we shared advice and resources for water conservation, planting for butterflies and the importance of sourcing locally grown ingredients for cooking. A local chef gave a live cooking demonstration to show how delicious the Blue Crab is - an invasive species that, if

demanded enough and taken out of the marine food chain, will have a reduced negative impact on the Ionian marine environment. Our rationale continues to be that if villas can make small changes in the way that they operate, demonstrating a care and concern for conservation, then these actions will trickle down into the whole community...small actions, big waves!

To read more and access the resources shared at the event, please visit our [website](#).



## THE BIG GIVE GREEN MATCH FUNDRAISING SUCCESS



In April, The IEF took part in a [Green Match Big Give Fundraising Campaign](#) with the hope of raising £10,000 in one week and having the funds doubled. We succeeded in surpassing the target amount and successfully raised a total of £26, 817.8 for local projects across the Ionian. Thank you to all those that supported us during this challenge. **These funds have greatly enhanced our ability to award several new and impressive grants this year!**



## SAVE THE DATE FOR ALBANIA OVERBOARD 2023!!



We are thrilled to announce that the Albania Overboard will take place again this year on **Saturday 2nd September 2023**. Participants and supporters greatly assist the fundraising for this event by gathering their own supporters via our [Just Giving page](#). Participants will swim across the channel from Albania to Corfu to raise awareness and appreciation of these precious seas and spectacular natural environment and channel all raised funds to protect and preserve it for future generations!

To find out more about how to get involved, swim, support and fundraise for the event please visit [the Albania Overboard website](#).



## NEW GRANTS!



## INTRODUCING REGENERATIVE FARMING PRACTICES ON PAXOS: THE SOUTHERN LIGHTS



The IEF is very excited to announce our new collaboration and support with NGO, [The Southern Lights - Το Νότιο Σέλας](#) - a team who, realising the potential of farming operations to restore soil health, plant health and the health of the overall eco-system, is working hard to promote regenerative farming practices across Greece.

More specifically for the Ionian, this project aims to consolidate a learning group of farmers on the island of Paxos around regenerative farming where a team of experts will facilitate their learning process, discussions and practices around regenerative farming possibilities on the island. **In time, such knowledge and practices could see agro-tourism developed on the island, where the opportunities for engaging visitors in local, organically grown-island produce are boundless...Read more about this project [HERE](#).**



## OCEAN'S EDUCATION IN REMOTE IONIAN ISLANDS



We are excited to announce our new collaboration with the programme: Τα μυστικά του Ωκεανού - Εκπαίδευση Ωκεανού / Ocean's Secrets - educational, experiential lessons to primary school children on remote Ionian Islands. The motivation to carry out these actions in hard-to-reach schools is to give these children the opportunity to have access to a special extracurricular activity that will enrich their school program in the context of developing skills as active citizens of the world ensuring they feel included in the discourse of marine conservation - and that they have opportunities to act within it!

**Over the course of 2023, the programme will be implemented in Kalamos, Ithaca, Zakynthos and Kythira...Read more about this project [HERE](#)**

## SUSTAINABILITY IN SAILING INFORMATION PACKS



The IEF has supported the creation of an information pack for charter boat users that draws together the advice and resources created by many of our grantees working in marine conservation. The Sustainable Sailing Pack contains information on the Greek marine fauna and flora, how to avoid negative impacts when boating, responsible practices on board and on shore, and how tourists can support conservation



efforts, for example by reporting sightings of mammals to the relevant organisations. **Our hope is that this resource will help to engage and inform those chartering sailing boats on the unique and fragile Ionian environment that they have come to explore and enjoy.**

More information and access to a copy of the guide can be found here on the - [IEF webpage](#).



## KOSAMARE: PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY ABOUT POSIDONIA



We are happy to be supporting the Social Cooperative Enterprise group, [Kosamare](#) based in Kefalonia. They are a team of professional divers and biologists with a range of technical skills and experience and a unique ability to access and study the Ionian marine environment. Part of their mission is to raise awareness and understanding about the habitats and species they study. In this project, artists will present engaging displays to the public and Kosamare staff will deliver educational presentations on the marine environment and the specific habitat of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. **Children will then be invited to create their own artworks that will be incorporated in the final exhibition, which will be launched ahead of the Environment Festival of Kefalonia in August/September.**



## CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES



### THE SAVE ERIMITIS CAMPAIGN






The IEF continues to support the team SIN.PRAXI and their Green Spot at Sinies to ensure that 100s of tonnes of plastics and other recyclables are diverted from landfill. The long term vision of the SIN.PRAXI team is for the Small Green Spot – together with the proposed Sinies Community Garden – "to become a Community Hub: where everyone, young and old, is welcome to use the space, to learn, to exchange ideas freely and to contribute to the healthy development of their community and environment."

**Watch this space for exciting developments on how this vision aims to realised in the coming months!**




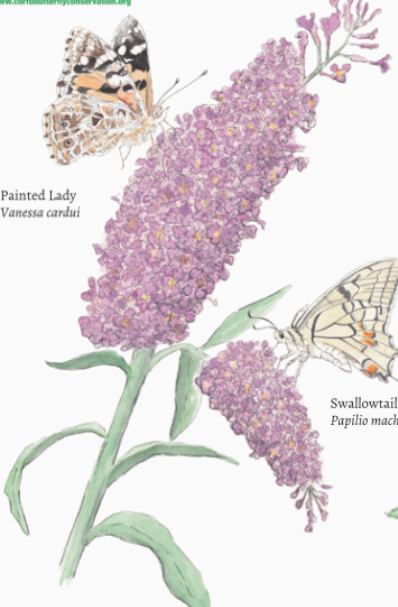
## IEF AND CORFU BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION COLLABORATE ON A NEW POSTER



# ΚΗΠΟΥΡΙΚΗ ΓΙΑ ΠΕΤΑΛΟΥΔΕΣ


## GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES






Painted Lady  
*Vanessa cardui*

*Buddleia davidii*




Scarce Swallowtail  
*Iphiclides podalirius*

*Lantana camara*




Cleopatra  
*Gonepteryx cleopatra*


*Plumbago auriculata*




Swallowtail  
*Papilio machaon*



Large White  
*Pieris brassicae*

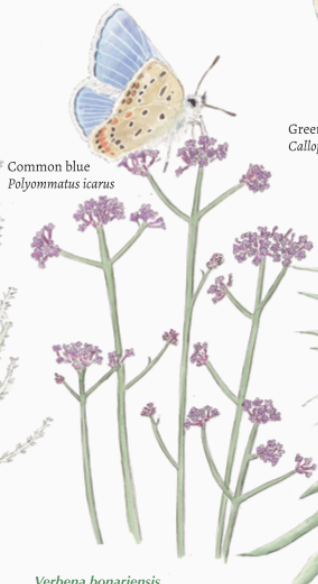


Silver-washed Fritillary  
*Argynnis paphia*



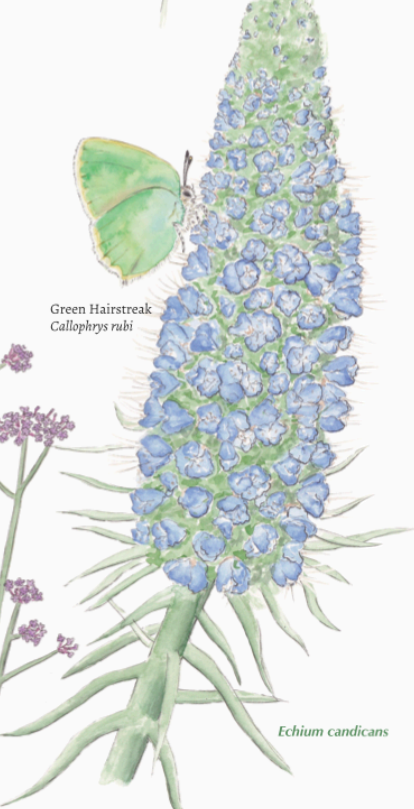
Southern Comma  
*Polyommata egea*

*Santolina chamaecyparissus*



Common blue  
*Polyommatus icarus*

*Verbena bonariensis*



Green Hairstreak  
*Callophrys rubi*

*Echium candicans*

Ανεξάρτητα με το πόσο μεγάλος ή μικρός είναι ο κήπος σας, μπορείτε να προσελκύσετε πολλές από τις 76+ πεταλούδες του νησιού και να βοηθήσετε στην διατήρησή τους επιλέγοντας φυτά που περιέχουν άφθονο νέκταρ. Τα φυτά σε αυτήν την οθόνη έχουν επιλεγεί από το Corfu Butterfly Conservation και το Ionian Environmental Foundation διότι αναπτύσσονται εύκολα και πολλαπλασιάζονται από σπόρους ή μοσχαλιόματα. Εάν αγοράζετε φυτά από κέντρο κήπου, ρωτήστε εάν προμηθεύονται από φυτάρια που δεν χρησιμοποιούν συστηματικά εντομοκτόνα στην καλλιέργεια των φυτών, επειδή φυτά που περιέχουν αυτές τις ουσίες μπορούν να σκοτώσουν τις πεταλούδες και άλλους επικονιαστές. Για αυτό πρέπει να αποφευχθούν. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με την κηπουρική για πεταλούδες, επισκεφθείτε: <https://corfubutterflyconservation.org/gardening.php>


Στο Corfu Butterfly Conservation είμαστε περήφανοι που συνεργαζόμαστε με το Ionian Environmental Foundation από το 2020 με σκοπό την διατήρηση και ανάδειξη της φυσικής κληρονομιάς της Κέρκυρας.

No matter how large or small your garden you can attract many of the island's 76+ butterfly species and support their populations on Corfu by choosing plants that provide copious nectar sources. The plants illustrated on this poster have been selected by Corfu Butterfly Conservation because they are easy to grow and are best propagated from seeds or cuttings. If you buy plants from garden centres please ask if they source their stock from nurseries that use systemic insecticides in the plant's cultivation, because plants containing these chemicals may kill butterflies and other pollinators and should be avoided.

For more information about gardening for butterflies see: <https://corfubutterflyconservation.org/gardening.php>

Corfu Butterfly Conservation is proud to have been working in partnership with the Ionian Environmental Foundation since 2020 to help conserve and enhance Corfu's natural heritage.

Artwork by Poppy Anemogiannis  
PoppyonPaxos.Etsy.com



Together with Corfu Butterfly Conservation, the IEF collaborated to provide an informative and beautiful poster that offers advice on what to plant in your garden to attract butterflies. In so doing, gardeners of all abilities can become actively engaged in the promotion and conservation of butterfly habitats. The poster will be displayed in garden centres across the island. Thank you @poppyonpaxos for your brilliant artwork.

A copy of the poster can be downloaded and shared from our website [HERE](#).

## ARCHIPELAGOS MONK SEAL FOOTAGE!



We are very pleased to share this incredible footage of monk seals in caves of Corfu. It is the first time that the use of caves by monk seals is documented in this area. Documenting monk seal presence in Corfu, the rarest seal species in the world, is a critical process in promoting the safeguarding of their long-term viability in the Ionian as well as their potential re-colonization of the whole Adriatic region. This is a crucial reason why Corfu is such an important island for the conservation of the monk seal. For these reasons it is important that any sightings are reported in as much detail as possible.

**Understanding the seals' presence in time and space allows us to evaluate more accurately where to concentrate the cameras. Sharing photos or videos may also help to photo-identify the animal(s).**

Share your sightings to [victoria@ionianenvironment.org](mailto:victoria@ionianenvironment.org) or directly via Archipelagos' website [HERE](#).

# IONIAN DOLPHIN PROJECT 2023

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For the third year running the IEF has supported the Ionian Dolphin Project to continue their dolphin monitoring in Paxos, Anti Paxos and the Inner Ionian Archipelagos. Ionian Dolphin Project have been gathering information from this region for over 30 years to ensure reliable data can better inform our understanding of the endangered common dolphin as well as other dolphins found in the area. **They have identified and tracked dolphins of this region over time, observing injuries, recoveries and progress of individuals over 20 plus years. Read more about 'Spiti' and IDP's incredible recent observations [HERE](#).**



The ever increasing number of proposals we receive for conservation projects across the Ionian Region far exceeds our funding capacity so please do help us to support them!

[DONATE](#)



## AND FINALLY...WE ARE HIRING - IEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As advertised in April, we are excited to announce that the IEF is soon to become a Greek Registered Entity and, in line with this significant transition, **we are seeking to recruit a full-time locally based Executive Director.**

The current Executive Director, Victoria Turner, will remain heavily engaged with the IEF as a Steering Committee Member and looks forward to working with the new locally-based director to see the foundation continuing to flourish and develop across the region.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 16TH JUNE**

[FULL JOB DESCRIPTION](#)



## Our Network

*The Conservation Collective comprises a global network of locally-focused environmental foundations, emerging from the natural instinct of all people to protect what they love. The Conservation Collective facilitates funding for the most effective grassroots environmental initiatives, with world-class oversight, management, and programme aid.*



Find the Ionian Environment Foundation on social media or visit our website:



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