



SICILY ENVIRONMENT FUND

CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE

CONSERVATION
COLLECTIVE

A close-up photograph of several orange cholla cactus fruits. The fruits are covered in small, dark, circular spots, likely from insect damage or mold. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

**"EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK
THERE ARE BRILLIANT PEOPLE
WORKING TO CREATE POSITIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE.**

**SMALL AMOUNTS OF FUNDING,
STRATEGICALLY DIRECTED, CAN
SUPERCHARGE THIS WORK."**

**BEN GOLDSMITH,
CO-FOUNDER**



ABOUT US

We are a group of Sicily lovers dedicated to preserving and protecting nature. The Sicily Environment Fund (SEF) aims to protect and restore the biodiversity and ecosystems of Sicily and its islands by:

- Raising funds from people and businesses, locally and internationally, with strong connections to Sicily, to support the most effective local grassroots organisations, environmental initiatives, campaigns, and projects working to sustain the diverse natural assets of the region.
- Supporting projects which bring both economic and social renewal to local communities, and which can be scaled up and replicated across the territory.
- Building a strong network of people across Sicily, united in boosting the work of local environmental champions.





WHY

Sicily is one of the most significant biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean basin.

It offers a great variety of habitats - including marine, coastal, inland, and high-mountainous. It is the most extended region in Italy and largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, including 14 small inhabited islands and three active volcanoes.

Many threats and environmental problems exist, including pollution, unsustainable agricultural and fishing practices, and habitat degradation.

SEF will play a key role in opening new channels of funding to support local projects and organisations, ensuring the feasibility of long-term initiatives and driving innovative projects.





HOW

Channelling funds from businesses, foundations & philanthropists to grassroots conservation projects:

- Funding, developing and supporting projects that meet our aims.
- Raising people's awareness of the natural world and environmental challenges.
- Promoting and supporting collective action for protecting the environment.
- Filling a gap by being agile, unbureaucratic, and 'getting stuff done'.
- Tapping into our network of experts to ensure we support the projects offering the largest returns for nature.
- Seeking to build local coalitions that catalyse systemic change.
- Helping businesses and consumers to act more sustainably.
- Working through communities.
- Encouraging more, and more effective, environmental philanthropy.





AREAS OF INTEREST

MARINE BIODIVERSITY

- Reducing the impacts of overfishing, by increasing surveillance and control on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, fostering sustainable small-scale fisheries, and encouraging responsible practices.
- Monitoring wildlife species populations and promoting scientific research to drive greater protection frameworks.
- Contributing to a bigger, more effective, and better-enforced network of Marine Protected Areas across the region.

TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY

- Implementing restoration, regeneration and species reintroduction to tackle biodiversity loss, reduce habitat fragmentation.
- Improving the connectivity of the protected areas network even in urbanised areas.
- Promoting fire prevention, suppression and management.
- Monitoring species and habitats to fill data gaps.





SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

- Addressing landscape as productive systems advocating for the adoption of agroecology as an integrated holistic approach.
- Providing technical support to small farmers and winegrowers to protect traditional rural landscapes threatened by land abandonment and modern agriculture.

ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

- Implementing awareness campaigns to inform the public and promote the measures we can take to adapt to climate change.
- Advocating for responsible waste management.
- Promoting water security and drought management to tackle desertification.
- Promoting ecotourism models.
- Strengthening a new governance of sustainability raising awareness of institutions, businesses, and the local population.
- Promoting and supporting community-led renewable energy projects.



GRANT MAKING

SEF will make an invaluable contribution by awarding grants to the most effective local projects and grassroots organisations such as non-profit organisations, associations, clubs or unions, research centres, social cooperative enterprises and/or other local bodies.

The applicants must display strong and effective leadership and emphasise an integrated bottom-up approach, by involving local communities and ensuring benefits for both nature and people. The proposed projects shall be clear and compelling, with the objective to create measurable and sustainable long-term results.

SEF will support the development of cutting-edge projects falling within the four areas of interest, by building capacity through proper training, equipment and facilitation, leveraging local specialists and developing new partnerships.



OUR TEAM

- An executive Director coordinates the Fund administration, grant-making and fundraising.
- A communication manager oversees campaigns, events, and media and supports general management.
- A Steering Committee of actively engaged donors assesses grants, advises on strategy, and contributes to the growth of the Fund.
- An Advisory Board of local experts advises on grant selection, guaranteeing high scientific standards.
- The Conservation Collective will support SEF at launch, and beyond, sharing best practices and knowledge transfer amongst its members.

The SEF is a member of the Conservation Collective, a global network of local foundations funding effective grassroots conservation initiatives to preserve, protect, and regenerate biodiverse ecosystems on land and below water, and to slow down and safeguard against climate change.





JOIN US

There are many ways you can join us to support our work, from making a regular donation to recommending a project.

For more information, please contact: gaia@sicilyenvironment.org

For press inquiries: ambra@sicilyenvironment.org

Donate now: <https://conservation-collective.org/donate/>

Website: <https://sicilyenvironment.org/>



Photo credits: Gaia Agnello, Ambra Messina,



THANK YOU

A close-up photograph of a lizard with dark, patterned scales perched on a large, dense cluster of small, light-colored flowers. The background is blurred, showing dark, rocky terrain.

Sicily Environment Fund is a branch of the Conservation Collective, incorporated organisation under charity number **1185925**.

