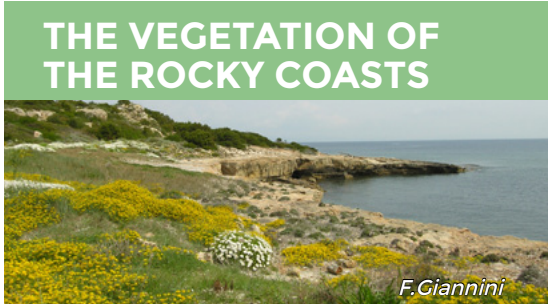


Habitat worthy of conservation

The landscape of the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago consists of a mosaic of many different habitats, some of which are home of a rare and protected flora.



Make the right choice!

You too can help us to preserve the uniqueness and biodiversity of our archipelago. Avoid planting alien plant species in your garden and give a helping hand to the native vegetation.



F.De Pietro



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Island conservation in
Tuscany, restoring habitat
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www.restoconlife.eu
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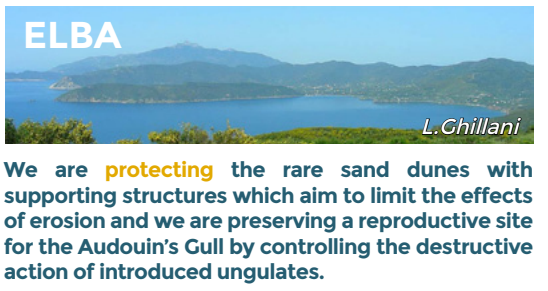


Project co-financed by
the European Commission



WHAT ARE WE DOING?


The Tuscan Archipelago is rich in biodiversity with unique and exclusive animals and plants. However, these have often been impacted by the acts of human beings. The project **"RESTO CON LIFE - Island conservation in Tuscany, restoring habitat not only for birds"** aims to restore the delicate balance between the natural components of the Montecristo, Elba, Pianosa and Giannutri islands. Restoring these areas means counting on the natural recovery capacities of the ecosystems found within them and investing in the future of these Mediterranean islands.



THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS

 **4 PARTNERS**
Beneficiary in charge of project coordination:
Tuscan Archipelago National Park;
Associated Beneficiaries:
The Institute for Environmental Protection and Research,
State Forestry Corps,
University of Florence - Biology Department

 **4.5 YEARS**
project duration,
June 2014 - December 2018

 **6 OR MORE**
the number of protected animal species that will benefit from the actions of this project.

 **15 OR MORE**
the number of protected habitats that will benefit from an improved state of conservation thanks to this project's actions.

 **3 MILIONS EUROS**
funding received.

THREATS

FLORA *Some common plants on the islands are in fact foreign to our environments and threaten the survival of native species*



This plant, originally from Central America and used for ornamental purposes, quickly colonises rocks and cliffs, to the detriment of natural vegetation. Planting it in gardens should be avoided, as it spreads all over with no difficulty.



Behind the beautiful pink and yellow flowers, this South African succulent plant hides an invasive nature. Its carpet of leaves suffocates the native flowers and shrubs and the only solution for their protection is to uproot it and prevent it from spreading.

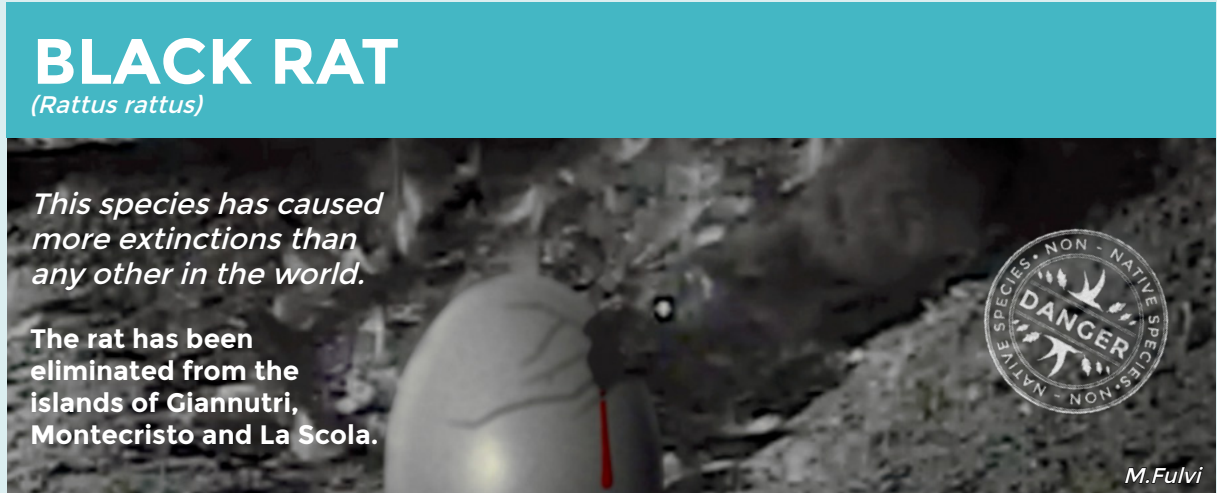


There are various species from Central and South America found in the archipelago. Planted either for ornamental reasons or to make use of the edible fruit, they spread rapidly and took the place of traditional vegetation.



With leaves similar to that of clover, this plant comes from South Africa and blooms in spring with intense, yellow flowers that are of great aesthetic impact. It contains substances that are poisonous to livestock and has invaded vast areas of land, including on our islands. Removing it is very difficult due to the roots and bulbs that spread widely underground.

FAUNA *The invasion of animals introduced by man to environments different from their original habitats causes devastation among local communities.*



BLACK RAT
(*Rattus rattus*)

This species has caused more extinctions than any other in the world.

The rat has been eliminated from the islands of Giannutri, Montecristo and La Scola.



WILD BOAR
(*Sus scrofa*)

This ungulate introduced for hunting on the Island of Elba in the 1950s and 60s has now spread everywhere. It damages fauna, flora, agricultural systems and residential structures, with financial consequences that cannot be ignored. A drastic reduction in numbers is the only solution, in order to reduce the impact the species has on the native community.



MOUFLON
(*Ovis aries*)

Suited to rocky, arid environments, this species was introduced to the three main islands of the archipelago and spread considerably, thanks to the absence of natural predators. A voracious herbivore, it prevents the growth of natural vegetation and damages crops. Current solutions include the drastic reduction of populations and, where possible, eradication.

SPECIES TO RESCUE

FLORA *The balance between all the plant communities of the Archipelago is the key to preserve this extraordinary biodiversity*



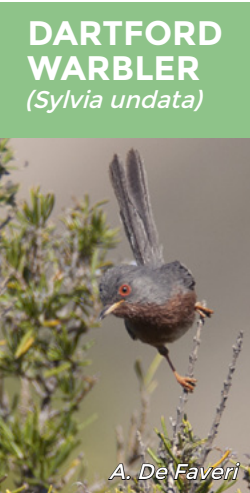
LIMONIUM
(*Limonium sommerianum*)

This little plant with pink and lilac flowers grows on cliffs near the sea, together with other grasses suited to the salty air. This isolation has favoured the growth of various typical and unique species.



HOLM OAK
(*Quercus ilex*)

Once widespread, it was exploited by man for wood and substituted by the low Mediterranean scrub. On certain islands, there are protected, centuries-old trees remaining.



DARTFORD WARBLER
(*Sylvia undata*)

This tiny bird lives in the Mediterranean scrub and has a characteristic reddish-brown chest and very long tail, which it often holds upright. It prefers to nest in thick woodland of heather, rosemary and cistus, the protection of which is essential to its successful reproduction.



AUDUIN'S GULL
(*Larus audouinii*)

There are very few nesting pairs on the archipelago, unlike the more common species, the herring gull, with which it competes for survival. It can be spotted by its red beak and cerulean blue and white wings, flying over the surface of the sea in search of fish. Protection of its nesting sites is essential to population increase.



DENSE-FLOWERED ORCHIS
(*Neotinea maculata*)

This unassuming orchid has white-pink flowers and a vanilla fragrance. It blooms in April and grows in pinewoods, under small bushes and in coastal bushy areas. It is quite widespread on Elba and can be found in a few locations on Montecristo that need to be protected from grazing wild goats.



SEA DAFFODIL
(*Pancratium maritimum*)

This flower grows in the sand by the sea; in the summertime, the bright, white blooms and fragrance attract pollinator insects which, flying from one flower to another, keep the coastal dune communities alive. In order to protect it, it must not be trodden underfoot and collecting flowers and bulbs must be prohibited.



SCOPOLI'S AND YELKOUAN SHEARWATER
(*Calonectris diomedea*, *Puffinus yelkouan*)

These excellent fliers, capable of long migratory journeys, pass most of their lives at sea, where they feed on small fish. They come to ground to lay their single eggs and raise the chick, which is vulnerable to foreign predators, such as rats and cats.



EUROPEAN LEAF-TOED GECKO
(*Euleptes europaea*)

This tiny, elusive gecko is camouflaged in colour. It lives mainly on the islands and coasts of the Ligurian and Tyrrhenian Seas and is active at night, when it goes in search of small insects. It communicates and interacts with others of the species by emitting unusual sounds.