



LOVE THE OCEANS
CONSERVATION

2023 IMPACT REPORT



A guitarfish caught in a net © Kaush Subramaniam

Love The Oceans Conservation, Charity no. 1184402

www.lovetheoceans.org
info@lovetheoceans.org
[@lovetheoceans](https://www.instagram.com/lovetheoceans)



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“I applaud the Love the Oceans’ team and the entire community for doing what they can to push for a Marine Protected Area in the Jangamo Bay. With knowing comes caring, and the education they’re bringing to Jangamo Bay can empower young students to become ocean stewards and protect their blue backyard for generations to come.”

Dr Sylvia Earle, President and Chairman of Mission Blue and The Sylvia Earle Alliance, National Geographic Society Explorer in Residence



Our Marine Biologist Yudmila going for a dive © Mario Cullamba



A note from our Founder

I'm delighted to present our annual impact report, a testament to the incredible journey we've undertaken over the past year. It's been a year of remarkable growth and achievement as we launched new initiatives and partnerships. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated team and the generosity of our supporters.

I'm immensely proud of the impact we've been able to make whilst operating on a shoestring budget. It's a testament to the passion and dedication of our small but mighty team. Together, we've been able to push community conservation, ocean protection, and community empowerment forward.

A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers and interns from around the world who joined us, lending their skills and enthusiasm to our projects. Your contributions have been instrumental in our efforts to collect data, launch initiatives, and drive positive change in our coastal community.

In an era where environmental and climate emergencies are increasingly prevalent, our work in conservation, ocean protection, and community empowerment has never been more vital. We're heartened by the growing global recognition of these urgent issues and remain committed to fostering a just transition to a sustainable coastal future.

This report offers a glimpse into our critical conservation efforts, groundbreaking research, and community empowerment initiatives. Together, we're not only safeguarding wildlife but also creating opportunities for the communities that depend on them. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission.



Francesca Trotman
Founder and Managing Director

Our Mission

To protect the marine environment in Jangamo Bay, Mozambique, by conducting education projects and scientific research that will support the establishment of a Marine Protected Area.



Our Vision

To develop a holistic conservation strategy which can be replicated along the East African Coastline protecting and preserving the diverse ocean fauna native to those areas while empowering the surrounding communities to thrive.

Our Values



COMMUNITY-CENTERED APPROACH

Placing communities at the forefront of our efforts, we prioritize listening to and empowering local voices for sustainable conservation solutions.



INNOVATION AND ADAPTABILITY

Embracing innovation and courage, we pioneer new approaches and challenge conventional thinking to address pressing conservation challenges effectively.



PASSIONATE COMMITMENT

Driven by a sense of urgency and conviction, we are deeply committed to our mission, relentlessly pursuing tangible outcomes.



EVIDENCE-BASED CONSERVATION

Grounded in rigorous research, we uphold high standards of scientific integrity, continuously evaluating our strategies to ensure effectiveness.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Through openness, humility, and fairness, we collaborate with diverse stakeholders, fostering teamwork to amplify impact and promote conservation.



RESPECTFUL ENGAGEMENT

Operating with integrity, accountability, and transparency, we exercise compassion, respecting all individuals and cultures we encounter.



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2.

- 1. A child attending one of our swimming lessons.
- 2. One of the coral colonies we're monitoring recruitment and mortality of on our surveys.
- 3. Our Marine Program Coordinator leading a workshop and presentation on marine conservation.



3.

Our Strategy

At Love The Oceans, our strategy is grounded in holistic conservation, addressing environmental challenges through multifaceted approaches. We believe in integrating scientific research, local knowledge, community empowerment, and sustainability initiatives to achieve our goals effectively and sustainably. Our approach emphasizes self-sufficiency, ensuring that communities can continue to thrive independently of Love The Oceans, fostering long-term resilience and sustainability.

We have 4 building blocks that form our strategy:



Scientific Exploration and Insight

Through rigorous scientific research, we gather crucial data to inform decision-making processes and support the establishment and management of the MPA. This evidence-based approach is fundamental to understanding our marine ecosystem and ensuring its long-term health and resilience.



Community-Led Empowerment

Our community empowerment initiatives aim to equip local residents with the skills and knowledge necessary to actively participate in MPA management and conservation efforts. From gender equity programs to ocean literacy initiatives, we engage community members in decision-making processes, fostering ownership and sustainability.



Local Knowledge and Environmental Stewardship

We recognise and integrate local knowledge systems, with indigenous wisdom providing historical insights into the ecosystem's dynamics. By understanding past ecological changes and social contexts, we can better predict and adapt to future challenges, empowering local communities as stewards of their environment.



Ecological Sustainability and Resilience

In pursuit of sustainability, we promote alternative livelihoods such as aquaculture and advocate for sustainable fishing practices. By reducing reliance on ocean resources and strengthening community resilience against environmental threats like climate change, we aim to ensure the long-term health and prosperity of both people and planet.



Our Open Book Strategy

We're committed to transparency and knowledge sharing, and our strategy is an "open book" for others facing similar challenges worldwide. By publically documenting our projects and methodologies, we aim to provide a framework that other communities can adapt and implement to address their unique conservation and community development needs. This ensures the scalability of our impact.

Our Team

Over the years our team has grown and 2023 saw the addition of a few new faces. We're excited to see our team expand and these amazing people bring their own skills and points of view to the table, making our conservation strategy as effective as possible.



Francesca Trotman
Founder & Managing Director



Pascoal Nhamussua
Community Outreach Manager



Inés Costa
Marine Program Coordinator



Yudmila Chunguane
Marine Biologist



Andrea Biden
Director



Mario Guilamba
Storyteller



Bento Nhamussua
Field Officer



Joaquina Guivala
Gender Equity Lead



Melta Marrengula
Ocean Conservation Champion



Magna Nhamossa
Ocean Conservation Champion



Abdulazise Suleiman
Ocean Conservation Champion

Our Supporters

Over the years we've gained support from a number of influential people. These people help us raise awareness of our cause, fundraise, and draw further support to our projects.



Kaushiik Subramaniam
Wildlife photographer and
conservation biologist



Mads St Clair
Marine Biologist, Filmmaker and
Founder of Women In Ocean Science



Inka Cresswell
Wildlife filmmaker and
marine biologist



Meghan and Harry Windsor
Duke and Duchess of Sussex



Megan McCubbin
Wildlife TV Presenter and Zoologist



Dougie Poynter
Musician



Lizzie Daly
BBC Wildlife Presenter and animal
movement scientist



Sarah Roberts
Eco-journalist, Author and
Presenter



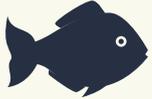
Dr Claire Petros
Sea turtle vet and founder of Sea Turtle
Rescue Alliance



Dr Imogen Napper
Waste and pollution scientist, National
Geographic Explorer

Research

During 2023 we launched new projects, nurtured ongoing ones, and planned for new ones. Here's some highlights of this year's research:



Our volunteers and staff clocked a whopping 800+ hrs of fisheries surveys



This year we completed 500+ hours of megafauna and apex predator surveys



We continued to monitor 450+ hard coral colonies and discovered 3 new coral diseases in our area



Our students completed over 60 hours of surveys, covering over 1.8km of reef



We hosted 9 expeditions supervising 10 students for their theses, fellowships, internships and placements.



As a result of our work, over 200 hatchlings made it to the ocean in 2023.



We launched our Trash 2 Trade Initiative, removing over 200kg from the beach and creating new upcycled items.



We hosted 2 research fellows from Minorities In Shark Sciences.



We hosted a research scholar in partnership with Eduardo Mondlane University, and took a longer term intern in partnership with Mozambique NGO Biofund



1. Yudmila Chunguane, our marine biologist, looks out for whales from our boat.
2. A volunteer completes a snorkel survey over a coral reef.
3. A humpback whale rolls over whilst Kaush films from a drone.



Research: Fisheries

Love The Oceans spearheads local fisheries data collection efforts across Jangamo Bay, marking the first systematic initiative in the region. Through our baseline data collected in 2014, we've identified concerning trends in small-scale, artisanal fisheries, indicating non-compliance with legal requirements and unsustainable practices, particularly in elasmobranch fisheries. In 2023 Love The Oceans has trained more local data collectors and launched the Love The Oceans app to streamline data collection, eliminating human error and empowering communities to monitor their fisheries actively.

Our field assistants engage directly with local fishermen, documenting teleost, elasmobranch, crustacean, and cephalopod fisheries. The aim is to assess the sustainability of current practices, set biodiversity targets, identify threats, and advocate for policy changes to ensure sustainable management.

This research not only provides insights into local fisheries' sustainability but also contributes to broader goals of food security and ecosystem health, aligning with our mission of holistic marine conservation.

1. Fishermen try and scare fish into a fine mesh net
2. A spearfisherman shows the camera his catch after a long morning of swimming
3. A Giant Guitafish caught in a monofilament net off the shore of Guinjata.





© Mario Gullamba

1.

1. Blue Ventures leads a workshop with our staff on co-management strategies in conservation
2. A fisherman goes out on a kayak
3. One of the kayak fishermen lead a methods workshop for the fishermen in our Sustainable Fishing Project, teaching how best to kayak safely and fish using rod and line.



© Hassel Hedström on assignment for Photographers Without Borders

2.



© Mario Gullamba

3.

The Sustainable Fishing Project

In tandem with our research, Love The Oceans implemented the Sustainable Fishing Project, engaging local communities and stakeholders to promote sustainable practices such as kayak fishing, and transition away from unsustainable practises like net fishing. This project is critical when considering future food security in our community and what the future of our local marine ecosystem may look like. This is our most ambitious project yet and is constantly evolving. In 2023 we partnered with Blue Marine Foundation and launched outreach efforts with local resorts, and worked with the fishing community to create small working groups of fishers to increase accountability and ensure sustainable income streams for fishers. We partnered with Blue Ventures to implement a capacity-building syllabus for our staff team around co-management and we're shifting our community towards more sustainable fishing methods and community-driven management.

Simultaneously, we are writing papers for publication to share our findings and advocate for evidence-based policy changes. The spatial mapping project, supported by a student's master's thesis, added another layer of data-driven decision-making to our efforts, aiding in zoning decisions within the proposed Marine Protected Area (MPA). Love The Oceans is actively working towards tangible solutions for sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation in Jangamo Bay.

Research: Corals

Love The Oceans' coral research in Jangamo, Mozambique, continues in 2023 with a focus on assessing reef health and biodiversity. Despite the region's relatively limited human impact, our surveys have revealed concerning trends, indicating lower-than-expected coral biodiversity and cover. Over 75 survey dives in 2023, totalling 60 hours underwater, covered 1.8 kilometres of reef, providing crucial baseline data. Additionally, we conducted detailed studies on nudibranch species, further enriching our understanding of the reef ecosystem.

This research underscores the pressing need for conservation measures to mitigate the impacts of current fishing practices and anthropogenic pressures. By documenting these challenges and setting biodiversity targets, we advocate for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Jangamo. The MPA not only safeguards these ecosystems but also promotes sustainable eco-tourism and offers alternatives to unsustainable fishing, fostering economic growth.

Through continuous monitoring and data-driven strategies, we are committed to ensuring the long-term health and resilience of Jangamo's coral reefs, preserving them for future generations.

- 1. An eel peeps out to say hello on a survey dive.
- 2.2 volunteers collect coral reef transect data
- 3. A volunteer photographs the coral



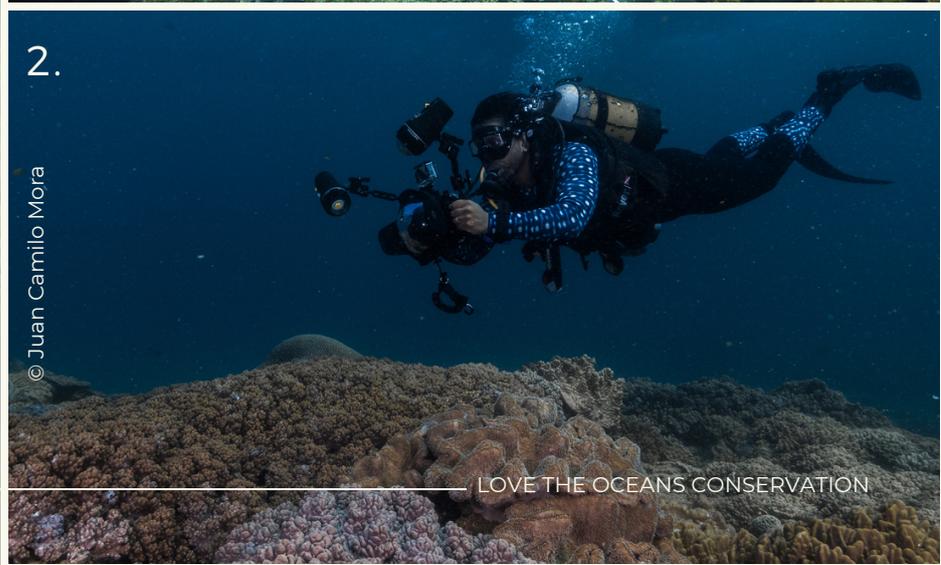
© Juan Camilo Mora

1.



2.

© Jeff Hester on assignment for Photographers Without Borders



2.

© Juan Camilo Mora



© Kaush Subramaniam

1.



© Mario Guitiamba

2a.



© Mario Guitiamba

2b.



© Mario Guitiamba

3a.



© Mario Guitiamba

3b.

1. A freshly placed tag on one of our coral plot sites, next to a few colonies of coral we are monitoring.
- 2a. A hard coral colony photographed in our plots project in 2022.
- 2b. The same hard coral colony photographed in the project in 2023. Note the faint pink line and hole in the coral in the middle and on the right side. This is Pink Line Disease.
- 3a. A photo of a *Porites* coral colony taken in 2022 in our plots project.
- 3b. The same *Porites* coral in 2023. Note the hole in the middle missing coral is bigger. This is Yellow Band Disease and is eating away the coral tissue.

The Hard Coral Recruitment and Mortality Study

In collaboration with Leeds University, Love The Oceans continued our hard coral plots project in Jangamo in 2023. Despite challenges posed by oceanographic conditions such as strong currents and poor visibility, our dedicated team successfully maintained and cleaned coral tags every two months. Algal growth on the tags presented an ongoing challenge, but improvements in methodology enhanced the project's efficacy. Through consistent monitoring efforts, our team developed an intimate understanding of the reef and coral plots, facilitating more efficient maintenance procedures.

In June 2023, LTO welcomed two Leeds University students to assist in collecting demographic data on individual coral plots. Following the established methodology, the students, with guidance from LTO staff, meticulously documented each coral colony across the plots. By the end of the month, all plots had been identified, cleaned, and photographed, marking another successful phase in the project's progression.

Now entering its second year, the project enables valuable comparisons between consecutive years, providing insights into spatial and temporal variations in coral size-frequency distributions and growth rates. One Leeds student utilized project data for her master's dissertation which is currently undergoing peer review, and underscores the project's academic significance and potential contributions to coral reef conservation. Additionally, the discovery of diseases such as Yellow Band Disease, Pink Line Disease, and *Porites* trematodiasis emphasizes the urgency of our conservation efforts and underscores the interconnectedness of coral health with broader environmental issues. In 2024 we will be launching a project to further investigate these diseases, exploring potential solutions, and safeguarding Jangamo's coral reefs for future generations.

Research: Megafauna

Love The Oceans is engaged in megafauna research, focusing on humpback whales, whale sharks, manta rays and dolphins in the waters of Jangamo, Mozambique. In 2023, our efforts intensified, with over 500 hours dedicated to gathering crucial data on these majestic creatures. Field assistants meticulously recorded humpback whale sightings, surface behaviors, and vocalizations, shedding light on migration patterns and habitat use. We expanded our understanding of whale shark and manta ray populations, estimating sizes and studying regional migrations.

Continuing our commitment to education, Love The Oceans trained over 21 students in megafauna data collection. In 2023 alone, numerous new individuals were added to our database, enriching our understanding of population dynamics and species distribution. These initiatives align with our overarching goal of assessing the feasibility of sustainable ecotourism as an alternative livelihood for coastal communities.

As we move forward, our focus remains on setting biodiversity targets and developing management measures for the proposed Marine Protected Area. By leveraging international collaborations and utilizing citizen science databases, we contribute to a global understanding of megafauna populations and ecosystems. Our dedication to megafauna research not only enhances scientific knowledge but also underscores the importance of conserving these iconic species for future generations.



A whale plays in our bay during aerial surveys © Kaush Subramaniam

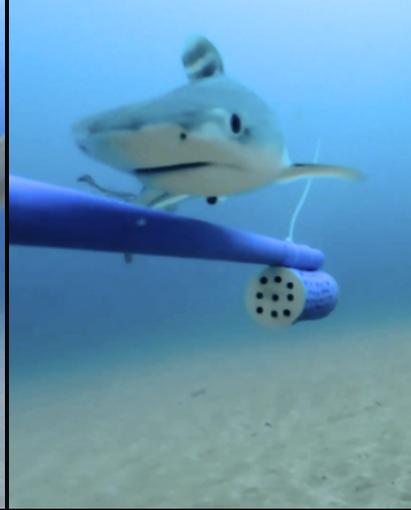
Research: Predators

Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs)

Love The Oceans' Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUV) project has enabled us to gain an understanding of the meso- and apex predators in Jangamo Bay. With over 100 deployments and more than 700 hours of footage amassed in 2023 alone, this long-term study represents a significant milestone in our understanding of predator abundance and behaviour in the region. Collaborating with Newcastle University undergraduate students and leveraging our Founder's PhD research, the ongoing data processing not only enriches academic endeavors but also plays a crucial role in Love The Oceans' Sustainable Fishing Project. This interdisciplinary approach underscores the project's broader implications and its integral role in fostering sustainable marine conservation.

Beyond data collection, the BRUV project has initiated meaningful community engagement efforts, including meetings with local elders and community members. Through these outreach initiatives, preliminary findings were shared, fostering community involvement and awareness regarding marine conservation efforts. The comprehensive dataset generated by the BRUV project holds immense potential for informing decision-making and policy formulation aimed at sustainable marine conservation practices in Jangamo Bay. By bridging scientific research with community engagement, the project embodies Love The Oceans' commitment to holistic conservation approaches that prioritize both environmental sustainability and community empowerment.

Moreover, the BRUV project has not only shed light on traditional predator species but also uncovered a diverse array of shark and ray species, including guitarfish and wedge fish, underscoring the importance of protecting marine biodiversity. Furthermore, unexpected visitors such as humpback whales and small eye stingrays captured on the BRUVs have provided valuable insights into the ecological richness of Jangamo Bay. As the project continues to evolve, it remains a beacon of hope for the preservation of our oceans and the promotion of sustainable fishing practices, embodying Love The Oceans' vision for a healthier marine ecosystem and empowered coastal communities.



Research: Turtles

In 2023 our turtle initiative continued to play a pivotal role in safeguarding the nesting and hatching activities of sea turtles in Jangamo Bay. Throughout the nesting season, our dedicated Turtle Patrol Team conducted nightly surveys along the beaches, diligently locating and protecting turtle nests to enhance the chances of successful hatching. These efforts were complemented by stakeholder workshops led by our marine biologists, aimed at raising awareness about environmental conservation and educating tourists and community members on proper procedures for nest protection. By implementing 24-hour guards once a nest was located, we eliminated threats including poaching and predation ultimately ensuring the preservation of these magnificent marine creatures.

The primary objectives of our turtle research encompass recording nesting and hatching activities, documenting turtle sightings to estimate population size and study habitat use, and implementing effective management measures to enhance nesting success. Through community engagement and awareness initiatives, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of turtle conservation among our community, ultimately reducing poaching and anthropogenic threats in the area. Moreover, our turtle program serves as a vital source of employment, providing livelihood opportunities for local residents and contributing to the economic well-being of the community.

In Mozambique's waters, where five out of seven sea turtle species can be found, our turtle patrols are critical to the protection of loggerhead and leatherback turtles. Despite facing numerous threats, including poaching, car traffic, light pollution, and scavengers, these majestic creatures continue to return to our shores to nest. Through our vigilant patrols, educational workshops, and community outreach efforts, we strive to create a safer environment for nesting turtles and ensure the survival of hatchlings as they embark on their journey to the sea. With ongoing dedication and support, we remain optimistic about achieving our goal of maximising hatchling survival rates and contributing to the long-term conservation of sea turtles in Jangamo Bay.





1. The stages of our trash upcycling project: beach trash shredded to plastic flakes, melted down into different animal shapes.
2. One of our staff members shows the different key ring shapes we've made.
3. Yudmila puts on a pair of hammerhead earrings made from bottle caps she collected.

Trash 2 Trade

Beyond research, we're committed to actionable solutions to address marine pollution. In 2023, recognising the environmental and social implications of the most commonly used method of trash disposal in our area, burning, we invested in a plastics machine to upcycle beach trash plastics into new products. This not only mitigates environmental harm but also fosters economic opportunities within local communities. As we collaborate with artisans to produce construction materials and affordable plastic machines, we envision the expansion of this project as a beacon of sustainable development in the region. With each step forward, we embark on a journey towards lasting change, combating poverty through plastic, benefiting both people and planet.

Community Outreach

The wealth of knowledge our coastal community stakeholders have is integral to our successful conservation strategy. Some highlights of 2023's community outreach initiatives:



We taught over 200 children in 2023 alone about the ocean through our dedicated ocean literacy programs in partnership with two local schools.



We launched our Ocean School initiative training local adults in marine conservation and marine science.



We certified the first woman scuba diver in our district, promoting gender inclusion in marine activities.



We qualified the first women swim teachers and pool lifeguards in our district, breaking barriers for more women to enter the ocean space.



Our team taught over 1000 children to swim, increasing access to water spaces safely, reducing drowning risks and fostering a positive relationship with the ocean.



We qualified the first Mozambican Rescue diver in the area, and qualified more of our Mozambican staff with scuba qualifications.



We launched our gender equity and aquaculture project to increase food security whilst economically empowering women in our area.



1.



2.

- 1. In 2023 we qualified Joaquina as the first woman qualified as a scuba diver in the entire district through our programs.
- 2. A child learns to float in water in one of his first swimming lessons.
- 3. Leonor, one of the women in our programs, leads a swimming lesson.



3.

Community Outreach: Ocean Literacy

In 2023, Love The Oceans continued its impactful Ocean Literacy initiative in local schools, nurturing the minds of over 200 children in marine resource management and sea safety. Through engaging lessons at Guinjata School and Paindane School, students delved into the importance of sustainable marine resource management, understanding its vital role in securing future fish stocks for their communities. The curriculum, aligned with the national syllabus and endorsed by community elders and head teachers, not only imparted knowledge of marine biology and conservation but also instilled values of stewardship and responsibility towards the oceans.

As part of our commitment to creating a positive learning environment, Love The Oceans also fulfilled requests from schools to paint educational murals on their exterior walls. These colorful murals serve as vibrant reminders of the ocean's wonders and the importance of conservation, enriching the educational experience and fostering a deeper connection with marine ecosystems. Beyond the classroom, the ripple effect of this education extends to families and communities, as students eagerly share newfound insights with their relatives. By fostering dialogue and awareness at the grassroots level, Love The Oceans ignites a collective commitment to sustainable practices, shaping a generation of informed stewards who advocate for marine conservation within their communities.

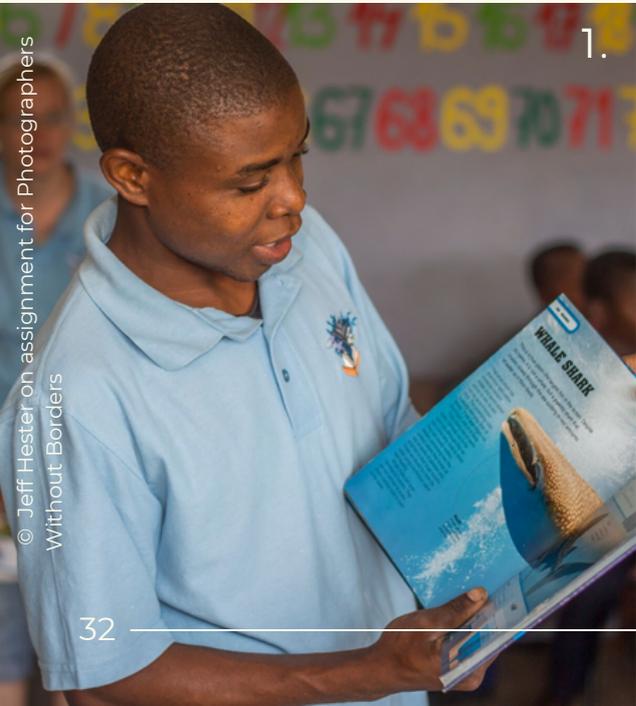
1. Pascoal leads a lesson on marine conservation in Guinjata School.
2. One of the murals our students completed at one of the schools in 2023 featuring various underwater creatures, and the volunteers themselves.
3. Pascoal leads a lesson on coral reefs in a local school.



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1.

2.

3.



Yudmila teaches Joaquina about our coral reef monitoring projects and why they're important, as part of ocean school.

Ocean School

In 2023, we launched our Ocean School initiative, a comprehensive program designed to empower Mozambican community members with a deeper understanding of the ocean and its significance. Co-created by international teachers and our marine biologists, the syllabus covered a wide array of topics, ranging from fundamental concepts like tectonic plates and atmosphere creation to the intricate dynamics of marine ecosystems, including things like the pivotal role of sharks and the nuances between hard and soft corals.

Delivered over six months on weekdays, the Ocean School curriculum provided participants with a holistic perspective on ocean science and conservation, delivered in Portuguese by our marine biologist, Yudmila. Through engaging lessons and interactive sessions, community members gained insights into the local marine environment and the importance of data collection and conservation efforts.

Moreover, recognizing the need for digital literacy in today's world, the program incorporated a weekly computer literacy component, equipping participants with essential technological skills. Additionally, presentation skills workshops were integrated to foster confidence in addressing environmental challenges and advocating for solutions within their communities. By investing in the knowledge and skills of local residents through initiatives like Ocean School, Love The Oceans continues to cultivate a network of empowered individuals committed to safeguarding marine ecosystems for future generations.

Community Outreach: Increasing water safety

In 2023, we continued enhancing water safety and promoting ocean positivity through free swimming lessons for children in the local community, and we launched lessons for women too. With the staggering statistic that over 95% of our coastal population lives near the coast but can't swim, our initiative aims to bridge this gap by providing accessible and comprehensive sea safety education. By offering free swimming lessons on Saturday afternoons to children from local schools, we not only instill life-saving skills but also ignite a passion for the ocean, paving the way for future opportunities in ecotourism. Additionally, our dedication to empowering women in the community led to the establishment of a women-only swimming program, providing them with essential aquatic skills and preparing them for further qualifications.

In 2023 alone, our intensive zero-to-hero program saw over 1000 children equipped with vital swimming skills, laying the foundation for safer coastal communities. Expanding beyond swimming proficiency, Love The Oceans' Ocean Conservation Champion (OCC) Program complements aquatic education with marine conservation and sustainable fishing training. The OCC program is for young adults and teens in our area to gain further training in marine conservation and ocean activities. By integrating these skill sets, our aim is to empower individuals to become ambassadors for marine conservation, leading efforts to protect coastal ecosystems and drive sustainable practices within their communities. Through these initiatives, Love The Oceans is not only shaping safer and more resilient communities but also nurturing a generation of ocean stewards committed to safeguarding our marine environment.

1. A child enjoys one of our swimming lessons.
2. Children learning how to kick, using floats to immobilise the arms.
3. Leonor, one of the women in our aquaculture project, learning to swim for the first time.





© Mario Guilamba

1.



© Mario Guilamba

2.



3.

© Mario Guilamba



4.

© Mario Guilamba

1. We qualified Joaquina as a PADI Open Water scuba diver in 2023 and she is the first woman diver in the entire district.
2. Luisa teaching a swimming class, after she qualified as a swim teacher, with the assistance of one of our Ocean Conservation Champions.
3. Luisa delivering a swim class, teaching children to breathe out underwater.
4. Robert Hamilton, the swim tutor who joined us in 2023 to train the first women in our district as swim teachers and lifeguards.

Gender Equity In Ocean Spaces

Moreover, our commitment to inclusivity and gender equality led to the training of five women as swim teachers and lifeguards, marking a significant step towards increased representation in aquatic education and safety. These women not only enhance the accessibility of swimming lessons but also serve as role models, inspiring others to pursue water-related activities with confidence.

In 2023, Love The Oceans achieved significant milestones in empowering individuals with valuable qualifications, facilitating their journey towards becoming advocates for marine conservation and sustainable practices. Through strategic partnerships and dedicated training programs, we qualified the first-ever women scuba diver in our district. This achievement, made possible through sponsorship from PADI, not only breaks barriers but also opens doors to new opportunities for women in the field of marine science and conservation. Additionally, our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion saw the training of five women as swim teachers and lifeguards, enhancing representation and expertise in aquatic safety.

As we look towards the future, Love The Oceans remains committed to nurturing talent and fostering leadership in marine conservation. By providing pathways to qualifications and empowering individuals to become advocates for sustainable practices, we aim to create a ripple effect of positive change, ultimately contributing to the protection and preservation of our oceans for generations to come.

Community Outreach: Aquaculture

In 2023, Love The Oceans' commitment to promoting gender equity and empowering women in the marine space continued through our Gender Equity and Shellfish Farming Project. This initiative aims to address longstanding social challenges faced by women in the Jangamo community, where opportunities for women in marine activities have historically been limited. Through capacity-building workshops and training, the project seeks to provide women with access to essential resources and foster economic independence, breaking the cycle of dependence and empowering women to play active roles in their communities.

Led by women born and raised in the community, the project is designed to empower women to utilise the ocean sustainably and participate in traditionally male-dominated community fisheries meetings. By diversifying perspectives and amplifying the voices of women, the project enhances the resilience of both communities and marine ecosystems. Love The Oceans' dedication to promoting gender equity is evident across its projects, from qualifying the first women scuba divers, lifeguards, and swim teachers to ensuring women's participation in decision-making processes and capacity-building workshops.

Partnering with Blue Marine Foundation, Love The Oceans' Gender Equity and Shellfish Farming Project has made significant strides in its initial phase. The project has identified four women participants who engage in workshops aimed at understanding and addressing the challenges faced by women in the community. With Blue Marine Foundation's expertise, we've conducted thorough assessments of proposed aquaculture sites, exploring the potential for sustainable shellfish farming. As the project progresses into 2024, exciting developments are anticipated, contributing to reshaping gender dynamics and fostering holistic conservation strategies in the Jangamo community.



The women leading this project:

1. Yolanda
2. Felicidade
3. Leonor
4. Rita

© Mario Guilamba

Other News



We partnered with Milky Wire in The Green Game Jam, safeguarding 3 biodiversity hotspots, inspiring global climate action by millions through popular gaming platforms.



Our Founder was spotlighted in PADI's blog 'Women PADI Pros Transforming The Dive Industry'.



Our marine biologist Yudmila was showcased in an interview with Wise Oceans and received the 2023 Conservation Nation grant aimed at building an inclusive community of conservationists to create more innovative solutions to solve the global wildlife conservation challenge.



Our Founder featured on Hazel McBride's 'No Such Word As Can't' Podcast.



This year we welcomed Dr Sylvia Earle to Mozambique and presented our Hope Spot to her and her team.



Our Founder made a compelling speech, addressing audiences at The Economists' World Ocean Summit, sparking conversations on ocean conservation, reaching global audiences.



Our team engaged with 600+ university students, delivering talks at over 30 institutions, fostering awareness and passion for marine conservation, while in Mozambique We hosted guest scientists from around the world who delivered talks and training to our team.



Our founder presented some of her PhD work and Love The Oceans at One Planet Doctoral Training Partnership Residential in Newcastle.



One of our staff members featured in Madeline St Clair Baker's FujiFilm docuseries 'Ocean Womxn'



© Mario Gulliamba

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2.

© Economist World Ocean Summit



3.

© Francesca Trotman



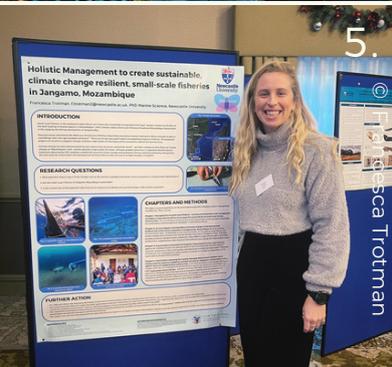
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4.



© Keira Bird

6.



5.

© Francesca Trotman

1. Yudmila jumping for joy
2. Francesca delivering a speech at the Economist's World Ocean Summit
3. Guest scientist Ellen Barrowclift delivering a talk on her shark research at our base in Mozambique to our students and staff.
4. Kaush Subramaniam visiting and training our Storyteller Mario in film and photography.
5. Francesca presenting her PhD and Love The Oceans research at the One Planet Doctoral Partnership Training Residential.
6. Filmmaker Madeline St Clair Baker filming our staff for her Fujifilm Docuseries 'Ocean Womxn'
7. Our team with Dr Sylvia Earle during her visit to Mozambique.



7.

© Inês Costa

2023 By Numbers

500 HOURS
of megafauna research complete



New swimming teachers and lifeguards



700 HOURS

of Baited Remote Underwater Video Footage amassed



450

coral colonies monitored



Over **250**

research dives complete



60+

hours of ocean literacy delivered to 10-13yr olds

150+kg
of trash collected off the beach



35 TALKS
at institutions and
events across the
world



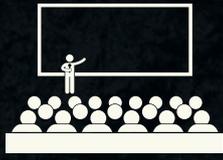
1000+

children taught
swimming



Over

600



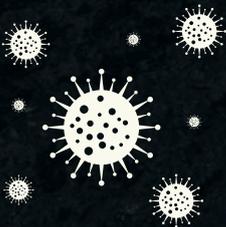
university students
engaged with
through talks

1800m

of reef filmed
and analysed



3 new coral diseases
identified



240 hours

of ocean school
and computer
literacy programs
delivered



200 children

taught ocean literacy



1ST

female scuba
diver in our
district
qualified

Partnership Spotlight: Blue Marine Foundation

Blue Marine Foundation has been a key partner in Love The Oceans' progress towards our MPA in 2023. United by shared values and a commitment to protecting marine ecosystems, our partnership has thrived on the mutual goal of combating overfishing, one of the world's most pressing environmental challenges. Blue Marine Foundation's dedication to securing marine protected areas aligns with our efforts to establish sustainable fishing practices and conserve our marine environment.

Beyond financial support, Blue Marine Foundation has played a crucial role in skill-building and capacity-building within some of our projects. Their team, including Judith Brown, Projects Director, and Matthew Uttley, Restoration Projects Manager, provided invaluable expertise during their visit to our base. Together, they conducted environmental scoping for our aquaculture project and delivered capacity-building workshops for women involved in the initiative. This hands-on support underscores Blue Marine Foundation's commitment to empowering local communities and fostering sustainable solutions to marine conservation challenges.

Love The Oceans is proud to collaborate with Blue Marine Foundation, leveraging our shared expertise and resources to make meaningful strides towards restoring the health of our oceans and ensuring a sustainable future for marine life and coastal communities.

1. A meeting with government members with the Blue Marine Foundation team and Love The Oceans to discuss the aquaculture project.
2. The Blue Marine Foundation team and Love The Oceans team together
3. Judith Brown on a dive after observing our coral reef research.



© Mario Guilamba



© Mario Guilamba







“Through Love the Oceans projects, we're not just offering our community new opportunities, but also actively contributing to the rejuvenation of the marine ecosystem by providing it with the necessary time to recover and flourish.”

Pascoal Nhamussua, Love The Oceans'
Community Outreach Manager



Equipment Sponsor Feature: Fourth Element

In 2023, Love The Oceans partnered with Fourth Element, united by a shared passion for sustainability and marine conservation. With a profound reverence for the oceans, Fourth Element's commitment to environmental stewardship resonates deeply with Love The Oceans' mission to safeguard marine ecosystems and empower coastal communities.

A cornerstone of Fourth Element's ethos is their Ocean Positive line, crafted from recycled plastics, aligning perfectly with Love The Oceans' dedication to sustainable practices. This collaboration saw Fourth Element generously equip our entire team with wetsuits, fins, and masks, facilitating our fieldwork and community initiatives. Their support extended beyond provision, supplementing our swimming program with swim costumes and offering Fourth Element wetsuits to young participants in our Ocean Conservation Champion program.

Moreover, several members of our team have proudly embraced roles as Fourth Element ambassadors, symbolizing our shared commitment to promoting ocean conservation on a global scale. Through collaborative efforts on social media, Fourth Element amplifies our work, shining a spotlight on Love The Oceans' impactful projects and inspiring others to join our movement.

By nurturing a new generation of ocean enthusiasts and champions, our partnership with Fourth Element embodies our collective vision for a sustainable future where humans and marine life thrive harmoniously.

1. Pascoal, Bento and Mario enjoy an early morning snorkel.
2. Juan Camilo Mora, the visiting PADI Instructor with our team. He trained and qualified many of our team in scuba in 2023.
3. Our Ocean Conservation Champions before swimming lessons in their Fourth Element rashguards.

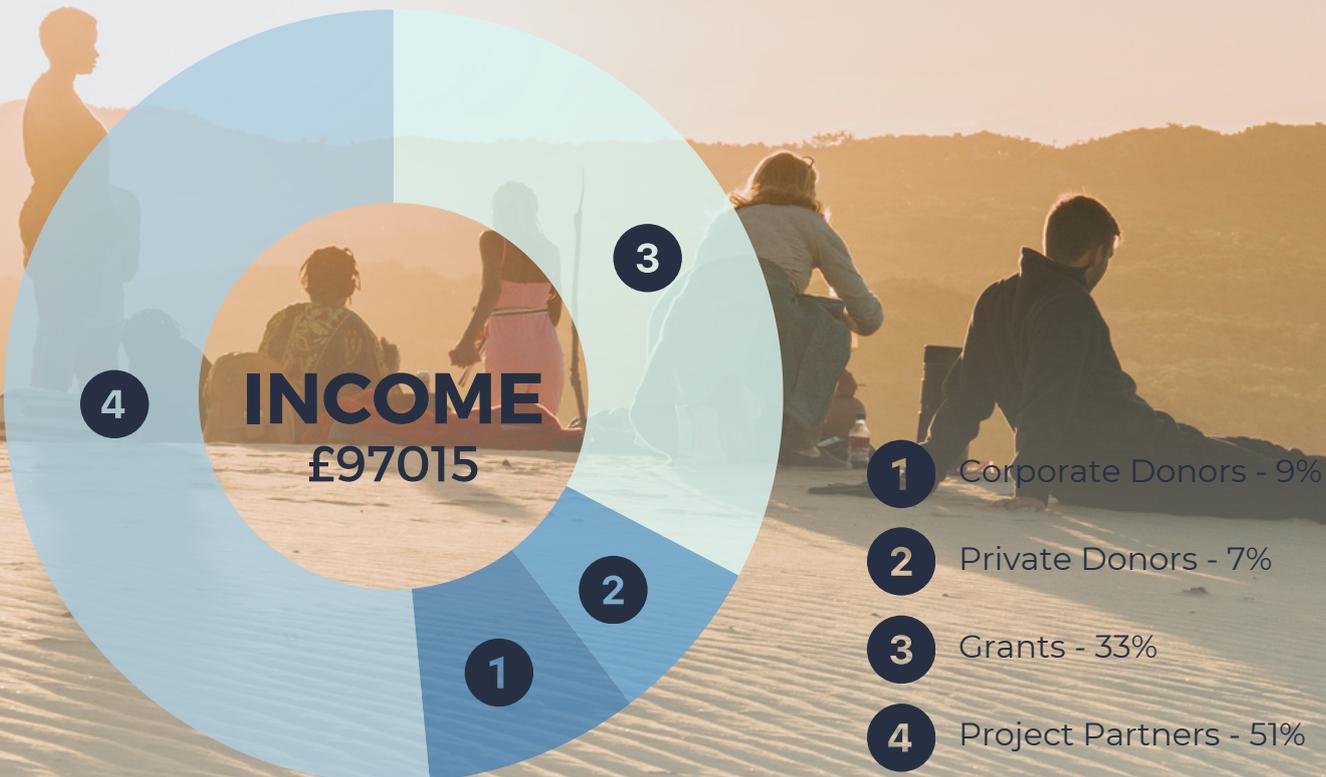


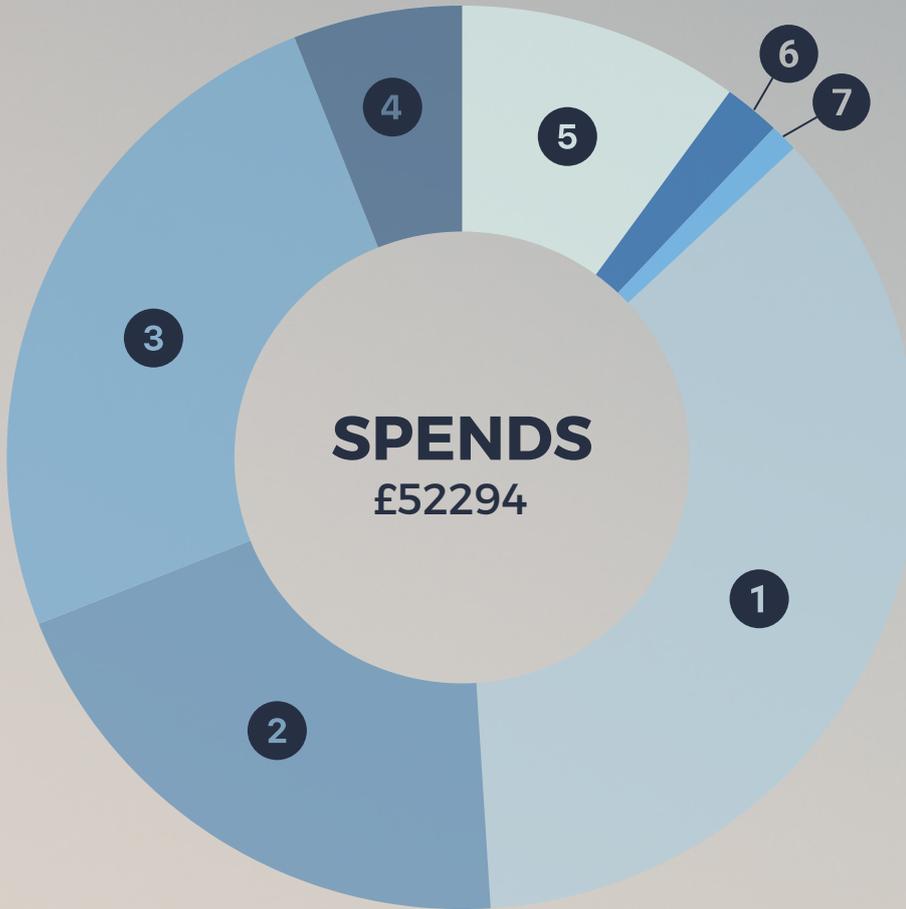
Financial Overview

Financial year: November 30th 2022 - December 1st 2023

In 2023, Love The Oceans Conservation experienced remarkable growth, propelled by new supporters that have empowered us to embark on ambitious new projects. As a grassroots organization, our team is small but mighty, driven by unwavering passion. We owe immense gratitude to our supporters whose generosity and belief in our mission have been the cornerstone of our success. Join us as we delve into our financial journey, highlighting the transformative impact made possible by the synergy of passion and support.

As a grassroots organisation, Love The Oceans often finds itself overlooked in traditional funding circles. Yet, it is precisely this grassroots nature that enables us to amplify local voices and have an outsized impact on marine conservation efforts. With a small but passionate team at our core, we embrace agility and flexibility, seizing opportunities and launching new projects when funding becomes available. Our nimbleness allows us to deliver beyond expectations, with every initiative deeply rooted in the communities we serve, fostering lasting change at the grassroots level but with the potential for scalability.





At Love The Oceans, we take great care in how we allocate our resources, ensuring that every dollar is maximized for impact. We believe in responsible spending, which is why we allocate funds specifically to different projects, only disbursing them when needed. This approach ensures that our expenditures are directly tied to tangible outcomes, whether it's funding marine conservation initiatives, supporting community development projects, or investing in educational programs.

While securing funding for overhead costs can be challenging, we take pride in our careful spending practices, which enable us to stretch every dollar and make a significant impact on the ground. Despite being a small team, our emphasis on fiscal responsibility ensures that we prioritize direct impact in the communities we serve. By minimizing administrative overhead and streamlining operational expenses, we can channel more resources into our core programs, empowering local communities, protecting marine ecosystems, and fostering sustainable change. Your support enables us to continue this critical work, making a meaningful difference where it matters most.

1 Project Running - 36%

These are costs associated with each of the projects we run. This includes things like boat rental, kit hire, and pool rental.

2 Equipment - 20%

This is the money spent on the equipment we need to run the projects. This includes things like BRUV parts, chlorine for the swimming pool and cameras to monitor reefs.

3 Travel - 25%

This includes fuel to run our cars throughout the year, as well as flight costs for different skilled people to join us and deliver capacity building workshops to community members.

4 Personnel - 4%

These are salary costs, and payments to contractors who contract their services to us for certain projects.

5 Administration - 10%

These are costs associated with project set up usually. This includes permission costs and fees for consultants who assist in the correct legal process for setting up projects.

6 Fundraising - 2%

These include fees associated with annual campaigns, as well as membership fees to fundraising platforms.

7 Bank fees - 2%

This is money lost through various transactions as we roll projects out and the bank takes their fees.

Social Media

Our social media platforms serve as more than just channels for updates; they are catalysts for change, fostering meaningful connections and amplifying the plight of overlooked marine species. With a focus on education and advocacy, we leverage social media as a tool to inspire action and ignite passion for the ocean.

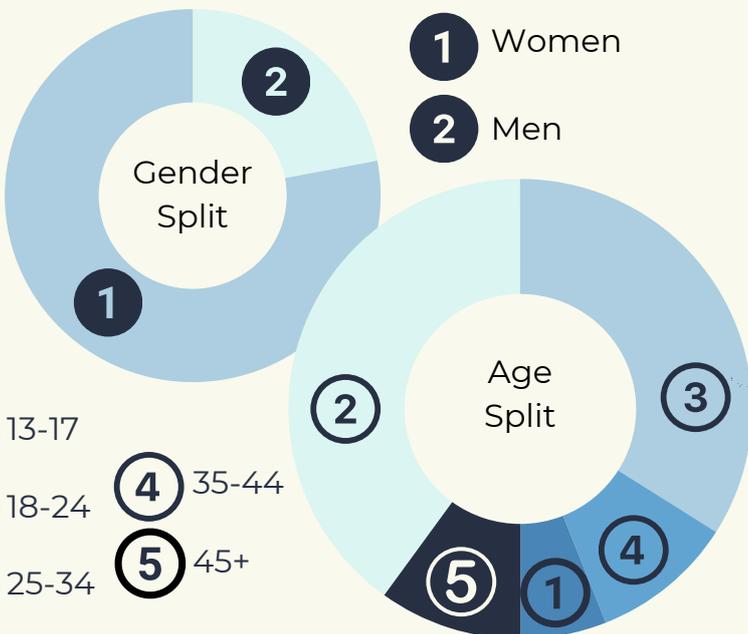
Through captivating visuals, informative reels, and engaging content, we bring the wonders of the ocean to screens around the world, shedding light on its beauty and fragility. From showcasing the diverse marine life that calls our oceans home to raising awareness about pressing environmental issues, our social media channels serve as virtual classrooms, empowering individuals to become stewards of the sea.

Over the years, our social media presence has evolved into a thriving community of ocean enthusiasts, activists, and environmental influencers united by a shared love for the ocean. We collaborate with environmental influencers to amplify our message and reach new audiences, leveraging their platforms to promote our campaigns and initiatives. Together, we harness the power of social media to drive positive change and build a brighter future for our oceans and the life they sustain.

226,000+

 accounts reached on instagram alone in 2023

21,000+

 followers across instagram, facebook, twitter and tiktok.



Sponsors and Partners

At Love The Oceans, we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donors and sponsors. Your generosity fuels our mission and drives our efforts to protect and preserve our oceans for future generations. Without your contributions, our work would simply not be possible. Each donation, whether big or small, makes a significant difference and propels us forward in our journey towards marine conservation and community empowerment.

Your support enables us to implement impactful projects that address critical environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. From establishing Marine Protected Areas to providing swim lessons for local communities, your contributions have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of both people and marine life. Every dollar donated helps us expand our reach, engage more communities, and effect positive change in the world.

As a grassroots organization, we rely heavily on the generosity of individuals and businesses who share our passion for the ocean. Your belief in our mission empowers us to continue our work with dedication and enthusiasm, knowing that we have a community of supporters standing behind us. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the fight against ocean degradation and environmental injustice. Thank you for your continued support, commitment, and belief in our cause. With your help, we can create a healthier, more sustainable future for our oceans and the planet.

Thank you to our private donors, including:

Gabriele Wagenhofer
Jessica Clifton
Alex Gray
Emily Hatton
Jeanette Taylor
Hans Terje Anonsen

Donate Now:





fourth element
EQUIPMENT FOR ADVENTURE

DAUGHTERS
FOR EARTH

everCARE+



GOOD-LOOP

BARE KIND

bird



PADI



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION





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CONSERVATION

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A recently discovered turtle nest with entry and exit tracks still intact, with our team setting up guards. © Mario Guilamba