



activité pour tous

# plm

## INITIATIVE

2022-2023



A person in a dark jacket stands on a rocky, orange-brown cliff edge, looking out over a vast blue bay. In the distance, there are green islands and mountains under a soft, hazy sky. The foreground is a steep, rocky slope.

An NGO,  
projects and  
international  
partnerships  
to preserve  
Mediterranean  
insular areas







**PIM Initiative is an international NGO for the promotion and assistance in the management of small Mediterranean islands.** Initiated in 2005 by the Conservatoire du littoral, a french public institution, PIM Initiative became an independent NGO in 2017.

**Its aim is to preserve islands of less than 1,000 hectares** by implementing practical conservation measures on the field, and by networking managers and experts at international level.

The NGO stands out for its approach, which consists in **supporting all steps of the creation and development of island protected areas.**





# Approach

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**Improving knowledge and monitoring ecosystems** over the long-term using simplified and standardised protocols, regular naturalist monitoring, data collection and analysis, and capitalising on information and knowledge.

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**Capacity-building** through workshops, working groups and classroom or on-site training sessions, enabling international and multidisciplinary stakeholders to share their experiences.

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**Developing management techniques and implementation of co-management systems** involving a variety of stakeholders and supporting partnerships between them: public institutions, municipalities, universities, local and international NGOs, managers, multidisciplinary experts, private companies, etc.

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Protecting emblematic species and their habitats, through **ecological restoration actions** (such as the eradication/control of invasive species) and an ecosystem-based approach with better integration of issues relating to the land-sea continuum.

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Promoting the high ecological value of islands and **reinforcing advocacy** for their protection at international level.



## An NGO for better managed and protected small islands

For more than 10 years, PIM Initiative has relied on a pool of multi-disciplinary experts, site managers, coastguards, institutions and NGOs from the Mediterranean basin, who compare and exchange their ideas and experience, and who put their expertise at the service of the protection of these areas.



The NGO is based in Marseille, in front of Frioul islands, at the Lycée Agricole des Calanques, and its projects are supported by both public and private donors, including the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), the French Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, the Southern Region, the Var Department, the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB) and the Rhone Mediterranean Corsica Water Agency.



# Pilot sites

PIM provides technical support a significant number of sites in the Mediterranean. Its partners benefit from the know-how of the PIM Initiative's experts, but also make available to the network their knowledge in their respective fields of expertise.

PIM is involved in the pilot sites based on requests from local stakeholders, with a level of commitment depending on needs. Between the end of September 2022 and the end of September 2023, PIM Initiative have been active on the following sites:



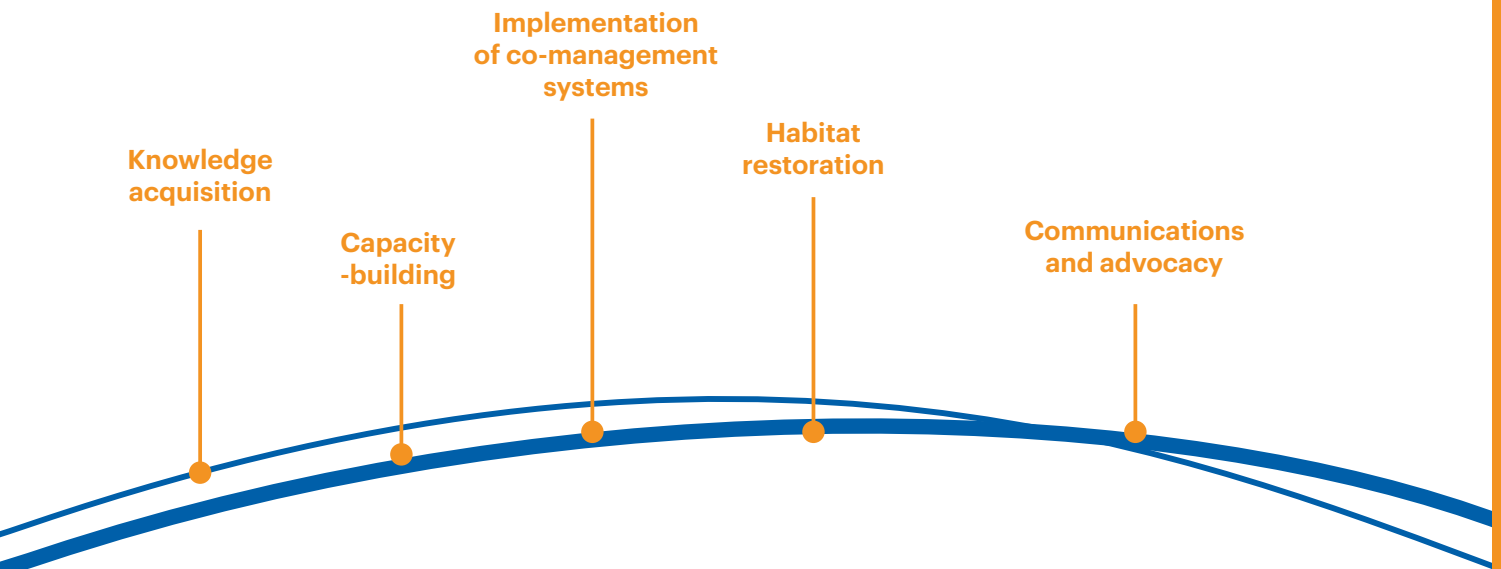
**KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION SITE**  
**FRANCE** Islets of l'Estérel  
**GREECE** Ionian islands  
**ITALIA** Galli and Pontines

**MANAGEMENT SUPPORT**  
**ALGERIA** Jijel  
**MOROCCO** Essaouira, Jbel Moussa  
**TUNISIE** Galite, Zembra archipelago, Kerkennah archipelago & Kuriat islands  
**ALBANIA** Sazani

**PILOT SITE RESTORATION**  
**CORSICA** Gargalu island, Scandola natural reserve

**PARTNER SITE**  
**FRANCE** Port-Cros national park, Calanques national park

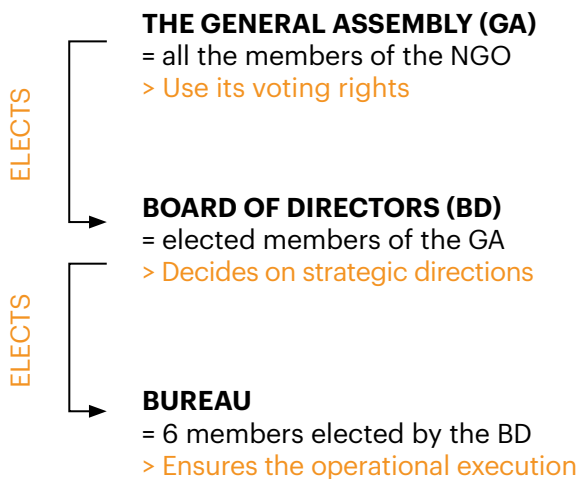
**CO-MANAGED SITE BY PIM INITIATIVE**  
**FRANCE** Island of Grand Rouveau





# Governance

PIM Initiative, association under French law 1901, is composed of four bodies: the **Bureau**, the **Board of Directors**, the **General Assembly** and the **Advisory Committee**. All of which are representative of the countries in which the association operates.



**+** **THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC)**  
= Mediterranean experts members of the GA  
> Advises on strategic directions

**+** **TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**  
Operational body

> **The Bureau** ensures the operational implementation of the project's strategic orientations. These are defined by the **Board of Directors**, after consultation with the **Advisory Committee**. It is the body that controls and validates the actions of the **Technical secretariat** on a day-to-day basis.

> **The General Assembly** is made up of all voting members of the NGO. It elects the Board of Directors, who in turn elects the members of the Bureau.

## The Advisory Committee

In order to benefit from advice and guidance on the scientific, technical and managing aspects of the islands, PIM set up a multidisciplinary and international committee composed of **23 Mediterranean experts** ranging from entomology to international law.

The Advisory Committee (AC) is chaired by the professor Frédéric Médail, from the Mediterranean Institute of Biodiversity and Ecology (IMBE), who wished to establish a wide range of competences related to the preservation of islands, to feminize the committee and to ensure the representation of a maximum of Mediterranean regions. This list was validated by our General Assembly in March 2019.

### The role of the AC

> **To advise the Board of Directors** regarding the priority areas and themes of intervention of the association. For example, pointing out a lack of data regarding a small island, on which inventory missions could be organised.

> **To propose its scientific expertise**, mainly regarding the decision making when it comes to the management of the pilot sites of PIM.

> **To bring its expertise and its advice** to initiatives aiming at mutualising information such as PIM Encyclopaedic Atlas.



Elections to the Board of Directors (BD) were held during the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of PIM Initiative, which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 on the island of Lipari (Sicily, Italy). The members of the Bureau were appointed from among the new members elected, at the meeting of the BD on October 19<sup>th</sup>, whose new composition is as follows:

## The Bureau and the Board of Directors



**MAYOL Joan**  
President  
Ex former environment  
Manager - Gouvernement  
of the Balearic islands -  
Spain



**ABIADH Awatef**  
Assistant Treasurer  
Consulting agency  
Tunisia



**ABDENNADHER Aida**  
Vice-President  
Consulting agency  
Tunisia



**MÉDAIL Frédéric**  
President of the  
Advisory Committee  
IMBE  
France



**MANTE Alain**  
Secretary  
Area Manager  
Calanques natural park  
France



**BAZAIRI Hocein**  
Administrator  
Mohamed V college  
Morocco



**MONTI Flavio**  
Assistant secretary  
CNR-IRET  
Italy



**ESTÈVE Roger**  
Administrator  
NGO Smilo / ex  
Conservatoire du littoral  
France



**GILLET Pascal**  
Treasurer  
PN de la Vanoise  
France

Joan MAYOL, who is now President of PIM Initiative, and the entire association team would like to extend their warmest thanks to **Sami BEN HAJ** for his involvement as President since the association was founded in 2017, and for his deep commitment to the conservation of the small Mediterranean islands.

## Technical secretariat

It is responsible for the association's operations and the operational execution of projects.



**Mathieu THÉVENET**  
Coordinator



**Eva TANKOVIC**  
Scientific coordinator



**Anaële SACCHETTINI**  
Administrative, events organization and communications assistant



**Cyrielle GROUARD**  
Project manager





# Financial partners



**Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion**  
[www.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr)



**Water Agency RMC**  
[www.eaurmc.fr](http://www.eaurmc.fr)



**French Office for Biodiversity**  
[www.ofb.gouv.fr](http://www.ofb.gouv.fr)



**French Global Environment Facility**  
[www.ffem.fr](http://www.ffem.fr)



**Prince Albert II de Monaco Foundation**  
[www.fpa2.org](http://www.fpa2.org)



**LE DÉPARTEMENT**  
**Département du Var** [www.var.fr](http://www.var.fr)



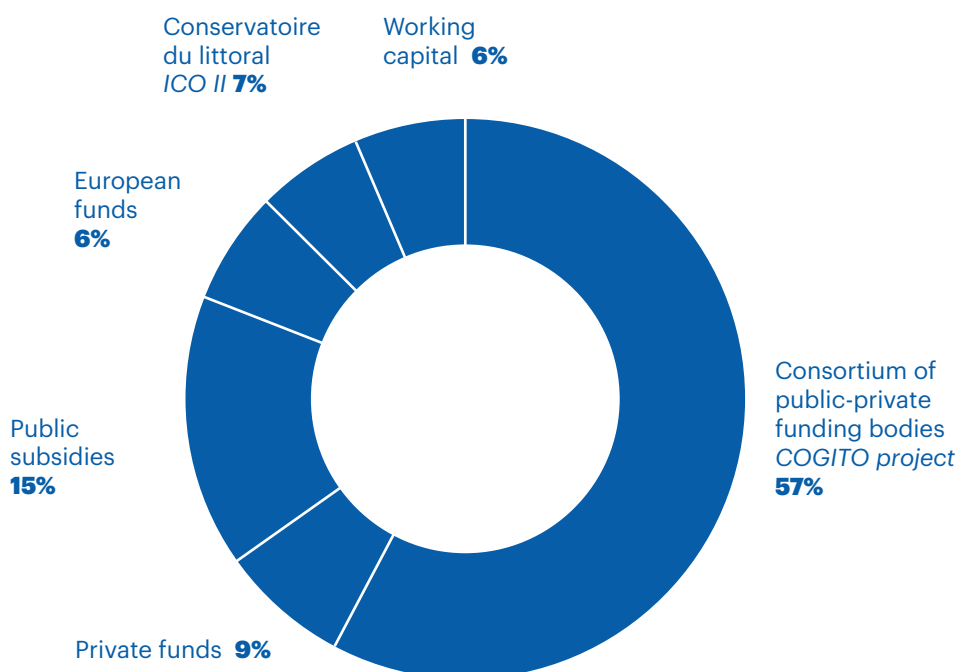
**Region Sud**  
[www.maregionsud.fr](http://www.maregionsud.fr)



**Conservatoire du littoral**  
*technical and institutional support*  
[www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr](http://www.conservatoire-du-littoral.fr)



**City of Marseille**  
*Strategic and events support*  
[www.marseille.fr](http://www.marseille.fr)



Distribution of sources of fundings in 2023





Major projects  
and partnerships





# ISLAND OF GRAND ROUVEAU

*With the Conservatoire du littoral,  
Municipality of Six-Fours-les-Plages  
and AGIR écologique*

PIM Initiative is providing scientific and technical assistance for the **ecological restoration of the Island of Grand Rouveau**, in partnership with the **Conservatoire du littoral** and **AGIR écologique**. The ecological engineering operation began in 2012 with eradication campaigns of the invasive plant *Carpobrotus* sp., which was covering almost 70% of the island's surface. In 2017 and 2018 the eradication of the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) from the island was undertaken. Following the success of the operation in 2019, the island became the first «pestfree» island in the Mediterranean! Monitoring of the European Leaf-toed Gecko (*Euleptes europaea*) and the vegetation is carried out annually on the island, which became an emblematic PIM laboratory site for testing innovative actions and field training sessions.

In 2021, **PIM became officially manager of the Grand Rouveau alongside with the municipality of Six-Fours-les-Plages**. The eco-guards team is monitoring the site, raising awareness amongst users and carrying out the biodiversity monitoring previously undertaken on the land part and the Public Maritime Domain. Within this framework, conservation efforts are focused on marine uses to protect these sensitive habitats.

In 2023, PIM had the opportunity to benefit from the support of the **Région Sud** to enable the establishment of a **Regional Marine Guard**. Nycolin and Chloé joined the PIM team to form a team of Eco guards responsible for raising awareness in cooperation with the Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement (CPIE), and coordinating scientific



monitoring on the Grand Rouveau. A continuous presence on land and at sea is thus ensured on this Natura 2000 site in cooperation with the French Office for Biodiversity (OFB).

As a manager of a protected area, PIM not only provides support to a network of Mediterranean managers, but is also carrying out its own management operations, with internal funding.



## Pilot site

FRANCE island of Grand Rouveau, Six-Fours-Les-Plages.



## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

### - Spring mission

Daniel Pavon (IMBE) updated the botanical inventory.

### - Peregrine Falcon reproduction

For the first time, a couple of Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) settled on the Rouveau in 2023. Four chicks were observed fledging in June 2023, and Patrick Bayle (Marseille Municipality) collected food remains to analyse the diet of the specimens.

### - Cap Sicié / Deux Frères survey

As part of a partnership with AGIR écologique to update inventories and map habitats on the Natura 2000 site of the Cap Sicié (Var), PIM took part in surveys on Cap Sicié and the Deux Frères islets, which are favourable for the presence of the European Leaf-toed gecko. No sign of presence of the emblematic gecko were found, but these missions significantly improved the knowledge of these poorly known areas.

### - Ant survey

As part of a PhD on the study of Ant communities on Mediterranean islets, Romane Blaya (Avignon University - IMBE) collected ants on the island in order to include the Grand Rouveau in her future analyses.

### - Leaf-toed gecko internship

In parallel with the monitoring of the population using artificial shelters (refuges installed to monitor the gecko population), PIM worked alongside AGIR écologique on an internship to monitor the European Leaf-toed gecko population. The objective was to assess the impact of management measures on the gecko populations. At the same time, thermo-buttons to monitor temperature and humidity were installed in these refuges.

### - Awareness campaigns

Each summer, land and marine awareness raising campaigns are organized in collaboration with the CPIE from June to August. This year, over 200 boats were sensitized, representing almost 900 yachtsmen.

### - Septentrion training camp

A training camp was organized with students of the Advanced Technician's Certificate (BTS) "Management and Protection of Nature", in partnership with Septentrion Environment. The objectives of the training were to update knowledge of the marine environment around the island, and to train students in various protocols for terrestrial and marine monitoring.



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# COGITO PROJECT

French Global Environment  
Facility (FFEM)



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL

COGITO  
project



## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

The **COGITO project**, «reinforcing the integrated and sustainable management of coastal, insular and marine territories and of the protected marine areas in the Mediterranean», brings together PIM Initiative, the Conservatoire du littoral, MedPAN and WWF-Mediterranean.

**COGITO supports the actions of PIM on a dozen pilot sites** in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Albania, and implements regional actions (trainings, training camps and hands-on learning projects, strategic meetings and advocacy, communications and events).

The aim is **to contribute to the support and consolidation of integrated management processes** through the concrete implementation of co-management mechanisms between the administration, associations, and research centres.

Through this project, PIM supports a large number of insular sites with different configurations while feeding its approach with direct feedback from the field. If a site requires particular financial or technical support, PIM intensifies its action by setting up a specific project



### Pilot sites

ALGERIA Jijel MOROCCO Essaouira/Jbel Moussa  
TUNISIA Galite/Zembra archipelago/Cap Bon peninsula/  
Kerkennah archipelago/Kuriat islands et Monastir bay  
ALBANIA Sazani

### - Jbel Moussa (Morocco)

In cooperation with Initiative Bleue Morocco, PIM has provided support for the monitoring of bioindicator species in the Jbel Moussa Marine Protected Area, as part of the co-management program that is starting up on the site. These protocols are consistent with those applied in other Mediterranean marine sites.

### - Mission Galite (Tunisia)

In early September 2022, a mission was organized on the Galite archipelago by the MAN-APAL co-management team. The objectives were to monitor the *Psammodromus dorea* and the herpetofauna on the islets of La Fauchelle and Galiton, to monitor the reproduction of Eleonora's falcon, to carry out a feasibility study on the eradication of the Black Rat from the islets of Gallo and Gallina, and to set up post-fire monitoring on Galite (removal of Aleppo pine regrowth).

[> See the naturalist note : Abiadh et al. 2022.](#)

### - Falcon Day – Essaouira

A Falcon Festival was co-organized by PIM Initiative, the Conservatoire du littoral, the GREPOM association and the National Agency of Water and Forests (ANEF) on the 21st and 22nd of October in Essaouira, Morocco. 10 years after the first «Falcon Days», the festival was organized to raise awareness amongst tourists, local residents and shopkeepers of the presence and importance of the Eleonora's Falcon colony on the Essaouira archipelago. The aim was also to inform and raise awareness of this issue amongst local decision-makers, whether from the provincial ANEF, the Governorate, the Municipality or the tourism sector.

### - Training mission, underwater and island expertise (Jijel - Algeria)

A training course on aspects of biodiversity monitoring was organized in cooperation with the Taza National Park and the local associations Écologie Sans Frontières and Raie Manta. In parallel, Ridha Ouni, an expert consultant for the Conservatoire du littoral, carried out a terrestrial diagnosis of the two islets included within the park's perimeter.







#### **- Meeting with APAL and NGOs on progress and prospects**

In January, PIM Initiative and the Conservatoire du littoral travelled to Tunisia to meet with the main Tunisian NGOs already in charge of future Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (AMCP) to define with the National Agency for Coastal Protection APAL) the latest field actions to be implemented under COGITO (MAN /Galite, ASPEN/ Zembra, NGB/Kuriat, ACG/ Kneiss). Future managers were also identified, such as the young NGO Kraten for the Kerkennah AMCP.

#### **- Training camp in Jbel Moussa (Morocco)**

A training camp organized with the GREPOM association and the National Agency of Water and Forests (ANEF) from the 13th to the 17th of March at Jbel Moussa, enabled to develop the site facilities: a training on the techniques of management of the touristic flows in natural site was given to the students of the Faculty of Tetouan, and the participants installed thereafter the information panels in order to prepare the summer season. These actions could constitute future tools for the co-managers, to control the tourist flows, and to consolidate the development of a trail. The signing of an agreement between PIM Initiative, Blue Maroc Initiative and GREPOM to facilitate the monitoring of emblematic bioindicators in the Jbel Moussa area, has enabled international data collection missions to be organized.



#### **- Update of the management plan for Mogador Island (Morocco)**

In the context of the application of the new law on protected areas in Morocco and to support ANEF in this process, PIM and the Conservatoire du littoral organized a mission to update the stakes related to the biodiversity of Mogador, and the management plan of the island. All biological compartments were surveyed again, 10 years after the first PIM mission. Interviews and consultation workshops with a multitude of local stakeholders were also conducted to produce a new management plan corresponding to a vision shared by all.



#### **- Hosting delegations (France)**

A field visit to the Provence Region by a Delegation from the Jbel Moussa MPA (Morocco) (Departments of Sustainable Development and Maritime Fisheries, GREPOM association) involved in the management of the fledgling Jbel Moussa MPA, was organized in May. The six Moroccan representatives took part in presentations and field visits to the Port d'Alon/ La Nartette, Côte Bleue Marine Park and Port-Cros Island sites, and learned about the conservation and management actions undertaken by the various operators. They also benefited from concrete feedback that will help them to establish a management dynamic at the Jbel Moussa site.





**- Definition of a marine pollution contingency plan - Future Kerkennah MPA (Tunisia)**

As this new Protected Area is threatened by potentially polluting industrial installations, PIM has provided APAL with a plan to identify the players and activities to be put in place according to the ecological values of the area, to optimize their protection in case of a catastrophic event occurring.

**- Restoration of an Eco guard's shelter in Zembra (Tunisia)**

APAL and the Association for the protection of heritage and the environment of the Cap Bon (ASPEN) are a new and effective co-management unit in Zembra, but they need ergonomic infrastructures to enable them to carry out longer missions with more staff. PIM has therefore contributed to the restoration of an old and derelict building to improve working conditions for managers in the field.

**- CARE Kuriat training (Tunisia)**

As part of the agreement between Notre Grand Bleu, APAL and PIM Initiative, a training course in post-larval and juvenile fish monitoring, adapted to Mediterranean island managers, was co-organized with the Conservatoire du littoral and Ecocéan. Alternating theoretical training with practical application of CARE and nursery monitoring protocols, the combination and application of these protocols enables managers to gain a better understanding of fish population dynamics on their sites (recruitment rate, conservation status) and to provide a solid basis of arguments in favour of protecting sensitive nursery habitats.

**- "Cube Training" (Lebanon)**

The final stage in the training cycle begun 4 years ago, the session organized at the end of the year involves a representative of the institutional sector, an NGO and a research centre, to strengthen links by site and by type of actor.



# INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL STRATEGY ON CORSICAN PERIPHERAL ISLETS

*French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)*



Following the drafting of a [strategy towards invasive species](#) in the islands of Provence region (east southern France), PIM was commissioned by the OFB to draft a strategy to manage invasive species impacting heritage seabird species on Corsican peripheral islets. This strategy is in line with the objectives of the European Marine Environment Strategy Framework Directive (DCSMM). This document is based on the islands' database created by PIM Initiative, and on the data compilation work previously carried out with various partners.

Following the feasibility study carried out in 2022 ([HELP, 2022](#)), control of the Black Rat population on Gargalu and Garganellu islets (Scandola Natural Reserve, Corsica) was carried out in autumn 2023. In parallel, biodiversity monitoring has been in place since 2022 to assess the effectiveness of the management measure, thanks to the implementation of protocols that can be reproduced over the long term and on different compartments ([see the naturalist's note: Braschi et al. 2022](#)).

**Pilot sites**

CORSE Islets Gargalu and Garganellu, Cerbicale islets, Cap Corse, Sanguinaires, Bouches de Bonifaziu







## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

### - Naturalist missions

Three field missions (September 2022, May and September 2023) have been organized on Gargalu with the support of the managers of Scandola Reserve, in order to set up naturalist monitoring to collect 10 data before the rat eradication. The protocols implemented concern avifauna, reptiles, entomofauna and vegetation. [Biophonie](#) has also implemented bioacoustic monitoring. These protocols are intended to be replicated following the eradication, to monitor changes in the ecosystem and assess the effectiveness of the management measure over the long term.

### - Black Rat eradication

Following the feasibility study for an eradication operation, the HELP team went in Gargalu in September 2022 to carry out the rat eradication. The solution proposed and validated by PIM Advisory Committee, as well as by the Scientific Council of the Scandola Nature Reserve (NR), consists in implementing Black Rat population control around the Scopoli's Shearwater colony on Gargalu. It will aim as well at removing rats from the Garganellu islet in order to create a refuge islet for seabirds.

### - Workshop to present the «invasive species» strategy

A presentation of the «invasive species» strategy on Corsica's peripheral islets was organized on May 24, 2023 in Corte, in the presence of the managers of the archipelagos considered within the framework of the strategy (Bouches de Bonifacio, Cerbicale, Scandola, Cap Corse, Sanguinaires). This technical meeting provided an opportunity to gather suggestions and contributions from the managers in order to consolidate the document before its validation.





# MTECT SUBVENTION

*French Ministry of Ecological  
Transition and Territorial Cohesion  
(MTECT)*

The French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion (MTECT) regularly supports PIM in order to **strengthen the association's actions and resources** on themes that vary from one year to the next. In 2023, this support made it possible to co-finance actions carried out in Corsica as part of the **Corsican invasive species strategy**, as well as for the logistical organization of the **4th Symposium for the Mediterranean Small islands**, which took place in Lipari (Sicily) in October 2023.



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# RESCOM PROJECT

*FFEM - MAVA Foundation*

**Partners: International Association for  
Mediterranean Forests (AIFM), IUCN Centre  
for Mediterranean Cooperation, Conservatoire  
du littoral, Tour du Valat, MedWet**

Led by the Mediterranean Consortium for Biodiversity (CMB), RESCOM aims at improving the environmental and social resilience of the Mediterranean basin through the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the adoption of an integrated, multi-partner, multi-level and multi-biome approach.

The project is based on strong involvement and cooperation with local, regional and national stakeholders in several countries around the Mediterranean and in six pilot sites selected for the implementation of NbS. These are selected through a collaborative process involving the project leaders and national institutional partners in the countries concerned. The sites concerned are located in Morocco (Khenifiss National Park), Tunisia (Oued Zen National Park), Turkey (Patara SEPA), Sardinia (Villasimius MPA), Montenegro (Solila Nature Reserve) and Albania (Divjake Karavasta National Park).

This first project carried out by the CMB will condition its members to the deployment of joint actions, set up an alert system to stop operations threatening partners' sites, and create forums for reflection on major conservation concepts, translating them into concrete conservation measures and making them operational (Think and Do Tank).



## Pilot sites

Oued Zen National Park (Tunisia), Patara SEPA (Turkey), Khenifiss National Park (Morocco), Solila Nature Reserve (Montenegro), Divjaka-Karavasta National Park (Albania), Villasimius MPA (Sardinia)







## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

### - Kick-off Rescom

The official launch of the RESCOM project took place at the Tour du Valat (Camargue) on July 11th and 12th, 2023, where all the partners met to present the different components of the project, and to establish a roadmap for future actions

# ISLANDS COAST OCEANS – ICO SOLUTIONS PROJECT

*Water Agency RMC*

Since 2021, the Conservatoire du littoral, together with the French Water Agency RMC and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Aix-Marseille-Provence, has launched the Islands-Coasts-Oceans Solutions (ICO Solutions) initiative. ICO aims to define concrete solutions for the sustainable development and conservation of the islands, coasts and oceans of France, the Mediterranean and the wider world. PIM is a partner of ICO, in order to cross-fertilize expertise and perspectives, by involving institutions, associations, experts, NGOs and the business world in the discussions underway.

By organizing workshops, conferences and webinars with all these stakeholders, the objective of ICO Solutions is to support and to foster the definition and implementation of concrete, innovative solutions to the challenges that these territories have to address:

ecological restoration on land and at sea, management of uses, promotion of environmentally friendly economic activities, networking, sharing of experience and expertise, etc.

The ICO Commitment Days held in Marseille in 2021, alongside the IUCN World Congress, saw the announcement of 25 commitments within the partner network. On the strength of these successes, the organizers of ICO Solutions have decided to pursue and amplify this approach through a second cycle between 2022 and 2023, during which new workshops, conferences and meetings will be organized to continue and deepen the work begun. This process also aims at expanding the scope of the issues and themes explored, and at strengthening the links between partners and stakeholders of the approach.

## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

### - Development of the COGICO (Conservation and Management of Islands, Coasts & Oceans) international training program

PIM and the Conservatoire du littoral supervised the production of video interviews from coastal and island managers, which provide support to develop training materials and a series of methodological guides.

### - Webinars

PIM and the Conservatoire du littoral organized several workshops about the development of sustainable economic activities on islands, including a series of three workshops on strategies to manage the presence of cats on islands (over 100 participants from 78 countries), an international workshop on the cross-cutting issues of turtle nesting and beach erosion (136 participants from 33 countries), and other workshops on the ecological restoration of mangroves and the carbon market.



# PIM STRATEGY PROJECT

Water Agency RMC

## Preparing an intervention strategy for PIM Initiative in the Mediterranean region

PIM is now rich in experience: the association has developed solid networks of experts and partners, and is a recognized actor in the Mediterranean environmental conservation landscape. The NGO is now **working on its strategy for the coming years**, in order to strengthen the coherence and relevance of its future activities in relation **to island issues and the needs of managers**.

This strategy will focus on the three main areas of PIM expertise:

- **Knowledge acquisition:** Identify areas and fields of research where improvements are needed and proposed as priorities;
- **Capacity building:** Identify priority topics on which to develop capacity building activities;
- **Implementing simple and pragmatic solutions:** Identify concrete actions in the field for which PIM could provide expertise and support (restoration activities, management of invasive species, etc.).

This strategy will also address the challenges of communication and funding, and propose areas of action for the future. To this end, research was carried out on «new areas» (Macaronesia, certain areas of Croatia and Greece) to identify needs in terms of improving knowledge, areas and issues already identified concerning small islands, as well as existing actors with whom PIM could develop cooperation activities, enabling to highlight islands/archipelagos identified as priorities for the NGO, as well as areas for action (knowledge acquisition, management support, ecological restoration).

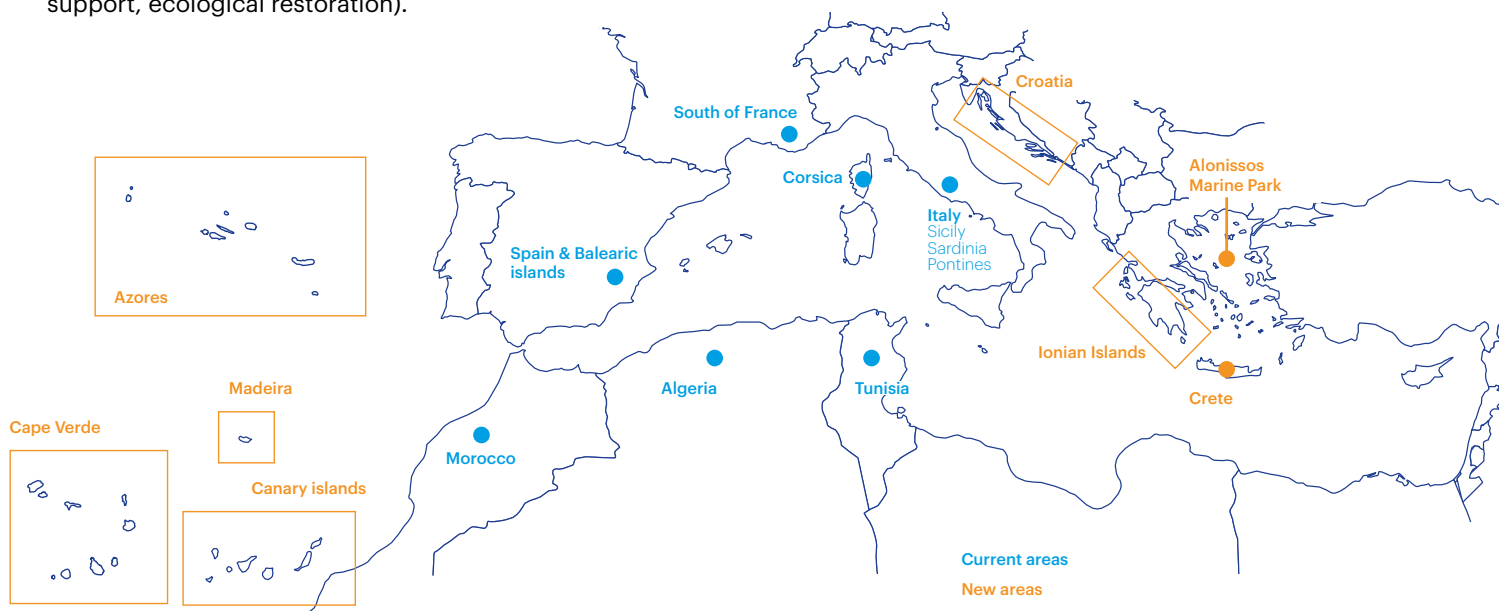


At the same time, exchanges and meetings were held with some of these actors to initiate the foundations for potential future cooperation.

The areas where PIM is currently working were reviewed on the basis of past activities carried out within the framework of the Initiative, the current local context, the state of current cooperation, the resources acquired in these areas, and the needs identified. This analysis work is aimed at highlighting a number of priorities concerning the areas, sites and activities to be implemented.

At the same time, a diagnosis of capacity-building needs was carried out by spreading a questionnaire to the NGO's partners and holding discussions with certain members of the organization, in order to determine the themes and approaches to be prioritized in the future. A diagnosis was also made for existing communication tools and actions implemented today, in order to propose a new strategy, new media and recommendations in terms of use and dissemination. The same applies to the association's financial support, to propose new strategic orientations for the future.

The aim of all these activities is to produce a final strategic report synthesizing the accumulated information, the main conclusions and strategic proposals for the future.





## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

### - Joint PIM Initiative – Conservatoire du littoral mission to the Canary Islands

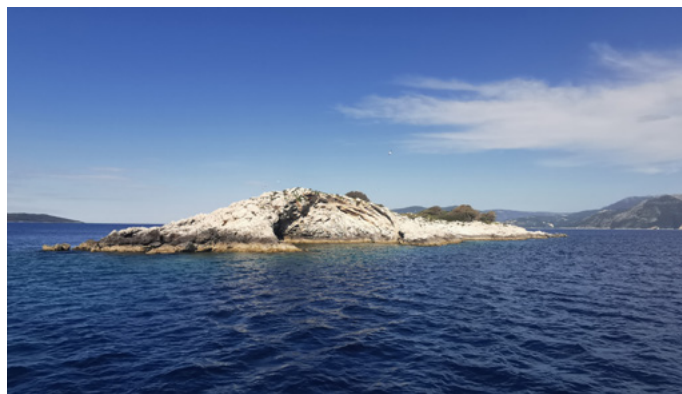
At the end of 2022, PIM and Conservatoire du littoral teams visited the Canary Islands (Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote) to meet local public institutions and several NGOs working in these areas. The mission provided an opportunity to raise awareness on the activities of both organizations, and to identify potential opportunities for future cooperation in coastal and micro-island areas.

### - PIM Ionian Islands mission - Greece

In May 2023, a naturalist expedition was organized to the peripheral islets of Meganisi, in the Ionian Sea (Greece). The mission brought together specialists from PIM network and provided an opportunity to meet new Greek partners. A dozen little-known islets were surveyed for entomofauna, avifauna, botany and herpetofauna. A complete report describing the results and discoveries is currently being drafted by the experts and will be shared shortly.

### - Island Biology Conference – Lipari

The representation of PIM Initiative at this conference, which brought together a large number of scientists studying island issues on a global scale, enabled us to meet potential future partners, and to envisage lines of future collaboration.



## KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

### *Private Foundation*

Since its inception, PIM has been helping to improve knowledge of little-known islands and islets in the Mediterranean Basin. More than 200 support and naturalist missions have been organized since 2009, thanks to the mobilization of over a hundred Mediterranean experts, enabling the capitalization and valorization of naturalist data. Some sixty naturalist notes and mission reports have been produced and disseminated thanks to PIM missions, helping to build up a body of literature made available to all those involved in Mediterranean conservation.

## KEY ACTIONS 2022 - 2023

### - PIM Pontine islands mission (Italy)

In April 2023, PIM organized a mission entirely dedicated to acquiring naturalist knowledge of the Galli archipelago and then the Pontine islands, in Italy. These surveys were carried out by local and international experts, brought together to cover all the major biological compartments for micro islands terrestrial habitats: vegetation, avifauna and herpetofauna. They were carried out in cooperation with local management teams (Punta Campanella MPA, Circeo NP), the National Institute for Environmental Research (ISPRA) and the Universities of Naples II and Campania. In the Pontine archipelago, 60 sites have been catalogued and will be presented in an extensive report presenting all the results currently under preparation.

### - Estérel Islets PIM mission (France)

A second naturalist mission on the islets of the Estérel coast was organized on June 2023 with the support of the Marine Observatory of Côte d'Azur. This mission completes the inventories carried out in July 2022. A complete report is currently under preparation.



# Scientific partnership

## GATVAIRE PROJECT

Balearic islands, Spain

PIM is a partner of the «Petits Taurons» (or «Acción Stellaris») project, launched two years ago by the organizations Save the Med, Palma Aquarium Foundation, Sharkmed, the Mallorca Conservation Foundation, and supported by the Balearic Councillors for the Environment and Territory, and Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The first Alitan sharks (*Schyllorhinus stellaris*) born in captivity as part of the «Small Taurons» project were released at the end of March 2023 in Cabrera National Park, Balearic. More than 150 specimens of this endangered species were born thanks to this initiative. The 16 released specimens have been fitted with small transmitters, which will transmit information on their location during six years, and carry external tags that enable them to be identified in case of capture. 116 eggs are still incubating in the facility where they will continue to hatch under the supervision of technicians.



## «QUEL EST DONC CE GECKO ?»

Levant island (France)

Three species of Geckos are found on the Levant island (Hyères, France): *Tarentola mauritanica*, *Hemidactylus turcicus* and the rare *Euleptes europaea*. The latter is the most endangered of the three, and is found almost exclusively on islands. The presence of the other two species, and in particular the recent introduction of *Tarentola mauritanica*, may lead to the rarefaction of the Leaf-toad gecko.

Thanks to the interest and involvement of Levantine residents, PIM and AGIR écologique have developed together a participatory science program through the creation of a [species INPN quest](#) to update knowledge of the distribution of the three species on the island.





# 4° Symposium for small Mediterranean islands

After the 3° Conference for the Small Mediterranean Islands organized in Bizerte (Tunisia) in 2012, PIM Initiative and the Conservatoire du Littoral have organized the 4° Symposium for Small Mediterranean Islands in Lipari, Sicily (Italy), from 16 to 19 October 2023, in partnership with NESOS association, and with financial support from the FFEM (COGITO project) and the RMC Water Agency.

This four-day event provided an opportunity to assess the work carried out on Mediterranean islands over the last ten years, and to consolidate the strategy for the coming decade. The event was designed in order to assess the actions held since the 3° symposium, to highlight lessons learnt and to capitalize on them in order to build consistent project for the future.

*90 people coming from 11 different countries of the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean, came to Lipari island, located at the heart of the Aeolian Archipelago.*

## PROGRAM

- Three sessions reviewing the past 10 years, with presentations organized by themes: Knowledge acquisition, Ecological restoration, Collaborative management, and a dedicated time to the chairmen to reconstitute them;

- Two sessions on future prospects, with a focus on the CAIPIM project (in preparation) written by PIM Initiative and the Conservatoire du Littoral, a workshop on protocols to be developed in this framework, and a presentation dedicated to the strategy to follow for the next decade.

An excursion to the island of Stromboli and a dinner in a century-old restaurant in Lipari, also served to strengthen ties and cohesion between island stakeholders, and to create spaces for informal and productive exchanges.

This great decennial meeting of the island defenders community, enabled donors, NGOs, managers and scientific experts to exchange on the partnerships set up, the cross-border strategies deployed and the tools to be developed to strengthen cooperation between all the stakeholders, towards better managed and protected small islands.

[> Click to read the acts of the event](#)





# Partner Initiatives in which PIM is involved



## LE CONSORTIUM MÉDITERRANÉE POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ

As the funds available to carry out concrete field actions become each year more and more difficult to reach, and the situation regarding the erosion of biodiversity becomes more urgent each day, PIM took part in the creation of a Consortium to bring together the most active environmental operators in our region. Based on the principle that we are stronger together, and in order to pool our know-how and specialised expertise in different biomes, we were part of the creation of the Mediterranean Consortium. This structure will enable us to set up more complex and relevant projects, to develop a multi-biome approach, and to make the voice of those who defend biodiversity in the Mediterranean heard more loudly. A Red Alert system will also make it possible to draw the attention of decision-makers to sites directly threatened.



## LE GROUPE D'INTÉRÊT SCIENTIFIQUE OISEAUX MARINS

The French Initiative, aiming to promote seabird conservation projects, pool data and coordinate monitoring operations throughout France, has identified PIM as its local coordinator. Responsible for data collection on the Mediterranean coast of Provence, PIM therefore participates in the data sharing effort on a national level.



## THE MED FUND

The MedFund is a private, non-profit institution based in Monaco that provides sustainable funding for the preservation of marine biodiversity. The MedFund mobilises and invests financial resources in order to provide grants to NGOs and to national authorities managing Protected Marine Areas in various Mediterranean countries. This financial tool aims at covering the hard-to-finance costs of Protected Marine Areas: recurrent costs such as salaries or maintenance costs. This financial tool, destined to become central in the Mediterranean landscape, needs to be updated regarding the needs of Protected Area managers, their constraints, and to identify potential future beneficiaries. Medfund is therefore an important driver of comanagement concept in the Med. PIM, along with the other members of the Med Fund, fulfils this advisory role and carries out capacity building with young NGOs so that they can benefit from it.



## SMALL ISLANDS ORGANISATION

SMILO, a partner NGO which has also been incubated within the Conservatoire du littoral, is leading a labelling process for islands in the Indian Ocean, West Africa and the Mediterranean, with the aim of stimulating action to better manage water, waste, landscapes and the governance of exceptional areas. PIM is proud to be a member of SMILO's Board of Directors, and to participate in this innovative initiative.



## CELEBRATE ISLANDS

CELEBRATE ISLANDS is an annual event organized since 2014 by the Conservatoire du littoral, PIM and SMILO, aimed at highlighting and financially supporting management and conservation actions carried out by and for small islands on an international scale. Objectives:

- To promote and relay initiatives contributing to the preservation of the ecological and cultural specificities of small islands around the world, in order to celebrate island ecosystems and the players who act to preserve them.
- To promote the recognition of an International Day of Islands.





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2022-2023



# Action review



## SEPTEMBER 2022

- \_Galite Mission (Galite Archipelago – Tunisia)
- \_SERE Conference (Alicante – Spain)
- \_Naturalist monitoring Gargalu (Corsica).

## OCTOBER 2022

- \_Marine Training in Jijel (Jijel – Algérie)
- \_MedPAN Workshop
- \_Falcon Day (Essaouira – Morocco)
- \_Final assessment MAVA foundation (Oristano – Sardinia)

## NOVEMBER 2022

- \_Advisory Committee Scandola (Corsica)

## DECEMBER 2022

- \_Certibiocide training (France)

## JANUARY 2023

- \_7th PIM Board of Directors meeting (Marseille – France)
- \_Meeting of the RESEDA - FLORE Network Committee (Montpellier – France)
- \_Departmental management committee of the Conservatoire du littoral's sites (La Garde – France)

## FEBRUARY 2023

- \_Tunisia 2023 Action Plan Mission (Tunisia)

## MARCH 2023

- \_General Assembly Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands (Turkey)
- \_Training camp Jbel Moussa (Belyounech - Morocco)
- \_Shark release Gatvaire Project (Cabrera National Park – Palma, Spain)

## APRIL 2023

- \_Spring mission Grand Rouveau (France)
- \_Naturalist mission Cap Sicié (France)
- \_Costal Guards Meeting of Provence Region (Saint-Cyr – France)
- \_Pontines PIM mission (Italy)
- \_Mogador management plan update (Essaouira – Morocco)
- \_International workshop series Cat management on islands (Online)

## MAY 2023

- \_PIM Knowledge acquisition mission in the islets of the Ionian Sea (Greece)
- \_Tunisian Delegation reception (France)
- \_MacOBios event (Embiez – France)
- \_Naturalist monitoring mission Gargalu (Corsica)
- \_Morrocan Delegation reception from Jbel Moussa (France)
- \_« Quel est donc ce gecko ? » INPN quest (Levant island – France)
- \_CELEBRATE ISLANDS

## JUNE 2023

- \_CARE training (Kuriat - Tunisia)
- \_Naturalist mission Deux Frères islands (Cap Sicié – France)
- \_PIM Mission in Esterel islets (France)
- \_Prospections ants species Grand Rouveau (France)
- \_Regional Marine Guard training (La Garde – France)

## JULY 2023

- \_Island Biology Conference (Lipari – Sicile)
- \_Kick-off RESCOM – (Tour du Valat - France)
- \_International workshop turtle nesting and coastal erosion
- \_Summer mission Rouveau (Grand Rouveau – France)
- \_10 years of AGIR écologique (Aïoli-Caganis farm – France)

## AGUST 2023

- \_Marine & terrestrial awareness campaigns Grand Rouveau and Lagune du Brusc (France)

## SEPTEMBER 2023

- \_Annual meeting with Conservatoire du littoral partners (Aix-en-Provence – France)
- \_Training camp Septentrion (Grand Rouveau – France)
- \_Naturalist monitoring and Black rat eradication Gargalu (Scandola – Corsica)

## OCTOBER 2023

- \_4th Symposium for the Mediterranean Small Islands (Lipari – Sicile)
- \_Fall Mission Rouveau (Grand Rouveau – France)

## NOVEMBER 2023

- \_MedPAN Workshop (Port-Cros, France)



# Publications 2022 – 2023

The PIM Initiative resource center brings together all the notes produced by PIM and its partners, as well as literature on the Mediterranean islands.



## PIM'S REPORTS

- [PIM mission Galite archipelago](#)
- [PIM mission Esterel islets](#)
- [PIM notes naturalist monitoring Gargalo](#)
- 2023 Annual report Grand Rouveau
- Plan de Gestion Essaouira
- Strategy to combat non-native species on the outlying islands of Corsic. OFB technical report.

## TECHNICAL REPORTS

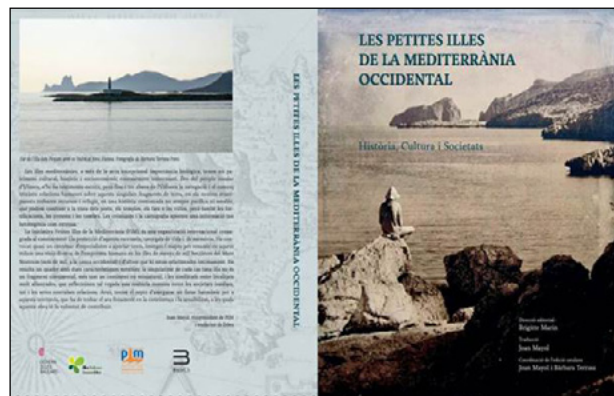
- [Biophonia 2022 – Acoustic monitoring Gargalu](#)
- 2022 - Septentrion training camp report – PIM
- [Ouni R. et al. Action Pinguin Alca torda. Observations of seabirds off the Tunisian coast. ATVS, 71p.](#)
- [HELP Sarl 2023. Attempt to eradicate the black rat \*Rattus\* from the island of Garganellu and limit the number of rodents on the island of Gargalu – Corse du Sud.](#)

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

- [Corti et al. 2022. Herpetofauna Tunisian islands](#)
- [Corti et al. 2022. Reptiles Tuscan archipelago](#)

## BOOKS

- [Les Petites Îles de la Méditerranée occidentale](#)  
Historia, Cultur i Societat











# ACT *with us*



**We need you to protect the small  
Mediterranean islands.**

Each and every one of your donations can make a difference. To encourage the conservation of small Mediterranean islands, you can support us in our long-term action by making a donation to Initiative PIM.



**For further information,  
don't hesitate to contact  
us at**

[pim@initiative-pim.org](mailto:pim@initiative-pim.org)



**To support us and  
find out more about  
our actions >**







## Activity report 2022-2023

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