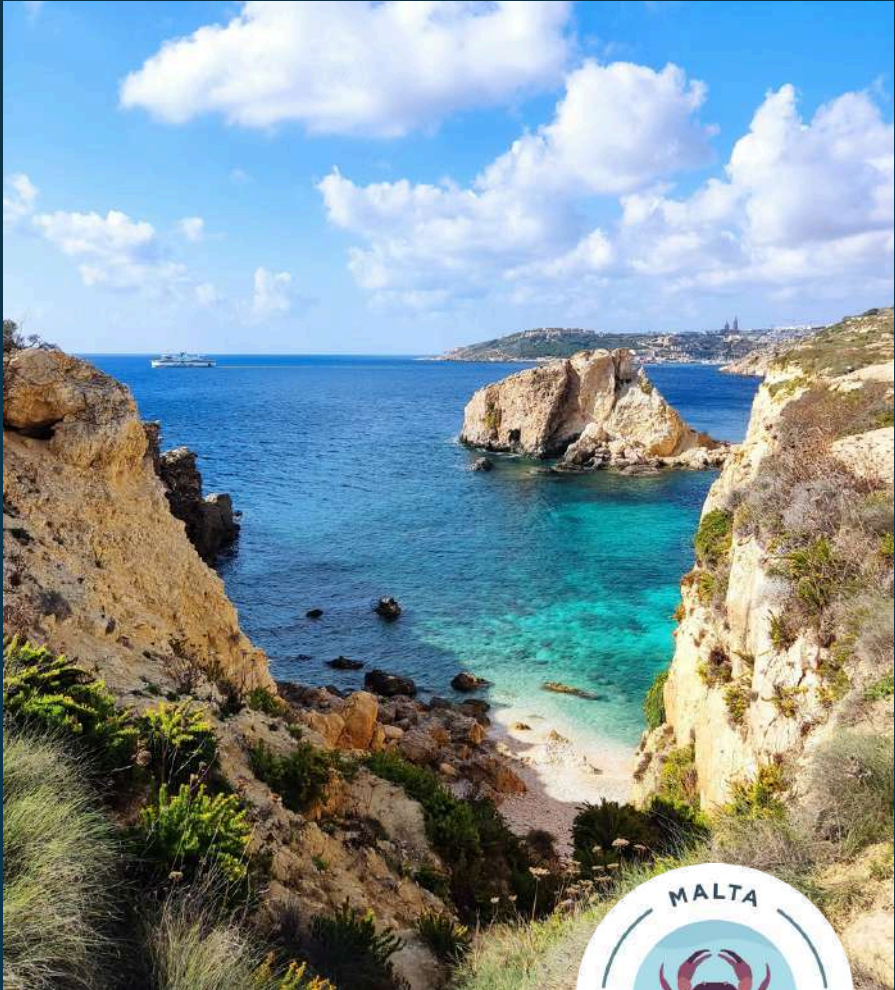


# MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REVIEW 2023 - 2024





**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.**



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## 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 raised more than €100,000 and supported brilliant grassroots projects tackling the biodiversity and climate crises.

## OUR STRATEGY

We facilitate our vision and achieve our goals by:

Raising funds from people and businesses with strong connections to their homeland.

Awarding grants 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 SUPPORTED

7



TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

€100,000

## MEF'S MISSION APPROACH



### INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS

We 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.



# OUR PROJECTS





# CLEANING MALTA'S SEA

**Grantee:** Žibel

**Duration:** September 2023 - September 2024

**Funds:** €5,625

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.

## ABOUT ŽIBEL

Founded in 2017, the voluntary organisation Žibel raises awareness, inspires environmental action, and provides 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

**Duration:** February 2024 - February 2025

**Grant:** €4,300

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 to this species. 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.

### ABOUT SHARKLAB-MALTA

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





## REGENERATING LANDSCAPES

**Grantee:** ACT

**Duration:** September 2023 - September 2024

**Funds:** €10,000

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.

### ABOUT ACT

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



## SUPPORTING MALTA'S RANGERS

**Grantee: Malta Ranger Unit (MRU)**

**Duration: May 2024 - November 2024**

**Grant: €9,500**

Malta hosts around 170 bird species migrating between Europe and Africa, but poachers kill or capture up to 200,000 birds annually. Illegal trapping of birds also remains common. Limited enforcement allow these environmental offences to continue. MEF is supporting MRU's conservation efforts by funding a patrolling vehicle. This critical addition enhances the Rangers' safety and efficiency, extending their reach and impact.

### ABOUT MALTA RANGER UNIT

Malta Ranger Unit is the first NGO of its kind in Malta, which monitors all environmental illegalities under Maltese Law. The Unit has over 100 cases monthly and documents crimes such as illegal fishing, poaching of birds, illegal fires, littering, and dumping of waste.

The MRU also focusses on educating the general Public, hence Rangers also offer school talks and CSR activities to increase knowledge about environmental legislation among the general public.



**“THANKS TO THE GRANT GIVEN BY MEF TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE, OUR RANGERS CAN NOW CARRY OUT THEIR DUTIES IN A MORE EFFICIENT AND SAFE WAY.”**

CAMILLA APPELGREN, CHIEF PATROLLING RANGER, MALTA RANGER UNIT





# SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

**Grantee: ROTA**

**Duration: July 2024 – July 2025**

**Funds: €5,000**

Malta's air pollution levels are over twice the European average with the majority of pollution originating from cars. Monitoring stations across the island frequently report pollutant levels that surpass EU air quality standards, raising public health and environmental concerns. The Malta Environment Foundation is excited to be supporting Rota's initiative by facilitating the purchase of a cargo bike to collect batteries for recycling whilst also promoting sustainable transport.

## ABOUT ROTA

Rota is a voluntary organisation advocating for safe bicycle use in Malta with an aim to represent all those who cycle or want to cycle in Malta.

They carry out lobbying to promote cycling to decision-makers, provide advice, educate about the principles of best practice by all road users, collaborate with groups who have similar interests and organise events to bring the cycling community together.



**“THE GRANT FROM MEF WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE ROTA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ACTIVE MOBILITY.”**

MARK TRAPANI, PRESIDENT, ROTA



# RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES

**Grantee: Friends of the Earth Malta**

**Duration: September 2024 - February 2025**

**Grant: €5,000**

Nearly 90% of energy in Malta still comes from fossil fuel sources. Energy demand is projected to increase, and whilst investment in renewable energy has shifted some of that energy use to cleaner sources, the renewable energy transition is happening too slowly in Malta. MEF is excited to be supporting Friends of the Earth Malta in researching the practicalities of setting up renewable energy communities.

## ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MALTA

Friends of the Earth Malta campaign on the most pressing environmental and social issues, by engaging the public directly through a wide range of diverse projects and activities and mobilising people to participate in decision-making processes.

The organisation strives to provide creative solutions to environmental and societal issues which are based on sound knowledge and continuously lobbies and works to influence the policy community towards a more just and sustainable society.



**“THANKS TO THIS GRANT PROVIDED BY THE MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE ONE STEP CLOSER TO OUR DREAM OF SETTING UP THE FIRST RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY IN MALTA.”**

DR SUZANNE MAAS,  
CLIMATE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR,  
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MALTA





## NATURE EDUCATION

**Grantee: Saviour Bonnici**

**Duration: November 2024 - November 2025**

**Grant: €6,614**

Documentaries are a great tool to bring about change in society and one of the key objectives of 'Natura Maltija' is to instil positive feelings of appreciation towards the natural environment, since for real change to happen, people must first understand and believe that what we have deserves to be protected.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

'Natura Maltija' is a professional documentary series that showcases the unique natural heritage of Malta. It explores the diverse ecosystems and wildlife found locally, offering a unique perspective on Malta's rich biodiversity and shedding light on the importance of preserving these natural treasures.

The Malta Environment Foundation is proud to be supporting Mr Bonnici in his latest endeavour to make 'Natura Maltija' accessible to as many people as possible.



**"THANKS TO THIS GRANT PROVIDED BY THE MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE ONE STEP CLOSER TO OUR DREAM OF SETTING UP THE FIRST RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY IN MALTA."**

DR SUZANNE MAAS,  
CLIMATE CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR,  
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MALTA

# OUR TEAM



**Tamsin Caruana**  
Executive Director



**Olivia Aubry**  
Chair Person



**Amy Harker**  
Steering Committee



**Mark Azzopardi**  
Steering Committee



**Henry St George**  
Steering Committee



**Julien Höfer**  
Steering Committee



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



**Ben Goldsmith**  
Conservation Collective



**Jade Brudenell**  
Conservation Collective



**Dr Hans Friederich, FRGS**  
Advisory Board



**Nikolai Lubrano**  
Advisory Board



**Gail Saint**  
Non-executive Director





# OUR SUPPORTERS



# OUR NETWORK



# 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





**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**  
Chair of MEF





# 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.



**MALTA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION**

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