



LOVE THE OCEANS CONSERVATION

Empowering Communities, Conserving Oceans



2024 IMPACT REPORT

Love The Oceans team removing a huge ghost net from the ocean © Francesca Trotman

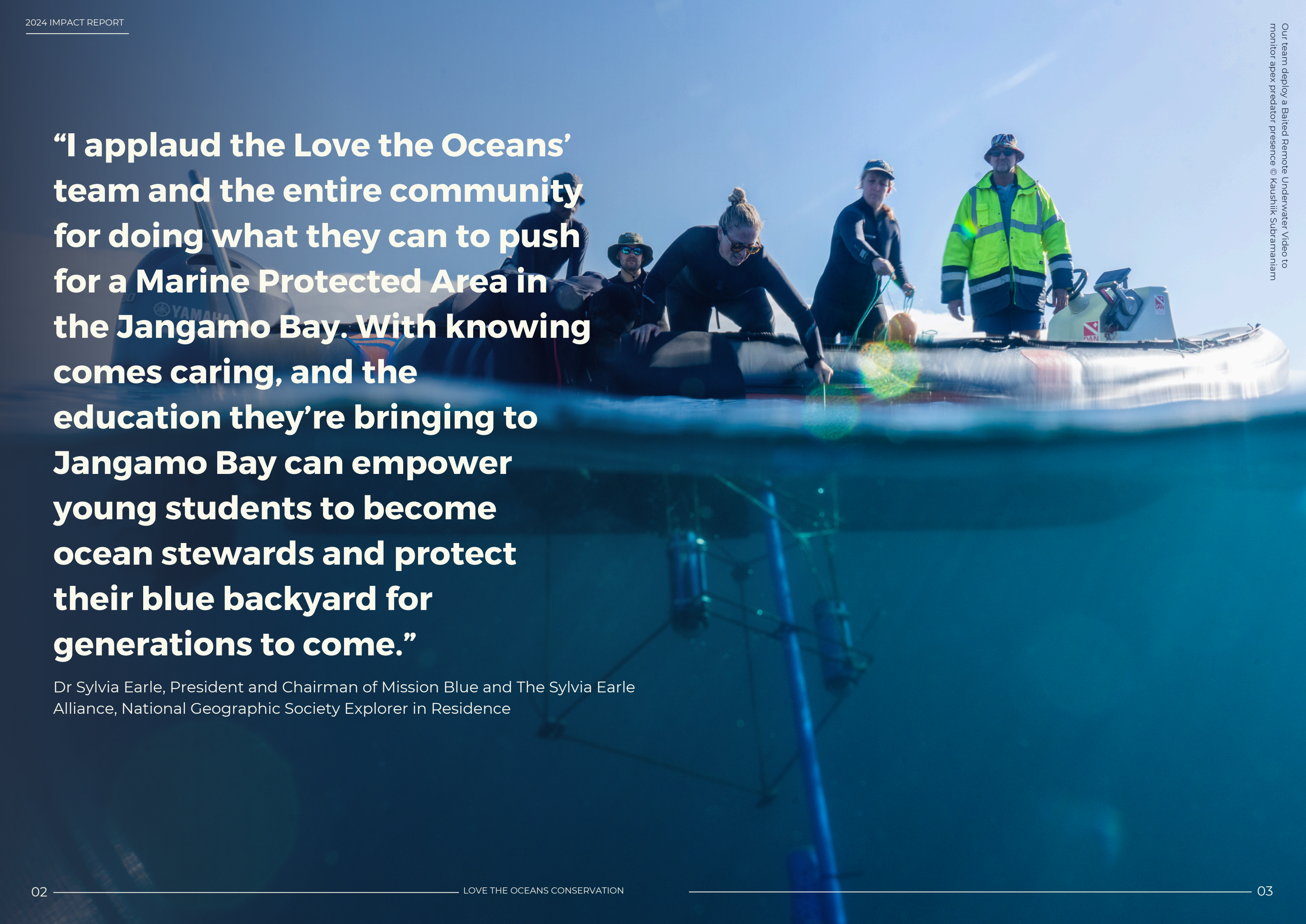
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“I applaud the Love the Oceans’ team and the entire community for doing what they can to push for a Marine Protected Area in the Jangamo Bay. With knowing comes caring, and the education they’re bringing to Jangamo Bay can empower young students to 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

A note from our Founder

It's my pleasure to introduce our 2024 Impact Report — a reflection of another incredible year for Love The Oceans.


This year was one of our leanest since the COVID-19 pandemic, with major grant rejections that could have slowed us down. But if there's one thing that defines this organisation, it's resilience. Despite limited resources, we pushed forward, and what we've achieved is nothing short of extraordinary.

From groundbreaking coral disease research to expanding our capacity strengthening efforts, 2024 was a year of depth, innovation, and grit. Our small team — backed by volunteers, interns, and community members — clocked thousands of hours underwater, on beaches, and in the classroom. We identified and monitored coral diseases never before studied in our region, supervised dissertations, supported turtle nests, and removed over a 150kg of ghost gear from our oceans.

Our work was recognised with two major awards this year — the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award and the Regenerative Impact Award for Conservation - affirming the power of our community-led, inclusive approach to conservation. We also proudly stood on global stages: from COP29 to the Our Oceans Conference, we continued to advocate for coastal communities and the role of women in climate solutions.

All of this happened on a shoestring budget, which makes me even prouder of what our team, volunteers, and supporters have made possible. Your belief in our small but mighty team keeps us moving forward.

Thank you for standing with us, for investing in a better future for our oceans, and for being part of our mission to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.



Francesca Trotman
Founder and Managing Director

Our Mission

To create a scalable holistic conservation strategy that can be replicated along the coastline of Mozambique and beyond.

A rare sighting of a mother and calf southern right whale swimming through our bay © Kaushik Subramaniam

Our Vision

To empower coastal communities and inspire global action to restore and protect our oceans, ensuring healthy marine ecosystems for generations to come.

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.

© Mario Guilamba



1.

- 1. Luisa after her qualifying PADI Open Water Dive. She's one of the first women in our district to gain the qualification.
- 2. A baby loggerhead hatchling made it out of its nest during our patrols.
- 3. Opening of our 2024 swim season

© Mario Guilamba



2.



3.

© Mario Guilamba

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.

Scalability of Impact

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 2024 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.



Andrea Biden
Non-Executive Director



Bento Nhamússua
Field Officer



Mário Guilamba
Storyteller



Luísa Rafael
Swimming Teacher



Helena Artur
Swimming Teacher



Lena Pollett
Field Specialist



Júlia Siteo
Intern



Márcia Artur
Ocean Conservation Champion



Francesca Trotman
Founder & Managing Director



Pascoal Nhamússua
Community Outreach Manager



Inés Costa
Marine Program Coordinator



Yudmila Chunguane
Marine Biologist

Our Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board plays a vital role in shaping the strategic direction of Love The Oceans by offering expert insight, mentorship, and guidance across our conservation, science, education, and community outreach work. Their diverse experience strengthens our mission and helps us maximise impact at both local and global levels. In 2024 we welcomed new Advisory Board members to support to Love The Oceans conservation efforts.



Dr Salomão Bandeira
Associate Professor, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
Dr Salomão Bandeira is a seagrass and mangrove ecologist. He is familiar with marine and coastal issues pertaining to seagrass, mangrove and coastal dunes governance, management and restoration. He is currently an Associate Professor in Marine Biology at Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo, Mozambique. Has been a visiting Professor at Cape Verde University PGCD PhD Program. He is member of the international Advisory Group to the CBD for EBSAs (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas). He is Mozambique's CITES Scientific Coordinator and recently became Chair of the Regional Task Forces for the Component A (Sustainable Management of Critical Habitats) UNEP - WIOSAP project (WIO region)



Professor Per Berggren
Chair of Chair of Marine Megafauna Conservation, University of Newcastle
Per is a multi-disciplinary researcher and leader of the Marine MEGAfauna Lab. He leads large national and international research projects and supervises students at all University levels. He is internationally recognised in his field of marine megafauna conservation biology particularly in his research efforts in data poor developing countries and development of technical low-cost assessment and mitigation methodologies. He serve on expert panels for the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group). The Marine MEGAfauna Lab classify and assess marine megafauna populations, identify and mitigate anthropogenic threats (e.g. fisheries and offshore developments), and conduct basic and applied research on sound production in marine mammals. The research involves lab and field experiments, development, testing and application of novel research methods with global applications to build the capacity for sustainable development in the marine environment.



Dr Paula Kahumbu
CEO Wildlife Direct
Dr Paula Kahumbu is one of Africa's best-known wildlife conservationists. Dr Kahumbu is the CEO of WildlifeDirect, a charitable organisation which aims to connect people to nature and wildlife so that they treasure it and act to conserve it. She is also the creator of the Hands Off Our Elephants campaign with Kenya's First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, as well as the producer and host of Wildlife Warriors, Africa's first wildlife documentary series made by Africans. She presented James Cameron's Nat Geo series Secrets of The Elephants and has spent her life working to promote sustainable conservation efforts. She has won numerous awards and received a special commendation at the United Nations Person of the Year celebrations for her role in raising awareness of the crisis facing elephants in Kenya. She is a lecturer at Princeton University, is the Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the Year, winner of the Whitley Gold Award, recognised as 1 of 25 of the most influential women in the world by the Financial Times and is a National Geographic Emerging Explorer. She holds a PhD in Ecology from Princeton University.



Tokunbo Ahmed
Co-founder SOUL CAP, NOVU Fitness & Just Catnip
Toks is the Co-Founder of best selling e-commerce brands; SOUL CAP, NOVU Fitness & Just Catnip. Having grown up without learning how to swim and thinking swimming wasn't for him, Toks and his co-founder began swimming lessons together in 2017. During those lessons they met a Black woman with afro hair who was struggling with the size of her swim cap. This moment stuck with them and after speaking with their mums, sisters, friends and realising the lack of suitable swimwear for swimmers with afro hair, braids, locs or any type of voluminous hair - they decided to create our own, and SOUL CAP was born. Since then they've helped thousands of swimmers find their love for the water, by giving them the freedom to not have to choose between the sport they love and the hair they love.



Andrea Biden
Sustainability Consultant & Love The Oceans Conservation Trustee
Andrea is a sustainability professional with deep expertise in project delivery. The past four years her focus has been on digitising sustainability. Andrea's key skills are corporate sustainability / ESG, project turn-around (PM/Agile/PO) and business change management. She started in Shell's global consulting practice on the Grad Program and then made a lateral move to global economic consulting firm LECC as Senior Managing Consultant to establish a new practice solely dedicated to carbon, climate change & clean tech. She joined Zurich as a Head of Sustainability. Her responsibilities included leading the management of the Zurich Group's carbon footprint, and embracing the wider agenda of sustainability with colleagues across Corporate Real Estate and the Corporate Responsibility team to develop the sustainability strategy. She holds a Masters in Environmental Management & Sustainability at Harvard University and is a Trustee of Love The Oceans Conservation.



Michael Sunderland
Faculty Lead for Internationalisation, Bournemouth University, UK
Mike is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Communication and Journalism at Bournemouth University. He is also the Faculty Lead for Internationalisation in BU's Faculty of Media and Communication. In his faculty role, he provides leadership in areas such as international student and staff mobility and international business development. His research is primarily on humanitarian journalism and media advocacy. He has presented at a range of international conferences and is currently a co-investigator on the AHRC-funded "Developing capacity for youth disability advocacy through networking in East Africa" project. He was previously a producer at Sky News and later a freelance video journalist covering East and Central Africa. He's spent much of his career in Africa, both as a journalist and during two stints managing media relations for Save the Children. He maintains close links to the non-profit sector and currently serves as a director on the board of Avaaz Campaigns UK. He co-founded the Youth Disability Advocacy and Research (YDAR) network and currently mentors disability activists in East Africa.



Dishon Murage
East Africa Field Representative at Seacology Foundation
Dishon is a Natural Resource Management Expert with 20+ years of experience in the formulation and implementation of projects and programs in coastal and marine resource conservation and development within coastal East Africa. His specific areas of expertise include participatory natural resource planning and co-management, resource governance, monitoring, and evaluation. Dishon has provided consulting services on fisheries management, project development, and evaluation for a number of international organisations like the European Union, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). He is currently engaged as the East Africa Representative for Seacology Foundation covering Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Seychelles. Dishon holds a Master's Degree in Hydrobiology from the University of Nairobi and has specialised training in Integrated Sustainable Coastal Development from the Goteborg University and Fisheries Governance from Wageningen University.

Our Supporters

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



Megan McCubbin
Wildlife TV Presenter and Zoologist



Dougie Poynter
Musician



Kaushiik Subramaniam
Wildlife photographer and conservation biologist



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



Lizzie Daly
BBC Wildlife Presenter and animal movement scientist



Sarah Roberts
Eco-journalist, Author and Presenter



Inka Cresswell
Wildlife filmmaker and marine biologist



Meghan and Harry Windsor
Duke and Duchess of Sussex



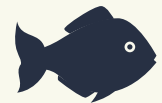
Dr Claire Petros
Sea turtle vet and founder of Sea Turtle Rescue Alliance



Dr Imogen Napper
Waste and pollution scientist, National Geographic Explorer

Research

During 2024 we launched new projects, nurtured ongoing ones, and progressed emerging programs. Here's some highlights of this year's research and delivery:



Our volunteers and staff clocked a whopping 2000+ hrs of fisheries surveys



We completed 500+ hours of megafauna and apex predator surveys



Our team monitored 450+ hard coral colonies and launched new study on coral disease, identified 16 possible diseases, 437 times across 387 colonies



Our students and staff completed over 400 hours of coral surveys



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



As a result of our work, 143 hatchlings made it to the ocean in 2024.



We completed over 40 beach cleans and launched our Etsy store to sustainably support our Trash2Trade Initiative.



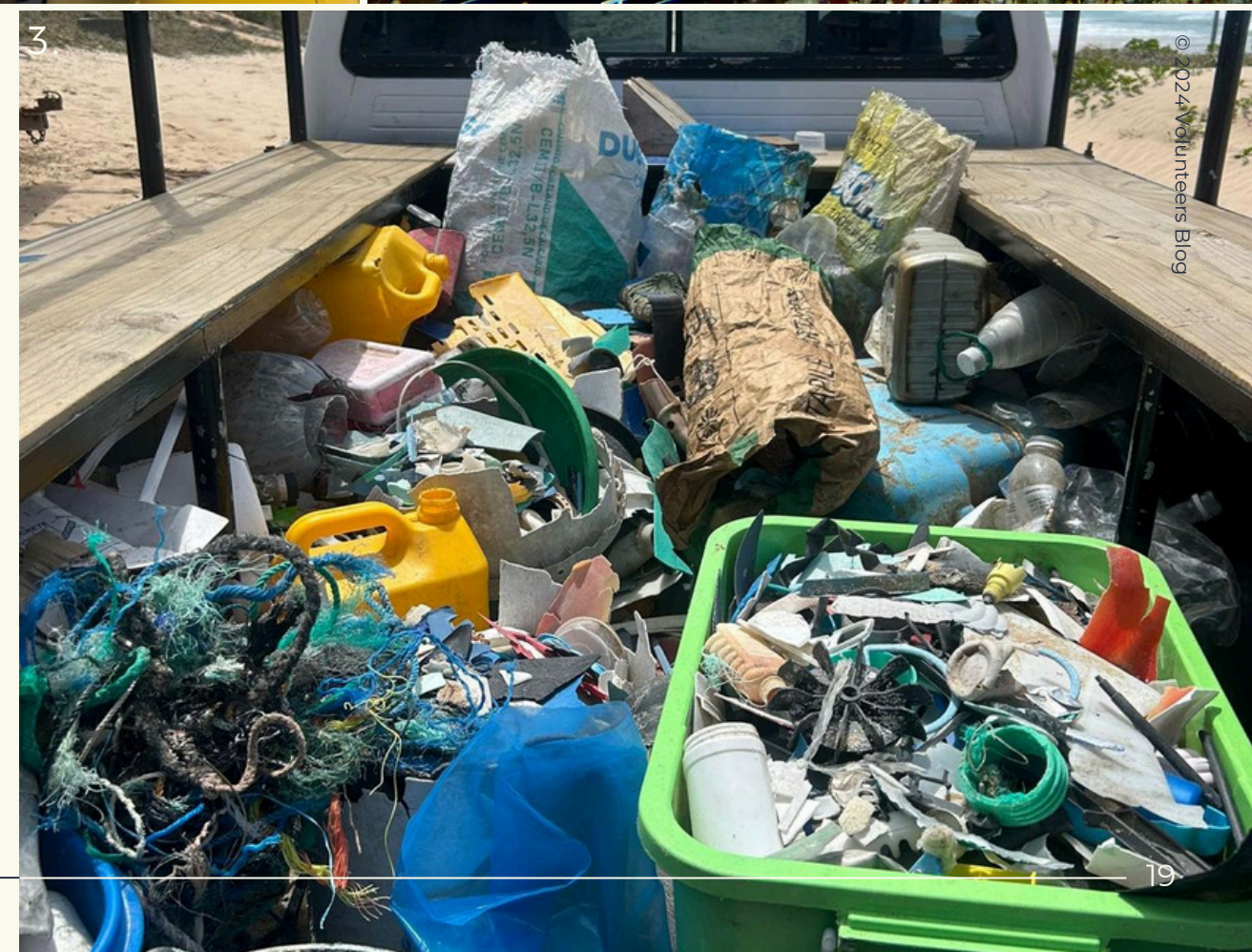
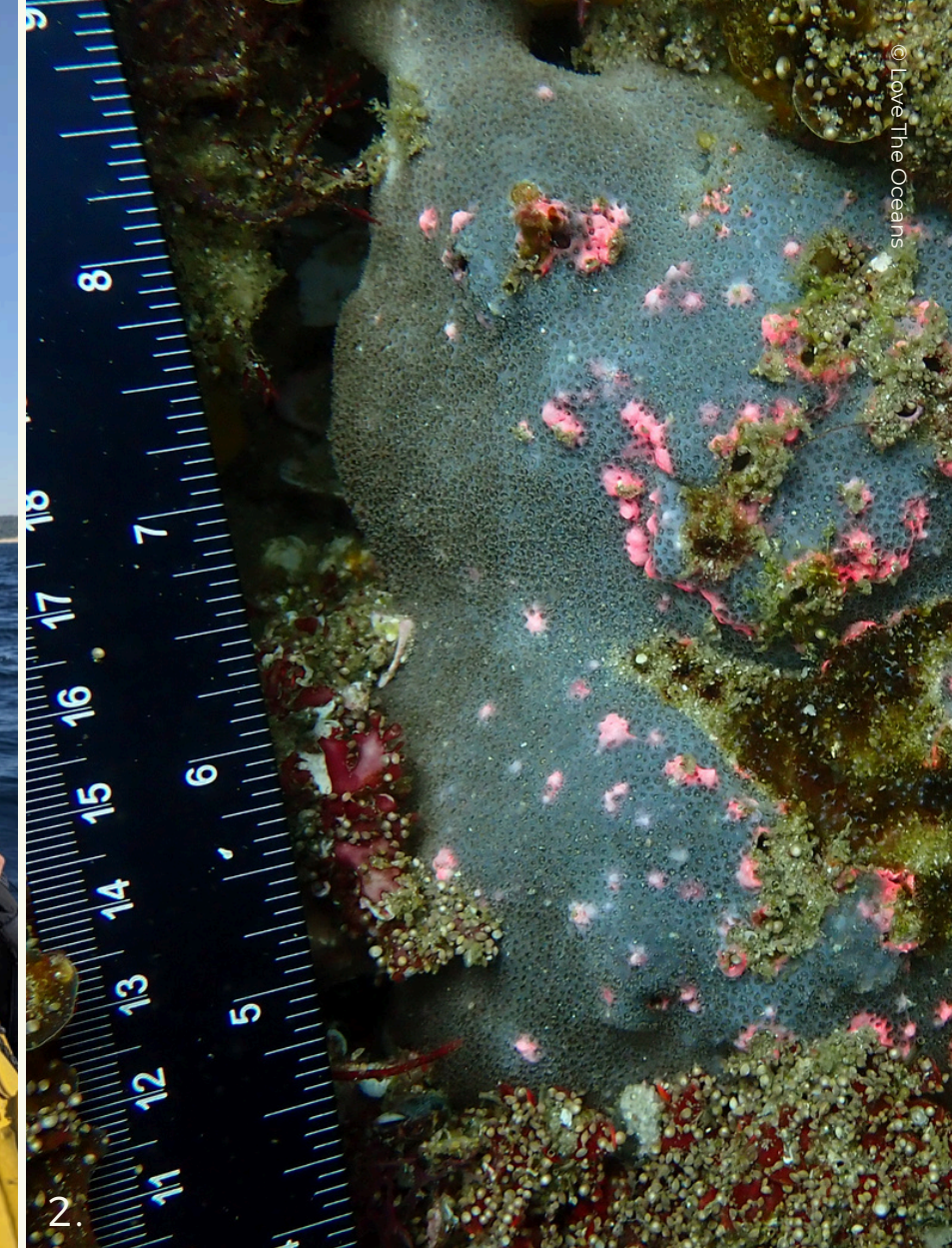
We hosted 2 research fellows from Minorities In Shark Sciences and one Our World Underwater Scholar.



We qualified the first women in our district as scuba divers as part of our commitment to gender equity.



1. Three of our student volunteers collect data using a hydrophone on our whale populations.
2. Measuring a diseased coral colony.
3. The collection of beach trash from just one of our beach cleans.



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. During 2024 Love The Oceans trained additional local data collectors and our volunteer field assistants engaged 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. Our volunteers and staff record fisheries catches.
- 2. Manta ray gill raker remains after a manta is caught as by-catch in monofilament gill nets.
- 3. The Love The Oceans team and government members after successful meeting with Mozambique's Oceanographic Institute government department in Inhambane.



- 1. One of our SFP fishermen prepares to launch in the early hours of the morning.
- 2. A fisherman celebrates a successful catch from our SFP project after a morning on the water.



The Sustainable Fishing Project (SFP)

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 2024 we met with local fish traders to co-create market demand for sustainably caught fish, we continued outreach efforts with local resorts and restaurants, and we met with chief fishermen and government to discuss penalties for illegal netting. Our storyteller began making a short film on why the project is needed, to be released locally in the local dialect with a call to action to avoid using nets. This film, when released, will apply social pressure to reduce illegal and unsustainable fishing.

Simultaneously, we are writing papers for publication to share our findings and advocate for evidence-based policy changes. Love The Oceans is actively working towards tangible solutions for sustainable fisheries co-management in Jangamo Bay.

Research: Corals

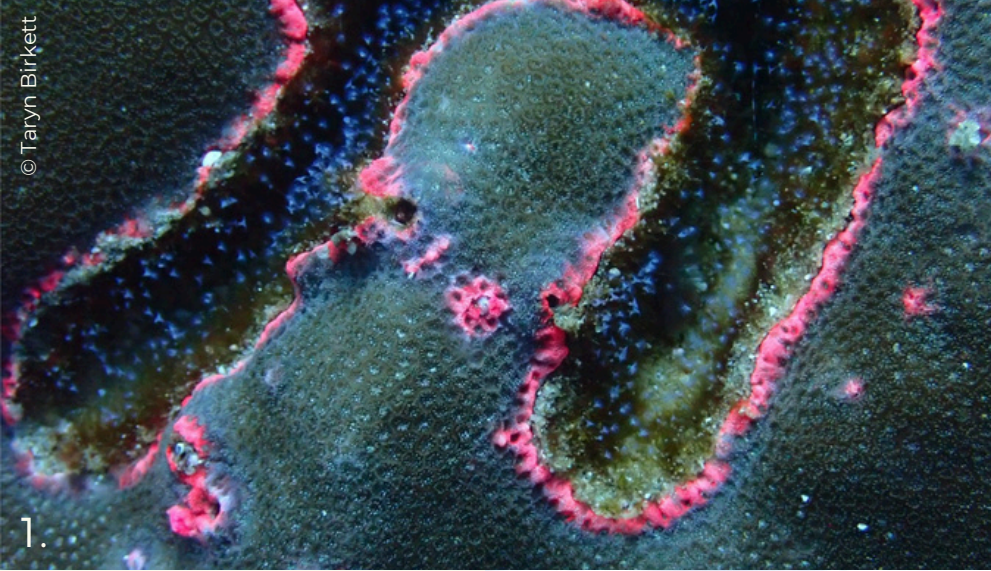
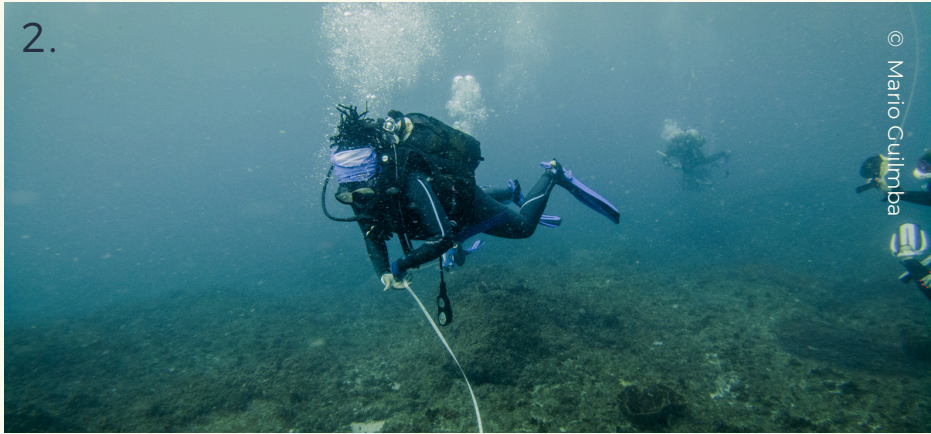
Love The Oceans' coral research in Jangamo, Mozambique, continues in 2024 with a focus on assessing reef health and biodiversity. Despite the region's relatively limited human impact, our surveys have revealed concerning trends, indicating lower-than-expected coral biodiversity and cover.

We completed over 500 survey dives in 2024, totalling over 420 hours underwater, 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. A dragon eel pops its head out to say hello during a coral survey
- 2. Yudmila, our marine biologist, roles out the tape for a survey.
- 3. One of our volunteer groups and staff after a successful survey dive.



- 1. One of our colonies of *Porites* sp. infected by *Porites* trematodiasis.
- 2. A close up shot of a burrow possibly created by snapping shrimp - common across our coral colonies which makes them more prone to disease.
- 3. Meenatchi Ramanan, Taryn Birkett, Anna Wilson, the three University of Leeds students who joined us in 2024.



The Hard Coral Recruitment and Mortality Study

In collaboration with Leeds University and Evercare, Love The Oceans continued our hard coral plots project in Jangamo in 2024. 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.

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 utilised the project data for her master's dissertation which underscores the project's academic significance and potential contributions to coral reef conservation.

Coral Disease Study

In 2024 we launched a coral disease study to map and identify coral disease present in our area. One University of Leeds student joined us to utilise this data for her Master's thesis and aid collection in the field. There is a significant knowledge gap in coral disease presence along the east African coastline and this study is critical to understanding the threats our corals, and therefore our community's food security, face. The study identified 16 possible coral diseases, identified 437 times across 387 colonies. These findings will inform Love The Oceans conservation approach to coral health and help us understand the next steps to boost coral health. A huge thank you to Evercare for their ongoing support of our coral projects.

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 2024, our efforts intensified, with over 400 hours dedicated to gathering crucial data on these majestic creatures. We also recorded a rare sighting of a southern right whale and her calf during a megafauna drone survey, in less than 10m depth!

Field assistants meticulously recorded humpback whale sightings, surface behaviours from both land and sea, and vocalisations through hydrophones, shedding light on migration patterns and habitat use.

Continuing our commitment to education, Love The Oceans trained 33 students in megafauna data collection in 2024. 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 utilising 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.



© Volunteer Blog 2024



© Volunteer Blog 2024

- 1. Students conduct whale surveys from land to supplement sightings data.
- 2. Our students collecting visual cue data on humpback whales.
- 3. A rare southern right whale sighting during a megafauna drone survey.

3.



© Kaushik 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 an unfortunate lack of funding for this project through 2024 we were not able to continue data collection at such a high rate as 2023. The team continues to apply for grants to cover this research cost. With the deployments we were able to complete, we confirmed an alarmingly low number of apex predators.

The ongoing data collection not only fills critical data gaps in apex predator presence in our region, 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.

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 prioritise both environmental sustainability and community empowerment. 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.

© Kaushiik Subramaniam

Love The Oceans staff deploy the BRUV from our dive centre's boat to collect data on apex predator presence.



Research: Turtles

In 2024 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. By implementing 24-hour guards once a nest was located, we eliminated threats including poaching and predation. Unfortunately, despite 24/7 guards and no poaching, in 2024 hatch rates were very low, with a total of 660 eggs being laid but only 143 hatchlings hatching successfully and making it to the ocean. This, combined with sand erosion from climate change paints a dark future for our turtles.

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. Our turtle program also serves as a vital source of employment, providing livelihood opportunities for local residents and contributing to the economic well-being of the community - in 2024 we employed 21 guards who supported approximately 210 community members with their income making this project an important revenue stream in our community which has such high poverty rates.

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. In 2024 we were lucky enough to have a leatherback nest on our shores - a rare occurrence and our staff witnessed it. 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. A drone shot clearly showing the entry, nest laid, and exit tracks of a mother turtle.

2. Our staff were ecstatic to witness a mother leatherback turtle returning to the ocean after laying her eggs.

3., 4., & 5. Three of our turtle guards: Afonso (3), Joaquim (4) and Eusébio (5), who support 22 dependents between them with their wages from this project.



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© Lena Pollett

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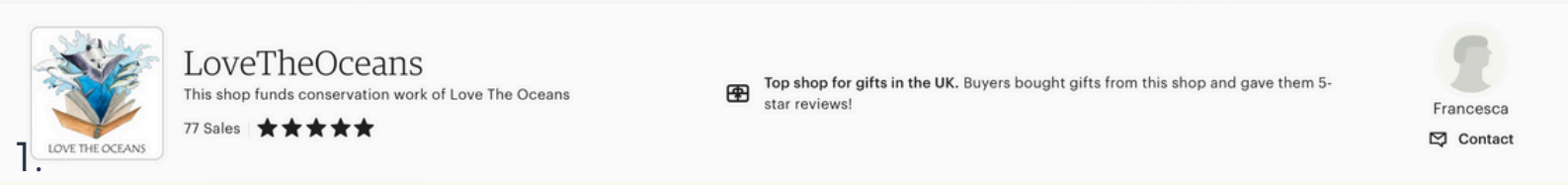
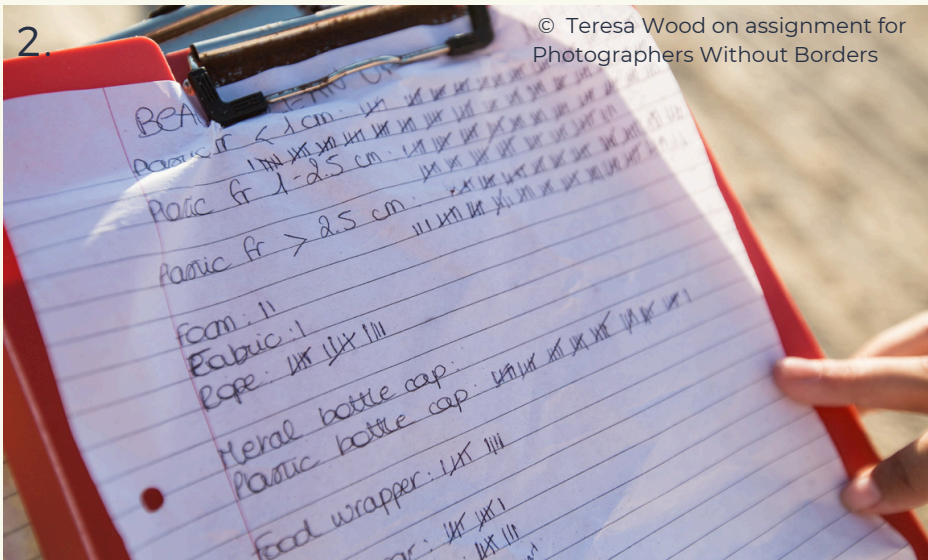
One of our turtles' race to the ocean © Mario Cuiamba

Research: Ocean Trash

In 2024 we continued our regular beach cleans and meticulous documentation of collected debris, completing over 40 beach cleans across the year over a period of approximately 80 hours. We record the type and weight of marine debris, revealing plastic fragments, bottle caps, and discarded fishing gear as the most prevalent items. With over 1000kg of debris removed from a 15 km coastline to date, our efforts shed light on the global issue of marine pollution, exacerbated by ocean currents transporting vast amounts of debris to our shores. Our research not only aims to remove debris from the marine environment but also to document its scale, laying the groundwork for effective management measures and raising awareness about the urgent need for action against plastic pollution.

The magnitude of plastic pollution is underscored by our proximity to the Indian Ocean Garbage Patch, spanning approximately 5 million square kilometres. Through data collection and analysis, we distinguish between local and international sources of marine debris, informing targeted interventions to mitigate pollution. By combining research efforts with practical solutions, we aim to catalyse positive change and inspire communities to address the pervasive issue of marine pollution.

- 1. The product of just one beach clean on our shores.
- 2. Logging the data is important to monitor what is being washed up and whether it's likely local or international.
- 3. A group of our students and staff ready to embark on a beach clean.



- 1. Our store is now live on Etsy, so everyone can support this project from the comfort of their own home.
- 2. Our students and staff work to upcycle the plastic they've collected off the beach.
- 3. We upcycle the trash into keyrings and earrings to give it a second life.

Trash 2 Trade - find us on Etsy!

Beyond research, we're committed to actionable solutions to address marine pollution. In 2024, we utilised our plastic upcycling machine to upcycle beach trash into new products. Currently this is keyrings and earrings, which you can now purchase on our Etsy store! All profits go directly back into supporting this project.

We are currently working to expand this project to work with local artisans to produce construction materials and affordable plastic machines, funding dependent. 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.

Research: Ocean Trash

In 2024 our team at Love The Oceans tackled a very challenging and quite dangerous task in the water - removing a massive industrial ghost net from a deep drift site off the coast of our base. Ghost nets like this one are lethal to marine life, and their sheer size and risk of entanglement mean they require highly skilled divers to safely remove them. We estimate this net stretched hundreds of meters in length with large wooden booms attached, which means it was probably part of an industrial fishing operation that was abandoned and left to wreak havoc.

Why was this such a challenge? It took six of us, over two separate dives, just to cut away half of the net. The dive was at depth and in a drift, making the task even more dangerous. The net had a buoy system holding it suspended in the water column, we utilised this and attached lift bags as we carefully cut sections free. It took more than three hours to haul the net onto our boat, weighing it down significantly. This was no easy task, but it's vital for the health of our reef systems and marine life.

1. Once we'd freed the net and brought it to the surface, it was still too heavy to get on the boat so a diver descended to cut out heavy beams caught in the ghost net.
2. The team feeding the net onto the boat.
3. The net was thick and tangled, this photo demonstrates the thickness of the net.
4. This photo demonstrates the scale - and this is barely half of it.



© Francesca Trotman



© Francesca Trotman



© Francesca Trotman



© Francesca Trotman

Community Outreach

The wealth of knowledge and experience our coastal community stakeholders have is integral to our successful conservation strategy. Some highlights of 2024's community outreach initiatives:



We taught over 100 children in 2024 alone about the ocean through our dedicated ocean literacy programs in partnership with two local schools.



We enrolled 7 women into our Ocean School initiative training community members in marine conservation and marine science.



We certified the first woman scuba divers in our district as PADI Advanced divers, and the first community member in our district as a Divemaster.



We relaunched our Ocean Conservation Champion program, collaborating with local schools and taking on a new recruit.



Over 200 children joined our swimming program in 2024, increasing access to water spaces safely, reducing drowning risks and fostering a positive relationship with the ocean.



We hosted a conference for stakeholders to attend, presenting all our projects to promote collaboration and partnership.



We launched growth trials for our gender equity mussel project while the women involved continued to learn to swim.



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© Love The Oceans



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- 1. Helena (left) and Luisa (right) completing their diving, assisted by Mario (centre) who was assisting as part of his Divemaster training.
- 2. LTO hosted a conference in 2024 for all our stakeholders including many different government departments.
- 3. Leonor, one of the women in our gender equity projects, assists with swimming lessons.

Community Outreach: Ocean Literacy

In 2024, Love The Oceans continued its impactful Ocean Literacy initiative in local schools, nurturing the minds of over 100 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. Staff and students pose in front of their completed mural at Paindane School.
2. A group of our students finish off an educational mural on whale behaviour at Guinjata School.
3. Pascoal leads a lesson on coral reefs in a local school.



1. Our team with the principle of Massavane High School after successfully completing applicant interviews for our Ocean Conservation Champion Program.
2. Julia (far right) starting Ocean School with women from our community. Pascoal (centre) oversees delivery.



Ocean School

In 2024, we enrolled 7 women into 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 intern Julia. Through engaging lessons and interactive sessions, community members gained insights into the local marine environment and the importance of data collection and conservation efforts. 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.

Ocean Conservation Champion Program

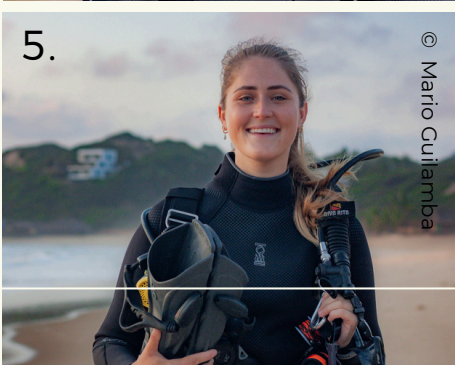
2024 saw us relaunch our Ocean Conservation Champion program in collaboration with our local high school. Applicants were interviewed and we recruited Marcia, a young teenager from the area who is passionate about gender equity and education. She immediately joined our swimming lessons, enrolled in learning English, and LTO sponsors her high school education to enable her to finish.

Community Outreach: Increasing water safety

In 2024, 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 instil life-saving skills but also ignite a passion for the ocean, paving the way for future opportunities in ecotourism.

In 2024 alone, our swimming program saw over 200 more children equipped with vital swimming skills, laying the foundation for safer coastal communities. Expanding beyond swimming proficiency. 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. The first LTO swimming competition of the season, with the children cheering on their favourite team.
- 2. Luisa teaching a swimming lessons to the youngest children.
- 3. Yudmila completing her PADI Rescue diver
- 4. Mario (centre) assisting with Helena (left) and Luisa's (right) scuba course as part of his Divemaster.
- 5. & 6. Dana (5) and Josko (6) our incredible visiting PADI instructors for 2024. THANK YOU for all your hard work!



Equity In Ocean Spaces

In 2024, 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 PADI Advanced scuba divers 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, we qualified the first member of the community as a scuba diving professional, a Divemaster, in the district and advanced Yudmila's qualifications to PADI Rescue, increasing the safety aspects of our underwater research. A huge thank you to our two visiting PADI instructors for the season: Dana McConnell and Josko Troncoso. They did amazing work in delivering courses this year and helping with all our projects.

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.



© Francesca Trotman
Josko completing skills with Helena and Luisa on their PADI Open Water Course.

Community Outreach: Sea Her Project

Back in 2023, Love The Oceans committed to promoting gender equity and empowering women in the marine space through swimming and mussel farming. 2024 saw us continue to do this. We renamed our gender equity projects our Sea Her Project, which encapsulates our efforts to remove barriers women face in our region. In 2024 we continued swimming lessons for the women involved in our Sea Her Project, began mussel growth trials for the mussel project, and completed the diving qualifications mentioned on the previous page. During a career development trip in the UK, Yudmila also visited a mussel farm in Isle of Skye and an oyster farming project in Southampton Solent with Blue Marine Foundation to understand more about how shellfish farming works and bring this knowledge home to our project in Mozambique.

For the mussel growth trial we had to make concrete blocks to attach ropes to as anchors from scratch, and then deploy these 300kg+ blocks in the ocean. It was quite the feat! This growth trial is an important part of the project as understanding how long it takes these mussels to reach maturity tells us how long it will be before the first harvest and therefore before the women involved will be able to receive a salary from the project, making it economically sustainable.

Yolanda, one of the women involved, presented this project to government at our stakeholder conference and it was well received. We've continued to refine the methodology with our partners, Blue Marine Foundation.

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.



1. © Mario Guilamba



2. © Mario Guilamba



3. © Francesca Trotman



4. © Francesca Trotman



5. © Inês Costa

1. Yolanda presenting the mussel project to government members
2. Mário Nhaguilunguana, the Paindane Elder, Miguel Guilamba, the head of the CCP, and Professor Salomão Bandeira from University of Eduardo Mondlane and our Advisory board, listening to Yolanda's presentation.
3. Our team deploying the 300kg block for anchorage for the mussel project.
4. Yudmila visiting a mussel farm in the Isle of Skye.
5. The first open water transition session for the women in our Sea Her Project.
6. Our staff monitor the mussel growth trial.

Other News



We won the 2024 Gender Just Climate Solutions Award and the 2024 Regenerative Travel Impact Award for Conservation.



Two of our team facilitated a session at COP29 on the Rio Convention's agreements to discuss positive action in more detail with a diverse audience at a global scale.



In July our Founder spoke on PADI's channels, live-streaming to over 2.5million followers in a 1-on-1 session called Diving For Change: Empowering Communities with Love The Oceans.



2024 saw us build new partnerships and nurture older ones. We welcomed Mozambique's Oceanographic Centre as a partner and they visited our site multiple times to see our work and dive with us.



Our Founder spoke at the Women in Ocean Science World Oceans Day Conference and on a panel at Innovation Zero's Conference on the Oceans and Water Forum stage.



Our team engaged with 600+ university students, delivering talks at over 30 institutions, fostering awareness and passion for marine conservation. Our partners, Fourth Element also gave us stand space at the GoDiving show, the UK's biggest dive show, helping us raise awareness.



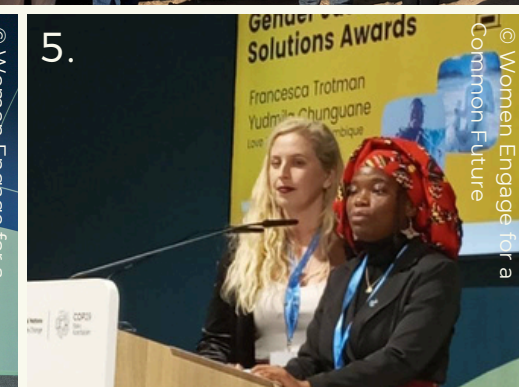
Our team met with a European Union parliament member at COP29 to discuss women's role in climate change and share our lessons learnt to help inform policy change on a larger scale.



We hosted Danel Wentzel from Reflections, a new digital platform dedicated to factual and science based storytelling at our base to document our work.



As part of a career development grant, Yudmila, our marine biologist, visited the UK, meeting partners, attending conferences and receiving training. She also represented LTO at the Our Oceans Conference in Greece.



1. Yudmila representing Love The Oceans at Our Oceans Conference in Greece.
2. The Institute of Oceanography in Mozambique visits Love The Oceans site.
3. Yudmila leads a discussion on the Rio Convention at COP29.
4. Francesca and Yudmila receive the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award at COP29 on behalf of the Love The Oceans team.
5. Yudmila and Francesca's acceptance speech for the award.
6. Yudmila catches up with Sylvia Earle at the Our Oceans Conference.
7. Francesca and Yudmila meet with an EU Parliament member to share knowledge on the importance of women in environmental work.
8. Yudmila snorkels with partners Fourth Element on her visit to the UK.
9. Francesca speaks at the Women In Ocean Science World Oceans Day event.
10. Love The Oceans team holds a stand with Fourth Element at the GoDiving Show.
11. Francesca speaks on a panel at Innovation Zero's Conference.
12. Mario, our storyteller, receives guidance on camera equipment by one of Danel's team during their visit.



2024 By Numbers

400 HOURS
of megafauna research complete



2 awards won



140+ HOURS
of Baited Remote Underwater Video Footage amassed




450 coral colonies monitored



Over **500** research dives complete



7 women enrolled in ocean school



150+ kg
of ghost net removed



2000+
more children taught swimming



Over **600** university students engaged with through talks



2km+
of reef filmed and analysed



40+ beach cleans completed



16 possible coral diseases identified 437 times



2000+ hours
of fisheries research completed



100 children
taught ocean literacy



1ST Divemaster from our community qualified & women qualified as PADI Advanced





“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.”

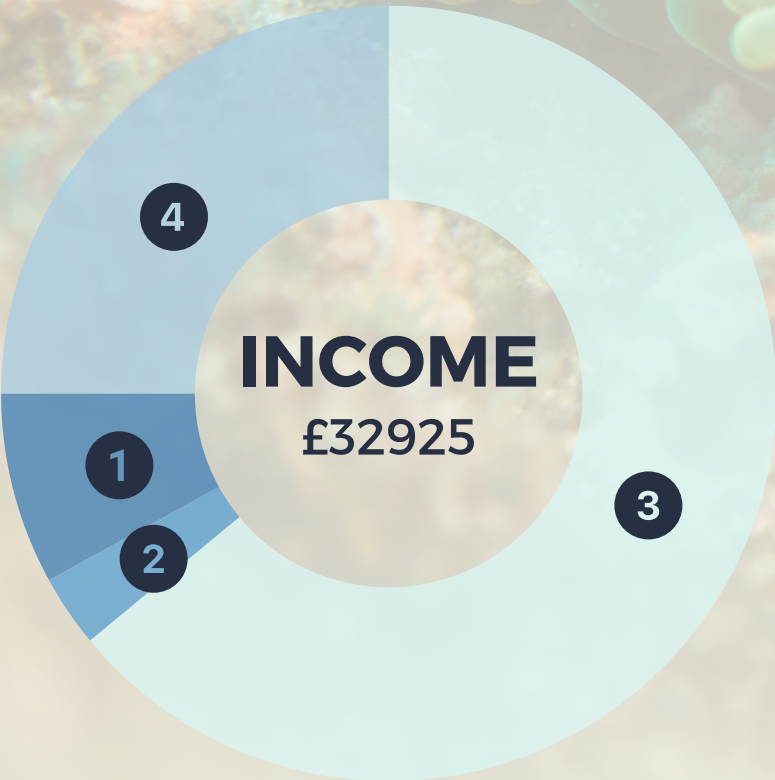
Pascoal Nhamussua, Love The Oceans' Community Outreach Manager

Financial Overview

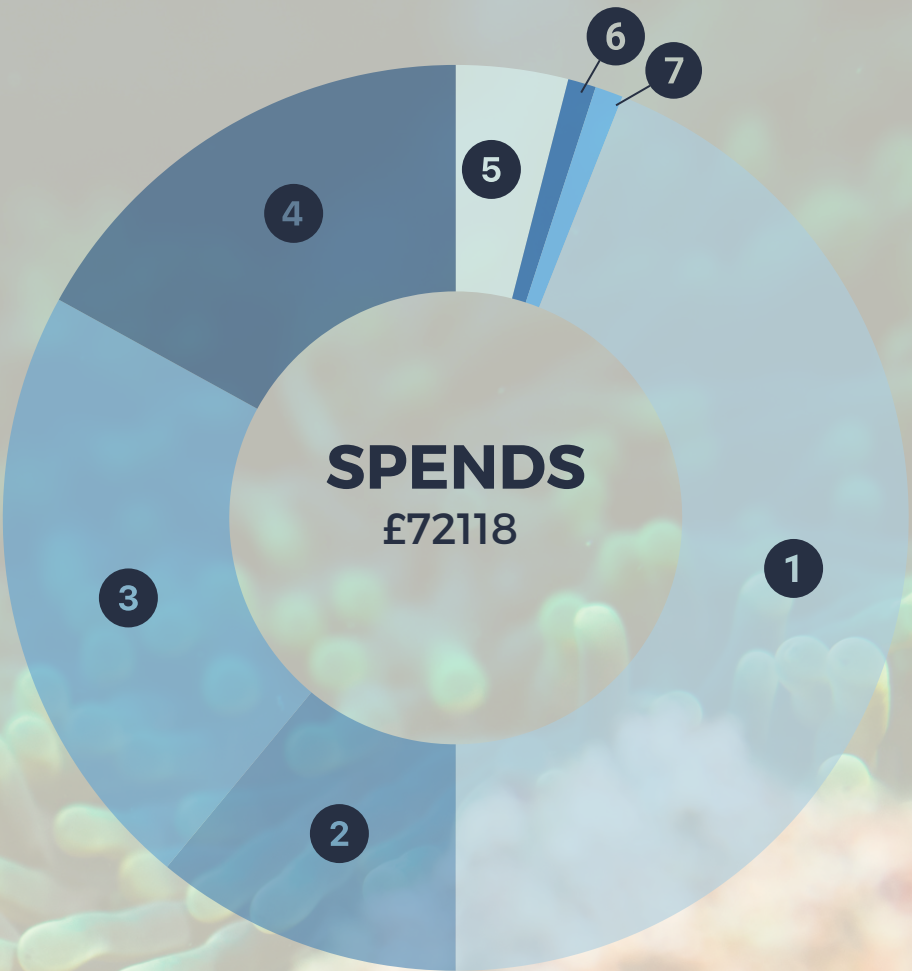
Financial year: November 30th 2023 - December 1st 2024

2024 was one of the leanest years Love The Oceans has had since the COVID-19 pandemic. As a grassroots organisation, 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. Our existing supporters and built up reserves from previous years saw us through 2024, enabling us to cover our costs and still push programs forward.

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.



- 1 Corporate Donors - 8%
- 2 Private Donors - 3%
- 3 Grants - 64%
- 4 Project Partners - 25%



- 1 **Project Running - 44%**
These are costs associated with each of the projects we run. This includes things like boat rental, kit hire, and pool rental.
- 2 **Equipment - 11%**
This is the money spent on the equipment we need to run the projects. This includes things like chlorine for the swimming pool, BRUV equipment and educational equipment.
- 3 **Travel - 22%**
This includes fuel to run our cars throughout the year, car repairs and flight costs for different skilled people to join us and deliver capacity building workshops to community members.
- 4 **Personnel - 17%**
These are salary costs, and payments to contractors who contract their services to us for certain projects.
- 5 **Administration - 4%**
These are costs associated with project set up usually and employment paperwork. This includes fees for consultants who assist in the correct legal process for setting up projects.
- 6 **Fundraising - 1%**
These include fees associated with annual campaigns, as well as membership fees to fundraising platforms.
- 7 **Bank fees - 1%**
This is money lost through various transactions as we role projects out and the bank takes their international transfer fees.

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. As a result, we had £44,000 left from grants, donors and sponsors in our 2023 year, enabling us to cover the difference between income and expenditure for 2024 for us to continue our projects.

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.

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.

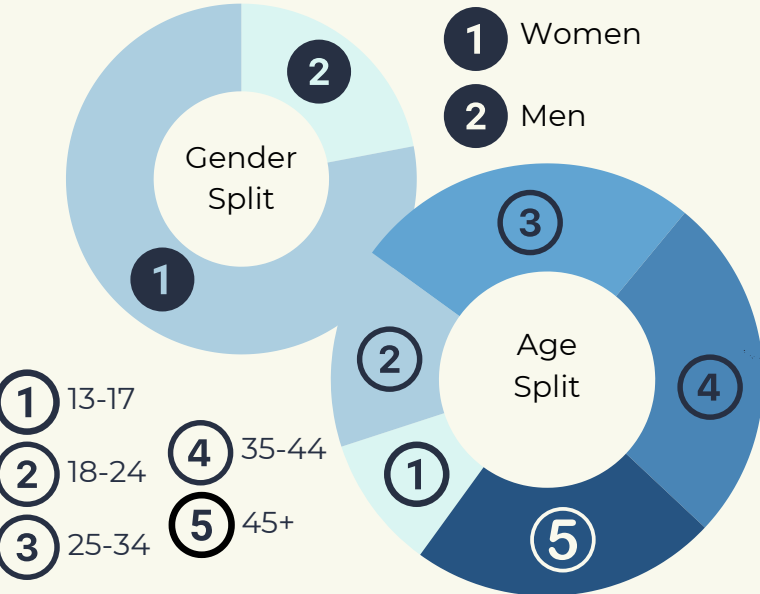
Over the years, our social media presence has evolved into a thriving community of ocean enthusiasts, activists, and environmental influencers united by a shared love for the ocean. We collaborate with environmental influencers to amplify our message and reach new audiences, leveraging their platforms 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.



A huge thank you to Anna Goatley, our Social Media Manager, and Genece Grisby, our video editor, for volunteering their time to run our social media. They have been responsible for our digital presence and have done an amazing job.

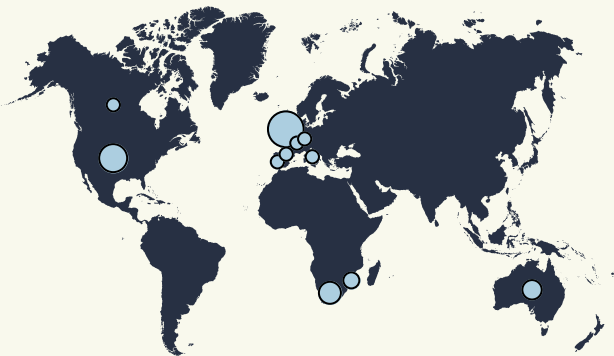
697,000+

accounts reached on instagram and facebook in 2024



24,100+

followers across instagram, facebook, twitter and tiktok.



© Mario Guimamba

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
Aderinsola Otubanjo
Gabby Dupuis

BARE KIND



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fourth element
EQUIPMENT FOR ADVENTURE





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