



## IEF Summer News from The Ionian Islands!

Summer is upon us in the Ionian Islands! We have been basking in the sunshine and natural beauty all around us, whilst welcoming the visitors who come each year to share the joys of this place which is loved by so many. Tourists and locals alike can all play their part to ensure the unique character and biodiversity of the Ionian Islands are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

In this newsletter, we highlight our work to boost sustainability in the tourism industry, support for butterfly conservation, responsible sailing and a triumph for Fishery Protected Areas in the Mediterranean! We are also excited to announce that the Ionian Environment Foundation has signed the statute of the Greek AMKE, which is a first step towards becoming a Greek entity. This development will allow IEF to more effectively engage with local communities in a joint effort to protect the Ionian environment.



The three members of the Greek board (from right to left: Nick Lemis, Charalambos Voulgaris and Stratis Andreadis) signed the statute and set in motion the process of transforming IEF into a local NGO

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE IONIAN ISLANDS



IEF's Villa Alliance, first created in 2022, is in full swing, channelling a proportion of the income generated from Northern Corfu's most beautiful destinations to grassroots environmental projects across the region.

As well as raising funds, this successful partnership also enables us to co-create and promote a model of sustainable behaviour and environmental awareness that we hope will become prevalent across the tourism industry in Greece. We are so grateful in particular to [Scott Williams Villas](#), [The Thinking Traveller](#) and [Simpson Travel](#) for their ongoing support to the Villa Alliance. The

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

Visitors to Corfu this summer will also be interested to hear about IEF's partnership with Hotel Angsana who are serving two dishes using the invasive blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) on their menu this summer, donating the profits of those specific dishes to the IEF.

This is a lovely development from our long running Pick the Alien project with iSEA, which promotes the responsible consumption of fish and seafood through the replacement of native species with edible alien species, to mitigate the pressure on marine ecosystems in Greece. An informative recipe book can be viewed [here](#).

### ALBANIA OVERBOARD CHARITY SWIM



As we look to the end of the summer, please make sure the annual Albania Overboard charity swim on 14th September is in your diary. As in previous years, participants will swim across the channel from Albania to Corfu at this wonderful event which generates funds for grassroots environmental conservation [projects](#), [channelled](#) through IEF. [To find out more](#) about how to get involved, swim, support and fundraise for the event please visit the [Albania Overboard website](#).

In our sustained efforts for the protection of the pristine Erimitis peninsula, we continue to explore the ecological connections between Butrint National Park (Albania) and the Erimitis Peninsula in Corfu. In early March, the IEF embarked on a journey to Butrint - standing opposite the stunning Erimitis peninsula (see ongoing efforts to protect this beautiful peninsula here). The visit was not just about admiring the impressive Venetian ruins; it was about forging connections between the two sides in with the ultimate goal of better protecting our shared environment. Meeting with dedicated individuals from the park's foundation, we discussed the viability of an ecological corridor between the two regions, only three kilometres apart from one another.



## SUSTAINABLE SAILING IN GREECE

We are thrilled to announce the first Sustainable Sailing Greece meeting took place in April, at the charming Porto Cafe in Lefkada Marina. Organised by our amazing grantee, Christina, founder of Sustainable Sailing Greece, the gathering was an engaging and informative session, focusing on the collective efforts to preserve the stunning marine environment of the Ionian Sea. With the continued support from Dare2B, phase 2 of the Sustainable Sailing project will seek to reduce plastic waste and help protect the invaluable meadows of Posidonia.

The meeting was attended by environmental experts from WWF Greece, iSea as well as leading sailing charter companies active in the Ionian such as Sunsail, Seafarer, Neilson, Istion and Manos. There were some great ideas and suggestions from charter companies, and informative and practical advice from the environmental experts in the room. More recently, in June, we are very excited to have partnered with Vliho Yacht Company in Lefkada, who will be sharing and using our sustainable sailing guide as well as further developing their own sustainability strategy.

They manage over a hundred boats so a great opportunity to spread the sustainable sailing word! With generous support from Edmiston, IEF has just funded a project run by iSea, evaluating anchorage pressures on Posidonia meadows in the Inner Ionian Archipelago & Erimitis, using drones.

## AMORGORAMA TRIUMPH!



This spring, our sister foundation, Cyclades Preservation Fund, attended the Our Oceans Conference 2024 in Athens to hear the Greek government announce their support for Amorgorama's proposed Fisheries Restricted Areas, enabling their establishment, in a landmark moment. Achieving this milestone serves as an example to other fishing communities in Greece, supporting the country's commitment to establish more Marine Protected Areas and Fishery Restricted Areas by 2030. Also announced at the Our Oceans Conference, Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF), has been invited to serve as an official adviser to the Greek department of rural development and food. This incredible achievement is a testament to years of hard work on initiatives like Amorgorama and highlights the impact of our collective dedication to ocean conservation.

## CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE'S GLOBAL GATHERING IN DEVON



Every year, members of Conservation Collective's global network meet to learn new skills, exchange best practices and form new synergies. This year's gathering took place in Devon, in the UK, co-hosted by Devon Environment Foundation (DEF).

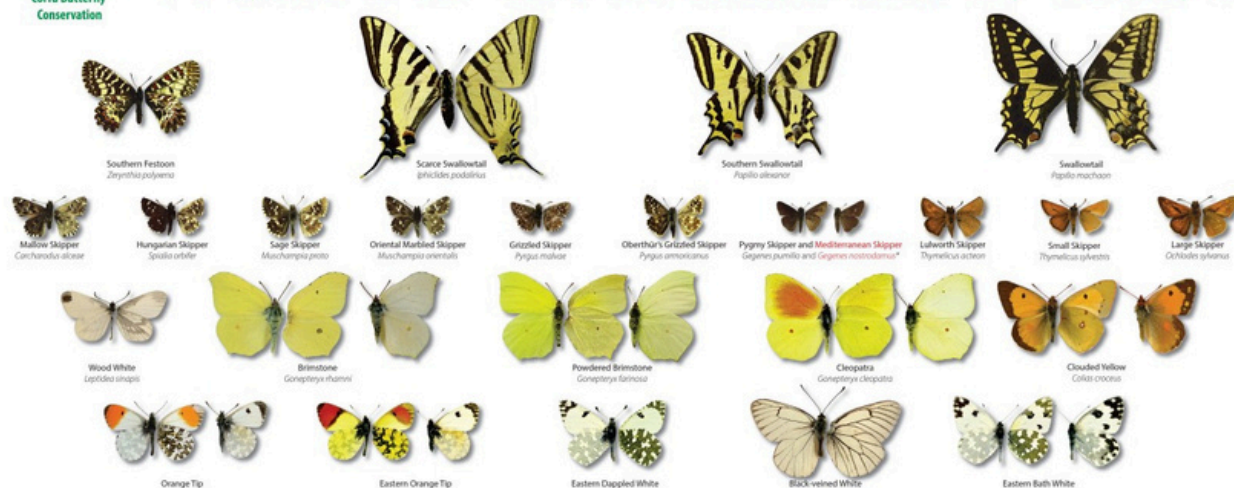
Simon, from IEF, was joined by colleagues from as far afield as Barbados, Kenya, Sicily and Scotland, to name just few. The team had the opportunity to visit DEF grantees including Till the Coast is Clear and Apricot Centre, to learn more about their efforts to protect and preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of Devon.

## PROJECT UPDATES

### CORFU BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION



## ΟΔΗΓΟΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΙΣ ΠΕΤΑΛΟΥΔΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΣ A GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF CORFU



IEF is excited to support Corfu Butterfly Conservation and Capodistrias Museum in hiring an Educational Outreach Officer to engage Corfu schools and communities in protecting the island's butterflies. Recognising the threat of biodiversity loss, especially in the face of European studies indicating a 75% decline in just 30 years, the IEF believes in the importance of educating children to become future environmental stewards.

Following last year's destructive fires that saw over 2,500 hectares burnt, IEF is pleased to support research investigating the recovery of butterfly communities in the burnt regions of the uplands of Corfu, a project which ran from April to June this year.

The research focuses on questions such as the full recovery of species, recovery time, and potential habitat changes post-fire. We aim to monitor the long-term recovery of butterfly populations and contribute to the scientific understanding of Mediterranean wildfires' impact on butterfly assemblages. Additionally, training voluntary recorders will ensure ongoing data collection beyond 2025, enriching the Corfu Butterfly Atlas and providing a unique case study for future research.



## WASTE MANAGEMENT ON CORFU

With 70,000,000kg of waste generated annually in Corfu, the island faces a waste crisis with its landfill full for two years, resulting in costly waste shipping to other Greek sites. Our grantee, Sin.Praxi operates a recyclables collection scheme which runs during the summer months, supporting Corfu manage some of the waste generated from the vast influx of tourists.

The Community Garden and Composting Site at Sin Praxi was completed in time for the Corfu Garden Festival in April, using funds from stage one of the Depeche Mode and Hublot partnership, celebrating their Momento Mori world tour. The opening was marked with talks from compost specialists, ecologists and the fire department.

170 school children from as far as Nisaki and Acharavi have already been involved in a series of outdoor activities including planting, growing and harvesting their own vegetables, natural crafts and play, making mini 'bug hotels' from upcycle materials and learning about the benefits of composting.



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



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



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