

Journal

ELSA PERETTI AND THE SEA

“Elsa admiring the Mediterranean Sea from Torre Avvoltore in Porto Ercole, Tuscany.
“My relationship with the sea is total. As a little girl, I searched for beautiful shells on the beach. At that time, beaches were more generous, no plastic, just polished glasses and small shells. What instilled my profound respect for the ocean was to dive deep into it, to feel myself inside it and at the same time under it. Like an intruder, conscious of every movement of my breathing as the oxygen from the tanks filled my lungs, I watched my friends fishing, fascinated by the things I saw. The fleeting, short-lived miracle never ceased to amaze me. And now I pay homage to those hours beneath the waves by recording some of them in my small portraits.”

Elsa Peretti

Elsa Peretti, *Fifteen of my Fifty with Tiffany & Co*
exhibition catalogue, F.I.T., New York 1990.

The Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation which has always been deeply committed to environmental issues and wildlife conservation, supported in the years many non-profit organizations to protect the marine ecosystem. Marevivo Onlus is one of them, the organization protects the sea and its resources from over 35 years, focusing on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, enhancement and promotion of marine protected areas, pollution and illegal fishing, in addition to promoting educational programs in schools and universities. Marevivo's activities aim to increase the attention and the involvement of public opinion and media towards the preservation of that common precious good that is our sea. The organization has built its philosophy on a fair balance between

environmental protection and economic and social development, and is characterized by a proactive approach in line with its mission. The NaEPF has supported Marevivo since 2007 in carrying out its activities in Italy and abroad.

Currently the respect for the sea and its environment has driven the Nando and Elsa Peretti Foundation to partner once again with Flora and Fauna International. Since 2001, the NaEPF has worked with Flora & Fauna on several projects, and in 2023 the NaEPF renewed its support for the organization with a grant of over EUR 3 million that fund six projects to preserve the environment and biodiversity worldwide. In particular, two projects focus on the marine ecosystem: Building marine resilience in Honduras' Atlántida Seascape and Strengthening small-scale fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas in Aceh, Indonesia. The efforts in Honduras are centered to preserve the local marine biodiversity in addition to enhance collaborative governance networks of relevant stakeholders. The Atlántida Seascape initiative is a national model for marine governance and equity, where empowered, thriving communities with high-capacity support from government and civil society protect and nurture the resilience of coastal and subtidal ecosystems, and enable the recovery of vulnerable marine and coastal species and reef fisheries. In Indonesia, West Coast of Aceh province, Fauna & Flora International is promoting and increasing participation in community-led fisheries management practices, strengthening and maintaining adequate community-led patrol, surveillance, and conducting training for the implementation of community-based fish catch monitoring. The project will contribute to establishing a system of participatory biodiversity conservation, prioritising community engagement and traditional fisheries institutions so that local stakeholders can take the leading role in sustainable marine resource co-management in the marine protected areas.