



islands...

ambitions

Small islands... Big ambitions.
2024 Activity Report

Contents

Editorial /₃

In a nutshell /₄

Success stories /₅

Water

Energy

Waste

Biodiversity

Landscapes & Heritage

The Sustainable Island Label /₁₆

Label progress report /₁₈

Zoom in on Pangatalan island /₂₀

Empowering island sustainability: the Islands Fund by SMILO /₂₁

SMILO x Blue: 2024 Call for Proposals /₂₂

Our impact /₂₄

2024 highlights /₂₆

Financial report /₂₇

Small Islands Meet-up 2024 /₂₈

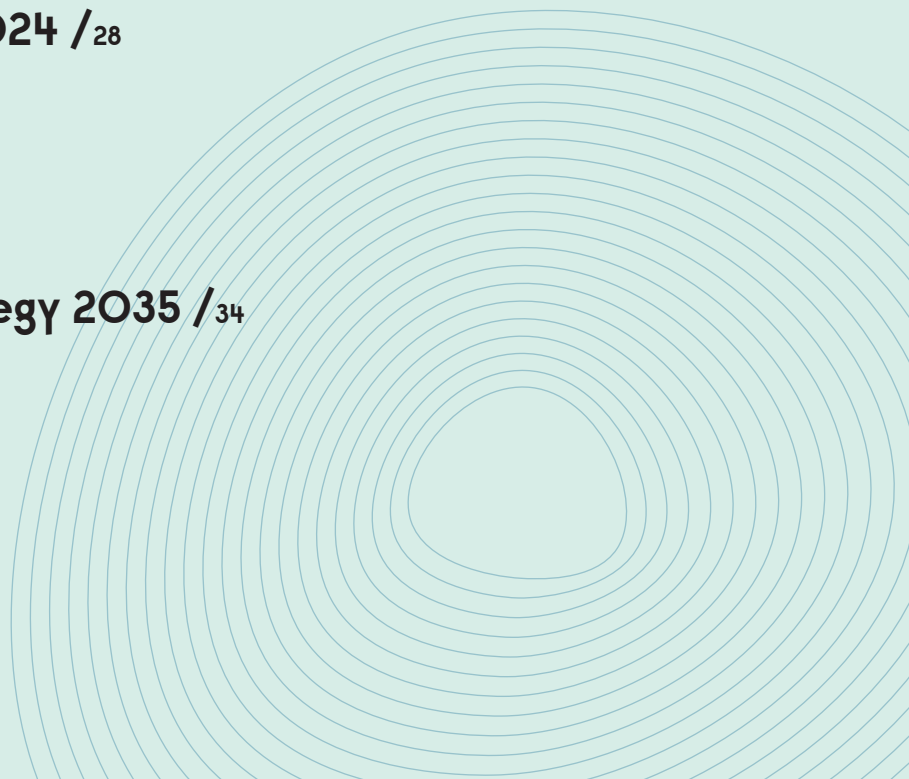
We are SMILO /₃₀

Meet SMILO /₃₁

Partners /₃₂

A glimpse of SMILO strategy 2035 /₃₄

What's next? /₃₆





Editorial

The year 2024 marks not a turning point for SMILO, but rather a deepening of our actions in line with the new strategy set for 2035. There is no revolution in our partnerships, but rather an acceleration in pace and rhythm. From Africa to Indonesia, from the Mediterranean to the North Sea, we are witnessing a continuity and a growing insistence on combining our fields of action—water, energy, waste, biodiversity, landscapes, and heritage. Without delving into detail here, islands such as Príncipe, Pangatalan, Ngor, Porquerolles, Saint-Honorat and Brava are each following a SMILO pathway, guided by our programme but also strongly adapted to their local contexts.

What enables unique exchanges is precisely the flexibility of replication—adapted to the time and pace of each island. Improving waste management or water resource governance does not follow the same path and pattern in Brava as in Príncipe. However, the SMILO method of stakeholder consultation, via our island committees, allows for locally tailored solutions while pursuing the same overarching goal: strengthening the autonomy of small islands.

Behind all these proposed and implemented solutions, we are beginning to see a synchronised rhythm of implementation from one island to another—which is, without doubt, one of our great strengths. It is this sense of connection that gives rise to a spirit. A family spirit, one might say. And we truly witnessed it during the SMILO Meet-up in October 2024 in Marseille—with thematic workshops, the increasingly popular Island Forum (a space for exchange between island territories), 30 countries and 24 islands uniting in international advocacy for small lands surrounded by water, Gorée and Saint-Honorat singing the “Islands Anthem” together over a rousing rap, and, ultimately, a wave of enthusiasm, a touch of nostalgia at the moment of parting, and a strong desire to meet again soon!

Marseille, 15 October 2024, also marked a moment of convergence between these field experiences and the growing role of our organisation within the international community. As a reminder, SMILO is now part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a partner of UNESCO, and took part in May 2024 in the conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Antigua and Barbuda, as well as in the general assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions’ Islands Commission in April.

But in Marseille, we launched an initiative we had long envisioned together: the recognition of small islands as guardians of the oceans. Ambitious? Yes! But why not? We know of too many Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that exist only on paper—declared administratively, if not politically, but lacking genuine protection. Whether in the Aegean Sea or the Philippines, we have seen island communities take charge of the creation and management of new MPAs: local, realistic, rooted in their places and histories, inclusive of sustainable tourism, and creating ripple effects—a true “archipelago approach” to MPAs.

We will bring this experience to the United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice in June 2025, where we will present and propose the funding of an Alliance of Small Islands, Guardians of the Ocean. While some thirty intergovernmental organisations, islands and NGOs already support this Alliance, we still and always rely on the support of the original community that first imagined it: the SMILO community!

Maxime Prodromidès, President

In a nutshell

- **Supported** by international institutions
- **Co-funded** by bilateral and multilateral donors
- **The interface** between environmental actors
- **An international label** "Sustainable Island"
- **Animates** an international network of islands and insular partners
- **Determined** to achieve the SDGs

SMILO Islands

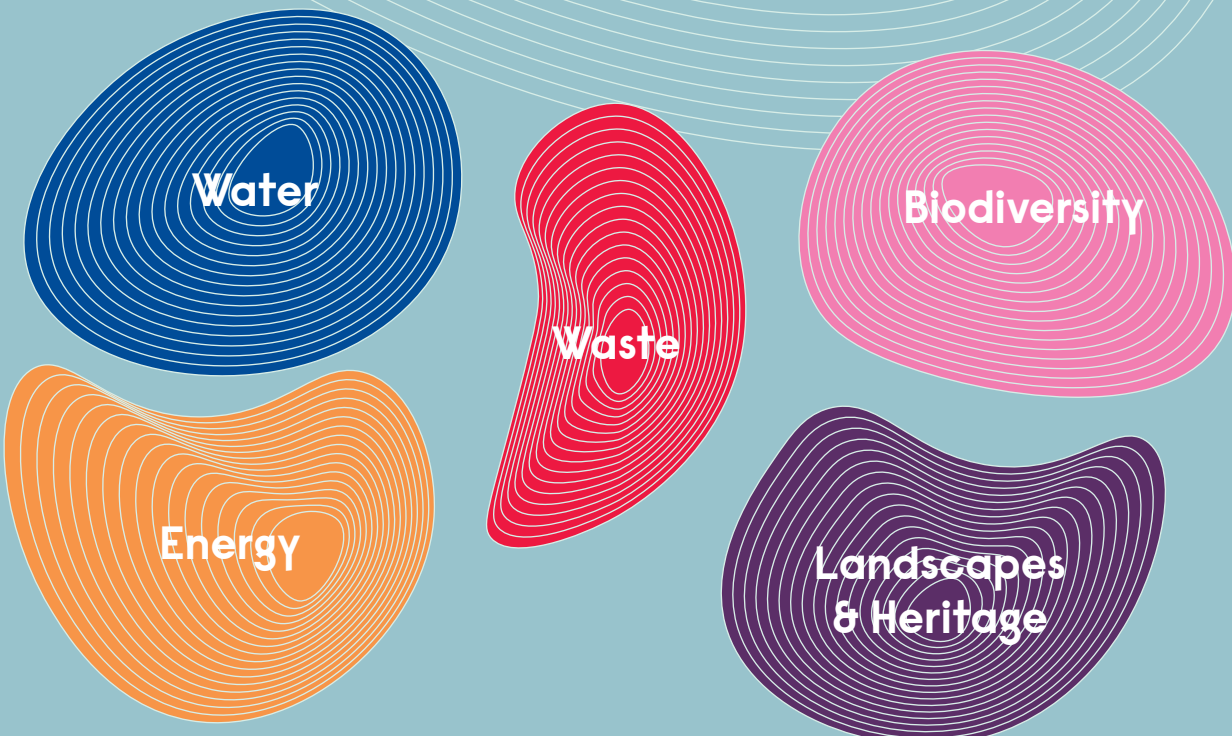
< 150 km² Less than
150km²

~~bridge~~

No bridge to the mainland and
clearly separated at low tide

in any sea

Five fields of action



Success stories

A treatment plant to protect an island jewel

Porquerolles, France

Less plastic, more drinking water

Capraia, Italy

Harnessing the sun to power the sea

Mansuar, Indonesia

A new platform for cleaner, more accessible energy

Jibondo, Tanzania

No More Plastic in Kerkennah: a movement for waste-free islands

Kerkennah, Tunisia

Pack in pack out: how two French small islands are rethinking waste

Saint-Honorat and Sainte-Marguerite, France

Saving the Aeolian lizard: a bold leap for biodiversity

Lipari, Italy

Watching over biodiversity: monitoring at the heart of protection

Natividad, Mexico

Rooted in nature: exploring Capraia's botanical heritage

Capraia, Italy

A community-led model for conservation and livelihoods

Brava, Cabo Verde

Water

A treatment plant to protect an island jewel Porquerolles, France

In 2024, the island of Porquerolles and the Metropole Toulon Provence with the Port-Cros national park took a decisive step with the construction of a new, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant. Designed to address the growing environmental challenges posed by high tourist numbers and the need to preserve an exceptional natural setting, the facility will combine cutting-edge technology with landscape integration that respects the island's unique environment.

Equipped with an advanced biological treatment system and intelligent wastewater flow management, the plant provides effective protection for groundwater reserves, fragile soils, and nearby marine ecosystems—particularly the posidonia seagrass meadows, often described as the Mediterranean's underwater lungs. But this project goes beyond engineering: it embodies a strong political commitment to making Porquerolles a model of sustainability, where water quality goes hand in hand with the quality of hospitality and community life.

By combining innovation, restraint, and long-term vision, the new treatment plant aims to become a tangible symbol of commitment to responsible tourism and to an island that is thriving, clean, and firmly focused on the future.



Less plastic, more drinking water Capraia, Italy

In the Tuscan Archipelago, the island of Capraia is leading a bold shift toward zero waste, targeting both industrial and consumer plastic. With support from Chimica Verde Bionet and Maricap, Capraia has reimagined fish farming by replacing thousands of plastic feed bags with two silos at the port, which pump food directly onto boats — no packaging needed. A new copper-alloy fish cage was also tested, offering a cleaner, more durable alternative to plastic nets.

Capraia didn't stop at industry. In response to the flood of single-use water bottles during tourist season, the municipality installed two public water fountains in 2020 and distributed 2,000 reusable bottles. Public awareness campaigns followed, helping shift local habits.

By 2024, this practical, low-tech approach has become a model for sustainable living. Capraia shows that islands, though small, can lead big environmental change — one habit, one innovation at a time.



Energy

Harnessing the sun to power the sea Mansuar, Indonesia

In 2024, the island of Mansuar, at the heart of the Raja Ampat archipelago in Indonesia, became the stage for a quiet yet transformative energy revolution: the launch of an ambitious project by the NGO The Sea People to experiment with solar batteries for their boats.

In this region, where the sea is a vital source of life, food, and income, boats play a central role. These boats are essential for daily transport and coral restoration work across the archipelago, and their electrification has dramatically reduced local emissions and noise, while improving sustainability and operational efficiency.

This innovative shift is mirrored aboard the Galaxea, a 15-meter wooden catamaran permanently based in Raja Ampat and operated by The Sea People. Integrated into the foundation's operations in 2022 with the support of international non-profit partners, the Galaxea has become a unique platform for marine conservation, environmental education, and sustainable technology. Formerly a luxury liveaboard, the boat has been transformed into a floating field base for ecosystem management, coral reef conservation, and community training. Cabins once reserved for tourists now house local team members from remote islands, while shared areas have been repurposed into classrooms, offices, and training spaces. The dive deck is now a dedicated reef restoration and scuba training area for community members.



A new platform for cleaner, more accessible energy Jibondo, Tanzania

In 2024, the island of Jibondo, nestled in the Mafia Archipelago in Tanzania, took a decisive step in its energy transition with the installation of a domestic gas distribution platform. This project, designed to address the island's heavy reliance on firewood for cooking, marks a major breakthrough in the fight against local deforestation, the degradation of mangroves, and the harmful smoke emissions affecting households.

On this island, where natural resources are precious and the ecological balance fragile, the arrival of a cleaner, safer, and more accessible energy source profoundly transforms daily practices. Supplied by boat and managed with the support of the local community, and NGO Ropes of Hope the platform offers residents a sustainable alternative to wood

and charcoal, while easing pressure on the island's ecosystems.

At the same time, awareness and training campaigns are carried out to support this shift in habits and to encourage the gradual adoption of gas for cooking. This ambitious project embodies a forward-looking vision in which development and environmental protection go hand in hand. On Jibondo, the goal is not only to improve domestic comfort, but also to protect the exceptional biodiversity of the Mafia Archipelago and to strengthen the energy autonomy of island populations.



Waste

No More Plastic in Kerkennah: a movement for waste-free islands Kerkennah, Tunisia

In 2024, the municipality of Kerkennah, with support from the Horizon Europe Remedies program, launched an ambitious initiative to tackle plastic pollution while reviving local traditions and strengthening the economy. At its core: rainwater. Once the island's main drinking source, it's now filtered with modern tech and made available through new public fountains, reducing reliance on plastic bottles.

The shift continues in shops and markets, where single-use bags are being replaced with free kraft paper alternatives, supporting a new local paper bag industry. At the same time, traditional skills are being revived. Through community workshops, islanders are learning to weave household goods and fishing traps from date palm leaves — time-honoured, plastic-free techniques that protect the sea and preserve Kerkennah's cultural roots.

This project goes beyond waste reduction. It's about restoring balance between nature, tradition, and daily life — and showing how small islands can lead with creativity and care.



Pack in pack out: how two French small islands are rethinking waste

Saint-Honorat and Sainte-Marguerite, France

Long before 2024, the island of Saint-Honorat in the Lérins archipelago took a pioneering step for sustainability: in 2019, it removed all public rubbish bins. This bold move was soon followed by its neighbour, Sainte-Marguerite, which adopted the same approach in 2022. Together, the two islands embraced a shared archipelago vision — one rooted in ecological responsibility and cooperation.

Supported by sustained awareness campaigns, the initiative encourages visitors to take their waste back with them, dramatically reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems. The ambition is clear: to transform tourism from passive consumption into active stewardship. Educational signage, on-site environmental mediators, and regular clean-up events have helped instil a “leave no trace” ethic that continues to evolve.

In 2024, these long-term efforts were formally recognised: Saint-Honorat received the SMILO Biodiversity sectoral award, and Sainte-Marguerite the waste sectoral award. Both distinctions celebrate years of dedication to ecological integrity and visitor education.

Results are already visible — cleaner landscapes, recovering natural habitats, and a growing sense of shared responsibility among visitors and residents alike. Through these actions, the Lérins Islands are not only protecting their environment but also setting a powerful example for sustainable tourism across archipelagos worldwide.”



Biodiversity

Saving the Aeolian lizard: a bold leap for biodiversity Lipari, Italy

The “Save the Aeolian Lizard” initiative began in 2022 on the island of Lipari, aiming to protect *Podarcis raffonei* — a critically endangered lizard found only on three nearby islets. With fewer than 1,000 individuals remaining, the species is severely threatened by habitat loss and invasive species.

Led by local organisation NESOS and supported by scientific partners such as the PIM Initiative and ISPRA, the project focuses on captive breeding and reintroduction into the wild. In 2024, the first phase of this effort reached a major milestone: following the successful application of a controlled breeding protocol, several juveniles were born and 15 individuals were released into their natural habitat under close scientific monitoring — offering new hope for the survival of this emblematic species.

In spring 2024, a new visitor centre and educational programme opened to the public, drawing over 250 visitors — including local school groups and international tourists — to learn about the lizard and broader island biodiversity.

By combining rigorous science with outreach and education, Lipari is emerging as a model for small-island conservation with tangible, high-impact results.”



Monitoring at the heart of protection Natividad, Mexico

In 2024, the island of Natividad, located off the coast of the Baja California Peninsula in Mexico, continues to establish itself as an exemplary model of marine conservation through a fishing monitoring system launched a few years ago.

Faced with growing threats from overfishing, marine habitat loss, and the effects of climate change, Cooperativa Buzos y Pescadores de la Baja California, an organised fishing community, implemented a sophisticated monitoring system combining technological tools (onboard cameras, GPS, digital databases) with traditional ecological knowledge. The objective was clear: to ensure the responsible use of marine resources while protecting the ecosystems surrounding the island, notably the kelp forests, populations of lobsters, abalones, and endemic species. By working

hand in hand with researchers and local authorities, the fishermen of Natividad became active guardians of their marine territory.

This monitoring system not only strengthened the economic sustainability of artisanal fishing but also demonstrated that biodiversity conservation can be compatible with local livelihoods. A true laboratory of resilience, Natividad embodies the hope for participatory and effective ocean management.



Landscapes & Heritage

Rooted in nature: exploring Capraia's botanical heritage Capraia, Italy

In 2024, members of the SMILO community exploring Capraia Island discovered a promising and inspiring initiative: a newly developed botanical trail. Captivated by its potential, they saw it as an exemplary project combining ecological education, cultural heritage, and sustainable tourism.

Winding through the Mediterranean maquis of the Tuscan Archipelago National Park, the trail traces the path of an ancient Roman road, blending natural and historical significance. Developed in collaboration with local associations and businesses — including Arura and San Rocco — as part of their engagement in the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, the trail is supported by the National Park and showcases Capraia's unique flora and forest ecosystems.

Designed for learning and reflection, it features informative panels, observation points, and rest areas, introducing visitors to aromatic, edible, and dye-producing plants — including rare species such as *Helichrysum italicum*.

More than a walk in nature, the trail offers an immersive experience in island biodiversity, encouraging slow, respectful exploration and deeper awareness of Capraia's fragile yet extraordinary natural world."



A community-led model for conservation and livelihoods Brava, Cabo Verde

In 2024, Brava—the smallest inhabited island of Cabo Verde and a hotspot of plant biodiversity—launched a bold conservation effort to protect its endangered flora. Home to 239 plant species, 25 of them endemic, Brava faces serious ecological threats, particularly from *Lantana camara*, an invasive plant now covering 60% of its sub-humid forests.

To combat this, local NGO Biflores mobilised communities, scientists, and institutions through a wide-ranging programme combining invasive species control, reforestation, and ecological education. Recognising that full eradication is unlikely, Biflores adopted a “weeds to wealth” approach, turning *Lantana* into opportunity.

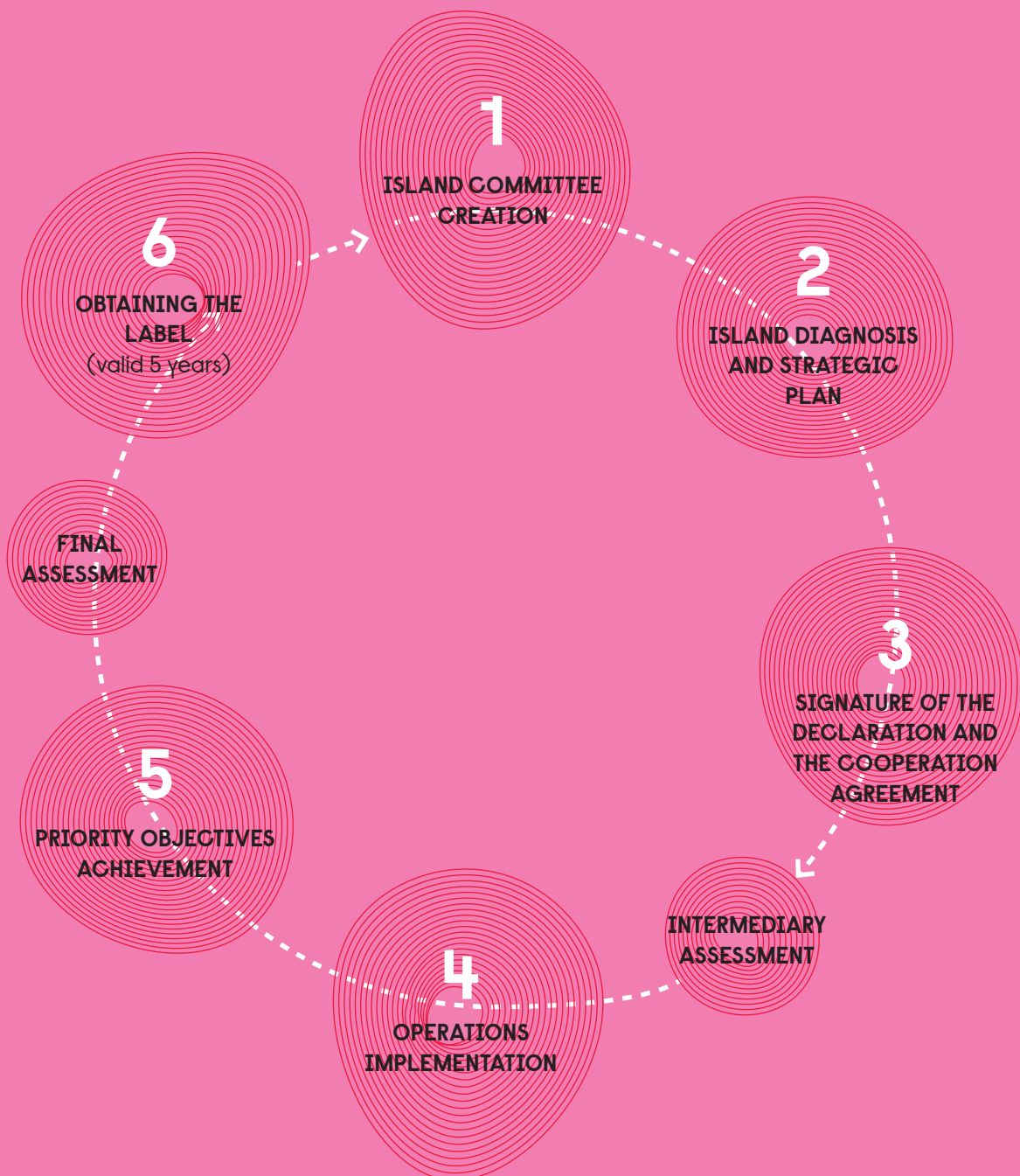
Local artisans now transform *Lantana* twigs into furniture and baskets, while its flowers are processed into mosquito repellent. Compost and charcoal from plant waste offer new income sources. Meanwhile, nurseries grow native and fruit-bearing plants to restore cleared areas, and new grazing practices protect fragile soils.

This grassroots initiative, though still developing, blends cultural identity with ecological restoration, showing how inclusive, locally driven action can safeguard biodiversity while supporting sustainable livelihoods.



The Sustainable Island Label

The methodology developed by SMILO to encourage good practices and more concerted, complete territorial management on small islands is based on its Sustainable Island label. The latter symbolises international recognition for an island's improved management and conservation of natural resources.



Step by step

The labelling process consists of several mandatory stages to earn the label.

1.

An Island Committee is formed:

representing all stakeholders on the island

2.

The Island Committee carries out an Island Diagnosis and draws up a Strategic Plan:

The island diagnosis is an inventory. It addresses all topics covered by SMILO and is used to measure the island's progress. The strategic plan lays out the main challenges and objectives. The objectives must be ambitious but realistic, and in line with the strategic principles developed by SMILO. The Island Committee may call upon a SMILO facilitator to help draw up these two documents.

3.

The Sustainable Islands declaration and a Cooperation Agreement are signed:

The Sustainable Islands declaration to confirm the island is joining SMILO and embraces its values. The Cooperation Agreement officially seals the island's commitment to the labelling process.

The Island Committee applies for intermediary assessment:

The Secretariat forwards the application to the Assessment Committee, which is composed of rapporteurs. A rapporteur visits the applicant territory in order to check that declarations are coherent and that all the necessary forms have been filled out. The Assessment Committee then meets to formulate an opinion, which is passed on to the Board of Directors. The latter is then responsible for awarding – or withholding – the Label in Progress.

Label in Progress status recognises initial efforts by the candidate, as well as the completion of all of the first stages in the process. It also recognises the coherency and representative nature of the Island Committee. If the island has fulfilled certain minimum requirements, it is awarded Sectorial Awards. If it has already fulfilled the minimum requirements in all fields, it may be awarded the Sustainable Island label directly.

4.

Concrete operations are carried out:

to help the island reach its priority objectives; it may qualify for financial support (via the Islands Fund) and expert help.

5.

Priority Objectives are achieved:

Once priority goals have been reached, the final assessment is made. The label is awarded for a period of 5 years, during which continuous improvement remains ongoing.

6.

At the end of the 5-year period, the island can renew its label:

by proving that it has updated all of the phases of the labelling process.

Label progress report

Island	Application to the Label	Joined the network	Island Committee	Cooperation Agreement	Island Diagnosis	Strategic Plan
Aného - Guin , Togo	2024	2023	2024		2024	
Asinara , Italy	2024	2024				
Bassar , Senegal	2024	2024			2024	
Bolama , Guinea Bissau	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Brava , Cabo Verde	2023	2021	+	+	2023	2023
Brownsea , England	+	2020	+	+	+	+
Chole , Tanzania	2022	2022	2022	2022	2024	2023
Culatra , Portugal	+	2021	+	+	+	+
Debangsan , Philippines	2024	2023	2024		2024	
Frioul , France	+	2020	+	+	+	+
Gombrani , Mauritius	2024	2023	2024		2024	
Gorée , Senegal	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Gozo , Malta	+	2022	+	+	2023	
Jibondo , Tanzania	2022	2022	2022	2022	2024	2023
Kerkennah , Tunisia	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Mansuar , Indonesia	2023	2023	2024		2024	
Mer d’Emeraude , Madagascar	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Natividad , Mexico	2023	2023	2024			
Ouvéa , France	2022	2021	+	+	+	+
Pabellon , Philippines	2024	2023	2024		2024	
Pakleni , Croatia	2023	2022	+	2023	2023	2024
Pangatalan , Philippines	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Porquerolles , France	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Príncipe , São Tomé and Príncipe	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Sainte Marguerite , France	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Saint Honorat , France	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Santa Luzia , Cabo Verde	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Tanakeke , Indonesia	2024	2024				
Tavolara , Italy	+	2017	+	+	+	+
Zlarin , Croatia	+	2017	+	+	+	+

**Intermediate
Evaluation**

**Label in
Progress**

Biodiversity

Water

Energy

Waste

**Landscapes &
Heritage**

**Sustainable
Island Label**

2019	2019						
2022	2022	2022	2022			2022	
2024	2024						
2022	2022		2022	2022			
2022	2022	2022					
2018	2018				2018		
2024	2024						
2020	2020						
2018	2018					2018	
2022	2022	2022				2022	
2024	2024	2024					
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2024
2019	2019	2019	2024		2024	2019	
2018	2018	2018			2023	2023	
2019	2019	2019			2024	2019	
2019	2019	2024			2019	2019	
2018	2018	2018				2018	
2019	2019	2019		2019	2019	2019	
2019	2019				2019		

Zoom in on Pangatalan island

Tucked away in Shark Fin Bay, in the heart of the Palawan archipelago in the Philippines, Pangatalan Island tells a powerful story of renewal. Once a severely degraded ecosystem, the island has become a beacon of sustainability and a model for the creation, management, and replication of marine protected areas (MPAs) — all thanks to the tireless work of the Sulubaa'i Foundation, founded in 2011 by Frédéric and Christina Tardieu.

Before the Foundation began its efforts, Pangatalan was in crisis. Years of environmental neglect and unsustainable activity had left the island and its surrounding waters in a fragile state. It reflected a much larger problem faced by small tropical islands worldwide: delicate ecosystems pushed to the edge by poor resource management and unchecked development.

The island's transformation began with small, determined steps — restoring damaged mangroves, clearing waste and marine debris, and planting more than 70,000 trees. Then, in 2016, things took a leap forward: a 46-hectare marine protected area was created to safeguard biodiversity, coral reef restoration got underway, and mangrove planting expanded. Most importantly, local communities joined the journey and became key partners in the work.

This growing momentum — ecological and social — caught the attention of SMILO. Pangatalan joined the SMILO network in 2017 and, a year later, earned

the "Sustainable Island" label. More than just a badge of honour, the label recognizes islands that act as real-world laboratories for ecological transition. Pangatalan also received vital support from the SMILO Islands Fund and Blue, with grants ranging from €3,000 to €50,000 to grow and sustain its efforts.

Today, Pangatalan is more than a restored island — it's a catalyst for marine conservation across Palawan. At the heart of the Sea Academy Palawan, it has become a vibrant hub for hands-on learning, where local communities gain practical skills to create and care for their own MPAs around Shark Fin Bay. Built on four key principles — protect, restore, educate, and inspire — this initiative positions Pangatalan as both a shining example and a launchpad for smarter, community-driven ocean governance in the region. And the island's impact keeps growing. In early 2025, the nearby village of Batas is expected to vote on creating a new Marine Protected Area around Little Tubbataha reef. Inspired by Pangatalan's success — and supported by Sulubaa'i — this bold move would double the area under protection and strengthen the growing wave of community-led conservation across the region.

What makes Pangatalan's story truly inspiring is the way it blends science, community, and vision. By weaving together ecosystem restoration, local empowerment, and smart financing, the island offers a hopeful, practical model for a sustainable future — not just for Palawan, but for small islands everywhere.



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE



Empowering Island Sustainability: The Islands Fund

The Islands Fund was established to bolster islands undergoing the labelling process, offering crucial support for initiatives aligned with SMILO's core themes: water, energy, waste, biodiversity, as well as landscapes and heritage. This fund allocated financial backing ranging from 1,000€ to 50,000€ to specific activities from the Island Committee's Strategic Action Plan. Through this essential funding, SMILO aims to catalyse sustainable development efforts, nurturing resilience and innovation across island communities.

How it works

1.

Once an island has the Label in Progress, it can submit a form to the Islands Fund to request funding for a specific project.

2.

The Board of Directors assesses the funding request and approves (or rejects) it.

The beneficiary and Island Committee is supported by the SMILO Secretariat.

3.

An agreement is signed.

Required documents

Islands Fund user manual
Project form
Precise budget
Declaration of integrity

SMILO x Blue: 2024 Call for Proposals

In 2024, SMILO teamed up with Blue to launch a new call for proposals. This call, aimed at supporting small islands actively engaged in SMILO's "Sustainable Island" labelling process and new members of the SMILO community, enabled the funding and support of several initiatives led by local stakeholders, associations, local authorities, and entrepreneurs committed to protecting their environment.

The main objective was to strengthen the resilience of island territories in the face of numerous environmental challenges, particularly climate change, pollution, and the overexploitation of natural resources.

Among the selected projects, four stood out for their originality, potential impact, and capacity to inspire similar initiatives elsewhere.

These four projects, rooted in diverse contexts and responding to different challenges, illustrate the variety of issues islands face and the SMILO network's ability to support tailored solutions for each territory. By fostering innovation, local participation, and environmental stewardship, these initiatives show that it is possible to reconcile sustainable development with the preservation of natural and cultural heritage.



Molène, France

Grantee: Culture Breizh'Ilienne
Total amount: 7,000 euros

A pilot project was launched on the island of Molène to install the very first phyto-purification system, replacing a traditional septic tank, at the heart of Océan, an inclusive and eco-friendly community hub and youth hostel. This off-grid solution is part of a broader effort towards social and ecological transition, aiming to offer visitors a joyful, low-impact experience while inspiring new ways of living sustainably on the island.



Saint-Honorat, France

Grantee: PIM Initiative
Total amount: 14,960 euros

On Saint-Honorat, a project was launched to support the Abbaye de Lérins in its efforts to control invasive species — particularly the black rat — and to enhance biodiversity monitoring across the island. In collaboration with local partners, the initiative also fosters knowledge exchange and experience-sharing among island stakeholders in Provence.



Sainte-Marguerite, France

Grantee: City of Cannes
Total amount: 9,500 euros

On Sainte-Marguerite Island, a project was developed to expand a Motorised Equipment Prohibition Zone (ZIEM) surrounding an underwater eco-museum. By installing ecological anchors, new buoyage, and conducting awareness campaigns, the initiative aims to strengthen the conservation of marine ecosystems and protect this unique site from the impacts of recreational boating.



Brava, Cabo Verde

Grantee: Biflores
Total amount: 15,000 euros

On Brava the “Trilha das Flores na Ilha das Flores” project aimed to revitalize the trail from Mato Riba to Fontainhas, Brava’s highest point (979m), where a cloud-moisture harvesting system provides sustainable water for ecological restoration with native, endemic fruit, and fodder trees. Inspired by successful island projects, the initiative promotes sustainable tourism, improves trail access, and raises awareness of Brava’s unique biodiversity and water heritage.

Our impact

54
islands in the
network

- ASINARA
- BASSAR
- BOLAMA
- BRAVA
- BROWNSEA
- CAPRAIA
- CHOLÉ
- CORVO
- CULATRA
- DEBANGAN
- FORMENTERA
- FRIOUL
- GOMBRANI
- GORÉE
- GOZO
- GUIN
- HURRICANE
- IBO
- ILUR
- JETA
- JIBONDO
- KERKENNAH
- KIHNU
- LASTOVO
- LAVEZZI
- LEVANT
- LIPARI

- MAALA PASCUA
- MANSUAR
- MARIE GALANTE
- MAUSUND
- MER D'EMERAUDE
- MOLÈNE
- NATIVIDAD
- NGOR
- NOSY SATRANA
- ORANGO
- OUVÉA
- PABELLON
- PAKLENI
- PANGATALAN
- PORQUEROLLES
- PORT-GROS
- PRINCIPE
- SAINT-HONORAT
- SAINTE-MARGUERITE
- SANTA LUZIA
- SIFNOS
- SIPO
- TANAKEKE
- TAVOLARA
- TOGO EANG
- VIGUR
- ZLARIN

19
islands have the label
in progress and/or
sectoral prizes

- BOLAMA
- BROWNSEA
- CHOLÉ
- CULATRA
- FRIOUL
- GORÉE
- JIBONDO
- KERKENNAH
- MER D'EMERAUDE
- OUVÉA
- PAKLENI
- PANGATALAN
- PORQUEROLLES
- PRINCIPE
- SAINT-HONORAT
- SAINTE-MARGUERITE
- SANTA LUZIA
- TAVOLARA
- ZLARIN





125 solutions supported
by SMILO

+1,5M€ direct
investments on the ground

140 participants at the
2024 Small Islands
Meet-up

+50M€ cumulative
value of projects and programmes in which SMILO
participated in the last 4 years

450 people trained

94 serious game players

150k islanders reached

25 countries

2024 highlights

January

- SMILO invited islands to join the Master 2 course (M2) *Gouvernance des métropoles, affaires publiques et maritimité* at Science Po Rennes, France.
- First mission to the island of Natividad, Mexico, to initiate the SMILO labelling process

February

- SMILO took part in the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)
- Exploratory mission to Lamu Island, Kenya

March

- Monaco Ocean Week – Pelagos Initiative Workshop

April-May

- Beach clean-up and waste characterization on La Courtade beach in Porquerolles
- Exploratory mission on the island of Gombrani and meetings with local stakeholders
- Exchange of experiences on tourism in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) of the Mediterranean during the General Assembly of the MedPan network

June

- Study on plastic waste management in Brava, and follow-up on the labelling process

July–September

- Exchange of good practices with Formentera, Spain

October

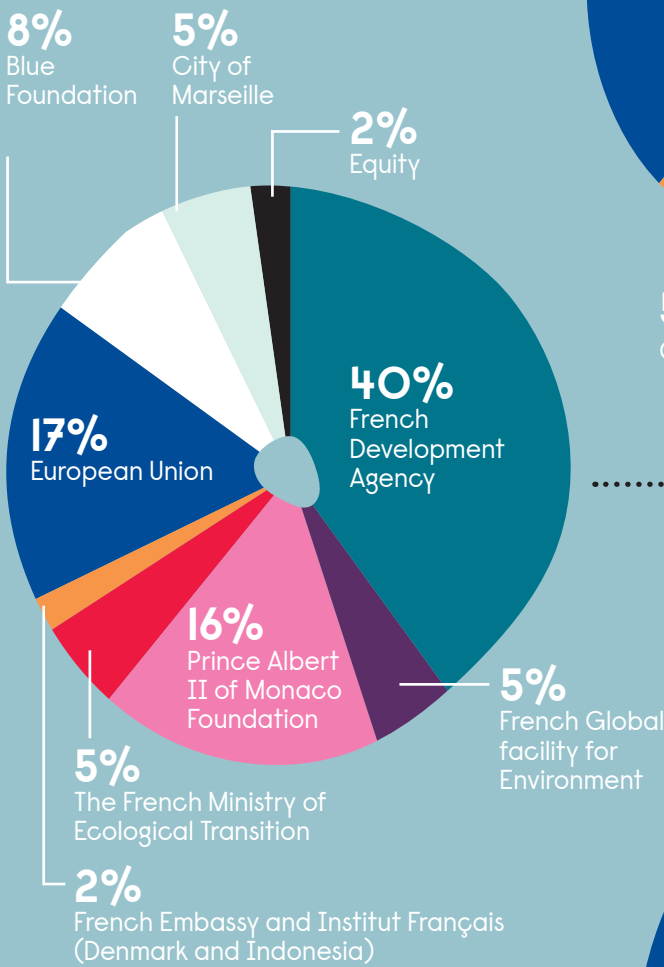
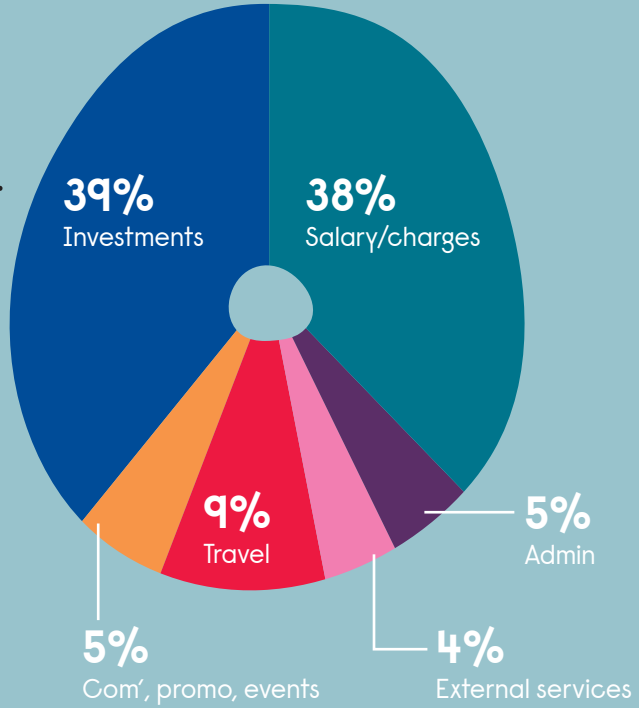
- ML Free Conference & monitoring visit to Zlarin, Croatia
- Small Islands Meet-up on Frioul Islands, France

November–December

- Follow-up of partnerships on Príncipe Island and training for local CSOs (RESTILE Project)

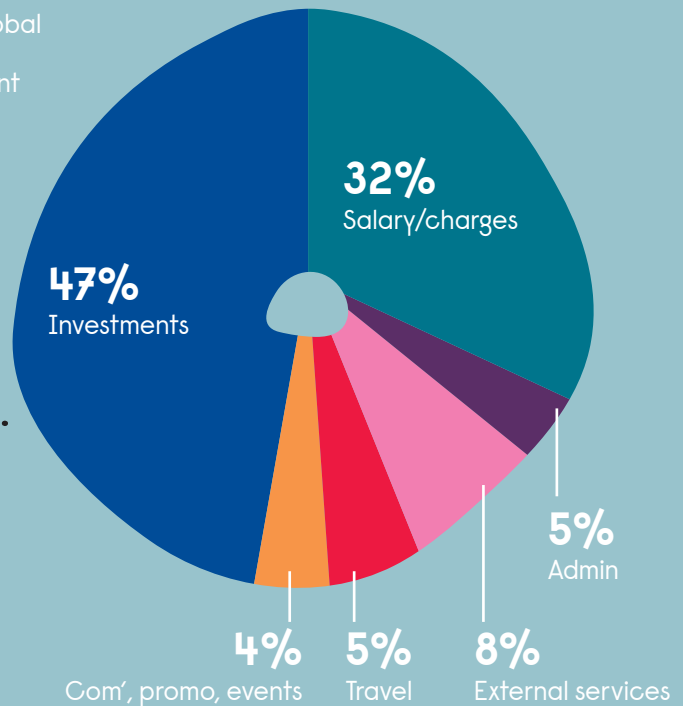
Financial report

Type of expenses 07/2023 – 06/2024



Sources of Funding 07/2023 – 06/2024

Provisionnal expenses by type 07/2024 - 06/2025



Small Islands Meet-up 2024

In October 2024, the Frioul Islands, just off the coast of Marseille, became the meeting point for a diverse group of island representatives, experts, and partners from across the globe. The occasion: the Small Islands Meet-up, a major event organised by SMILO to bring small island communities together around shared challenges and solutions.

For several days, participants from island territories in Africa, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and beyond came together to exchange experiences, tools, and local innovations. Through interactive workshops, open discussions, and site visits around the Frioul archipelago, they explored practical approaches to managing water and waste, preserving natural ecosystems, transitioning to renewable energy, and strengthening local governance. The event created space for dialogue across geographies and disciplines, while keeping small islands—often overlooked in global debates—at the centre of the conversation.

These exchanges highlighted the creativity, resilience and leadership already present in island

communities. They also underscored the need for stronger cooperation between islands, to accelerate learning, pool resources, and scale up what works. More than just a technical forum, the Meet-up was an opportunity to build a shared vision for sustainable island futures—grounded in local realities and collective action.

At the conclusion of the event, participants adopted a joint declaration recognising the crucial role of small islands in managing marine protected areas (MPAs) and calling for greater recognition and support in the face of growing pressures from climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. This declaration gave birth to the Alliance of Small Islands: Guardians of the Ocean—a new initiative that brings together island communities committed to safeguarding their environment and supporting one another's efforts. The Alliance will serve as a collaborative space to exchange ideas, promote joint actions, and amplify the voices of small islands on the global stage—ensuring their contributions to sustainability are visible, valued, and supported well into the future.





SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SMALL ISLANDS ALLIANCE: GUARDIANS OF THE OCEAN!

We are SMILO

"A few years ago, I didn't even know what a mangrove was. Today, I'm proud of being part of the SMILO community and to lead Associação Amigos da Reserva da Biosfera da Ilha do Príncipe (AARBIP), an NGO nationally recognized for its work in mangrove conservation and restoration. It's been an incredible journey of learning, training, and action — and now others across São Tomé and Príncipe are looking to us to inspire their own efforts."

Isabel Miranda, President of AARBIP, São Tomé & Príncipe



Meet SMILO

Board of Directors (As of 8 November, 2024)

Maxime PRODROMIDES
Roger ESTEVE
Fabrice BERNARD
Tatienne BE
Frédéric TARDIEU
Kate BROWN
Bruno Costa MARINI
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Bureau

Maxime PRODROMIDES, President
Roger ESTEVE, Treasurer
Bruno COSTA MARINI, Secretariat

Secretariat (As of 4 February, 2025)

Sylvain PETIT, Director
Domitille LE HUEDE, Senior Project manager
Marta FERRETTI, Senior Project manager
Célia GUILLEMOT, Admin and events manager
Sébastien TAYLOR, Communication manager
Ambre BADIQUE, Project officer
Benjamin PUZENAT, Fundraising and partnerships intern

As of today, SMILO has 54 members.

Assessment Committee

Awatef ABIADH
Habib BEN MOUSSA
Eduardo BUENO GUIMARAES
Pierre CARRET
Nenad STARC
Stewart SARKOZY-BANOCZY
Ravaka RANAIVOSON
Cristina ABREU
Angela GOTT

Partners

Partners, a BIG Thank you!

SMILO in official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status)
SMILO official non-profit observer of UNEP

Financial and institutional partners



Signatories of the Small Islands Alliance: Guardians of the Ocean!



Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e Ação Climática



A glimpse of SMILO strategy 2035

SMILO, since its creation in 2016, has supported, valued and encouraged these innovative local solutions, promoting the sharing of best practice for sustainable development. SMILO's vision, mission and values reaffirm this commitment to 2035, while reflecting nearly a decade of existence and lessons learned.

Mission: 'SMILO supports local governance and the sustainable development of island territories and makes their voice heard internationally'.

Vision: 'Preserved island ecosystems that sustainably generate goods and services for the well-being of current and future populations'.

In 2024, the United Nations Summit for the Future, the 4th Conference of Small Island Developing States and COP 16 on biodiversity will be major events, followed in 2025 by the tenth anniversary of the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Ocean Conference in France. In the medium term, 2030 marks another milestone with ambitious targets, particularly in terms of protecting biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SMILO is committed to meeting these challenges and is preparing a roadmap aligned with these priorities and international efforts, with an action plan extending to 2035.

By 2035, SMILO will be supporting the sustainable development of an active network of small islands. Positive impacts on the environment and the quality of life of the local population will be achieved and measured on all the islands in the SMILO community in relation to the 5 fields of action.

In 2035, the 'Sustainable Island' label and the approach linked to it will help to define its identity and strengthen its international reputation. SMILO has experienced a significant and controlled rise in power and geographical expansion: it has 10 islands that have won the five thematic sectoral awards and

50 islands that have joined the process. By 2030, a real labelling dynamic had been established and at least 6 sectoral prizes were awarded per year. Having worked to enhance the sense of belonging and developed tools to facilitate exchanges, its community of practice has grown to include 200 active islands, whose representatives participate spontaneously in the exchange of good practice.

SMILO continues to provide qualitative support to island communities to reinforce their governance, technical skills and access to funding. At the same time, the islands are receiving more support and resources from local, national and international institutions.

The approach promoted, the quality of the support provided, the impacts demonstrated and the experience acquired have made SMILO an international benchmark for island issues, enabling it to promote recognition of the interests of its partner islands and their visibility on the international stage.

By 2035, SMILO's governance is optimised and mature. It is based on bodies with clear mandates and responsibilities and on procedures that comply with international standards.

To support its operations and functioning, SMILO relies on a secretariat of around 15 permanent employees, some of whom are deployed in the field in the organisation's geographical areas of influence, within the clusters. Its funding comes from a variety of public and private donors.

SMILO in 2035

10 islands that have won the 5 thematic sectoral awards

50 islands that have joined the process

at least **6 sectoral prizes** awarded per year

200 active islands in the community

Strategic goals:

- Promote the 'Sustainable Island' label, encourage local governance and participative and inclusive sustainable territorial development.
- Share experience and network with an active and supportive community of practice
- Give visibility to and promote the actions supported by SMILO to ensure greater recognition of the interests of small islands in national, regional and international arenas.

Operational goals:

- Set up and maintain optimised standards, and mobilise diversified funding.
- Implement a communication and capitalisation strategy that supports SMILO's operations and promotes its results in the community and beyond.

What's next ?

- From 1 to 3 April 2025, we are co-hosting with BlueMissionMed the Cluster Meetings & Solutions Forum and the 6th General Assembly of the Remedies project in Porquerolles bringing together experts and innovators to tackle Mediterranean plastic pollution.
- In May 2025, we will be partnering with Blue Mission Med and Chimica Verde Bionet to organize Capraia Smart Island 2025 and roll out the Pilot Platform for Sustainable Mediterranean Small Island Communities focusing on solutions around energy, waste and water management.
- Between 9 and 13 June 2025, the SMILO team will attend the UN Ocean Conference in Nice and co-host several side events. We will present the Small Islands Alliance: Guardians of the Ocean, a coalition highlighting the vital role of small islands in managing marine protected areas. This initiative will bring together island representatives and networks, other NGOs and global partners to address climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss through stronger advocacy and collaboration.
- On 4–5 November 2025 the island of Saint-Honorat will host a very special event dedicated to Islanders of the French Mediterranean. Co-organised by the PIM Initiative, the Conservatoire du Littoral and SMILO, this two-day gathering will bring together local island actors to share hands-on experience and tackle some of the region's most pressing challenges. From managing invasive species and adapting to climate change, to strengthening governance on small islands, the event aims to spark collective action and reinforce collaboration across the Mediterranean's unique island landscapes.





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Small islands... Big ambitions.
2024 Activity Report
