



SUPPORTING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES TO PROTECT, SUSTAIN AND RESTORE

The Ionian Environment Foundation (IEF) is being set up to preserve the Ionian Islands' exceptional nature and beauty through promoting and supporting a sustainable approach to their way of life, tourism and socio economic development.

The key remit of the foundation is to pool funding from people and businesses who love the Ionians, as we do, and to distribute those funds to effective and deserving local environmental initiatives.

Eligible projects and campaigns must contribute to protecting, sustaining, restoring and raising awareness of the islands' natural environment, as well as to promote and work on sustainable ways of living and operating.

www.ionianenvironmentfoundation.org (coming soon!)

SCOPING REPORT SUMMARY:

The Ionian Islands are a rich and diverse natural habitat, of immense natural beauty, where human and animal populations have lived and prospered throughout the ages.

Thanks to this beauty, the Ionian Islands are mainly known as holiday destinations. With the growth of tourism - Greece's "heavy industry" - big changes came about. Local communities and institutions were largely unprepared for these changes. The land use regime, the waste management systems as well as water management have not been able to cope with the growing pressures, new conditions and demands. In a country that scores low in terms of imposing regulations and procedures, negative consequences are hard to control. Local crises and conflicts have emerged, particularly with illegal development and waste management (which is currently a real and increasingly serious problem in many of the islands).

At the same time the Ionian Sea faces many common threats: Garbage and plastic pollution, overfishing, reduction in populations of large marine mammals, such as dolphins and lately the great upcoming threat of oil prospecting in the whole Ionian.

On the positive side there are many passionate and knowledgeable people who have already made a difference with their work. There are some coastal and marine protected areas, however, the authorities often lack necessary means to make sure they operate effectively. The National Marine Park of Zakynthos, includes one of the most

important sites of sea turtle reproduction in the Mediterranean. The endangered monk seals also seem to be increasing in numbers after sustained efforts by local conservationists.

While tourism has become key to the economic prosperity of most Ionian Islands, the most popular of these islands are now facing immediate and significant problems. Conversely, on islands like Ithaca, Lefkas and Kephallonia a more eco-friendly tourism industry is emerging. There is significant potential for a more sustainable tourism across the region. Alongside other factors, the "monoculture of tourism" has caused productive land to be abandoned and consequently a great dependence on food imports. Still many people choose to produce some of their own food and to buy local. Modern as well as traditional businesses with high quality food products, can be found on most of the islands, such as olive oil in Zakynthos, wine in Kephallonia, honey and kum-quat in Corfu, dairy in Kephallonia and Ithaca; mostly small in size. Turning to food production professionally comes with challenges; support can make a difference.

Freshwater supplies are greatly reduced due to overexploitation and contamination of aquifers, especially on Corfu. Inadequate clean (drinkable) water infrastructure results in islands needing to import huge quantities of bottled water. Such issues exacerbate the waste management problems. Biodiversity and resilient ecosystems are still rich, but under more and more pressure, and some species require active protection and regeneration.

Please get in touch to read a full version of this report.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Projects will be identified from our six main areas of interest below:



MARINE CONSERVATION



LANDSCAPE & BIODIVERSITY



FRESHWATER



WASTE MANAGEMENT



RENEWABLE ENERGY

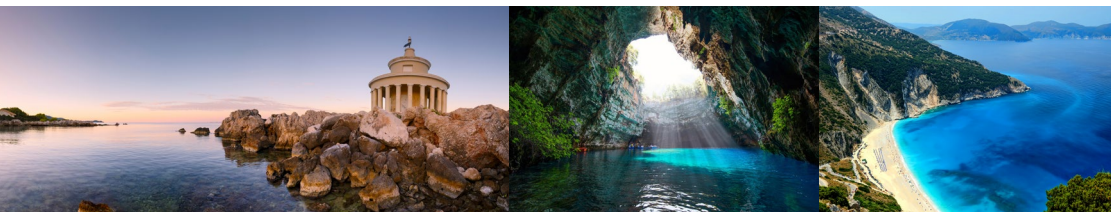


SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

FOUNDERS

- **BEN GOLDSMITH:** Ben is a lifelong environmentalist, investor and philanthropist. He co-founded the Ibiza Preservation Fund over ten years ago. Since then he has worked closely with Jade to replicate this successful model for island conservation, in the Aeolian Islands (Italy), Cyclades Islands (Greece), Mallorca, Menorca and St Vincent and the Grenadines; in addition to the Ionian Islands, new funds are launching this year in Barbados and Sri Lanka. Ben is the founder of Menhaden Plc, a London-listed sustainability focussed investment trust. He is a Trustee of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), sits on the Board of the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and is also Chairman of the U.K. Conservative Environment Network.
- **JADE BRUDENELL:** Jade is the UK based Director of the Local Environment Fund Network. She works closely with Ben, to support and monitor existing funds, share best practice across the group, and to roll out the model in difference parts of the world.
- **MARK FOX-ANDREWS:** Mark recently retired after a long career mainly related to the finance aspects of the Commodity and Food Processing business sector. He has a house in the north of Zakynthos where he and his family now spend about five months a year. He is (very) slowly learning Greek. He is keen to support initiatives which help protect the islands and their economic futures.
- **JONATHON BOND:** Jonathon has worked in sustainable investments for the last thirty years in the UK, Europe and emerging markets. He has recently retired as executive chairman of a large Scandinavian family office, where his role included chairing the board of leading green cleaning products company Ecover / Method. He has an old house in the Ropa Valley in Corfu.
- **CAROLE AND ANDREW LANGTON:** Have been visiting their renovated traditional house in the Ionian Islands for decades, counting Corfu as their second family home. An animal lover, in 2003 Carole set up 'Care', an organisation which has made a positive impact on the stray and the animal cruelty situation on the island. Andrew is a property developer in England. They have already been involved with several environmental causes on the island.
- **COSTAS KALOUDIS:** Costas has been appointed as the local executive director of the IEF. He is an environmentalist and has worked with environmental organisations in Europe. Born and raised in Corfu, he is passionate about nature, the Ionian Islands and sustainability transitions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





THE IEF IS PART OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FUND NETWORK:



Using our scoping report as the baseline research for our future grant strategy, we aim to address the main environmental challenges in the Ionian Islands.

The IEF will be working alongside local organisations focused on environmental projects on the islands, in order to identify and support the areas where we can have the most significant and positive long-term impact. When capacity to tackle something important is lacking, we will seek to initiate and develop a project, with expert partners, and always with the aim to achieve lasting impact. Projects will be identified from within our five areas of interest and can range from beach / coastal cleaning exercises to supporting farmers to encourage local food production, to working with marine research organisations to improve the marine conservation efforts.

SUPPORT US

There are numerous local organisations working to protect wonderful areas of natural beauty and ecological value in the Ionian Islands. Sometimes this work will restore ecosystems and biodiversity, other times it will be needed to prevent negative things from happening. Most often resources are very scarce, whilst love for nature is abundant.

Through them, and with your support, the IEF will be able to promote and improve the sustainability of these marvellous islands and seas. Therefore, please help us and get involved.

For more information: costas@ionianenvironmentfoundation.org

www.ionianenvironmentfoundation.org (coming soon!)