



# Cyclades Preservation Fund 2018 – 2020

Identifying Impact Trends & Moving Forward

July 2021



The **Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF)** was established in October 2017 to support sustainable initiatives and to promote the preservation of the exceptional beauty and natural value of the Cyclades.









The cornerstone of our mission is the empowerment of local communities, backed up by investment in the local environment.

The guiding principle of the CPF is a bottom-up approach: we are here to listen to and help the people of these islands with initiatives that they themselves are starting, and to provide support and guidance for conservation projects that the local communities have embraced. We are hands-on and offer capacity and expertise, where needed.

The CPF is a member of the Conservation Collective, a global network of local philanthropic funds focused on protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment.



“We want to involve the whole community in a shared vision.

CPF is there to help us, to transfer knowledge, even a positive attitude and energy.”

**LOCAL GRANTEE**

“This is the third time we have received support from the Cyclades Preservation Fund — a donor that came and found us out of the blue.”

**LOCAL GRANTEE**

“Never change a winning team! We’ll continue to work closely with CPF, building synergies for targeted actions, smart solutions and innovative ideas.”

**STRATEGIC PARTNER**



Supporting &  
Enabling local action

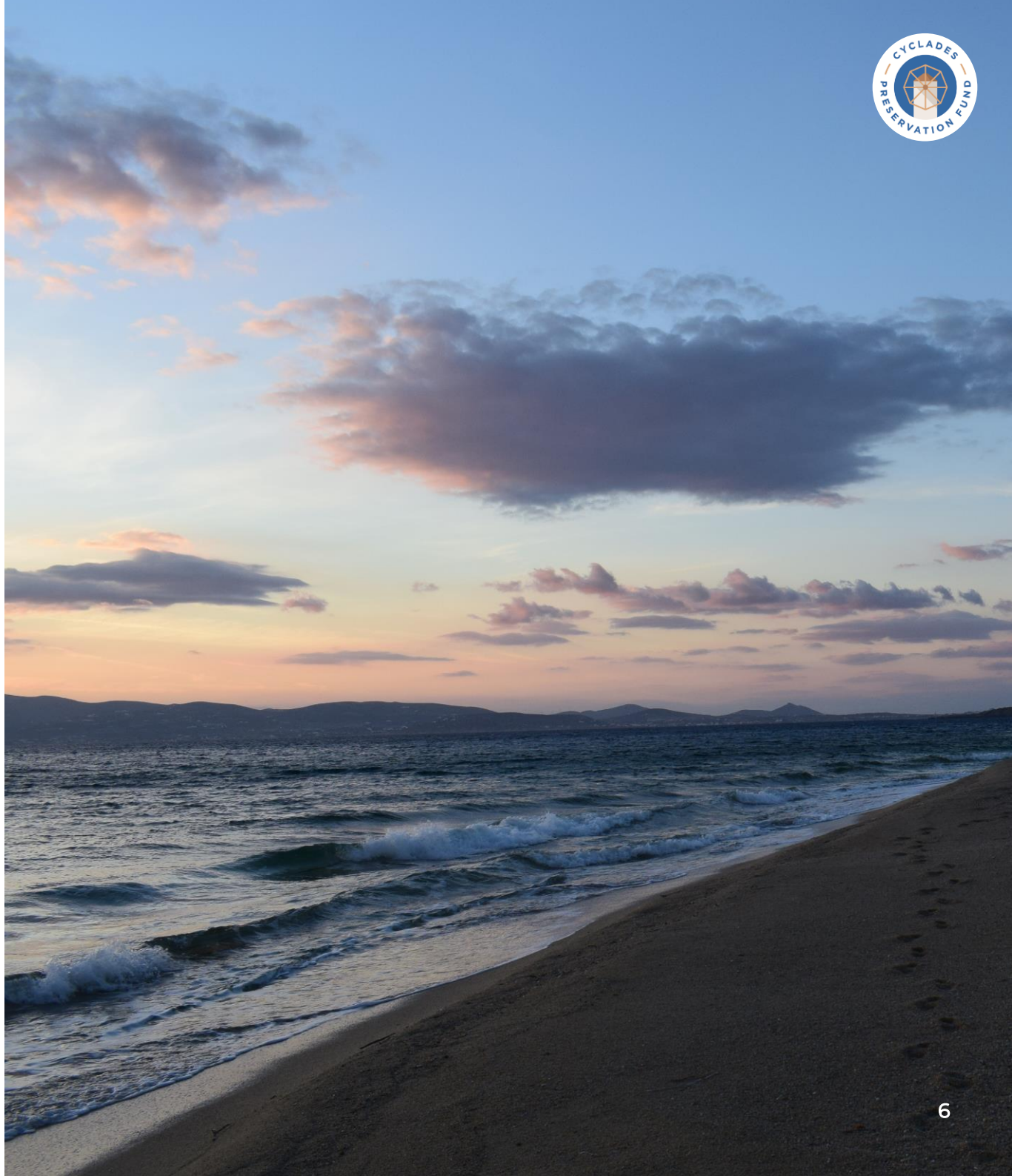


We work with communities and the way we work is just as important as what we do.

We engage in building strong long-term relationships based on mutual trust and understanding. We support projects locally, and we also engage in implementation when and where capacities are missing; at the same time we try to build local capacities and engage citizens and entities in more and more projects and initiatives.

We raise funds for CPF and for other (local) entities and initiatives; if our contribution is not necessary, we do not become the intermediary. Instead, we opt out and invest our time where it is most needed.

We link people, islands, knowledge. We are here as a stable and reliable partner always available to consult and offer support.





## Our work on the islands

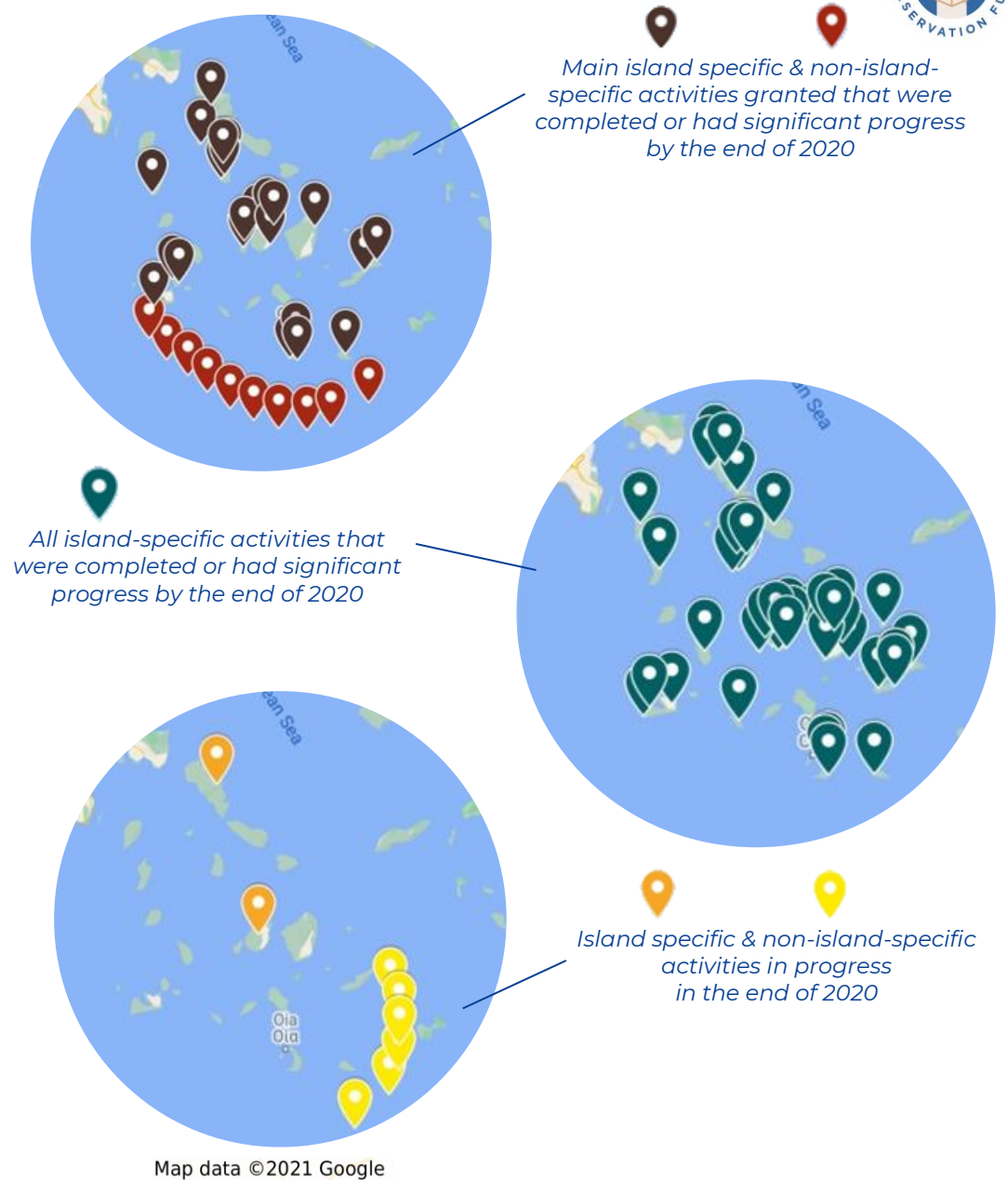




We have approved and granted 37 projects in the period 2018–2020 that took place on 18 islands.

Projects may focus on certain islands or target the Cyclades complex as a whole.

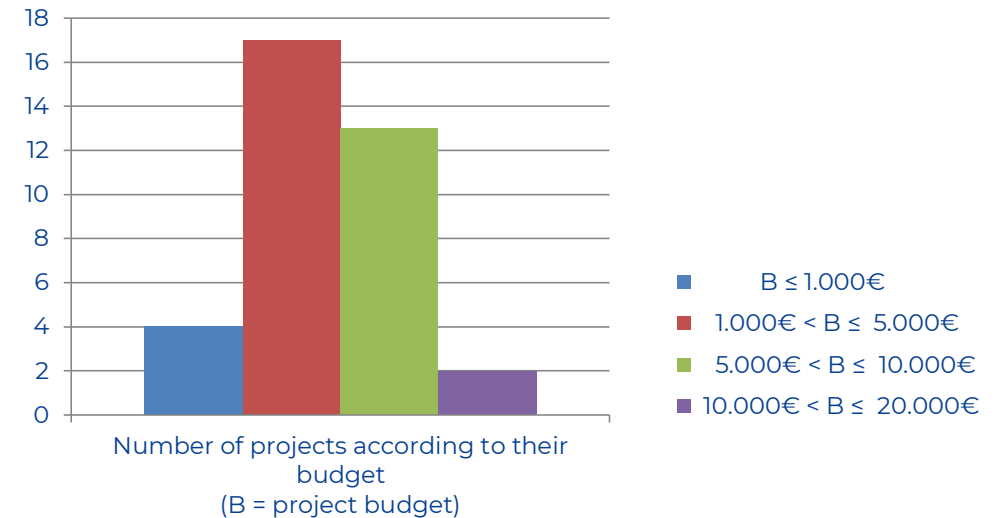
A lot of the projects we support place their main focus on certain islands or on the whole Cyclades Complex, while many of them create synergies with and engage in activities that benefit more islands.





The amount of total funds granted from 2018 to 2020 is 178.400€.

Nearly half of the supported projects have a budget of over 1.000€ and up to 5.000€, with more than one third having a budget of over 5.000€ and up to 10.000€.



We have granted projects to 24 grantees and we have implemented some projects ourselves, in collaboration with local partners. Some of our grantees have received support by CPF more than once, either for projects that allow the continuation and expansion of proposed activities or for brand new projects.

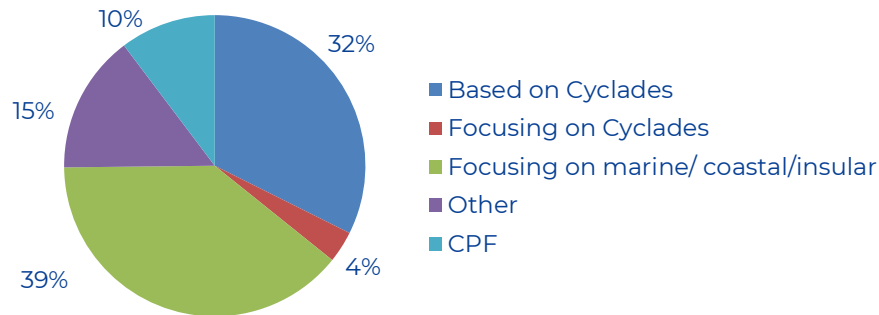


#	GRANTEE	PROJECT	BUDGET (€)
1	WWF GREECE	SECURING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS IN A MARINE PROTECTED AREA	4.500
2	APANO MERIA	JOINING THE VISION OF A CYCLADIC GEOPARK	3.000
3	MOM	CO-LIVING WITH MONK SEALS	3.000
4	ALKIONI	FIRST AID SUPPORT TO INJURED WILD ANIMALS	3.000
5	PLASTIC FREE GREECE	PLASTIC FREE CYCLADES MOVEMENT	1.500
6	SYROS NAUTICAL CLUB	GREENING THE SYROS AQUATHLON EVENT!	1.500
7	AEGEAN REBREATH	RECYCLE THE SEAS – CYCLADES	3.100
8	MUSEUM OF CYCLADIC ART	CYCLADOUPOLIS: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITHIN A MUSEUM-KIT	6.000
9	NAXOS WILDLIFE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION	SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION	5.400
10	NAXOS WILDLIFE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION	SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION	1.500
11	APANOMERIA	A SMALL SCALE, MOBILE RECYCLING CENTER FOR PLASTIC	8.700
12	THERAN SEA	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE BEST SMALL-SCALE SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES	1.600
13	SYROS NAUTICAL CLUB	SYROS MARITIME WEEK	500
14	MANAGEMENT BODY FOR CYCLADES PROTECTED AREAS	TRAILS MAINTENANCE AND COASTAL CLEAN-UPS IN PROTECTED AREAS	2.600
15	ATROMITOS SIFNOS	A GREENER RACE IN SIFNOS	280
16	ARCHELON	SEA TURTLE RESCUE KITS	1.600
17	[N/A]	ISLANDERS FORUM 2019	2.600
18	ENALEIA	FISH SMARTER: PROMOTING FISHING TOURISM	8.750
19	FRIENDS OF PAROS PARK	REGENERATING THE CYCLADIC ECOSYSTEM	7.600
20	GREEN TANK	EU FINANCING CYCLADES TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE	10.000

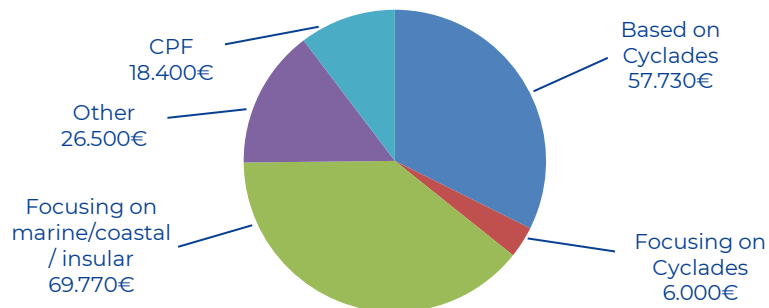
#	GRANTEE	PROJECT	BUDGET (€)
18	ENALEIA	FISH SMARTER: PROMOTING FISHING TOURISM	8.750
19	FRIENDS OF PAROS PARK	REGENERATING THE CYCLADIC ECOSYSTEM	7.600
20	GREEN TANK	EU FINANCING CYCLADES TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE	10.000
21	PROFESSIONAL FISH ASSOCIATION OF AMORGOS	AMORGORAMA- BECOMING A PART OF THE SWARM!	900
22	AGONI GRAMMI GONIMI	GREENING SCHOOLS	3.600
23	NAIAS	GREENING SCHOOLS	5.150
24	COMMON SEAS	CLEAN BLUE PAROS	20.000
25	AEGEAN REBREATH	GIVING LIFE BACK TO THE “GULF OF PLASTIC CORALS”	250
26	[N/A]	THE SEA BIN IN THE CYCLADES	7.000
27	[N/A]	THE SEA BIN IN THE CYCLADES	8.800
28	I-SEA	PICK THE ALIEN- IT TASTES GOOD!	3.370
29	I-SEA	PICK THE ALIEN- IT TASTES GOOD!	10.500
30	NEFELI	ME AND MY PLASTIC	5.000
31	OPUS	ME AND MY PLASTIC	5.500
32	ALKIONI	WILDLIFE REHABILITATION	5.000
33	ALKIONI	WILDLIFE REHABILITATION <i>[not yet on website]</i>	2.000
34	ANDROS RESEARCH CENTER	ANDROS GREEN & CLEAN	9.000
35	MOM	CYCLADES CARE FOR DOLPHINS	8.700
36	ENALEIA	FISH SMARTER: PROMOTING FISHING TOURISM	6.900
37	[N/A]	ISLANDERS FORUM 2020	-



About one third of the budget allocated to grants (including projects implemented by CPF), was channelled to local grantees that are based in the Cyclades and to entities that focus their activities in the area (excluding CPF itself).

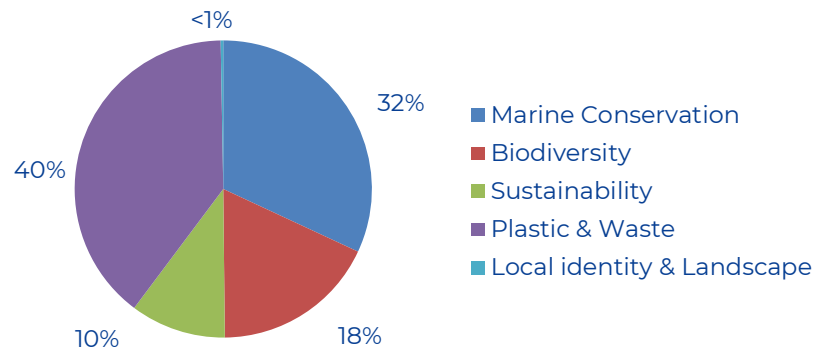


The rest of the budget was mainly channelled to entities that focus their activities to marine, coastal and insular areas, with about 15% of the total budget being granted to 'other' entities, i.e. having an environmental or educational focus without a relation to the Cyclades or a focus to marine/coastal/insular areas specifically.

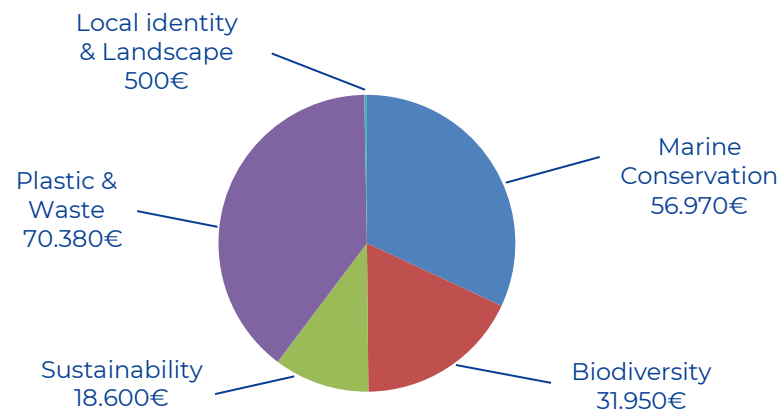




We focus on 4 areas of concern: Marine Conservation, Sustainability, Biodiversity, Local Identity. To supply more clarity in terms of budget allocation we have added a 5<sup>th</sup> category for solid waste management to our 3-year analysis, as 'Plastic & Waste'.

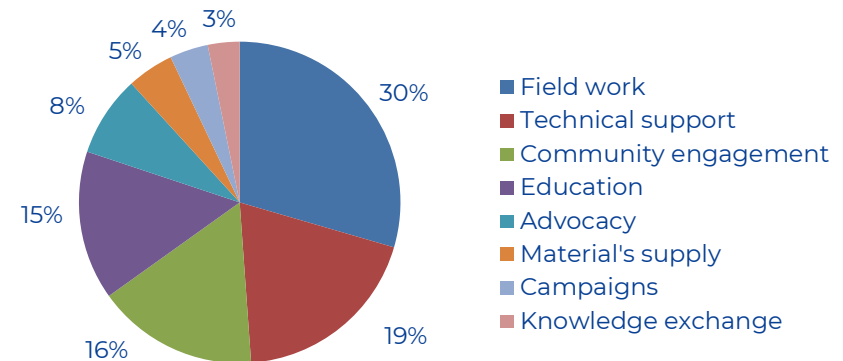


During our first 3 years of operation, most of our grants were channeled to Plastic & Waste, Marine Conservation and Biodiversity.

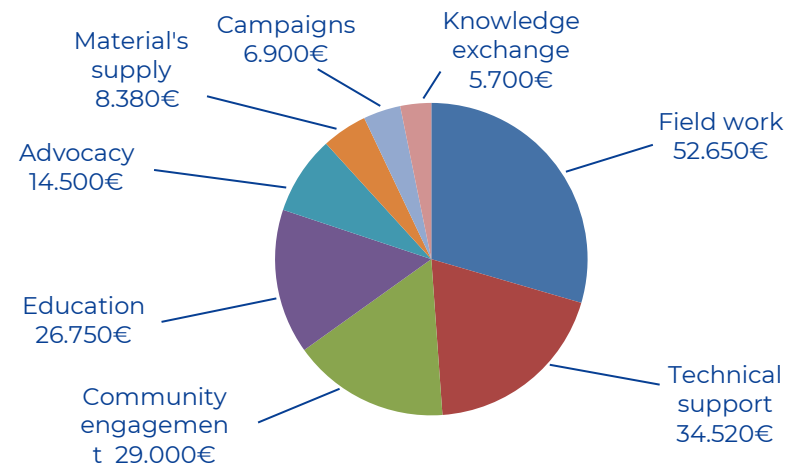




We support a variety of types of projects. For our 3-year analysis, we considered the following categories: Field Work, Community engagement, Campaigns, Networking, Technical support, Other.



Field Work, Technical Support and Community Engagement, followed closely by Education, were the type of projects that we mostly supported during this 3-year period.





We like projects that promote collaboration and synergies.

Our 24 grantees have collectively reported 16 initiatives that were or are implemented in collaboration with at least 1 partner; a total of 47 partnerships were reported, of which 35 concerned partnerships with local entities and 22 partnerships with non-local entities.

27 initiatives engaged stakeholders other than the partners with whom the projects were co-designed; our projects have reached a collective number of 465 engagement linkages reported in 3 years.



How do we  
protect the environment?



We select our projects either because they contribute **directly** to environmental protection & conservation or because they have **great potential** to generate environmental impact in the future.

Or **both!**

e.g. soil anti-erosion measures, flora plantings, wildlife protection, waste collection

e.g. demonstration projects that combine field work with awareness raising or capacity building

e.g. educational programmes, communication campaigns & advocacy

We decided to assess and classify our projects according to their **direct** environmental impact and/or **indirect** environmental impact in order to see how we are doing.

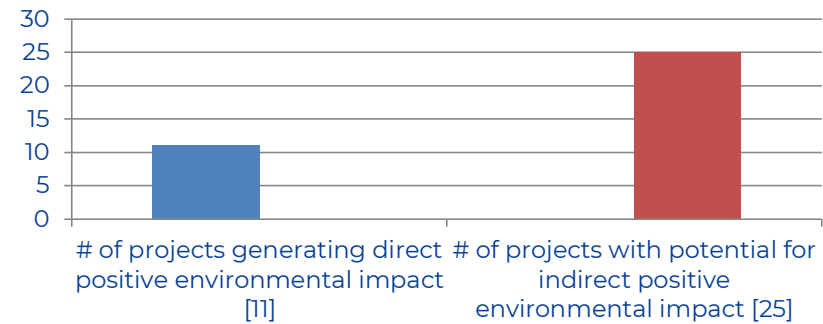




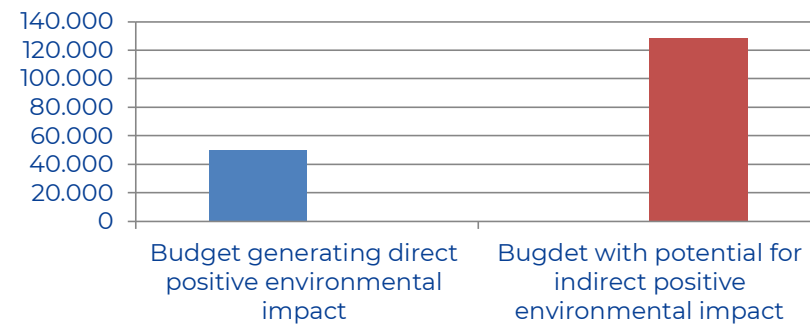
we have contributed  
to the protection of  
**6 marine mammals  
& turtle species**



About one third of our projects contribute directly to environmental conservation & protection and about two thirds have potential to generate impact in the future (e.g. environmental education projects).



This translates into about 28% of the granted budget producing direct positive environmental impact and about 72% having the potential to produce positive environmental impact (i.e. indirectly) in the future.



we have supported the maintenance of about **4 500 m of trail routes**



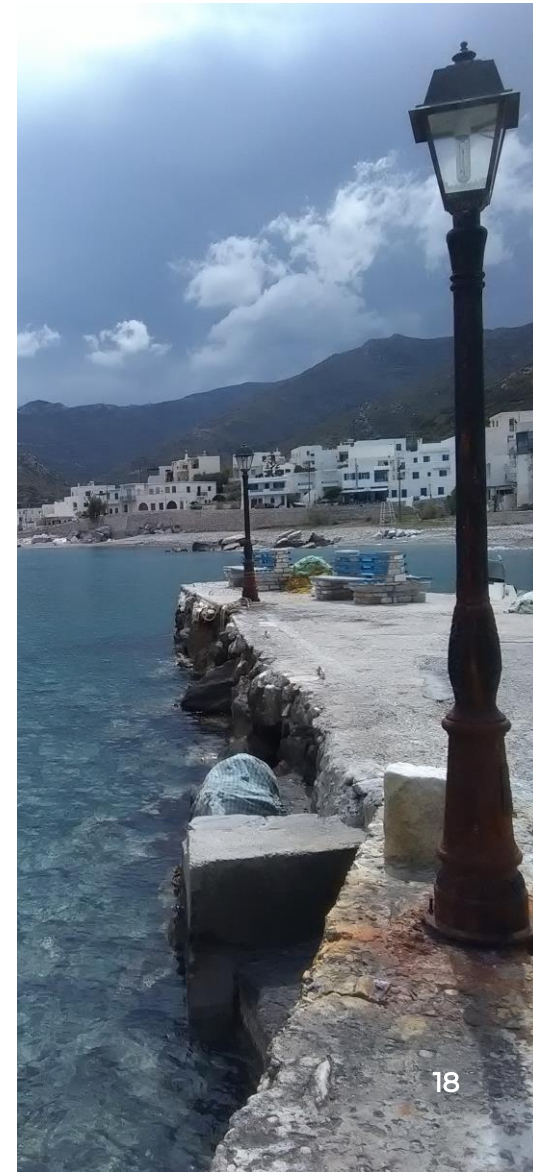
## DIRECT IMPACT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT TODAY

*Examples of activities generating medium direct impact include the combined implementation of soil erosion prevention work and creation of a botanical garden in a small scale, the collection of waste at the Antiparos marine litter station, and the partial covering of operational costs of Alkyoni, a project which – on one hand – enabled the protection of wildlife but did not – on the other hand – safeguard future efforts.*

*Note: a follow-up project has been approved to address this issue and is being executed in 2021.*

*We also generated high direct impact through the increase of capacity of the Naxos Wildlife Protection Association and the initiation of a network for the protection of the sea turtles in the Cyclades.*

*The project generated instant and important impact considering the increase of reported cases of injured or stranded turtles and the fact that the Association itself was enabled to better cope with incidents.*



We have further assessed the projects that generate direct impact as low, medium or high impacts activities, depending on their type, scale and area of implementation. We have found that more than 40% of the budget allocated to projects with direct impact, generate medium or high positive impact.



## DIRECT & INDIRECT IMPACT: COMBINING TODAY'S WORK WITH FUTURE INSPIRATION



*we have facilitated  
the collection of  
**3 tons of waste**  
in 6 months*



*For example, the botanical gardens have a direct positive impact in preserving and/or regenerating native fauna, as well as an indirect potential impact of bringing about positive change through educational activities and the inclusion of young students in the process.*

Many our projects are of a complex nature and include a number of diverse yet interconnected activities with the potential to generate different types of impact.

Most of our projects that generate direct positive environmental impact, have the potential to also generate additional positive impact in the future, with more than 60% of these having the potential to generate medium and high positive impact.

This translates into about 64% of the budget that produces direct positive environmental impact having the potential to also generate additional medium and high positive environmental impact in the future.

we have contributed to addressing  
the overpopulation of  
**4 edible marine alien species**



*For example, educational and informational material about wildlife in the Cyclades, offering insights, pictures and footage of the unique natural environment and the rare species that live in the area, increases knowledge and awareness among local, national and international communities, and can bring about positive change by building support for environmentally focused policies in the future. Building capacities of professionals, e.g. enabling the participation of fishermen to sustainable fishing workshops where they learn about practices that can benefit both them and the environment, is another way to invest today in the developments of the future.*



## INDIRECT IMPACT: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

We have assessed the projects that have the potential to (only) generate future positive environmental impact, e.g. those projects that focus on building a base and momentum within the communities that will allow and enable them to engage in environmental protection and preservation in the future.

We have found that more than 95% of the projects and nearly 99% of the budget allocated to projects with potential for indirect impacts may generate medium or high positive impact in the future, e.g. through activities such as sharing knowledge, creating awareness, and educating, that take place today.



## INDIRECT IMPACT: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

We were also interested to see, overall, when these indirect impacts will be generated. Considering all projects with potential for future impacts, will these be generated soon?

We found that a granted budget of nearly 100.000€ is expected to generate high or medium impact within a short- or middle-term horizon, in other words we have supported and are supporting these initiatives 'at the right moment'.

We have also supported and are supporting initiatives with even harder objectives, aiming to generate positive change slowly and steadily. We have opted for these initiatives as part of our visionary approach for a wider change that is hard to bring about. A budget of more than 60.000€ has been granted to such initiatives, with potential for high or medium impact in a long-term horizon.



*we have helped to showcase  
**45 perennial flora species**  
in just one botanical garden*

*Examples of initiatives that have the potential for high impact within a few years include:*

- *advocacy for channeling European funds into environmental projects*
- *mainstreaming of fishing tourism*
- *consumption and marketing of alien fish*
- *increase capacities for the protection of the sea turtle.*

*Examples of initiatives that have the potential for medium or high impact further in the horizon:*

- *monitoring of cetacean mammals*
- *support of Marine Protected Areas' establishment*
- *reputable organizations' awareness raising and educational activities.*





How do we work with &  
how do we benefit the local communities?







From a social and economic scope, our activities generate multiple positive benefits as they take place on a number of islands, facilitating actual networking and exchanges between communities that tend to be cut off from each other. At the same time, we support a number of small islands that tend to face significant (mostly social) challenges.

Benefits are also generated for the local economies and local educational systems through the funds that are channeled (directly or indirectly) to local entities and through dedicated activities for the educational community.

Equally important, some of the activities that we support have a potential to generate income for some of the participants through capacity building activities, proposals for new opportunities or the supply of pilot equipment. Examples include engaging in fishing tourism activities, opting to fish edible alien species or producing merchandise items from recycled waste. Indirectly, income generation is also supported through knowledge exchange and networking within and beyond the environmental sector.

## MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITIES





**1220 students**  
have benefitted by the  
activities that we support

The local champions, that dedicate their time and skills for the wellbeing of the environment and communities in the Cyclades, and become members of our 'Islanders Forum' community, are the group of people we work closely with.

At the same time, we support the engagement of local communities and seek opportunities where local actors can actively participate in project activities. E.g. we support activities that are targeted to specific professions, such as fishermen and cooks, and to specific age groups, such as elementary school students.

We also support activities that target the local community as a whole, such as awareness raising events through which the participants' knowledge and understanding of environmental issues in the Cyclades increases.







**290 professionals**  
have participated in  
activities that we support



We focus mostly on active engagement and involvement of local populations and communities.

20 of our 37 projects are benefitting the population with tailored activities that aim to improve the participants' skills and knowledge, such as educational sessions and capacity building workshops.

8 of the 37 projects are benefitting the population through activities that are addressed to the wider public, such as open events, or through tools developed that are available for use by the local communities, such as educational material.

ENGAGING AND EDUCATING





**1500 persons**  
have indirectly benefitted  
by our projects

Funds directly channeled to local entities amount to about 58.000€ and concern 16 projects that were implemented by 11 Cyclades-based grantees. In addition, 12 more projects contribute to the local economies through collaborations with local allies and partners and through incurred expenses on respective islands.

Some of the projects can also contribute to the gradual creation of an environmental brand at local, national or international level that may render the Cyclades complex or even specific islands more attractive to certain traveller types.

Interest by media is ever increasing, with more than 100 articles being published about our work in local, national and international press – online & printed – during our first 3 years of operation. This fact makes us even more determined to continue our work, to reach more audiences and to mainstream environmental protection in the Cyclades.

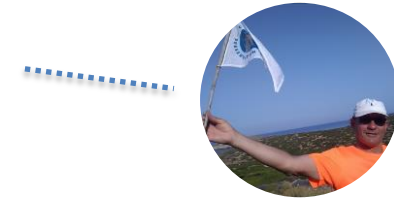
## ECONOMIES & INTERNATIONAL INTEREST







**135 000 persons**  
have learned about our  
work in the Cyclades



24 of our grants are linked to innovation in the sector through the development of new tools, the support of pilot best practices and follow-up activities. In total, we have supported the development of 4 tools and the implementation of 13 pilot best practices, while 30% of our projects are highly replicable on the same or on another island.

We have mobilized 44.900€ by other entities as additional funds to support initiatives that we believed in and we have also opted for certain 'bridge' projects that helped 'unlock' larger initiatives of a total budget of 547.000€.

**INNOVATING REPLICABLE PRACTICES & MOBILIZING OTHERS**



## Our assessment framework & our conclusions







In 2020 we identified a need to measure and reflect on the impact of our grants and projects, to celebrate with our friends and supporters the community engagement that we have created and to build capacity within and beyond the Fund.

We developed our Fund's Framework for Impact Analysis to explore and analyze the impact that our work has on the ground and in the sector.

We drew conclusions and celebrated our successes; we also addressed challenges and looked deeper into our vision and our mode of work.



During this process we worked with an advisor, we gathered all project information and we conceptualized and agreed upon the framework we would use for the impact analysis.

We analyzed all projects, produced an internal report\* which was shared with our Advisory Board for their feedback, and then implemented a facilitated strategy workshop with our Steering Committee.

The insights we gathered by this process are already feeding our operations and strategy, as well as our relationship with and support to our grantees. Our advisor remains with CPF and helps us with that.

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\* Our internal report may be available to interested parties upon approval by our Steering Committee





Our Impact Analysis Framework was conceptualized as a set of thirteen (13) parameters under four (4) broad categories, in an effort to integrate the impact created by our unique mode of operation and wide spectrum of supported initiatives.

#### A. Core

- (1) General information / budget
- (2) Geographical scope
- (3) Environmental scope (measurable & qualitative impact)
- (4) Social scope (measurable & qualitative impact)

#### B. Networking, engagement, communication

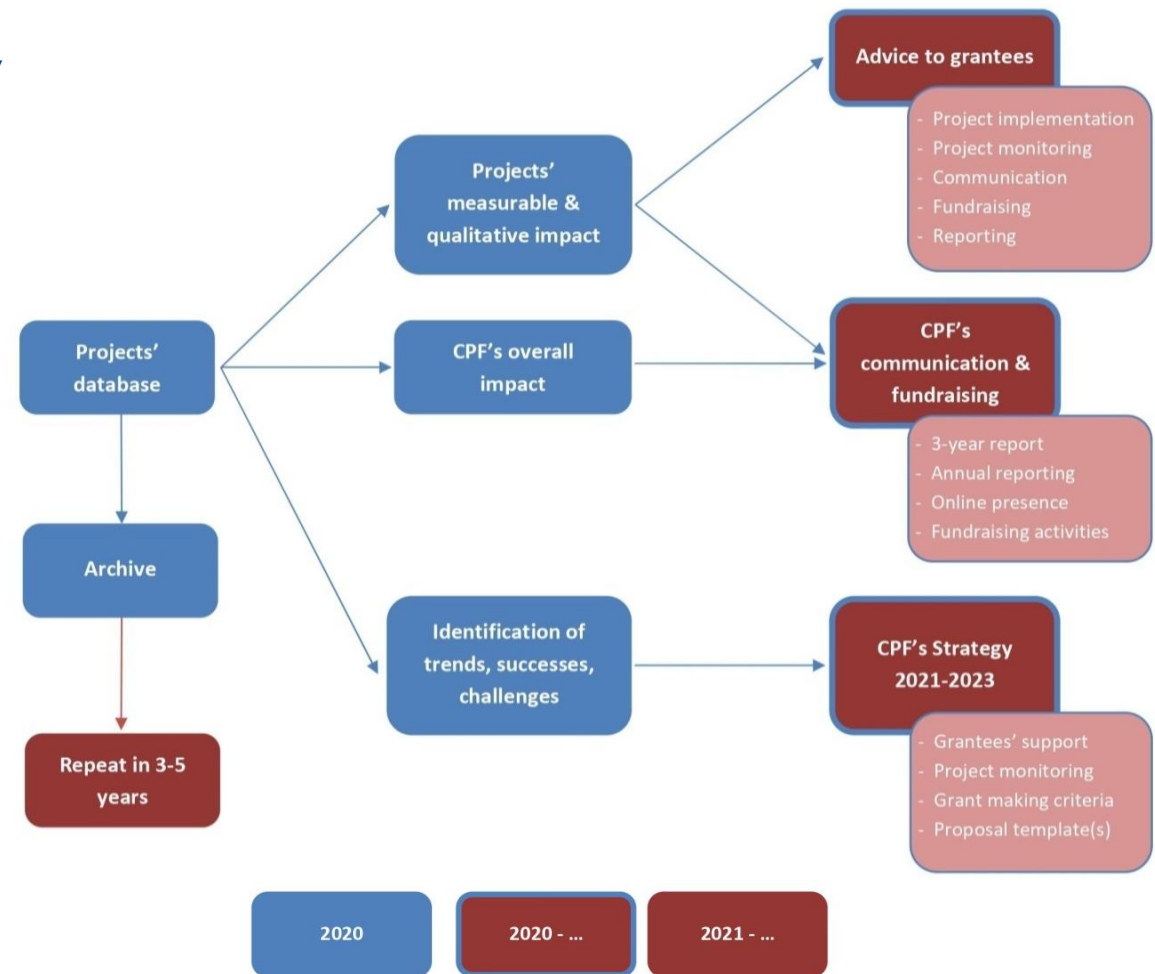
- (5) Outreach & engagement (partners, stakeholders, key persons)
- (6) Awareness & communication (wider public)

#### C. Effectiveness

- (7) Sustainable practices (beyond project actions)
- (8) Project evaluation (by participants & locals)
- (9) Replicability & Innovation
- (10) Funds mobilized or matched

#### D. Efficiency

- (11) Effort invested
- (12) Grantee evaluation (by CPF)
- (13) Lessons learned (by CPF, per project)



Moving forward



The global challenges of 2020 have significantly stalled the progress of many of our granted projects; certain activities were paused in anticipation of better and safer conditions. Delays were more apparent where human interaction and physical presence is imperative for project success, such as educational activities within schools and public awareness raising events.

We worked with our grantees to adapt projects where possible and to reestablish project timelines. We are now happy to report that in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2021 most of the projects were able to re-launch.

Already, about 290 elementary students have learned about composting organic waste through a system that was installed in their school, 150 elementary students have learned about both the value and the risks of plastic use, and 20 elementary students have participated in the development of mobile mapping applications to promote the beauty of their islands!

An aerial survey of 675 km, following 141 reported cetacean encounters by citizens, took place to record the presence of dolphins in the Cyclades, and 11 islands are ready to welcome and screen 4 environmental movies to raise awareness among local populations. 1600 reusable cutlery sets were donated to 16 local women associations at 13 islands to prevent the use of disposable items during events and more than 10 tons of marine waste has been collected, 60% of which was recyclable and has been promoted to recycling units.

As we move further into 2021, we continue with the same enthusiasm, values and persistence to do more and do better.





We are proud of our achievements and we wish to do more.

We will continue:

- Primarily supporting grass-root causes and local communities, that define our grant-making processes and priorities
- Prioritizing activities that have positive environmental and socioeconomic impacts
- Being flexible and close to our grantees
- Developing a network for synergies and collaborations for the Cycladic environment.

We will focus more on:

- Supporting our grantees in identifying, acknowledging and reporting upon their impact
- Monitoring project progress to support our grantees in setting-up realistic and adjustable timelines and in managing risks
- Supporting networking and best practice exchanges by extending the successful Islanders Forum for local champions to other stakeholders through a new platform.

We know well – and we confirm it again and again – that change takes time. The results of our work are not always visible straight away, but we choose to plant seeds that can grow in time to green the Cyclades in the long run.



*With Love from the Cyclades*

*#enjoy*

*#respect*

*#protect*

*#inform*

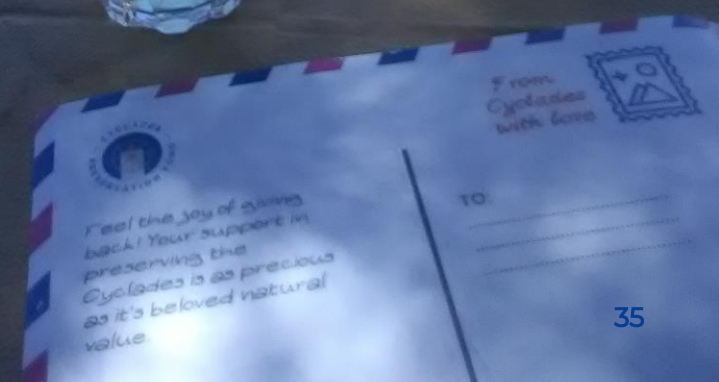
*#educate*

*#preserve*

*#Cyclades*

**Join us!**

[Donating to the CPF](#) is an effective way to give back to nature.







**Preserving the natural beauty  
of the Cyclades, together!**

**Report development : Nassia Kassela**

**Review : Anni Mitropoulou**

**Photos / Shots by Anni Mitropoulou, Nassia Kassela, Toni Atkinson, Oliwia Tado,  
Marianna Vlassi, Antigoni Anomeriti, Hara Pelekanou, Yiannis Orfanos**

**[www.cycladespreservationfund.org](http://www.cycladespreservationfund.org)**