A LOVE STORY WITH
THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS
TOGETHER TO PRESERVE A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM
FOR US AND THE GENERATIONS TO COME

2021
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We aim to empower the local communities by inviting them to be a part of our mission. By raising awareness about the importance of conservation and creating a dialogue on ways to take action, we can incorporate their deep-rooted knowledge of the region for the benefit of generations to come.

The stunning beauty of the Aeolian Islands has attracted explorers and travellers throughout history. The first inhabitants of Aeolian's arrived around 5000 B.C.; in every island there are visible signs of settlement and archaeological remains. Etruscans, Greeks, Romans before, then Arabs, Christians, Aragons, Turks. The Aeolian Islands are a Unesco World Heritage Site, due to their unique volcanology - with both Vulcano and Stromboli being live volcanos.

In recent years the Aeolian Islands have undergone considerable growth, leading to an unmanageable requirement for resources such as waste management and extensive environmental degradation. With a residential population of 10,000 people, the Municipalities come under huge pressure each summer season as over 100,000 tourists arrive. This flow of tourists in a short period of time exceeds the capacity of the Islands’ environment, adding to the strain on fresh water, waste management and energy resources.

The AIPF is an initiative started in 2015 by friends of the Aeolian Islands, who want to give this fragile ecosystem the protection it deserves. We raise money from people from all around the world who care about the future of the Aeolian Islands. We use funds raised to give out grants to local environmental and sustainable initiatives.

To address these social and environmental challenges, the AIPF has worked with partners and funded projects to protect the land and sea, commissioned studies to engage the community and promote change, and established alliances to strengthen local voices on critical issues.

We do this so future generations can also love, enjoy and prosper from the Aeolians pristine seas and marine species, fertile soils and landscape, unique biodiversity and exceptional, natural beauty. By preserving our islands’ natural beauty and resources, we contribute to the community’s well-being and prosperity.

Luca Del Bono, Aeolian
Luca Del Bono, an Anglo-Italian entrepreneur, at the helm of ONDA, a leading global lifestyle club, connecting people and places to share meaningful experiences around the world.

Luca has developed and managed some of the most recognised hospitality establishments in the sector, lately launching the South Kensington Club in London and La Macchia club in Tuscany.

Previously, in 2000, Luca co-founded lifestyle company Quintessentially, spearheading the business development internationally, furthermore launching award winning Quintessentially Travel.

Over the years, Luca has supported organisations that he’s passionate about, more recently co-founding the Aeolian Islands Preservation Foundation. Luca has been honoured by the President of Italy with the knighthood of Cavaliere, all’Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana.

Luca, born in Lipari, remains an Aeolian explorer at heart, embracing and divulging the beauty that nature has gifted his home islands.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee comprising our most active donors meet regularly to oversee the grants process, and help direct strategy.

- Beatrice Bulgari
- Belquis Zahir
- Elvira Grimaldi Oetker
- Federica Barbaro
- Ophelia Brown
- Raffaele Ranucci
- Rossella Beaugié

Virginia Tronchetti Provera Young Committee Leader
“I was born on the island of Lipari; growing up among the beauty of the archipelago, island hopping, and enjoying the diversity of nature... Now while sadly a few too many buildings have been developed on some islands without control, but worst still, is that the Sea is notably different since my childhood... crazily enough, there is no proper regulation to protect the oceans.

It’s been a wonderful revelation to be able to create the AIPF with my old friend Ben Goldsmith in 2015 and other special friends that have believed in the mission to preserve this idyllic ecosystem.”

Luca Del Bono

FIRMS & ADVISORS

Bankers:
Triodos Bank
Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS
www.triodos.com
Unicredit
Piazza Caio Duilio, 1/3, Milazzo

Solicitors:
Withers Worldwide
16 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7EG
www.withersworldwide.com

Accountants:
Simmons Gainsford
7/10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square
London W1G 9DQ
www.sgllp.co.uk
We love nature. We care deeply about the future of our sea, landscape, its creatures and cultural traditions. We believe tourism can be transformative. We aim for visitors alike and the community, to connect with this exceptional environment. Our mission is to preserve a healthy ecosystem for the generations to come.
Since its setup up, in 2015, over €1 million has been raised (with over €500,000 directly from AIPF donors) through our initiatives and partners, invested to preserve, sustain and restore the aeolian natural environment. Furthermore the awareness raising and educational impact of the AIPF and sisters organisations, have proved to be invaluable to the local community, laying strong foundations for a sustainable future.

Projects supported so far, cover the following areas of interest:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects supported</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>landscape preservation and sustainable agriculture</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>projects supporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waste management projects</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>of these projects have had an educational element</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>renewable energy project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>research studies commissioned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marine protection projects</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9 of these projects have had an educational element</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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AIPF IN NUMBERS

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
plastic bottles recycled by the eco-compactors

30 fishermen engaged to fish more sustainably

197 FADs (fishing aggregating devices) with 280km of polypropylene lines removed from the sea and 6km of illegal driftnets

1 renewable energy project

10,000 reusable bags distributed to replace plastic shopping bags in local markets

20 tons of discarded fishing nets recovered and recycled
PROJECTS

MARINE PROTECTION:
PROTECTING THE AEOLIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTING ARTISANAL FISHING

The Aeolian Islands Preservation Foundation together with BLUE Marine Foundation (BLUE), is working to support sustainable fishing, restore fish stocks, reduce pollution and protect rare marine habitats and species. This project is overseen by two experienced marine biologists: Rory Moore, project manager at BLUE, and Giulia Bernardi, local project coordinator.

Key activities to date include:

→ Development and implementation of a voluntary fishing ‘code of conduct’ with local fishermen to promote low-impact, sustainable and responsible fishing.

→ Fishermen exchange programmes with other small-scale fishing communities.

→ Helping guide effective management measures and providing tangible infrastructure and equipment in the form of ice machines and reusable, insulated fish boxes to improve quality of fish and reduce polystyrene waste.

→ A campaign to make Salina free from plastic shopping bags by distributing thousands of ‘More Fish - Less Plastic’ reusable BLUE bags

→ The renovation of a rescue and rehabilitation centre for endangered loggerhead turtles in Filicudi; an education program for all local children to improve the recovery and rescue of injured or threatened sea turtles, and supporting volunteers who monitored turtle nests, with Filicudi Wildlife Conservation

→ An education programme with Kurma Association for a dozen students in Lipari experiencing the world of sustainable fishing and typical traditional Aeolian fishing techniques.
A study to monitor the health of the seagrass meadows in Salina by Anton Dohrn Zoological Station.

TartaNest Eolie project with Filicudi Fieldlife Conservation, a campaign aiming at monitoring and safeguarding Caretta caretta nesting sites in the Aeolian Islands, at sharing useful information to protect the nests, involving the community, the tourists and the children. It includes 7 seminars for children, information material, the closure during the summer season of the two main marine caves in the Aeolian Archipelago, Grotta del Bue Marino and Grotta del Cavallo in Vulcano.

A RIB power boat with the purpose of supporting and encouraging scientific activities and to raise awareness in the Aeolian Islands.

Initiated the Marine Protected Area programs for the Aeolian Islands. The programs included the involving of the Minister of the Environment, Land, and Sea and other leading authorities, national and regional. This also led to the involvement of ISPRA.

MARINE PROTECTION:
PROTECTING THE AEOLIAN MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTING ARTISANAL FISHING

A think-tank involving international marine protection NGOs, Lonely Whale Foundation, Oceana and Sea Shepherd. This led to regular campaigns across the archipelago to protect our marine habitats and since then we had 4 Sea Shepherd missions and a full research on the deep sea habitats by Oceana giving a very positive input on a national level.

Two diving missions which recovered around 20 tons of ghost nets, in collaboration with Healthy Seas, Ghost Diving, the Coast Guard, the local divers and fishermen. The nets have been recycled and transformed into sustainable textiles for fashion houses across the globe. Around 150 children have been involved to find out more about the mission.

Research and information campaigns about the importance of protecting the Posidonia Oceanica (precious carbon absorbing Mediterranean seagrass); a recreational boating code of conduct; a fish calendar of the best Aeolian fish to eat, with Capofaro Resort; sharing research studies to understand more about the unique marine environment of the islands.

A guide to Aeolian archipelago’s sea by Kurma Association, with topics such as marine ecology, current regulations on professional and sports fishing, the biological characteristics of the most commercialised marine species on the islands, and the traditional local recipes.
We have supported 4 Sea Shepherd’s missions to fight illegal fishing in the Aeolian Islands, in collaboration with SmileWave Fund. With the Guardia di Finanza and the Coast Guard, 6 km of illegal drift nets and 197 FADs (Fishing Aggregating Devices) with 280 km of polypropylene lines, were confiscated and removed from the sea. The small-scale fishermen have been at the forefront, reporting the illegal activities.
Dolphin Guardians educational project with Marevivo, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Municipality and the Coast Guard involving all the children of the schools in the Aeolian Islands to raise awareness about the threats of overfishing and other illegal activities at sea, empowering the children to get in touch directly with the mayors or the Captain of the Coast Guard in case they identify any illegal action at sea.

Workshop “The sea of time” in the arts festival Festa di Teatro Ecologico, with a focus on sea pollution, dedicated to the children of the island, who collected plastic waste from the beach that has been used for the final performance, to raise awareness of the problem of marine litter.

A project to clean up the beaches of Lipari involving the children with kayaks to reach the most remote beaches, in collaboration with the association Magazzino di Mutuo Soccorso.
Sustainable tourism must be promoted to ensure long term benefits to the economy. The tourism industry will only flourish, if we protect the natural assets (pristine waters, impressive volcanos, stunning landscapes and biodiversity) which draw people to visit the Aeolians in the first place. We look to protect the landscapes with their rich soils, and promote local produce.

→ Dry stone walling courses in Lipari and Panarea for adults and children by DottEolie association, and CNR-ISAC, which teaches building and restoring techniques for the traditional walls, which form part our unique cultural and environmental heritage.

→ Recovery of the historic paths of Alicudi organized by the local association DottEolie in collaboration with Nesos, to give value to the landscape cultural heritage of Alicudi island by promoting actions to recover and maintain the historic paths and drystone walls crossing the terraces of the island, involving resident workers.

→ Clearing of the ancient pathways and beaches in Panarea with FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano) and their volunteers, to expose the natural beauty of the Island to visitors in a sustainable way.

→ Re-discovering Alicudi’s paths project with DottEolie, a project to recover and keep clean the most remote historical and naturalistic paths of Alicudi involving local workers, with the final aim of keeping operational the Rescue Team for Alicudi’s Paths Recovery. The maintenance is devoted to recover sections of partially collapsed dry-stone walls present on the paths.
Sustainable tourism must be promoted to ensure long term benefits to the economy. The tourism industry will only flourish, if we protect the natural assets (pristine waters, impressive volcanos, stunning landscapes and biodiversity) which draw people to visit the Aeolians in the first place. We look to protect the landscapes with their rich soils, and promote local produce.

→ Edible Gardens project, carried out by international NGO Slow Food. An educational programme for schools, to encourage children to take an interest in local produce and sustainable agriculture.

→ Coloring in sweetness by Slow Food included lessons involving an Honey producer of « Black Sicilian Bees » giving one hive (wooden house) to each school, to be painted and returned to the manufacturer, in order to start the production.

→ A social olive oil mill in Stromboli, in the frame of the Éolio project promoted by the association Attiva Stromboli. This initiative involves and unites the community of the island, and preserves an iconic part of the Aeolian landscape, the olive tree, by promoting local sustainable produce.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The road to optimise the system of waste collection and achieve self-sufficiency in waste disposal, organise staff and facilities, and to ensure high standards is still long and the aim is to train citizens about recycling and ecology and sensitize them through concrete initiatives.

→ EmergenSea educational Campaign with Marevivo providing eco-compactors for plastic bottles in busy market areas and schools to reduce pollution and raise awareness of the benefits of recycling. In Lipari in three months 50,000 plastic bottles have been recycled thanks to the Marevivo initiative, to the eco- compactor that we funded and thanks to the awareness of the local community. The bottles would cover the distance of 17 km, equal to the circumnavigation of Stromboli island.

→ A project to make Lipari and Panarea plastic free with Oceanic Global and Marevivo through a team that will engage with local businesses on Lipari and Panarea, to eliminate single use plastics from their operations, by facilitating the process, through a guide, assessment schemes, badges to award the businesses who respect the guidelines.

→ Plastic free schools in Lipari and Panarea with Marevivo, through the introduction of water purifiers and reusable water bottles and the adhesion to the Plastic Free Schools network, to introduce good practices and prevent the increasing pollution of the sea and the environment caused by the excessive use and leakage of plastic.
According to the latest UNEP report, each square kilometer of ocean contains an average of 63,320 microplastic particles, with significant differences at the regional level. The problem concerns the Mediterranean particularly. At least 250 billion plastic fragments are estimated to be scattered throughout the Mediterranean.

In response, governments and companies around the world, including in the Aeolian Islands, are implementing bans on single-use plastic to promote healthier practices. The Aeolian Islands are a major tourist destination with many hospitality businesses where there is a focus on tackling plastic and waste and the policy, infrastructure and community levels:

- The Municipality placed a ban on the use and trade of single-use plastic products, which went into effect on 10th January, 2020.
- Marevivo with the support of the AIPF are successfully implementing eco compactors across the islands.
- Environmental educational activities are ongoing run by Marevivo and other local associations with the schools of the Island.

→ Greening the Islands Observatory in Lipari, a membership for a decarbonisation plan of the island based on a circular economy approach that promotes an integrated sustainability among all green economy sectors (energy, water, waste, mobility with a link to agriculture and sustainable tourism) as well as developing business models, feasibility analysis and identifies public and private financing opportunities.
GET INVOLVED

We remain grateful to our members who have supported the AIPF projects through the years. Your support has been invaluable.

With the support of passionate and generous individuals, the Aeolian Islands really can hold onto and improve upon their tremendous natural habitat and can be a model for the sustainable management of islands.

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

We are proud of the support received by international and local partners who have been involved, raised funds on our behalf or spread the word, and shared our passion.
PROJECTS FINANCED INCLUDE:

We’re privileged to be able to work together with local, Italian and international NGOs and associations. Their expertise, dedication and commitment to the cause provides us with a source of inspiration, ideas and energy.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Municipality of Lipari
Municipality of Santa Marina
Municipality of Malfa
Municipality of Leni
Coast Guard
Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea

SUPPORTERS & FUNDRAISERS

A special thank goes to all our supporters and fundraisers thanks to whom these projects to preserve our beloved islands have been made possible.
The AIPF team have done an amazing job in putting a program into effect, covering the initial phase that we’d set out, primarily focused in Land and Marine conservation. Our partners, Blue Marine, Oceana, Mare Vivo among other admirable organisations, have been investing their expertise, resources and incredible passion to make our habitat a better place, by involving the local community and working together for future generations to enjoy the Aeolians the way I did when I was a child. We have a major responsibility to pass on the “baton”, the way our ancestors did with us, yet we must do so with greater consciousness after the harm caused recently by an unethical and undiscriminatory approach, and for this I thank all the inspiring people that have participated and continue supporting the Aeolian Islands Preservation Foundation, bringing our plans to life.

With 2021 the foundation enters in a new area, with an energised committee and involved local team. I believe together, we have the capacity to have such positive impact preserving our beloved archipelago, creating value for the community and world travellers alike that visit the Aeolian islands.”

Luca Del Bono
FINANCIAL REPORT

SINCE 2015 OVER:

€1 million
HAS BEEN RAISED BETWEEN OUR INITIATIVES AND PARTNERS

AMOUNT RAISED IN 2015-2020:

€515,745

FUNDS 2015-2020 INVESTED ON GRANTS BY AIPF:

€304,838

AMOUNT RAISED 2015-2020 BY AIPF PARTNERS:

€543,809
CONTACT US

We love hearing from people who love the Aeolian Islands environment as much as we do.

EMAIL US:
info@aeolianpreservationfoundation.org

FOLLOW US:
@aeolianpreservation

LOOK US UP:
www.aeolianpreservationfoundation.org
MAY THE WINDS OF AEOLUS ALWAYS BE WITH YOU