

The **PIM INITIATIVE** program,  
an international partnership for the  
preservation of insular Mediterranean areas.

BETTER

# MANAGED AND PROTECTED

small islands

**PIM INITIATIVE**  
FOR SMALL MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS



avec le soutien de



Conservatoire  
du littoral



# SMALL MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

## FRAGILE AREAS THAT NEED PROTECTING

The intense human activities established on the Mediterranean shores accentuates little by little the pressures on the coastlines of the 22 coastal countries bordering the sea, which only represents 0.8% of the total surface of the world's oceans. As a biodiversity hotspot, renowned on an international level and the busiest sea in the world, the Mediterranean beholds treasures still unknown: **its islands and small islands**. There are over **15,000** of them, **12,00 of which are in the western part of the sea**.

Protected by their relative inaccessibility, these small islands currently represent the last remnants of the nature that has been degraded on the coastlines. On these micro-territories with such simple ecosystems, the slightest disruption causes an immediate reaction. This rapid response, typical of these small islands, allows to test innovative methods and tools, and to develop integrated management measures on a human scale, which can be replicated on other insular areas as well as on the continental coastlines.



## the **PIM INITIATIVE**

### for SMALL MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

The biological and ecological specificities of the small islands, their beauty, their fragility as well as their soul, has attracted many environmental protection key players, whose knowledge and involvement are spread all around the Mediterranean coasts.

The **PIM Initiative for Small Mediterranean Islands** aims to ensure the conservation of these micro areas by the implementation of concrete on-site measures, favouring the exchange of knowledge between administrators and specialists throughout the whole Mediterranean.

### AN ORIGINAL APPROACH

As an international program to assist and promote the management of insular areas, the PIM Initiative has been piloted and coordinated by the Conservatoire du Littoral since 2005. Its approach is based on the implementation of on-site measures prioritising simple and pragmatic solutions. The main objectives of the PIM Initiative are organising meetings and creating exchanges between the key players of environmental protection and capitalising on their knowledge and know-how in order to progress together.

This sharing dynamic is what currently allows the gathering of hundreds of experts, site administrators and guards, naturalists, institutions and NGOs, to confront and exchange ideas and experience in order to better manage and protect insular areas.

# 5 THEMED PROGRAMS

## for structuring the PIM Initiative action

### ISLAND WORKSHOP

field experience

Priority is given to on-site learning and the on-site gathering of coastal guards, naturalist experts and site administrators to learn, to train in management of fragile insular areas and to share know-how.

By organising study missions, training for careers in guarding and management of islands, in avifauna or invasive species monitoring, or in ways to receive the public, the PIM Initiative places human experience at the heart of its thoughts.

### ALBATROS

observation of marine birds

Many marine birds and raptors nest on Mediterranean where they find a refuge and play a key role in balancing the area. As they are at the heart of the land-sea interface, they are excellent bio-indicators of the general state of health of these areas, but remain however not well known.

Allowing specialists of these species to meet and exchange knowledge is the core of the Albatros program. Positioning itself as a coordination referent, the PIM Initiative enabled action on several levels to improve knowledge of these birds, to improve management of the sites where they are found, and finally to improve sharing and distribution of the monitoring data.

### TERRA COGNITA

better knowledge for better protection

Improving and updating knowledge regarding small islands are the main objectives of Terra Cognita, which unites naturalist experts and site administrators on the field. The huge variety and the synergy of naturalist sciences, when implemented, allow better knowledge of these territories and therefore facilitate monitoring, management and protection.

The hundreds of documents produced (naturalist notes, inventories, reports, management plans...) after the field missions are widely spread and available to all on the internet.

### THE COREGE

Research and Management Committee

Regrouping many Mediterranean specialists in various naturalist or management fields, the CoReGe holds annual meetings to identify PIM Initiative priorities and the requirements needed to implement measures, thus insuring real operational relevance and concerted and studied measures.

### SENTINEL ISLANDS

indicators of global changes

Islands, due to their size and less complex issues, are ideal laboratories to follow the impact of global changes on biodiversity.

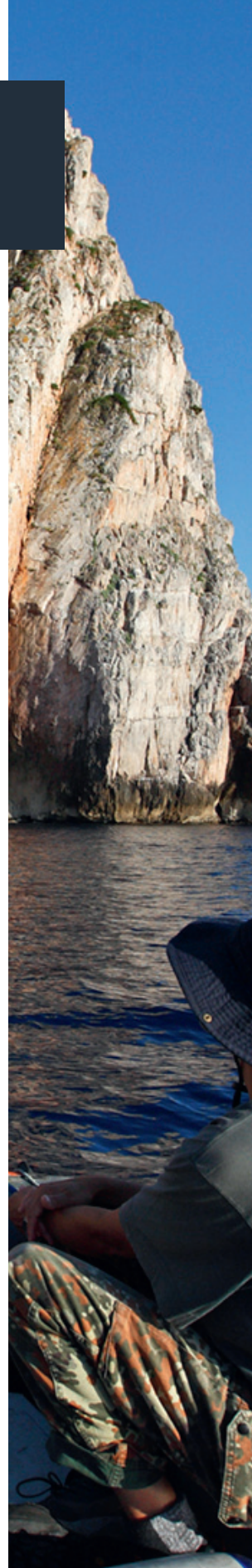
The Sentinel islands program attains this objective mainly two ways: the implementation of standardised protocols adapted to insular areas and the development of a small islands database, a tool that allows to capitalise, to share and to compare data collected on a regional Mediterranean scale.

### PHAROS

communication and awareness

The main challenges of the PHAROS program are reinforcing the PIM partnership network, promoting the exchange of knowledge regarding small islands, and making international institutions, political decision makers and the general public aware of the need to protect their small islands.

This program is entirely dedicated to communication and advocacy. The PIM Initiative uses a huge variety of means to spread its message in dynamic and structured ways, through the web and social media, videos, photo coverage, illustrations, publishing books, exhibitions, events, media coverage, participating in national and international environmental protection events...



# MEASURES AND APPROACH

## BETTER INTEGRATION OF LAND-SEA ISSUES IN TERRITORY MANAGEMENT

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An island is a land mass surrounded by water... That is why the PIM Initiative is carrying out Integrated Management measures on a local scale, which are essential for sustainable conservation. The PIM Initiative benefits from the support of many partners specialising in marine problems, to help with marine biocenosis mapping issues, to assess an area's fishing resources or the ecological quality of the coastal rocks (according to the Carlit method...).

## INTEGRATING TERRITORY MANAGEMENT IN A NATURAL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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The sustainable preservation of natural areas can only be considered in a framework that favours conservation and reasonable exploitation of resources. To do so, the PIM Initiative strives to work on a spacial scale integration dynamic and to adopt eco-systemic measures (continent/sea/island continuum, protected sites network...) and by uniting all the key players and involved parties who have ties to the islands (institutions, NGOs, local communities, economic key players, scientists and university researchers...). An area's plan for the future, in accordance with the ICZM protocol, must be subjected to consultation and arbitration in order to better conciliate everyone's expectations while favouring sustainable conservation of its marine and terrestrial ecosystems and landscapes.

## TAKING PART IN THE CREATION OF NEW PROTECTED AREAS

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By identifying insular areas with major national heritage benefits, and by suggesting conservation methods that favour responsible socio-economic practices (sustainable tourism, fishing...), the PIM Initiative is vested in the creation of new protected areas, and helps these new areas to implement effective management systems. The PIM Initiative therefore contributes in its own way to carrying out the 11th Aichi objective, aiming for the preservation of 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020 "through the ecologically well represented and well-connected networks of efficiently and fairly managed protected areas."

## SUPPORTING MANAGEMENT THROUGH TRAINING

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As many management measures are efficient, pragmatic and easy to implement, the PIM Initiative has chosen to foster learning and sharing. The PIM Initiative organises and coordinates exchange workshops, work groups or on-site training sessions which the small island guards and administrators benefit from, in order to share experience and knowledge and to train in management systems that have proven to work in other insular areas. Better managing the public, landscapes, biodiversity, the pressure and economic activities on these small insular territories, helps gain experience to better foresee the issues on the rest of the coastlines.

## PROTECTING EMBLEMATIC SPECIES

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The Mediterranean has been identified as one of the 34 world-wide hotspot reserves for biodiversity. Animal, vegetal, terrestrial or marine species, which are only found in the Mediterranean, are emblematic to this vast area. Despite their small or even very small surface, the islands hold vast amounts of these species (56% of reptiles and 48% of mammals protected in the PACA region are found on these 127 islands and small islands which only represent 0.24% of its surface), and these small areas form a hotspot within the larger Mediterranean hotspot. They are «hot-spot<sup>2</sup>».

These inaccessible and often unoccupied territories are special areas where marine bird colonies come to reproduce. By reinforcing a protection process that targets certain specific species, the PIM Initiative contributes to the protection of their habitat and the whole procession of associated species, and therefore further extends the amount of protected and managed areas.

## MANAGING INVASIVE SPECIES

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Invasive species, whether they are animal or vegetal, evolve to the detriment of local or endemic remarkable species. Often originating from human activity, which caused their introduction and their development, their presence in a natural environment causes disruptions with very visible consequences on the small islands' fragile and simple ecosystems. Learning to control or eradicate these species through efficient and innovative (if possible gentle) methods and passing on this knowledge, are part of the PIM Initiative's top priorities, with the aim to preserve and reinforce the presence of emblematic and endangered species and to restore the fragile landscapes and ecosystems.

## MONITORING THE EVOLUTION OF THE ECOSYSTEMS ON THE LONG TERM

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The data gathered during on-site operations can provide information on the state of an ecosystem at a given time, and is part of the first steps in evaluating natural environments. The implementation of monitoring protocols, ideally simplified and standardised, allows to understand the trends and to assess the pressures, then to consider appropriate management measures which would stop or reduce the detected disruptions, and to compare the observed changes with other areas on a regional scale. Finally, understanding if improvements are due to good management, or if the deterioration of a site is caused by exterior regional constraints.

## STRUCTURING A MEDITERRANEAN CONSERVATION STRATEGY

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The editing of an encyclopedic Atlas of the small western Mediterranean islands aims to synthetize information gathered on these territories, covering their evolution, their heritage (natural, historic, cultural...) and their conservation. By cross referencing the data on the state of knowledge, site benefits, pressures and level of management of each island, the Atlas will finally provide an assessment tool on a Mediterranean level, to support insular conservation strategies led by the countries with the support of the PIM Initiative.

## MOROCCO

### SUSTAINING AND COMMITTING TO PROTECTION DYNAMICS

The partnership between the PIM Initiative and the **Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts** has reinforced the management process of Moroccan islands and small islands. Missions to realize naturalist surveys and assessment of uses of the Essaouira archipelago resulted in the creation of a management scheme with the aim to protect Eleonora's Falcons, one of the area's emblematic species. The osprey surveying and ringing operations at the heart of the Al Hoceima National Park reinforce the importance of these sites.



- ESSAOUIRA MANAGEMENT SCHEME
- ORGANISING OF WORKSHOPS
- SUPERVISING THE FALCON'S REPRODUCTION
- SURVEYING / INITIAL STATE / ASSESSMENT OF ESSAOUIRA USES
- CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ELEONORA'S FALCONS
- MONITORING OF THE RIBBED MEDITERRANEAN LIMPET OF CALA IRIS ISLANDS
- CENSUS, MONITORING AND RINGING OF OSPREY
- FINALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE PROTECTION OF OSPREY

## ALGERIA

Following numerous operations dedicated to the improvement of knowledge of Algerian islands' natural and cultural heritage, the endeavours of the Ministry in charge of the environment (MATEV), of the National Coastal Office (CNL) and of the PIM Initiative focused on the Habibas Archipelago, whose management is being improved through these cooperative operations and training workshops between administration and guards.

### CONSOLIDATING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HABIBAS ARCHIPELAGO

- RECHGOUN ISLAND MANAGEMENT SCHEME
- ORNITHOLOGICAL MONITORING TRAINING
- TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE SURVEYS
- ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE BLACK RAT
- STUDYING THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT / RE-NATURALISATION OF THE SITE
- IMPLEMENTING SIMPLE MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGICAL SURVEYING PROTOCOLS
- TRAINING FOR VISUAL FISH CENSUS
- HABIBAS MANAGEMENT PLAN



## FRANCE

### LABORATORY ISLANDS

French insular sites, being front-runners in coastal protection and management, have received hundreds of experts and volunteers to experiment with innovative operations such as ecological restoration or naturalist monitoring. The success of the rat exterminating operation in Bagaud, at the heart of the Port-Cros National Park, proved the efficiency of the methods used.

**The Grand Rouveau Island**, off the coast of Six-Fours, has been designated as a laboratory dedicated to the extermination of the *Carpobrotus* plant. Setting up terrestrial nurseries allowed the revitalisation of the island's native plants without bringing in any soil or exogenous species. Methods, protocols, monitoring... everything is tested and adjusted on these pilot islands to make the science of insular area management progress!

### SHARING EXPERIENCE

After years of experimenting in a huge number of management fields, the defenders of small islands are currently exporting their knowledge and know-how throughout operations organised by the PIM Initiative. Administrators and guards of the islands of Marseille or Port-Cros, of Tavolara or the Toscan Archipelago or even the Balearic Islands are therefore regularly meeting their Mediterranean counterparts, to teach and apply methods that have proven successful on their small islands.

- INITIAL STATE AND SURVEYS: CORSICA CAPE ISLANDS, GRAND ROUVEAU ISLAND, LÉRINS ARCHIPELAGO, AND HYÈRES ISLANDS
- GRAND ROUVEAU MANAGEMENT PLAN
- RECEIVING DELEGATIONS AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATORS AND ECO-GUARDS
- GRAND ROUVEAU ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND SETTING UP OF A TERRESTRIAL NURSERY

# SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS AND CONCRETE ACTIONS TO PRESERVE ISLANDS



## TUNISIA



### SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF EMBLEMATIC MARINE BIRDS

The PIM Initiative's Albatros program, present in the entire Mediterranean, has developed an important partnership with Tunisia to preserve these birds and their archipelagos. This collaboration led to organising training sessions for site administrators, to the regular monitoring of nesting marine bird populations and to the implementation of invasive species management solutions.

### MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The partnership between the Tunisian Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL) and the PIM Initiative is mainly focused on the Zembra and Galite Archipelagos. The many operations carried out were beneficial to the pragmatic management of these exceptional sites, and are planned to spread to other Tunisian insular areas.

- ORNITHOLOGICAL MONITORING TRAINING
- TELEMETRIC MONITORING OF SCOPOLI'S SHEARWATERS
- SURVEYS FOR ANDOUIN'S GULLS MONITORING
- YELKOUAN SHEARWATER AND MEDITERRANEAN STORM PETREL SURVEYS
- CORY'S SHEARWATER CENSUS BY DISTANCE SAMPLING METHOD ON ZEMBRA
- ELEONORA'S FALCON POPULATION CENSUS

### RAT EXTERMINATION SUCCESS ON ZEMBRETTE

In 2009, a rat extermination operation on the small island of Zembretta was organised by the PIM Initiative and its partners. Two years later, the results of this campaign confirm real success: the resettlement of the yelkouan shearwater is proven by record reproduction rates on the site.

- UPDATING THE GALITE MANAGEMENT PLAN
- MAPPING MARINE BIOCENOSIS
- MANAGEMENT TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOLOGICAL MONITORING MEASURES
- UPDATING THE INVENTORIES
- REGULAR ECOLOGICAL MONITORING
- TRAINING FOR AND IMPLEMENTING FISH COUNTING MEASURES
- SUSTAINABLE TOURISM EXPERTISE
- TERRESTRIAL POLLUTION EXPERTISE
- SANITISATION OF USED WATER EXPERTISE
- LANDSCAPING EXPERTISE

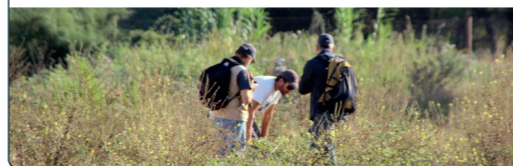
## ALBANIA

### SAZANI ISLAND, UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

Following Karaburun-Sazani's recent PMA classification, The PIM Initiative organised on-site missions on Sazani Island in 2012 and 2013. In partnership with the local and national authorities, a terrestrial and marine diagnosis was carried out, in order to improve naturalist knowledge of the area to better define land / sea integrated management recommendations. The landscape and ecological value of Sazani Island, as well as its historical and built heritage,

lead to great potential for all sorts of conservation activities integrating tourism and education. In the future, it could play a key part in the management of the Marine Protected Area, with economic benefits for local populations (sustainable tourism, "reserve effect" for fishing...).

- NATURALIST SURVEYS
- ASSESSING TERRESTRIAL POLLUTION AND WASTE
- MACRO-ALGAE/CARLIT STUDY
- MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
- MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2014



## LIBYA

### PRAGMATISM ET INNOVATION

Thanks to its partnership with the **Environment General Authority** and the **RAC-SPA**, a naturalist mission with over 50 participants was carried out on the coastal fringe of the El Kouf National Park and its small islands. This operation is planned to continue in this area and on other Libyan sites. Further west, the restoration of the island of Jeliana in Benghazi, enabled to enlarge the habitat of the lesser crested tern, essential for their nesting, thus contributing to the preservation of this endangered species. An innovative and original operation led by the PIM Initiative.



- NATURALIST SURVEYS IN THE EL KOUF NATIONAL PARK
- MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS SUPPORT FOR THE ISLAND OF JELIANA

## ITALY



- MAPPING MARINE BIOCENOSIS OF TAVOLARA - PUNTA CODA CAVALLLO MPA
- OPTIMISATION TOOLS FOR MOORINGS (smartphone and tablet)

## ALBATROS PROJECT

### THE EFFICIENCY OF LARGE SCALE COOPERATION

In order to structure its measures and to insure efficient action, the Albatros program has chosen to organise regular meetings between Mediterranean ornithological experts, starting in 2009 in Marseille, then in 2010 during the MedMaravis symposium as a partner, and finally in 2012 in Bizerte during the 'Mediterranean Small Island Meeting'. Organising the work groups by species has helped with the regrouping of the monitoring data and its distribution to the key players involved.

This step led to the production of reference work documents: monographs of 7 marine bird species indicating their general state of conservation, and the creation of summary sheets on various species such as the Mediterranean storm petrel or the lesser crested tern.

Nearly 40 people from 10 different countries were involved in the creation of these documents. In 2013, members of the Albatros team representing the Corsican and Provence sites, decided to use a shared internet database, developed by the PIM Initiative, dedicated to the shearwater species, thus further reinforcing the partnership dynamic of this program.

## PHAROS PROJECT

### THE PIM OBSERVATORY TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

The PIM Initiative, beyond its objective to improve exchanges between small Mediterranean island administrators and experts, took on another role to make the general public and political decision makers aware of the urgent necessity to protect these sensitive areas, by using all the communication means available thanks to the support and the historical partnership of the City of Marseille.

The PIM Initiative mainly amplified its activities through the internet. Particular efforts were engaged to develop the "Small Island Database" tool and the private and collaborative work space dedicated to its experts and partners. There are two available interfaces on the website [www.initiative-pim.org](http://www.initiative-pim.org), which also serves as an information portal for the general public, reinforced by various social media content (news, videos, photo coverage...).

Four books, one of which is in collaboration with Gallimard editions, and numerous photo exhibitions associated to them (nearly thirty in France and abroad), strengthen these awareness measures. Dynamic measures that have attracted the attention of various media (France Inter, Le Monde, Terre Sauvage, Paris Match...), as well as the TV show Thalassa which dedicated a whole 120 minutes show to the measures carried out by the PIM Initiative.

Thanks to the PIM Initiative, the Conservatoire du littoral is also advocating the protection of Mediterranean insular areas to the various key players, authorities and decision makers in coastal protection. This work, involving active participation in over 40 national and international events, has resulted in a project to create a label for the preservation of small islands, voted during the French Government's Environmental Conference in 2013.

# THE PIM INITIATIVE in NUMBERS

2008

2013

CLOSE TO 220 EXPERTS ENLISTED BY THE PIM INITIATIVE

OVER 1,700 DAYS OF VOLUNTEER EXPERTISE MOBILIZED WITHIN PIM OPERATIONS

OVER A HUNDRED DOCUMENTS PRODUCED (NATURALIST NOTES, MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS, MONOGRAPHS...)

24 ON-SITE MISSIONS ORGANISED IN 3 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

38 ON-SITE MISSIONS ORGANISED IN 5 NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

4 COREGE MEETINGS 2009 / 2010 / 2012 / 2013

2 MEDITERRANEAN SMALL ISLAND MEETINGS 2009 / 2012

7 COASTAL AND INSULAR MANAGEMENT STUDY MISSIONS IN FRANCE

50 people involved 30 days in total

7 GUARDING AND ADMINISTRATION TRAINING SESSIONS ORGANISED IN FRANCE AND ABROAD

35 people involved 50 days in total

5 AVIFAUNA TRAINING SESSIONS ON-SITE in France, Algeria, Tunisia

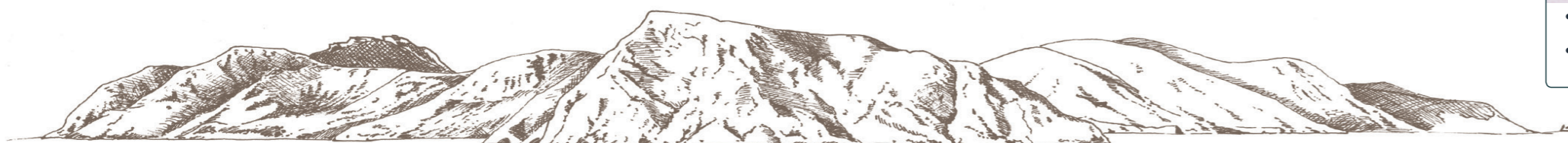
20 PEOPLE INVOLVED

6 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS theoretical training and on-site application

40 PEOPLE INVOLVED ON 75 DAYS

NUMEROUS OTHER THEMED TRAINING SESSIONS coastal ecological state assessment based on the Carlit method, assessment of fish resources based on Biomex method and snorkelling monitoring, path marking and setting-up work, naturalist monitoring...

30 PEOPLE INVOLVED





**A**fter nearly 10 years of activity, the PIM Initiative contributed to increasing the involvement of its national and international partners, making insular area conservation an important Mediterranean issue.

Hundreds of naturalist notes and management documents have been produced, dozens of on-site operations organised at the four corners of the Mediterranean, with nearly 220 experts involved and numerous operations were organised to make the decision makers, users and general public aware of the urgent necessity to preserve islands on a terrestrial and marine level.

In the future, the PIM Initiative plans to continue and reinforce its measures on the sites already partnered with the program, to support new conservation projects and to improve the actual management of these insular sites, particularly in the eastern Mediterranean. These prospects are made possible thanks to the renewed support of its main partners: the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial, the town of Marseille, the Agence de l'Eau Rhône Méditerranée et Corse, and the Conservatoire du littoral the program's general coordinator.

To strengthen its involvement in specific areas and themes, the PIM Initiative will increasingly rely on the skills of its active partners such as WWF France, MedMaravis, MedPAN, the Atalantes, Island Conservation... These operations could not last without the continual involvement of the partner countries, national institutions, NGOs and the guards and administrators of the Mediterranean coasts and small islands. Alongside these "natural" key players for conservation, it is important to mention the involvement of the volunteers as a key part of the Initiative, adhering to the program's philosophy and contributing to its development.

Another big challenge is the creation of an encyclopaedic atlas of small western Mediterranean islands, a major endeavour to establish intervention and conservation strategies for insular territories. Its publication in 2016 will be a good opportunity to improve communication about the benefits of the sustainable conservation of islands.

Finally, the implementation of an international record of small sustainable islands, an actual label acknowledging the involvement and the work of the NGOs, the local authorities and the public and private key players, will help promote favourable initiatives for development, compatible with the conservation of biodiversity, landscapes and resources.

All these challenges are currently keeping the PIM team very busy and will continue to be their main focus for the coming years. Many thanks to all the PIM Initiative's partners, collaborators and friends for their continuous and reliable support, which provides wonderful prospects for the future to continue protecting small islands.



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The PIM Initiative operations are made possible thanks to their partners :

