

# MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION



**ANNUAL REVIEW 2023 - 2024**





“

**MALTA'S NATURE IS AWE-  
INSPIRING. SUPPORTING LOCAL  
INITIATIVES TO PROTECT IT IS  
NOT ONLY PART OF BEING A  
GOOD CORPORATE CITIZEN,  
IT'S REALLY UPLIFTING TO  
EMPOWER PASSIONATE  
CHANGE-MAKERS AND  
BECOME A MEMBER OF THAT  
COMMUNITY”**

**OLIVIA AUBREY, CHAIRPERSON  
MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**OUR VISION & STRATEGY 4**

**YEAR AT A GLANCE 5**

**MISSION APPROACH 6**

**OUR WORK 7**

**OUR PROJECTS 9**

**OUR TEAM 13**

**WHAT'S NEXT 14**





**Malta 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

Malta Environment Foundation was established in May 2023.

It is dedicated to convening great minds, resources and ideas to support a shift towards environmental resilience in Malta.

Given the scale of the climate and ecological emergency, our ambition is to expand and accelerate nature protection and restoration across Malta.

In our first year, we supported brilliant grassroots projects tackling the climate and nature crises, raising more than €60,000.

## OUR STRATEGY

We facilitate our vision and achieve our goals by:

Raising funds from people and businesses with strong connections to their homeland to the most innovative and impactful grassroots solutions in Malta, providing vital kick-start or scale-up support.

Working with our Advisory Board of local experts to help optimise our grant-making process.

Building a solid network of people across Malta, united in boosting the work of local environmental champions.





# 2023 - 2024

## AT A GLANCE



PROJECTS

3\*



TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

€60,000

THROUGH ITS GRANT  
PARTNERS, MEF IS



GROWING AND PLANTING  
LOCAL TREES



REMOVING PLASTIC  
WASTE AND GHOST NETS  
FROM THE SEA



RESEARCHING AND  
CONSERVING  
ENDANGERED SPECIES

\* A fourth project will be announced in  
the coming weeks!

## MEF'S MISSION APPROACH



### INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS

We need to view the environment as part of a larger, national system, and explore novel approaches to overcome challenges.



### SPACE FOR NATURE TO THRIVE

We aim to protect and regenerate nature, and encourage its growth across the archipelago's natural and built-up spaces.



### COMMUNITY AGENCY & ACTION

We are committed to empowering communities for a brighter future in Malta.



**EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK THERE ARE BRILLIANT, PASSIONATE PEOPLE WORKING TO CREATE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE. SMALL AMOUNTS OF FUNDING, STRATEGICALLY DIRECTED, CAN SUPERCHARGE THIS WORK.**

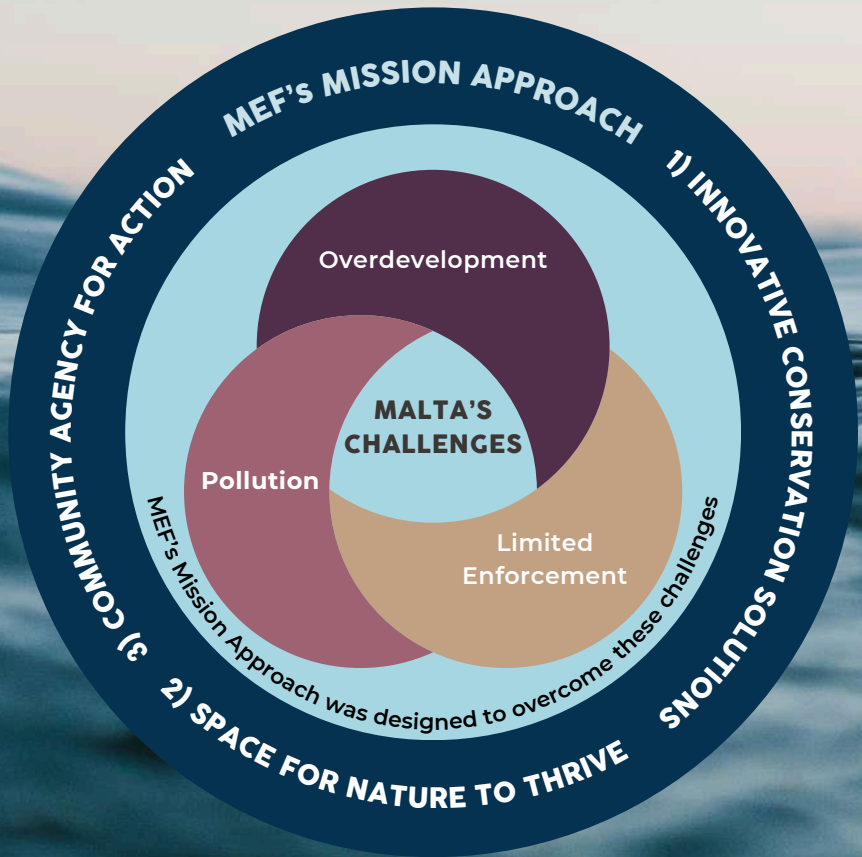
**BEN GOLDSMITH**

Founder of Conservation Collective



# OUR WORK

With less than 20% of waste recycled, lax enforcement of environmental laws and the EU's lowest level of forest cover, our mission is to boldly tackle these pressing challenges head on





# MEF'S FIRST PROJECTS

1

## **Regenerating Landscapes - Grantee: ACT** **Addressing overdevelopment**

ACT is restoring Malta's ecosystems by planting native tree species, saving endangered flora and rehabilitating land. MEF is supporting ACT to enhance and strengthen its infrastructure.

2

## **Cleaning Malta's sea - Grantee: Žibel** **Addressing pollution**

Through volunteer diving expeditions and beach clean ups, Žibel collects waste from Malta's shore and seabed. MEF is financing Žibel's first-ever paid staff position to advance their mission.

3

## **Shark & Ray Conservation - Grantee: Sharklab-Malta** **Addressing enforcement**

Sharklab-Malta conducts research, runs educational activities, and promotes marine conservation. Through MEF's support, Sharklab is publishing vital papers and lobbying for conservation measures.



## REGENERATING LANDSCAPES

*Grantee: ACT*

Malta's forest land cover stands at around 1%. The effects of climate change are manifesting in periods of scorching heat, which are further exacerbated in Malta's built-up regions. This project is contributing to the conservation of endemic flora. Given the right care, they can ensure the resilience needed to face climate change and safeguard Malta's wildlife and communities.

### THE PROJECT

ACT is on a mission to regenerate Malta's native flora through creative, community-driven approaches that promote awareness, positive involvement, and collaboration.

ACT's greenhouse is a space for conservation. It is also a space to allow people to connect with Malta's wildlife, learn about our natural heritage and engage with our communities.



**"OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MEF HAS LED TO MUTUAL GRATITUDE, SHARED EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE FRUITS OF THIS COLLABORATION, AND A DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THAT OTHERS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE NATURE FIRSTHAND."**

CLAUDE EBEJER, PRESIDENT, ACT

**“APART FROM FORMING A  
CRUCIAL NETWORK OF LOCAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES,  
MEF OFFERED ACT INVALUABLE  
ENCOURAGEMENT AND THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN  
OUR SYSTEMS AND AMPLIFY  
OUR SUSTAINABLE IMPACT.”**

**CLAUDE EBEJER, PRESIDENT, ACT**







## CLEANING MALTA'S SEA

*Grantee: Žibel*

Malta's beaches and marine life are under siege from plastic pollution, a major threat to the health of our sea. Through MEF, Žibel hired their first paid staff member, enabling them to engage more people and businesses to clean Malta's marine environment. Through education and community engagement, Žibel aims to tackle marine litter and protect wildlife.

### THE PROJECT

Founded in 2017, Žibel aims to create awareness, inspire environmental action, and provide tangible solutions.

So far, Žibel has collected around 150,000 kg of waste from the Maltese environment, mobilized over 6,000 volunteers and 900+ divers, and retrieved more than 115 fishing nets from the seabed, saving thousands of sea creatures.



**"ON BEHALF OF ALL THE TEAM, I'D LIKE TO THANK THE MEF BOARD FOR BELIEVING IN OUR MISSION AND ENABLING US TO DO MORE OF WHAT WE LOVE."**

**ANDREW SCHEMBRI, CO-FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, ŽIBEL**



# SHARK & RAY CONSERVATION

*Grantee: Sharklab-Malta*

Bull Rays are a critically endangered species which can be spotted along Malta's coast. Until now, very little scientific data has existed on the rays, resulting in a lack of clarity on the threats they face. This project seeks to address the challenges faced by bull rays by publishing data collected by Sharklab-Malta over the past decade and lobbying for suitable conservation measures.

## THE PROJECT

Sharklab-Malta is a voluntary organisation dedicated to supporting sharks and rays in Malta's waters through research, education and awareness raising.

This organisation is safeguarding Malta's marine life through initiatives such as egg acquisition from fish markets, reintroduction of rays into the sea, data collection and educational activities.



**"WE ARE THRILLED TO BE PARTNERING WITH MEF TO HELP SHINE A LIGHT ON THESE TRULY MAGNIFICENT CREATURES."**

CHARLIE MATTHEWS, SCIENCE OFFICER, SHARKLAB-MALTA

# OUR TEAM



**Gail Sant**  
Executive Director



**Olivia Aubrey**  
Chair Person



**Julien Höfer**  
Steering Committee



**Amy Harker**  
Steering Committee



**Ben Goldsmith**  
Conservation Collective



**Jade Brudenell**  
Conservation Collective



**Jean Francois de  
Clermont-Tonnerre**  
Steering Committee



**Henry St George**  
Steering Committee

## SPECIAL THANKS

*MEF's success would not be possible without the support of our community.*

Nikolai Lubrano - legal support  
Andrea Sammut - fundraising support  
Max Brincat - administrative support  
Hans Friederich - advisory support  
Patrick Saich - fundraising support



# OUR NETWORK



# OUR SPONSORS



# WHAT'S NEXT

Our priority is to increase the amount of funding available for local, tangible solutions by inspiring more people & organisations to get involved.

We aim to encourage more grassroots regenerative projects to start-up or scale-up, by providing mentoring, expertise, connections, and vital financial support.

Your support would enable us to seed more projects, inspire more people and support more nation-wide solutions.

Nurture Malta's Nature.  
Join MEF.

# THANK YOU

To all our donors and supporters.  
We couldn't have done it without  
your generous support.

## SUPPORT US



### MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

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