

CYPRUS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION



**ANNUAL REVIEW
JUNE 2024 - MAY 2025**





“

SAFEGUARDING CYPRUS'S NATURE IS A DREAM JOB—MADE RICHER BY WORKING ON THE SIDE OF SKILLED, PASSIONATE LOCAL PROFESSIONALS. SEEING COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES EMBRACE AND SUPPORT OUR WORK, INSPIRES US TO KEEP GOING AND AIM HIGHER. ”

SOFIA MATSI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Cover photo:

Red ruins, abandoned village of Alevka, Nicosia
Photo by Silvio Augusto Rusmigo, 2024

Opposite:

Lara beach, Akamas Peninsula, Paphos
Photo (flipped) by Stephanie Polycarpou



Cyprus Environment Foundation is a member of Conservation Collective, a global network of local foundations funding effective grass-roots conservation initiatives to protect the environment, restore nature and safeguard against climate change

OUR VISION

Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF) aims to protect and enhance the natural beauty, biodiversity and ecosystems of our beloved island of Cyprus.

CEF was established in 2021 to support community lead projects towards long-term resilience, biodiversity conservation, land regeneration, and general sustainability.

By protecting and regenerating Cyprus's nature, we strive for a healthy, abundant and resilient environment where the local communities can live in prosperity.

OUR STRATEGY

We facilitate our vision and achieve our goals by:

- **Raising funds from people and businesses with strong connections to Cyprus to support the best local initiatives working to protect and restore the island's natural ecosystems.**
 - **Supporting projects that benefit the local communities and which can be scaled up and replicated across the region.**
 - **Building a strong network of people across Cyprus, united in boosting the work of local environmental champions.**
-

AREAS OF INTEREST



**BIODIVERSITY
CONSERVATION**



**REGENERATIVE
LAND USE**



**SUSTAINABLE
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**



**SUSTAINABLE
WASTE
MANAGEMENT**

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

An overview of our key financial, environmental, social, policy and economic impact between June 2024 and May 2025

FINANCIAL



199,218

awarded, supporting



13

conservation & community projects, implemented by



10

of our local trusted partners

Preserve, Protect & Restore Natural Habitats



30

hectares of land ecologically restored through management of invasive species

Help Native Species to Thrive



4

different native species protected through project actions

9

pieces of educational materials such as flyers and manuals produced to inform and inspire

Reduce Pollution



200,000

plastic bottles prevented from use, reducing waste and preventing pollution

ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Awareness Raising

 **29** opportunities for exposure on TV (21) and radio (8)

 **10** events organised in local communities and online

 **4** films created & promoted locally and internationally

Behaviour Change

84
citizens engaged in nature conservation



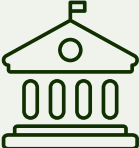
Capacity Building

484 experts/professionals trained through
21 workshops

Education


2,064
young people educated through
9 workshops, and **6** youth-focused events

Institutional Engagement & Advocacy

 **21**
public authorities and entities involved

 **2**
scientific publications generated by project teams



Completed

Photos by MER

SAFE-GUITARFISH: SCIENTIFIC ENGAGEMENT OF FISHERS IN GUITARFISH CONSERVATION

Grantee: *Marine & Environmental Research (MER) Lab*

Guitarfish have faced decades of exploitation, resulting in significant population decline and localised extinctions across their range. The blackchin guitarfish (*Glaucostegus cemiculus*) in particular, has experienced severe reductions; largely disappearing from the Northern Mediterranean and only persisting in low numbers in the Southern part. It is estimated that its population has decreased by over 80% in the past 50 years. This decline is primarily caused by historical fishing pressure from artisanal and industrial fisheries, while current pressures from coastal development and tourism are suspected to be disrupting the critical reproductive processes of the blackchin guitarfish.

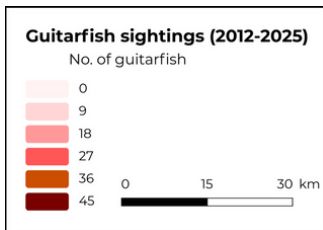
THE PROJECT

This initiative's aim was to monitor and protect the critically endangered blackchin guitarfish by engaging with local fishers and providing them with the necessary citizen science tools. The project team focused on raising awareness and educating the fishing community on how to safely handle, measure and report their interactions with the species. As a result, the project succeeded in collecting valuable information on guitarfish species and its population in Cyprus's coastal areas, while reducing harm to captured individuals during fishing.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Engagement with more than 60 fishers who attended training workshops. The fishers were actively engaged with the project team throughout the duration of the project, providing vital data for the species and its population across Cyprus.
- Valuable collaboration with 4 local fishing organisations and one Mediterranean research centre for tagging and genetic studies of 50 blackchin guitarfish individuals.
- Identification of species' spatial distribution hotspots across coastal Cyprus.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **500%** increase in guitarfish sightings since the project's launch.
- **50%** reduction (compared to 2022) in guitarfish mortality as a result of adopted safer release methods.
- Significant contributions to the body of knowledge on guitarfish in the Levantine Sea, leading to a manuscript soon to be published, based on the project's findings.



“ CEF enabled us to meaningfully bridge science and practice. This collaboration went beyond data collection - it empowered local fishers to actively engage in conservation, contributing vital observations that now form the foundation for future efforts to protect guitarfish in Cyprus.”

DR PERIKLIS KLEITOU, PROJECT COORDINATOR, MER

Fishers attending one of the training workshops





Completed

Photos by Olkan Ergulera & KUŞKOR

BONBONTRACK: IDENTIFYING KEY HABITATS OF BONELLI'S EAGLE

Grantee: The Society for Protection of Birds and Nature - KUŞKOR

The Pentadaktulos mountain range is considered a key breeding site for Bonelli's eagle on Cyprus, while nearby wetlands are thought to be used heavily by the species during inter-breeding periods. Yet, since these sites are currently not managed as part of a Special Environmental Protected Areas (SEPA) network, active management for the last remaining breeding eagle species on the island is low.

THE PROJECT

The 'BonBon Track Project', contributed to the ongoing research and preservation efforts of the eagle species on Pentadaktulos mountain range. By tagging and tracking young Bonelli's eagles, the project built understanding of the breadth of habitat protection needed to assure efficient species conservation. The project also emphasised the significance of raising awareness and updating policies to help secure the conservation of this species, especially during its first critical years.

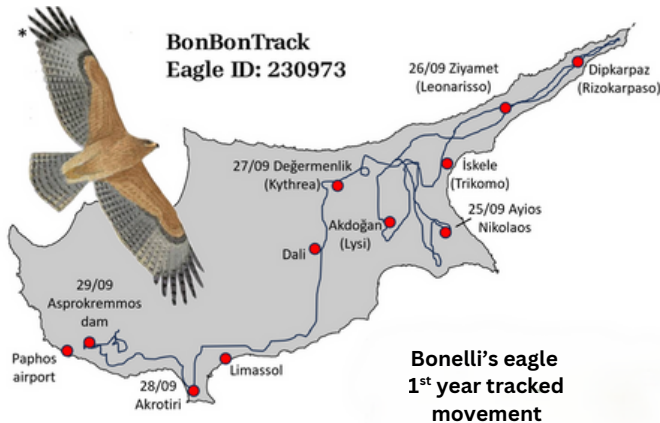
**HIGHLY
COMMEDED
IN THE
'BEST IMPACT'
CATEGORY**

**THE COLLECTIVES
AWARDS
2025**



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Tagging three eagles and tracking their movements during their first year of life.
- Production of the mini documentary 'BonBon Track in Cyprus' by Wild Cyprus, featuring the project's activities. The film focuses on raising awareness of the significance of conserving the Bonelli's eagle in Cyprus.
- Awareness raised amongst the general public and local authorities of the significance of conserving Bonelli's eagle on the island through the protection of identified key species sites.



* artwork @Killian Mullarney

Co-funded by the
Ornithological Society
of the Middle East



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- 17 breeding sites are currently being monitored.
- A scientific article featuring the project's key findings is due to be published by Spring 2026.
- Short documentary 'BonBon Track in Cyprus' won the Ealing Festival's 'People's Choice Award' for 2024 - chosen from over 100 films.



“With the support for BonBonTrack from CEF we were able to take a big leap towards conservation of these beautiful creatures. Their support not only strengthened scientific knowledge for better protection, but also enabled outreach and awareness throughout, especially with the decision makers.”

DR DAMLA BETON, PROJECT COORDINATOR,
KUŞKOR BOARD MEMBER



Ongoing

TUI FIELD TO FORK CYPRUS

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



The Mediterranean region faces growing climate-related threats that compromise the sustainability of its agricultural systems. Intensive farming has degraded ecosystem services, reducing soil health and accelerating erosion. Currently, only 6.3% of Cyprus's land is cultivated organically—well below the national 2030 target of 13%. Most organic foods are imported, further increasing environmental impact and costs for consumers. Meanwhile, people from disadvantaged groups remain excluded from agricultural employment, despite the inclusive and low-barrier opportunities that regenerative organic farming offers.

THE PROJECT

TUI Field to Fork Cyprus promotes regenerative organic agriculture as a pathway to a more resilient and inclusive food system.

Implemented by the Cyprus Environment Foundation, in collaboration with **KES College**, the **Christos Stelios Ioannou Foundation** (CSIF), **Tourhythm**, and **Valerga**, the project delivers hands-on training to local farmers, builds connections between the agricultural and hospitality sectors, and fosters social inclusion for people from disadvantaged groups.

An Initiative by



TUI CARE
FOUNDATION





Over 116 local farmers, youth, and food professionals trained in regenerative organic agriculture through classroom and field-based sessions.

SOCIAL INCLUSION FOCUS

A core pillar of the project, is the empowerment and inclusion of individuals from underrepresented communities, particularly people with disabilities such as CSFI trainees and those facing socioeconomic barriers.

The project has provided six scholarships so far to low-income and/or unemployed youth to pursue certified organic farming education with a focus on regenerative agriculture.

In parallel, six CSIF trainees participate in project activities as assistant farmers, offering them hands-on farm production opportunities and regenerative farming training.



"We are excited to be partnering with CEF to help promote local regenerative organic wine. Sustainability is at the heart of our philosophy and CEF helps us to reach out to like minded hospitality organisations."

MARCOS ZAMBARTAS, ENOLOGIST & OWNER, ZAMBARTAS WINERIES



More than 10,000 m² of land transitioned to sustainable management using regenerative organic agriculture methods.



Completed

A winter stream within the lush forest, Trooditissa Monastery

ASPELIA NATURALIS

Grantee: Silvio Augusto Rusmigo

Currently, unsustainable economic models built on cultural perceptions that undervalue nature, are rapidly and irreversibly altering Cyprus's natural habitats and biodiversity. A primary cause of this is the disconnect between locals and their landscape, leading to a sense of detachment. Additionally, the clash between tradition and modernity hinders appreciation for the island's natural heritage, which is often overshadowed by other priorities.



@ Silvio Augusto Rusmigo, 2024

THE PROJECT

'Aspelia Naturalis,' a captivating coffee table book published in 2024, showcases the unique landscapes of Cyprus, as captured by documentary and commercial photographer Silvio Augusto Rusmigo over the last fifteen years of his career. It intertwines personal accounts, historical facts, and environmental insights, inspiring readers to explore beyond the ordinary and embrace the island's limitless beauty.

With a focus on cultural and natural heritage, this first-of-its-kind publication, aims to foster appreciation and stewardship for this cherished land. Designed to resonate deeply with Cypriots, the project sought to instill a sense of pride and appreciation within Cypriot society for our natural and cultural heritage.

The book's launch event took place on June 3, 2024, in Nicosia, celebrating the unveiling of the book and promoting it to the public.

The book borrows its title from the old Roman name of the island, Aspelia, mentioned by Pliny in his book 'Naturalis Historia'.





Photos by I. Economidou

Completed

INCREASING MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH THE CREATIVE ARTS PHASE 2

Grantee: Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre

Unsustainable coastal development, pollution, coastal erosion, overfishing and increasing presence of invasive alien species, are some of Cyprus's most critical marine and coastal threats. Unfortunately, at present, public knowledge and awareness of the marine environment of Cyprus and the threats it is facing, is limited. Although some schools in Cyprus are trying hard to teach children how to connect to our natural world, there is still an urgent need to develop and implement new curricula on environmental education and conservation.

THE PROJECT

The project offered creative educational workshops to children aged 3 to 12, as well as dedicated teacher training seminars. Through this, young learners and educators were equipped with the tools, knowledge and inspiration needed to understand and protect the marine and coastal ecosystems of Cyprus. By engaging participants through music, visual arts, movement, dance, drama, and storytelling, the project's team contributed meaningfully to the development of a generation that is better informed, more sensitive, and more proactive in defending our shared marine heritage.



Phase 2 of this project was made possible with funding from **Intergaz Ltd** (lead supporter) and **Vassiliko Cement Ltd** (supporter).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Six experiential workshops for children.
- Nine training workshops for educators equipping them with creative tools and environmental knowledge to integrate marine literacy into their classrooms.
- A day-long conference for educators with sessions on music and music technology, theatre, storytelling, dance, and visual arts in relation to marine awareness education.
- An open-to-the-public storytelling show entitled 'Here Only Monachus,' dedicated to the Mediterranean monk seal *Monachus monachus*
- The two first public kindergartens in Cyprus were supported by the project team to join the European Network of Blue Schools.



Children workshop



Teacher training seminar



“ With the generous and ongoing support of the Cyprus Environment Foundation during this second phase, the project has seen remarkable success across Cyprus, reaching diverse communities and educational settings. Importantly, this successful collaboration also gave us the confidence, momentum, and capacity to pursue and achieve global recognition for our work, amplifying its reach and impact beyond the island.”

REBECCA KATSARIS,
EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR/
PROJECT LEADER



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Special mention for the 'Awareness and Communication Campaigns/Activities' category, at the 2024 Society4Med awards.
- Special Award at the MakeEUBlue initiative.
- Part of 'Blue Thread': UNESCO-IOC Recognition for Initiatives Putting Ocean Literacy in Action.



Photos by Silvio Augusto Rusmigo

Completed

SHEPHERD VULTURE GUARDIANS: BUILDING BRIDGES TO SAVE VULTURES

Grantee: BirdLife Cyprus

The Griffon Vulture is a keystone species for the island's environment. However, its population has dramatically shrunk in recent decades, reducing from a few hundred in the 1950s to only 10 birds in 2012. Conservation efforts in the last ten years aim to increase the vulture population to 200 individuals, the Favourable Conservation Value for the species.



THE PROJECT

Shepherds in the remote hills west of Limassol play a crucial role in the conservation of the Griffon Vulture. Some shepherds illegally set poison baits for predators, posing a threat to vultures. However, through targeted awareness and empowerment activity, this project focused on turning shepherds into 'Vulture Guardians'. By engaging with the shepherd community and promoting alternatives to poison baits, the project team produced positive results for the protection of the species in the area. 'Save the vulture' education materials were created and distributed to the grandchildren of shepherds and community events were organised, focusing on raising awareness of vultures and their conservation. Additionally, legal support was secured, to ensure successful prosecution of wildlife poisoning incidents in future court cases.



Photos by TemLab

Completed

ENGAGING YOUTH IN ENDANGERED REPTILE SPECIES CONSERVATION

Grantee: Terrestrial Ecosystems Management Lab (TemLab) - Open University of Cyprus

The Cyprus grass snake (*Natrix natrix cyprica*) is a priority species protected by both EU legislation and Cypriot law. However, we still lack important information about its population dynamics and structure, which makes it difficult to implement effective conservation strategies. One population, located at Paralimni lake, faces significant risks due to habitat fragmentation caused by unsustainable urban development, agricultural practices, hunting, and tourism. Additionally, the fear of snakes, known as ophiophobia, contributes to the decline of this species, as misunderstanding and lack of education lead to unnecessary extermination.

THE PROJECT

The project addressed these challenges through a grassroots approach. Presentations and workshops were organised for adults, children and students, educational material was created and disseminated to the participants and 'Train the Trainer' sessions were held. The project engaged the local community through citizen science methods and data collection.

A team of 24 young volunteers was trained from communities in Paralimni and Sotira by the project team. By raising awareness and boosting engagement of local communities, the project achieved a greater understanding of the species' population and its threats. Highlighting and outlining the pressures faced by the Cyprus grass snake improves conservation of this species in the area. The results of the project reinforce wider research and conservation work carried out by the LIFE IP Physis programme.





Photos by Taşkent Nature Park

Completed

HABITAT RECLAMATION IN KARPASIA

Grantee: Taşkent Nature Park

In Cyprus, the Orange Wattle tree (*Acacia saligna*) has been used for the reforestation of damaged natural areas, but it has proved to be an invasive plant species which spreads quickly into intact habitats, replacing native vegetation. One particular acacia stand within the Karpasia (Karpas) Protected Area doubled its cover area in the last five years, posing a threat to the native ecosystem.



Project area within the red boundaries

THE PROJECT

During the project, acacia trees were successfully cut down, following the 'cut-stump' method. Though the project's interventions, observed acacia re-sprouting was less than 13%, allowing native vegetation to regenerate. In the effort to enable similar projects to take place in the region, the project team created and published acacia removal guidelines in Turkish.

Local authorities and the public were informed about the negative effects the invasive *Acacia saligna* has on local biodiversity. The eradication of acacia trees is now being implemented by local communities, using the cut-stump method. Discussions are underway to revise policies, advocating for allowing the free harvest of acacias at any time and in any location.



Information board on site



Completed

Photos by CSTI

EMPOWERING THE 'PLASTIC FREE BEACH' CONCEPT

Grantee: Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI)

Plastics make up 95% of sea and beach waste across the Mediterranean. In Cyprus, during the summer months waste production increases by 40% due to tourism while around 80% of rubbish collected on beaches is found to consist of plastics.

THE PROJECT



Branded water bottle refilled at a beach water station

The 'Plastic Free Beach' concept* aims to reduce plastic pollution on the island by providing a clear set of criteria that must be met in order for the beach to be labelled under the specific brand.

Phase 2 of the project focused on enhancing and assuring the quality of the 'Plastic Free Beach' initiative, while fostering public participation. The project activities included a social media campaign, live link events, promotional billboards and videos along with presentations to youth groups and branded refillable water bottles handed out to participants during events. The project worked to establish new 'Plastic Free Beaches' in Cyprus, by engaging local authorities to provide electricity and water, for water re-fill stations, and to ensure that ongoing maintenance will be provided.

* The 'Plastic Free Beach' concept is part of the project 'Keep our Sand and Sea Plastic Free' an initiative by the TUI Care Foundation and CSTI.

DEPECHEMODE **HUBLOT**

Funding for phase 2 of the project has been provided by DepecheMode & Hublot through the Memento Mori Tour charity partnership with Conservation Collective.

**WINNER
IN THE
'REDUCING
POLLUTION'
CATEGORY**

**THE COLLECTIVE
AWARDS
2025**



CEF TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Having supported 22 projects and allocated over €180,000 in grants, CEF celebrated its two year anniversary on October 3, 2024. The event took place at CYENS Centre in Nicosia, with key figures from the corporate world, politics and the scientific community, as well as from environmental NGOs. Local partners shared conservation successes and challenges, while members of CEF's Advisory Board discussed the significance of local initiatives in addressing key environmental issues.

PHOTOGRAPHY SALE IN COLLABORATION WITH SILVIO AUGUSTO RUSMIGO

In October 2024, we partnered with photographer Silvio Augusto Rusmigo for a photography sale featuring 10 breathtaking photographs along with his stunning *Aspelia Naturalis* book. Thirty percent of profits were donated to CEF, supporting environmental projects to protect the island's natural beauty and biodiversity.



MARKS & SPENCER FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS



In September 2024, we collaborated with Marks & Spencer Cyprus for a fundraising campaign where €1 from each women's cotton T-shirt sold, was donated to CEF. In May 2025, a similar campaign was run, with €1 for every Marks & Spencer Women's & Men's Denim Trousers purchased, donated to CEF. Funds raised through these campaigns go towards the support of local projects that help safeguard our island's unique ecosystems.

SOAP ME UP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

In December 2024 CEF run a fundraising campaign with Soapmeup, a local brand of handmade natural luxury skin care products. Twenty percent of profits were donated to CEF. These funds went towards protecting Cyprus's ecosystems and wildlife.



TUI FIELD TO FORK CYPRUS LAUNCH EVENT



On March 28, 2025, the 'TUI Field to Fork Cyprus' project officially kicked-off at the Christos Stelios Ioannou Foundation, with over 40 guests from the hospitality, agriculture, and research sectors along with member of international media. The work of the project was introduced, emphasising the role regenerative organic agriculture has to play in mitigating climate change. Presenters focused on the opportunity of developing synergies between regenerative organic

farmers and the hospitality sector in Cyprus, highlighting how authentic experiences with these products and farms can connect tourists with the land. By linking with farmers and the stories behind their food, the project fosters appreciation and demand for locally grown regenerative organic products. The event included a tour of the Foundation's site and concluded with a visit to Strakka Estate, a project partner, where participants experienced regenerative organic farming techniques and tasted products first-hand.



THE LOUTRA PROJECT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Loutra Project, a Spring 25' collaboration with local artist The Jelly Potter, featured a unique ceramic tableware collection inspired by the landscape surrounding the Loutra of Aphrodite beach area in Akamas peninsula. Twenty five percent of total proceeds were donated to CEF, further fuelling its work to protect and regenerate the island's natural habitats.



GLOBAL GATHERING 2025



In May 2025, CEF hosted Conservation Collective (CC)'s 'Global Gathering 2025' at Casale Panayiotis mountain retreat. Forty five participants from foundations across CC's network, as well as CC's core team, showcased their work, shared experiences, engaged in workshops, and got to meet some of CEF's local grantees and their impactful projects. The week was concluded with the annual 'The Collectives Awards' ceremony, celebrating outstanding projects supported by the foundations across the network.

BEMED COMMUNITY DAY

The 'BeMed Community Day 2025' in Larnaca, brought together 35 project leaders from across the Mediterranean to foster synergies and share best practices. On May 15, CEF took part in the sessions focusing on how BeMed's hotel methodology can be adapted to help reduce single-use plastics in various other sectors.



CEF AT THE MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY EU MEMBER STATES CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE



On May 30, 2025, CEF's Executive Director, Sofia Matsi, participated in the prestigious Conference of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Agriculture of the Parliaments of the Mediterranean member-states of the European Union, held at the House of Representatives in Nicosia, Cyprus. During her speech 'Presentation of best practices at the national level to achieve sustainable and resilient agrifood systems', Sofia shared examples from her research with the

Department of Biological Studies of the University of Cyprus (Black Gold project) as well as the promising actions of the TUI Field to Fork Cyprus project. Her presentation demonstrated how locally tested nature-based farming solutions, can help reduce water stress and mitigate the climate crisis, advocating for the diversification of agroecosystems, especially under challenging conditions like the ones prevailing in Cyprus and other drought-prone regions.



BEACH CLEAN-UP FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On June 5, 2025, during World Environment Day, CEF participated in a beach clean-up in Larnaca, organised by the 'Keep Our Sand and Sea Plastic Free' project, an initiative of the TUI Care Foundation and the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI). Alongside teams from Petrolina Energy, Lords Beach and Golden Bay Beach Hotel, we collected 42.5 kilos of waste.



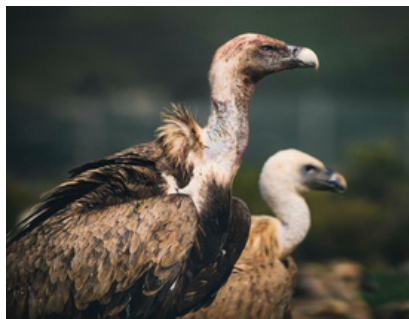
RESTOCKING EFFORTS TO BOOST THE GRIFFON VULTURE POPULATION IN CYPRUS

Grantee: BirdLife Cyprus

The population of Griffon Vultures in Cyprus, a keystone species vital to the island's ecosystem, has dramatically declined over the past decades, with only 34 individuals remaining today. Efforts to conserve this species are underway through the 'Life with Vultures' programme, which aims to increase the population to 200 birds.

THE PROJECT

This project builds the local population of Griffon Vulture through restocking efforts and by continuing to address mortality threats, such as poisoning and electrocution. In January 2025, 15 vultures were relocated from Spain to a special acclimatisation aviary in Cyprus. They were fitted with GPS tags prior to their release in July 2025. Additionally, awareness-raising activities are being implemented to further support the conservation efforts and enhance public understanding of the species and its ecological importance.



SCHOOLS FOR CHANGE AGIOS ATHANASIOS: LEADING THE PLASTIC FREE MOVEMENT

Grantee: Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI)

The 'Schools for Change: Leading the Plastic Free Movement' concept, is part of the 'Keep our Sand and Sea Plastic Free' project, an initiative by the TUI Care Foundation and CSTI aiming to reduce plastic waste in Cypriot schools and promote environmental responsibility.

THE PROJECT

CEF's new grant enables the A' Primary School of Agios Athanasios in Limassol to join this initiative's network. The project will provide the school with educational resources and sustainable infrastructure, empowering the school community to combat plastic pollution and become ambassadors of long-term environmental health.

The project is funded by **Island Oil Holdings**.



EMPOWERING PLASTIC FREE BEACHES IN CYPRUS

Grantee: Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative (CSTI)

The 'Empowering Plastic Free Beaches in Cyprus' initiative builds on the successful 'Plastic Free Beach' project, an initiative by the TUI Care Foundation and the Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative.



THE PROJECT

This project aims to create new Plastic Free Beaches, raise awareness, and host educational events to reduce plastic pollution and promote sustainability. The project seeks to collaborate with local communities, businesses, and influencers, providing practical solutions that benefit both the environment and the economy.

The initiative is supported by CEF, thanks to funding received from Conservation Collective through the **Depeche Mode** & **Hublot** Memento Mori World Tour charity partnership.

THE WORLD SHRINKS: A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE INDIGENOUS CATTLE BREED OF CYPRUS

Grantee: The Cyprus Institute (Cyl)

Cyprus's native cattle, vital to the island's agricultural heritage, faces extinction due to socioeconomic changes, globalisation and industrialisation, which threaten traditional farming and agro-biodiversity. Despite its genetic, ecological and cultural significance, public awareness of this breed is limited.

THE PROJECT

The documentary 'The World Shrinks' explores the historical, cultural, and ecological value of the indigenous cattle breed based on ARETI project research. CEF supports actions that help promote the documentary, raise awareness, inspire conservation efforts, and advocate for policy changes that support biodiversity and sustainable agriculture practices in Cyprus.



OUR TEAM

CORE TEAM



Sofia Matsi
Executive Director



Stephanie Polycarpou
Operations and
Communications
Officer



Maria Skenter
Project Manager -
TUI Field to Fork
Cyprus project
2024-2025



Panayiotis Louca
Project Manager -
TUI Field to Fork
Cyprus project
2025-2026

STEERING COMMITTEE



Peter Drousiotis
(Chair)



Miria Kyprianou



Ara Khederian



Kyriacos Kyriltsias



Ben Goldsmith



Jade Brudenell



Demetris Lemesianos



Anna Pittalis



Maria Mavridou



Louisa Leventis

ADVISORY BOARD

Andreas Angeli - Circular economy, Sustainable mobility

Athanasia Mandoulaki - Regenerative agroecosystems

Dr Brendan Godley - Marine biology and conservation

Dr Claire Papazoglou - Ornithology, Sustainability policy

Dr Constantinos Kounnamas - Plant ecology and conservation

Dr Dimitrios Sarris - Dendroecology, Agroforestry

Evagoras Isaías - Marine biology, Blue economy

Dr Maía Fourn - Marine biology and ecology

Dr Michael Loizides - Circular Economy, Sustainable waste management

Dr Nestor Fylaktos - Energy strategies and modelling

Dr Sam Jones - Ornithology, Tropical Montaigne Ecology

Dr Savvas Zotos - Herpetology, Ecology and conservation

Dr Vasilis Litskas - Sustainable and organic farming

Dr Christos Zoumides - Environmental Management, Ecological Economics

Dr Iris Charalambidou - Biology, Ecology

“

THE CYPRUS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION IS DETERMINED TO MAKE ITS MARK ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL LANDSCAPE OF THE ISLAND. OUR MISSION IS TO DELIVER REAL IMPACTFUL CHANGE ON THE GROUND THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS. WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TO-DATE BUT EVEN MORE EXCITED ABOUT WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH IN THE FUTURE.”

PETER DRUSSIOTIS

Chair, Cyprus Environment Foundation

OUR SUPPORTERS

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FOUNDATION



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