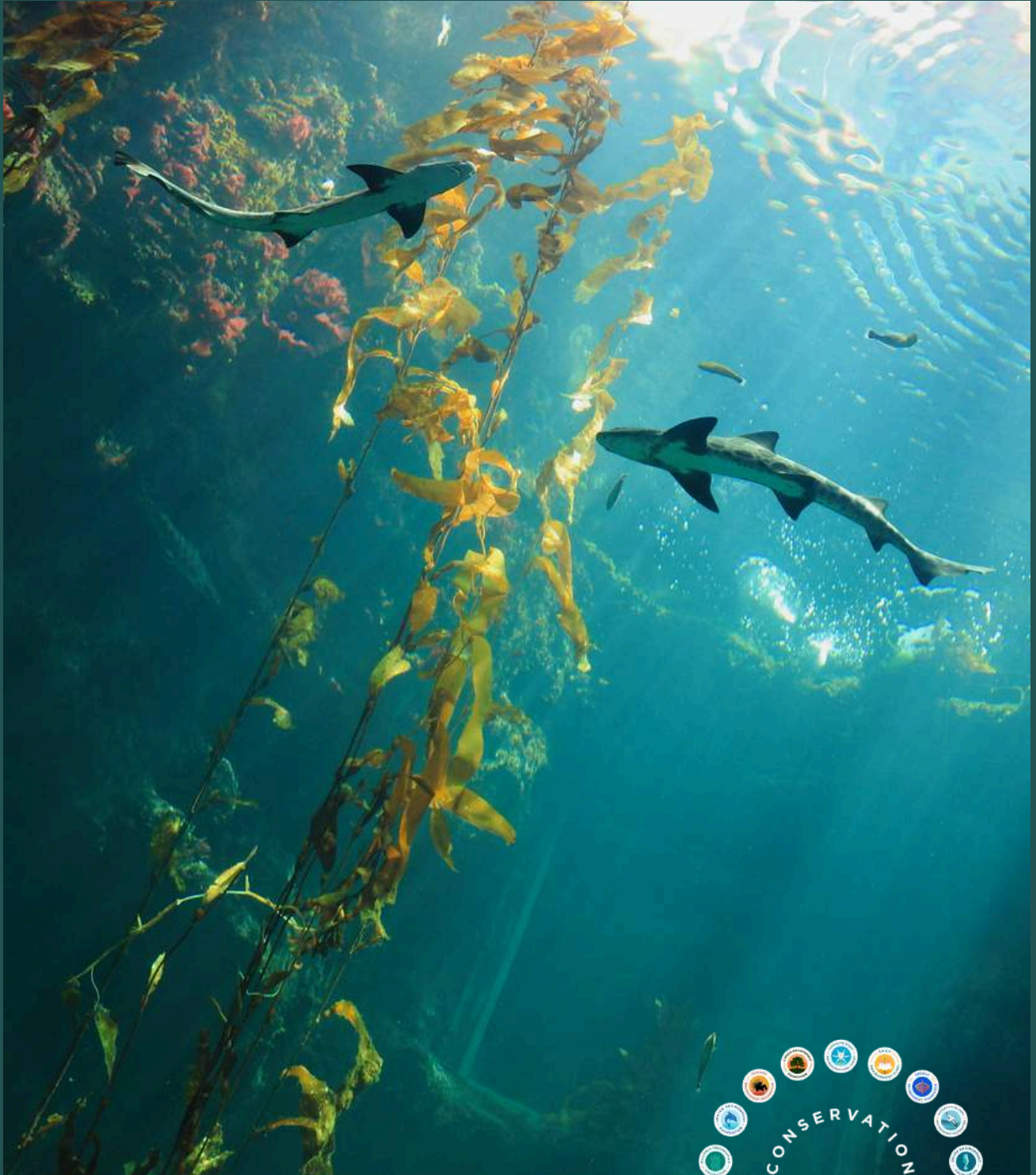


CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE



**ANNUAL REPORT
2023**





Everywhere you look there are brilliant, passionate people working to create positive environmental change. Small amounts of funding, strategically directed, can supercharge this work.

BEN GOLDSMITH, FOUNDER, CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE

OUR WORK

Theory of Change	19
Measuring our impact	21
Our impact goals	23
Regenerating Habitats	25
Seagrass Restoration in Scotland	
Protecting Native Species	27
Bonelli's Eagles in Cyprus	
Reducing Pollution	29
Reducing Marine litter in Sri Lanka	
Building Climate Resilience	31
Sustainable Farming in Lamu, Kenya	

PARTNERSHIPS

Depeche Mode & Hublot	35
Tackling plastic pollution around the world	
Edmiston Yachts	39
Marine conservation in the Caribbean, Spain & Greece.	
Regatta Group	41
Land & sea projects across Mallorca, Ionian Islands & Scotland	

FINANCIALS & SUPPORTERS

Financials	45
Our Supporters	49

OUR TEAM 52

WHAT'S NEXT 54



35

ABOUT US

Our Purpose	5
A Note from Our Team	7
Our Foundations Map	9
Launching Foundations	11
New Foundations	12
A Year in Review	13
The Collectives	15



39

(left) an elephant in Sri Lanka by Yanik Tissera; (upper right) eco bricks made from upcycled plastic waste by Bahari Moja in Kenya; (lower right) turtle hatching in St. Vincent by Stephan Hornsey



ABOUT US



OUR PURPOSE

GLOBAL ISSUES NEED LOCAL ACTION

People worldwide are working tirelessly to protect the wild places they love from the impacts of climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

Environmental philanthropy faces two key challenges: persuading people to direct money to the biggest issue of our time, and getting that money to the most effective environmental initiatives. Conservation Collective has a proven and winning formula for both.



So how do we help?

We launch, fund and grow local environmental Foundations to support the best and most effective grassroots projects. Often those most affected by environmental problems are those best positioned to solve them.

By building clubs of donors linked to places they care about passionately, we open new channels of funding for nature restoration. We believe that people are instinctively 'place-based' and that when it comes to conservation and philanthropy, we are all more likely to protect the places we love.

Our growing ecosystem of Foundations has already raised millions of pounds for impactful initiatives, and we are only just getting started...

The power of Conservation Collective lies in our ability to replicate our model in new locations, raise funding effectively and efficiently, and share knowledge and expertise across the network. As a global ecosystem, we pride ourselves on removing barriers, empowering communities and getting things done. Together we'll protect and restore the wild places we know and love.

A NOTE FROM OUR TEAM

'The growth of Conservation Collective, since it was a mere dream in 2016, is astounding. It's the most impactful initiative I'm involved with; the leverage is incredible.'

The network **raises, on average, ten times what it costs to run the central team**. And the money is spent wisely, with exciting grassroots projects handpicked and nurtured by expert local executive directors and committees. As the sole founding donor in 2020, I am very proud indeed to have been joined since then by some of the best names in the industry (CIFF, MAVA, Oak, Grantham), who all believe in our approach to expanding environmental philanthropy.

Join us — it's rewarding and fun, and you'll learn about impactful grassroots conservation. You could **partner with us** to set up your own Foundation for a wild place you care about passionately, support an existing Foundation, or become a business or strategic partner to support a selection of locations or nature restoration themes. Let's get to it!'



BEN GOLDSMITH
Founder

'2023 was another bumper year for Conservation Collective. New Foundations, partners, supporters and team members. We were delighted to be picked as **Depeche Mode's charity partner** for their Memento Mori tour, cementing our role as a trusted intermediary to connect funders with impactful grassroots projects (page 35).

Since 2020, Conservation Collective has **channelled over a million pounds to local Foundations** and projects; more than half of that in 2023. Last year, we also offered unrestricted funding to more mature network members to invest in capacity building.

In 2023, we built our global platform to amplify support for our local Foundations and their projects: hosting events, speaking at Hay Festival and Blue Earth Summit and running campaigns to drive brand awareness with our corporate partners. Seeing four of the global team speak about how to preserve and restore the Mediterranean marine environment at IbizaPreservation's annual Foro Marino was an especially proud moment.'

'It's important to us that everyone in Conservation Collective is **operating to the highest standards** – ensuring both operational and financial excellence for maximum impact. Happy, high-performing, purpose-driven teams are crucial for our ongoing success.

Our UK-based core team supports the network of Foundations, ensuring good governance, and sharing best practice. We provide templates, tools, resources and regular events and training. This year, our network **grew 45%, employing 58 people worldwide**.

A personal highlight this year was bringing everyone together for a week in Corfu for our Global Gathering – co-creating, learning and visiting projects supported by our hosts in Greece. We **celebrated the year's best work** across the network in our Collectives Award Ceremony (see page 15). This collaborative spirit is what makes our global movement so special.'



JADE BRUDENELL
Executive Director



KENDRA WALSH
Network Director

LAUNCHING NEW FOUNDATIONS

Conservation Collective raises funds from people and businesses that feel connected to a particular wild area: from its land to its coastlines and waters. Once set up, our Foundations distribute funds to the best grassroots initiatives working resolutely on the ground to protect and restore the natural world around them. When setting up a new CC Foundation, we follow six key steps:



1. RAISE FUNDS

Identify a group of donors—individuals and businesses—securing at least 100,000 local currency, committed for a minimum of three years. Normally, a co-founder or two leads introductions to their contacts.

2. FORM STEERING COMMITTEE

A subset of donors form our steering committee, the decision-making body of the organisation, which meets quarterly to approve grants and brainstorm fundraising opportunities.

3. DEVELOP GRASSROOTS STRATEGY

We commission a Scoping Report to map out the key environmental challenges, opportunities and priorities, while identifying the best local organisations tackling these issues, forming the Foundation's strategy.

4. IDENTIFY LOCAL LEADERS

A local Executive Director or team of two part-time staff are recruited to lead on the ground. Each candidate is selected for their excellent local and environmental knowledge and entrepreneurial approach.

5. PREPARE FOR LIFT OFF

We create a branch within Conservation Collective (or set up a local entity, local jurisdiction-dependent), develop the branding and roll out the grant management tool.

6. LAUNCH SKYWARD

We collect funds, finalise the steering committee, nominate a chair and an advisory board then start giving out grants!

OUR NEW FOUNDATIONS

Our successful model of local environmental grant-giving supports **biodiversity regeneration, pollution reduction and work to build climate resilience**. We have significantly expanded our network in the past few years, from **10 foundations in 2020 to 20 foundations in 2023**. We're proud to share the progress of our four new Foundations of 2023.



The Dalmatian archipelago in Croatia consists of 40 islands that have been inhabited for millenia. DIEF awarded €21,000 to projects including:

- Installing composters, creating school gardens, and promoting Mediterranean plant cultivation and education.
- Reforesting holm oak forests for wildfire resilience with local community volunteers.
- Collecting plastic pollution data & encouraging effective waste management.



Formed in a critical biodiversity hotspot and the Mediterranean's largest island, SEF awarded over €33,000 to projects including:

- Producing a sustainable seafood guide.
- Training rewilding guides to boost ecotourism.
- Recovering ghost nets in five locations with the municipality and fishing community.



Malta is the world's seventh most densely populated country, situated between Italy and Libya. MEF awarded over €15,000 to projects including:

- Addressing data gaps for shark and ray conservation and identifying nursery hotspots.
- Funding to regenerate landscapes with indigenous trees and shrubs.
- Tackling marine litter through beach clean-ups and volunteer dives.



The Turquoise Coast runs 600 miles along Turkey's southwestern Mediterranean coast. TCEF awarded over €97,000 for projects including:

- Increasing awareness about cetaceans through film and citizen science workshops.
- Engaging stakeholders in the monitoring of Gökçeada's species and wetlands.
- Landscape regeneration plans after the 2021 & 2022 mega fires in the Marmaris region.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was Conservation Collective's biggest year yet! From documentary premieres to fundraising galas, talks, tours, and Foundation launches, the momentum of our work is continuing to build around the world.

In **March**, CC hosted the UK premiere of the 'Mediterranean: Life Under Siege' documentary in London and Cyprus. The film beautifully depicts the environmental challenges our Foundations are tackling in the region, alongside key footage of overfishing, Posidonia seagrass protection, marine turtle, and marine mammal conservation.

Our Foundation representatives gathered in Corfu in **May** for their annual get-together, a retreat combining workshops, field trips, and knowledge exchange. 2023's Global Gathering was hosted by the Ionian Environment Foundation and Kontokali Bay Resort & Spa, bringing team members together to spend valuable time in person sharing knowledge and seeding new ideas.

In our second partnership with Brora they donated 10% of linen sales in the first two weeks of **June**. Together, we raised over £6,000. Thank you, Brora!

In **July**, the Cyclades Preservation Fund (CPF) co-organised an exclusive talk by world-renowned diver, author, Emmy Award winner, photographer and National Geographic explorer Brian Skerry, in Antiparos. Brian talked about his latest film, 'Secret of the Whales', produced by James Cameron, and the exhilarating experience of capturing footage of different whale species cultures, including belugas, narwhals, sperm whales, and humpback whales.

Menorca Preservation's 2nd Summer Fundraising Gala was held on 27th **July** at La Mola, Mahón, raising over €60,000.

In **August**, key donors and friends of Highlands & Islands Environment Foundation were treated to an exceptional private tour of the gardens at Aldourie Castle with private access to the house and grounds, in addition to a talk from Tom Stuart-Smith, renowned landscape architect, gardener and writer.

IbizaPreservation raised more than €67,000 for environmental projects in Ibiza and Formentera during a dinner at Beachhouse in **August**. The event honoured our very first Foundation's milestone 15th anniversary.

September was a busy month - Albania Overboard, a swim from Albania to Corfu took place. Our Programme Manager, Berta swam with the other fundraisers while our Development Officer Sekoah paddle boarded (and rescued some swimmers from a fierce tide) with Victoria from IEF's Steering Committee. The £15,000 raised significantly boosted IEF's marine funding activity.

The Rockfish Crab Festival also happened in **September**, generously hosted by Devon Environment Foundation's co-founder, acclaimed chef and owner of Rockfish, Mitch Tonks. All proceeds went to fund nature-based solutions in Devon, channelled by DEF.



September also saw the local launch celebration of the Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF), which was held in Nicosia and attended by supporters from the corporate world, politics, academia, and the broader Cypriot community.

Our good friends at LoveBrand & Co also hosted CC's 'Tales from the Field' event in London in **September**, with Executive Directors from Lamu, Devon, Greece, Malta and Scotland. Each gave a quick-fire speech sharing uplifting stories of local nature regeneration.

Our Foundations in Spain had a busy month in **October**: Menorca Preservation won the 2023 Onda Cero Environment Prize. Mallorca Preservation was presented with the Committed Luxury Award by Essentially Mallorca. We're so proud that our dedicated members are getting the recognition they deserve!

On the most spectacular **October** day, CC friends and family were delighted to be given a tour of the rewilded 3500-acre Knepp Estate by owners Isabella Tree and Charlie Burrell (founders of the Argolic Environment Foundation). We learned about exciting opportunities for nature-positive solutions and biodiversity investment from Knepp's nature finance experts.

Blue Earth Summit returned to Bristol in **October**, with CC's Jade Brudenell spotlighting inspiring nature restoration stories from across our network. Joining her on the panel were Berta (CC Programme Manager), Amanda (Exec Director of Devon Environment Foundation), Brendon Moorhouse (Trustee CC) and Harriet Williams (Executive Director, Leuser Ecosystem Action Fund).

Tuscany Environment Foundation hosted the Going Dark workshop at Monteriggioni in **November**. This workshop focused on lighting design for heritage spaces that also preserves darkness and the view of the night sky. The main objective of the workshop encompasses a living lab scenario where participants can work together on site to create concepts to share with the local municipality that demonstrate a responsible approach to lighting.

The Marine Forum is an annual event co-organised by IbizaPreservation in **November** to encourage debate and provide a platform to explore solutions to the challenges faced in the Balearic Islands, and wider Mediterranean. A CC-moderated panel about the Marine Protected Areas of the Mediterranean featured speakers from our Cyclades, Cyprus and Sicily Foundations.

In **December**, we announced our partnership with Journeys with Purpose on curating a luxury nature restoration safari, inviting travellers to witness firsthand the Lanka Environment Fund's key role in protecting and restoring local biodiversity. Staying in iconic guesthouses and hotels, our guests will experience the country's old-world charm through leopard and pangolin treks, moonlit tours, safari game drives and biodiversity studies hosted by key local changemakers.





THE COLLECTIVES

MAY 4TH 2023

After a week of relentless rainfall, the weather unveiled a stunning rainbow above Kontokali Resort & Spa, Corfu. This was the picturesque backdrop of our second annual Collectives Awards Ceremony: an event dedicated to honouring and celebrating the remarkable achievements of CC's locally focussed Foundations. This year held particular significance: marking the first in-person ceremony.

The awards were judged by CC's Global Advisory Panel, a group of leading sector experts who provide ad hoc support to the network.

Applications were judged on their potential for replicability, scalability, the urgency of the issues being addressed, and the potential or verified impact created by the grant. Each of the winners received a prize of £1000.

The Awards were presented by Lee Durrell, Ambassador of the Ionian Environment Foundation. Using excerpts from her late husband Gerald Durrell's book 'My Family and Other Animals' and his subsequent observations years later, Lee eloquently depicted the delicate nature of Corfu's rapidly transforming landscape.



"Conservation Collective's home-grown, grassroots environmental actions will eventually coalesce and offer hope for saving the planet."
LEE DURRELL, IEF AMBADASSADOR

THE WINNERS 2023

PROTECTING NATIVE SPECIES



Invasive Species Removal

Grantee: Federation of Environmental Organizations (FEO)
Invasive alien species (IAS) threatens habitat and grazing grounds for elephants and other herbivores. The project cleared 650+ hectares of IAS employing 60 local villagers.

REGENERATING HABITATS



Greening Cyprus in Fire-Affected Areas

Grantee: Laona Foundation
Addressing soil erosion and water harvesting issues by restoring and regenerating burnt areas. The project trained volunteers and local schools in drywall terracing and tree planting.

REDUCING POLLUTION



Mycelium & Biochar Project

Grantee: Fleet Field Lab
A pioneering project to identify effective ways of using mycelium and biochar to enhance soil and water quality, sequester carbon, increase biodiversity, and promote low-tech and low-cost nature-based solutions.

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Sustainable Agriculture

Grantee: Menorca Preservada
MENORCA PRESERVADA is a free training programme that enables farmers to learn nature friendly farming techniques. After 2 trainees requested MP's support to make their dairy farm regenerative.

FUNDRAISING



IEF Villa Alliance

Grantee: Ionian Environment Foundation
TA coalition of villa companies in the Ionian engaging and pledging to share and adopt nature-friendly practices, including sustainable waste and water management. A per booking levy is donated by members.

BEST IMPACT



Protecting Cetaceans in Scotland

Grantee: Coastal Communities Network / Sealife Adventures
A de facto ban on using Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADD) in salmon farming in Scotland has been achieved, protecting marine mammals from the harmful effects (pain, panic and stress) of these technologies.

COLDPLAY

'We're proud to support Conservation Collective and its tireless work to protect and restore nature at a local level around the world, from Devon to Sri Lanka'



OUR WORK

THEORY OF CHANGE

CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE ACTIVITIES



FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES



ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & POLICY OUTCOMES

(see the next page)



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

2023 was a key year for developing our new Impact Measurement Framework. We coordinated a network-wide participatory process to establish a common data-collection tool based on our shared Conservation Impact Goals (see previous page).

Finding a way to accommodate the vast range of projects supported and developed by Conservation Collective was no mean feat. We're proud to have built a model which is flexible and agile and represents the diversity of approaches that network members follow.

See the **Environmental Outcomes** (cool-hued wheel) and the **Social, Economic & Policy Outcomes** (warm-hued wheel) on the opposite page.

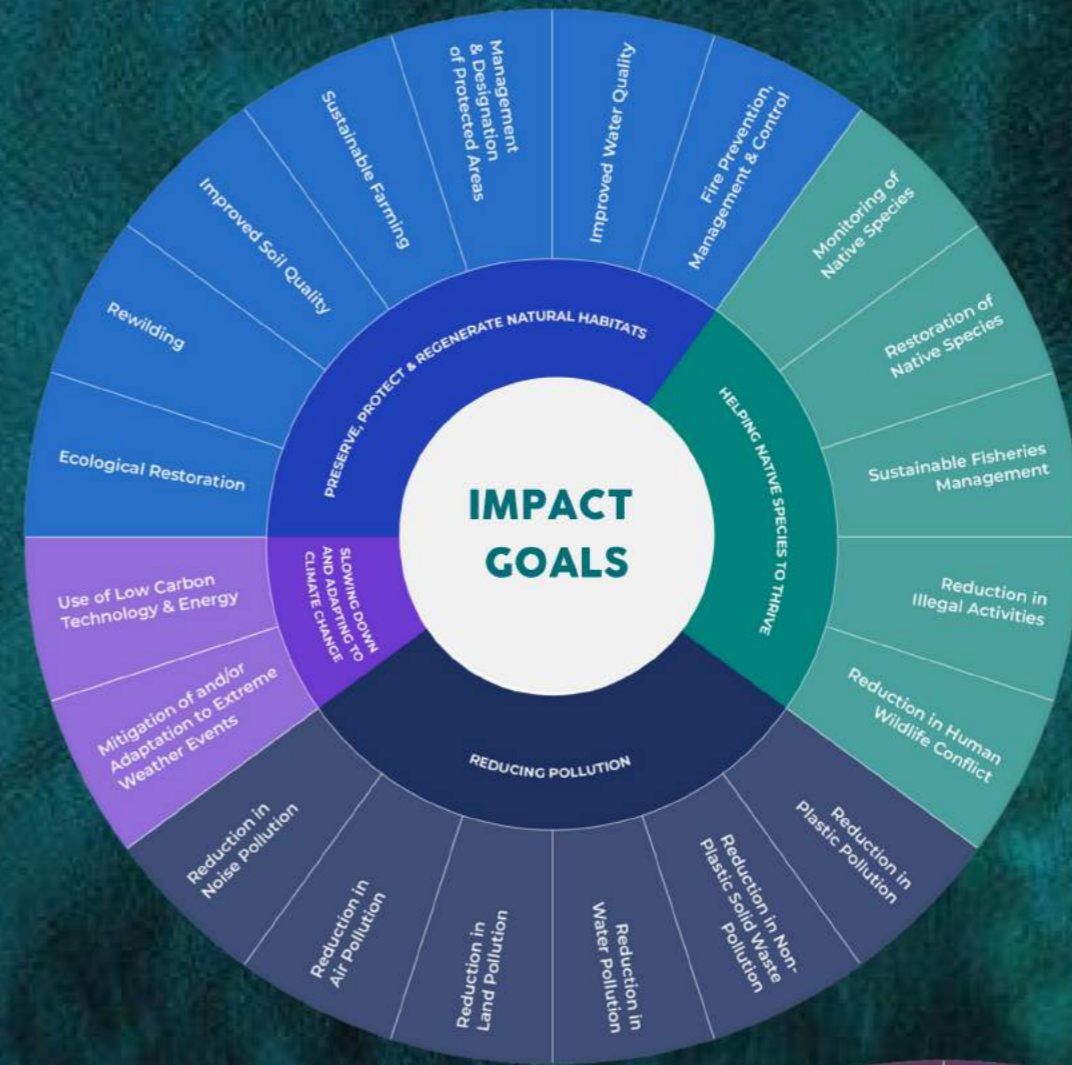
Coming into our fifth year next year, this set of outcomes - and the indicators used to measure them - can be used by Conservation Collective, local Foundations, and grantees alike to support evidence-based project evaluation and reporting while ensuring the legacy of the work on the ground.



BERTA MANZANO, PROGRAMME MANAGER

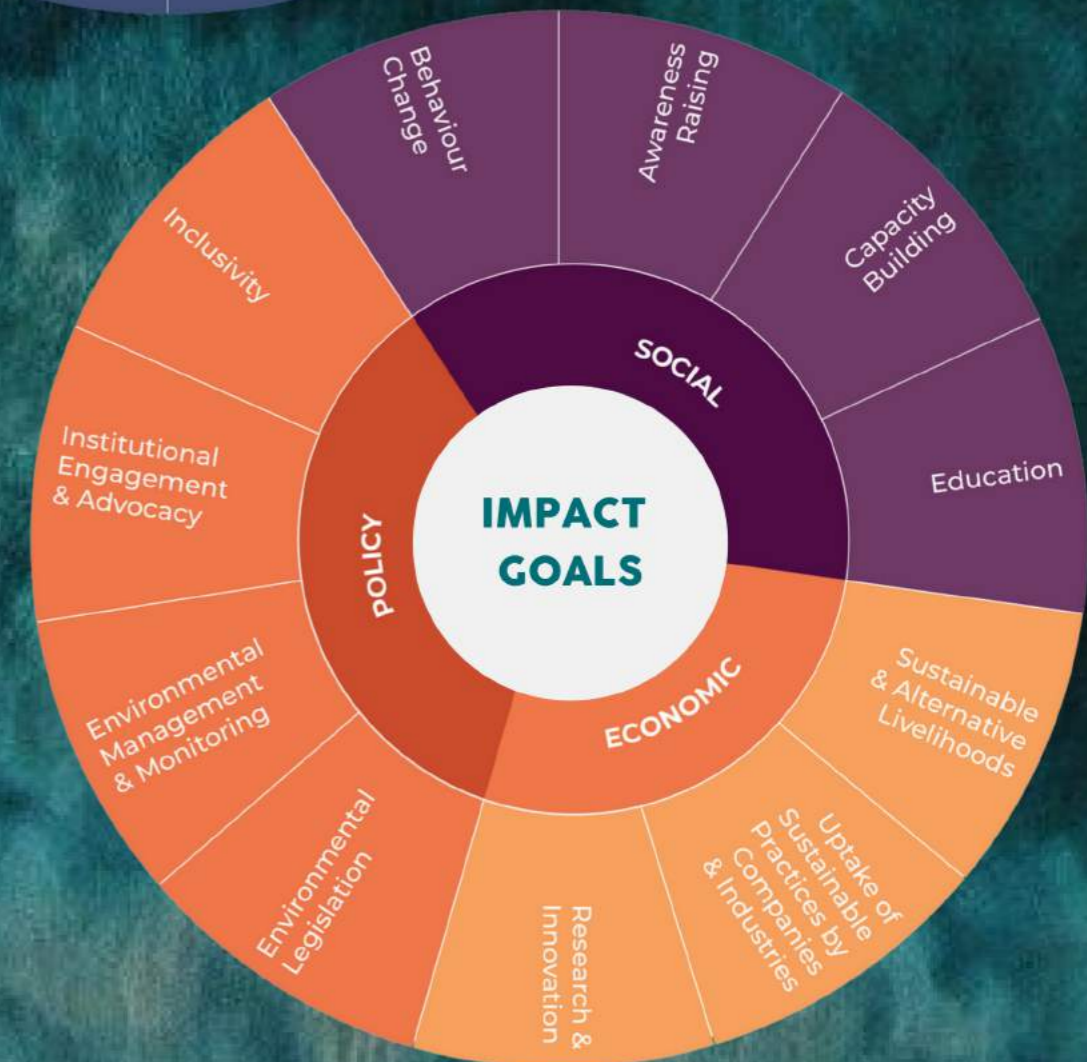
Foundations are tackling common environmental and climate challenges – we connect them to replicate successful projects, foster collaboration & share lessons learnt.

Throughout 2023, we held webinars with experts on topics ranging from wildfires (prevention, mitigation, land restoration) to litigating for nature, ghost net and marine litter management (abandoned fishing gear), and using digital tools to map biodiversity.



1 ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

2 SOCIAL ECONOMIC & POLICY OUTCOMES



OUR IMPACT GOALS



**Restore
Natural Habitats**



**Protect
Native Species**

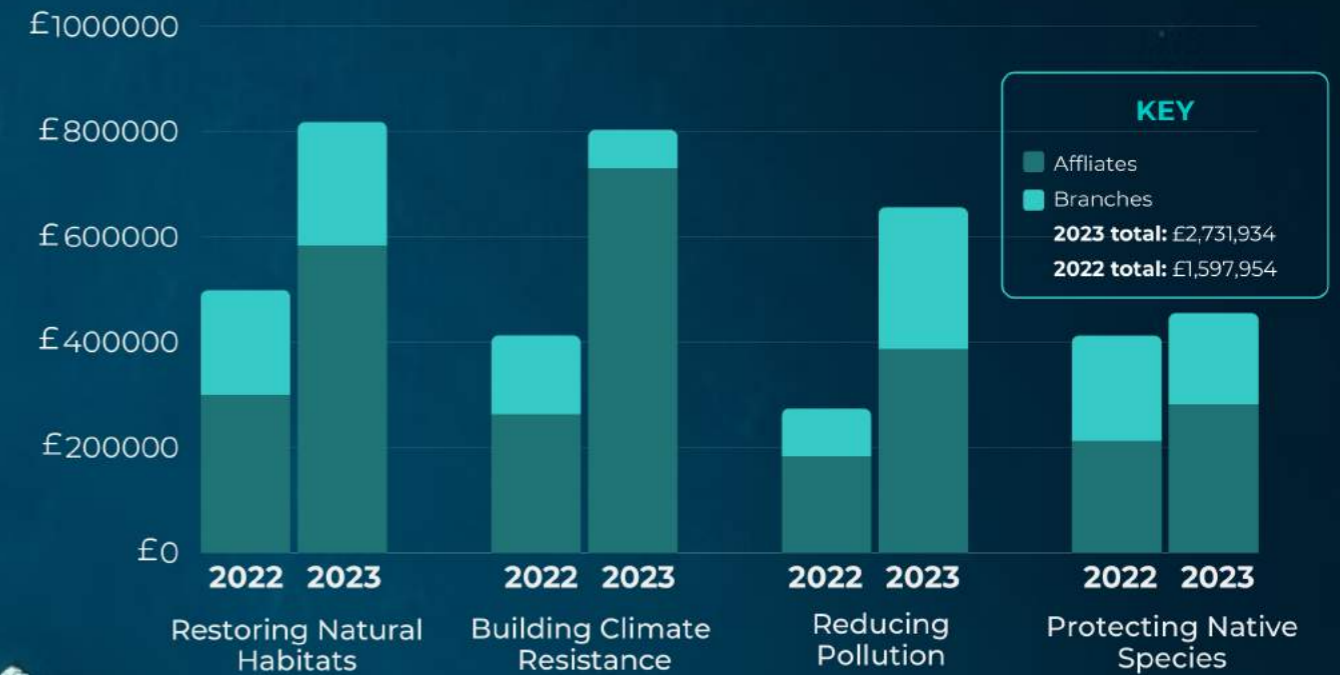


**Reduce
Pollution**



**Build
Climate Resilience**

2022 & 2023 GRANTS DISBURSED BY IMPACT GOAL



Affiliates: Independent, locally registered charities in the Conservation Collective ecosystem.
Branches: 'In-house' foundations of Conservation Collective's UK charity, governed by a Branch Constitution. ****2023 data includes £332,520.16 related to the Foundation's input and oversight, supporting the development and monitoring of grants and projects.**
**2023 Affiliate data is yet unaudited.*



MEET GAIA AGNELLO, SICILY ENVIROMENT FUND

As the Executive Director of the Sicily Environment Fund, I get to use my scientific background in Ecology and Conservation to catalyse meaningful change; protecting and restoring the island where I was born and raised. More recently I have been exposed to CC's global portfolio of projects, working to develop a comprehensive framework to measure the impact of our funding across the international ecosystem of Foundations. What an exciting time to be a part of this movement!



SEAGRASS RESTORATION, SCOTLAND

Grantee: Seawilding
January 2023 – April 2023

The seagrass species, *Zostera marina*, also known as common eelgrass, is an essential keystone species that sequesters carbon and provides a vital inshore habitat and spawning ground for fish and other marine species.

Although seagrass covers just 0.2% of the ocean floor, seagrass meadows support up to 25% of the world's top fisheries by providing a 3-dimensional structure in what can otherwise be a barren marine landscape.

Globally, 92% of seagrass that once existed has been lost, while in the UK, 95% of seagrass meadows have disappeared from coastal waters because of dredging, pollution and disease. In the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, restoring seagrass offers a compelling solution.

Established in 2020, the Highlands & Islands Environment Foundation (HIEF) works to protect and restore the natural beauty, biodiversity and ecosystems of the Scottish Highlands and Islands for the benefit of all by working in partnership with local communities to implement sustainable and regenerative projects.

HIEF is supporting Seawilding, a community-based charity working to restore degraded marine habitats and species, including native oysters and seagrass. This award-winning organisation is based in Loch Craignish, Argyll and Loch Broom, Wester Ross.

Seawilding carries out pioneering work to restore lost biodiversity, sequester carbon, create green jobs and to mentor other community-based groups to manage their own inshore marine environments sustainably. They create citizen science and research opportunities with community groups and academics, as well as engaging and involving children from local schools.

In 2020, HIEF provided funding for successful native oyster reintroductions by Seawilding in Lochaline followed by a further grant in 2021 towards establishing a native oyster nursery at the head of Loch Broom in order to regenerate existing depleted beds.

Since 2021, Seawilding has planted 350,000 harvested seagrass seeds in hessian bags creating ¾ acre of 'new' seagrass meadow in Loch Craignish and identified a further 80 hectares of mud where seagrass meadows could potentially be restored.

During 2023, HIEF awarded Seawilding a grant to pilot a small-scale seagrass nursery. Germinating seeds in tanks, the project trials different substrates and growing containers, with an aim to track improving germination rates. Results from these nursery trials will inform best practice and help drive seagrass restoration at pace in Loch Craignish and beyond. Seawilding continues to contribute to international research in marine science on the restoration of seagrass at scale.

The organisation collaborated with a host of other specialist groups during this project, including universities, The Fieldwork Company in the Netherlands, Project Seagrass, and the Ocean Conservation Trust's 'Blue Meadows Project'. Data and findings were also shared with the Global Seagrass Nursery Network and vertical farming specialists who will be trialling seagrass seedlings in their own growth systems.

Data gathered from this project helped develop an understanding of the feasibility of producing large quantities of seedlings in a sterile environment. The work could be a significant step towards large scale seagrass restoration, while avoiding the biosecurity issues that otherwise might prevent the movement of seagrass plants from one geographical location to another.

The next stage of this project will focus on replicating the most successful germination conditions at a larger scale, with an aim to inform Scottish seagrass restoration for years to come.

SEAGRASS photos by Seawilding



KEYSTONE SPECIES

Every ecosystem has certain species which are critical to the survival of other interrelated species. Keystone species bind together the complex web of relationships in an ecosystem.



BONELLI'S EAGLES, CYPRUS

Grantee: KUŞKOR, The Society for the Protection of Birds and Nature

February 2023 – August 2024

The Bonelli's eagle, *Aquila fasciatus*, has a wide global distribution extending from Spain, through southern Europe and across central Asia into China. As a bold predator with a varied diet, the Bonelli's eagle plays a crucial role in the balance of the food chain, making it a keystone species within its ecosystem.

European numbers of Bonelli's eagle are small and in decline. This means isolated populations in the Mediterranean, for instance in Cyprus, are more significant to survival of the eagles globally, particularly in providing connectivity between the Asian and Spanish strongholds.

The Bonelli's eagle is listed on Annex I of the EU Wild Birds Directive, Appendix II of the Bern and Bonn Conventions as well as CITES Convention. An action plan has been established for the species in Europe featuring plans to protect its most important breeding and dispersal areas.

In Cyprus during the late 1950s there were more than 50 pairs of Bonelli's eagle, but by the early 1990s less than 20 pairs of this essential species survived. A recent study, however, estimates the Cypriot population at 31-39 pairs: the 4th largest in Europe. The Bonelli is the last species of eagle to breed in Cyprus.

The Five Finger Mountain range in Cyprus is recognised as a key breeding and hunting area for Bonelli's eagles and has been identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). The wetland habitats on the Mesaoria Plain are purported to be used heavily by the species outside their breeding periods. Neither of these two regions are part of the network of Special Environmental Protected Areas (SEPA), which is a designation system enabling habitat types to be prioritised, mapped and zoned.

Bonelli's eagle, as a top predator, connects multiple IBAs in Cyprus and therefore as a species can highlight the importance of creating IBA corridors under official protection with effective and properly enforced conservation measures.

IMPACT GOAL: PROTECTING NATIVE SPECIES



Cyprus Environment Foundation (CEF) was founded in 2021 to support local environmental and nature restoration initiatives to protect, preserve and restore the natural beauty of Cyprus for generations to come. CEF is funding KUŞKOR, The Society for Protection of Birds and Nature, which has been monitoring Bonelli's eagle since 2011 in collaboration with UK raptor experts. This initiative is co-funded by the Ornithological Society of the Middle East (OSME).

The key purpose of this project is to shed light on the eagles' use of mountainous habitats, demonstrating their range in the Five Finger Mountain area and, therefore, the breadth of habitat protection needed to adequately conserve them.

In the spring of 2023, four eagle chicks from nests across the Five Finger Mountain Range were tagged using the so-called 'BonBonTrack': a solar-powered 4G transmitter. Device attachment training was carried out for the local Cypriot team by external experts brought in from the UK, thereby building local capacity for future work.

Unfortunately, one of the four chicks died, failing to fledge the nest. Results from the remaining three birds revealed a wealth of information, including foraging patterns and preferred habitats. Data on the birds' behaviour and movement corridors was mapped and analysed, with findings made available to all authorities and published.

Another of the chicks, which fledged at the north-western end of the island and was successfully tracked for some time, sadly died after colliding with electricity lines. Such incidences, while tragic, nonetheless shine light on the numerous threats to the species, which can also include accidental illegal poisoning (intended for feral dogs and foxes) and hazards posed by wind turbines, which the fledglings regularly passed through and often used as perches. The tracking devices from the two eagles who died during this project were recovered and will be used on new individuals for the 2024 breeding season.

A local photographer recorded footage during surveys, field training and device attachment. A successful campaign was run locally, capturing the attention of community members, social media and the local press. A short film inspired by the Bonelli has already been submitted to 13 film festivals in Cyprus and beyond. It is hoped that igniting curiosity and love of the species amongst Cypriots will ensure a commitment to the long-term conservation and therefore survival of the species.

Data gathered will enable project partners to advise on management plans for the Five Fingers Mountain Range, the Mesaoria Plain and the Mia Milia IBAs, designating them as Special Environmental Protected Areas (SEPA). It is also hoped that the data will feed into existing SEPA management plans, to further support the Bonelli's eagle and in doing so, support the complex ecosystem on which it depends.

BONELLI'S EAGLES photos by Olkan Erguler





REDUCING MARINE LITTER, SRI LANKA

Grantees: SALT Lofoten, IUCN, Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute 2021 - ongoing

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is an internationally significant area, renowned for its rich biodiversity. The Reserve is home to numerous marine species, including corals, seagrasses, mangroves, the critically endangered dugong, hawksbill turtle and finless porpoise. The Gulf of Mannar is also recognised as one of the world's most productive fisheries owing to its nutrient-rich waters.

This region and its habitats are under increasing pressure due to high resource exploitation, destructive fishing methods and pollution - not least plastic pollution from fisheries. Before this project began, little was known about the economic impacts of marine litter, especially abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and its effects on the biodiversity in this region.

Lanka Environment Fund (LEF) was established in June 2019 to support existing nature restoration and environmental initiatives while fostering a sense of stewardship of the island's exceptional beauty and natural value. The cornerstone of LEF's mission is the empowerment of local communities, backed up by investment in the local environment.

The Mannar Region Systemic Solutions (MARESSOL) is a transboundary project between India and Sri Lanka involving SALT Lofoten, Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute, LEF and the International Union for Conservation (IUCN) Sri Lanka. Together these partners were awarded a grant from the Norwegian Retailers Environment Fund (NREF) with an aim to reduce marine litter deriving from the fishing industry within the Gulf Of Mannar and the southern section of Palk Bay.



The ensuing report, published in May 2023, analysed two years of data gathered on marine macro debris, primarily focusing on ALDFG from fisheries. The report outlined the natural value of the region, concentration and composition of marine litter and provided an overview of the fisheries industry. It also outlined current local policy on marine litter alongside case studies of good practices from around the world to prevent and manage ALDFG.

MARESSOL's report makes important recommendations to prevent and mitigate marine litter from fisheries, concluding that this is a major, and growing, threat to the regions' ecosystems and biodiversity at large. The commercial importance of the Gulf makes this an issue critical for human livelihoods as well as for the environment, with approximately 268 local villages along the Gulf of Mannar coast dependent on fishing.

The project's findings have also emphasised that effective solutions require cross-sectoral approaches, involving close dialogue with the fishing community and government authorities, the waste management sector and relevant representatives from civil society interest groups. The report comprises the first step on the project timeline: to build a scientific knowledge base.

This will form the basis for policy recommendations to government institutions, facilitating community engagement activities and piloting scalable solutions to close the loop on marine debris in The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. Specific outcomes from the report include the establishment of a National Advisory Council to formulate a mechanism to register new fishing gear and report lost gear. This council had its first meeting in November 2023, bringing together institutional members, individual experts and key partners.

The communication committee, led by LEF, intends to develop trilingual material to raise awareness on how to sort and clean ALDFG that is ready to recycle, and advise on best practice in fishing gear disposal. In addition, the committee will produce field guides for local decision makers and youth and volunteer groups, to enable those groups to spin out and run independent programmes of their own, thereby further amplifying the impact of this project.

FUTURE OF MARESSOL

It is hoped that MARESSOL can establish a collection and recycling mechanism, develop circular economies, inform national policy related to ALDFG and fund seabed cleanups. The project's legacy will continue to steer more sustainable behaviours for the future of Sri Lanka's marine habitats.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING, KENYA

Grantees: Lamu Outreach Youth Initiative, Earth Love, Collective Sovereignty Community-Based Organisation

May 2023 - ongoing

Lamu County on the northern coast of Kenya boasts over 130km of coastline and is home to a host of diverse ecosystems, from mangrove forests to seagrass beds and coral reefs, across an archipelago of over 60 islands. Its vast forests and expansive savannahs are biodiversity hotspots hosting wildlife including lions, giraffes, buffalo, leopards, and zebra. This incredible biodiversity means Lamu has huge potential for ecotourism, which, if carefully managed, could bring huge economic benefits to local communities.

The agricultural output of Lamu County, a naturally semi-arid environment, is highly dependent on rainfall and has, in recent years, focused on intensive, unsustainable practices. Unpredictable rainy seasons, in combination with soil degradation from monocultures, the COVID-19 pandemic, and political and social turmoil, have increased the region's food vulnerability and economic insecurity.

Furthermore, shifting cultivation techniques, planting of non-indigenous crops, and extensive use of fertilisers and pesticides are driving a loss in biodiversity that affects plant and animal health, hinders soil carbon sequestration, contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions, and increases the risk of catastrophic flooding.

As is the case in many places across the globe, women in Lamu County suffer disproportionately from the challenges outlined. The growing low-income population puts pressure on local resources while a lack of access to education in sustainable agriculture puts their land at risk of significant degradation and makes it difficult for the community to sustainably meet its basic needs.

These factors have led to a cycle of poverty that is affecting the health and wellbeing of communities while hindering economic and social progress. Research indicates that economic uncertainty and deprivation can be a key factor in the incidence of violent extremism experienced in the region.

Lamu Environment Foundation (LaEF) was established in 2021 and supports community led and designed environmental conservation projects across Lamu County to protect and restore natural ecosystems.

Permaculture is the development of agricultural ecosystems that are sustainable and self-sufficient. At its heart, permaculture has three ethics; earth care, people care and fair shares. For communities in Lamu, this form of agriculture offers a solution to so many of the local problems they face, as well as tackling the macro problems of rising global CO2 emissions, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Sustainable agriculture can increase biodiversity, improve carbon sequestration, increase yields and improve the nutritional content of food produced. Furthermore, it encourages increased tree cover and ground cover, creating microclimates. Through transpiration, this also attracts more rainfall and reduces ground temperature.

By following permaculture techniques, farmers can break out of the expensive, resource-hungry cycles associated with intensive agriculture, while communities can be supported in growing food locally, reducing fossil fuel emissions and expensive surcharges that derive from transporting food from the mainland.



LAND REGENERATION IN KENYA photos by LaEF

LAEF IS SUPPORTING:

PROJECT 1: PERMACULTURE DESIGN

A Practical Permaculture Design Course delivered in Kipungani by Earth Love Ltd empowered 20 community members in 2023; 17 women and three men. Each participant created their own permaculture home garden to provide their families with nutritious food and give them the skills to become multipliers of sustainable agriculture practices.

PROJECT 2: DEMONSTRATION FARM

In another Lamu community, the Mpeketoni Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Farm, by Lamu Outreach Youth Initiative (LOYI), was conceived after a community consultation revealed farmer dissatisfaction with intensive agriculture, bound by the cycle of buying seeds, fertiliser and ever-stronger pesticides.

The agroforestry demonstration farm was meant to hold month-long courses for community members during 2023. However, catastrophic flooding in Kenya partially due to El Niño, partially due to adopting monoculture methods, has pushed this project into 2024. The participants will be coached as community trainers, building scalable solutions while forging relationships between disparate groups.

PROJECT 3: 2 TREES 1 FAMILY

The 2 Trees 1 Family Climate Resilience Package project has used local permaculture community trainers to work closely throughout Matondoni, Mararani, and the satellite communities of Lamu town.

Techniques taught include home gardening, seed saving, soil building, the effect of pesticide-free vegetables and indigenous foods on human nutrition, mulching, fertilising, recycling water, natural pest control, companion planting and forest gardening. This project trained 50 families in 2023 on the basics of permaculture, with a focus on building sustainable communities. Trees were planted where appropriate (fruit trees of choice and Moringa trees) together with a Permaculture Home Garden for each family, consisting of a vegetable plot in a secured planting area.

Competitions were held between teams to encourage best practices, community-building and continued interest in home garden cultivation.



PARTNERSHIPS

Ashford Richards, Breakers beach monitor, and Lisa Gaymes, Sea Turtle programme manager examine a hatched sea turtle nest in St. Vincent.
Photo by Stephan Hornsey

TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION

In May 2023, Conservation Collective announced an inspiring new partnership with the iconic band Depeche Mode and Swiss watchmaker Hublot to celebrate the monumental Memento Mori World Tour, 2023 to 2024. The first round of funding, over £200,000, was channelled to our member Foundations to support seven projects tackling plastic pollution in seven countries worldwide.

KIUNGA MARINE RESERVE CLEAN-UP

Grantee: Bahari Moja

Lamu, in Kenya, lacks an adequate waste management infrastructure, leading to harmful waste accumulation in coastal ecosystems. This poses a threat to marine wildlife, including five endangered species of turtle. Bahari Moja is a grassroots initiative, which addresses this issue by collecting, sorting, and recycling plastic waste. The project not only creates jobs for local women and young people but also raises awareness within the Kiunga Marine National Reserve. It showcases the strength of community-led efforts in tackling environmental challenges.



CLEANER SEABEDS FOR SRI LANKA

Grantee: Pearl Protectors

Approximately 80% of Sri Lanka's seabed is polluted, due to the high population density of coastal areas and the lack of appropriate waste management. No national consensus or guidelines exist in Sri Lanka on how to dispose of abandoned or discarded fishing gear. This project was one of Sri Lanka's first volunteer dive expeditions on a large scale, aimed at removing marine litter (mostly fishing gear) that threatens the region's vulnerable reefs.



PLASTIC FREE BEACH

Grantee: Cyprus Sustainable Tourism Initiative

Around 80% of rubbish collected on beaches in Cyprus is plastic, of which only a small percentage is recycled locally. This situation is exacerbated by the island's large and growing tourism industry. This project encourages the adoption of the Plastic Free Beach guidelines. The project also ensures the upkeep of installed infrastructure, such as freshwater fountains, smoking areas, and shared beach toy sheds.



PLASTIC FREE IBIZA & FORMENTERA

Project lead: Ibiza Preservation

Ibiza generates 6.4% more waste than the rest of Spain, at 600 kg per inhabitant in 2022. A large part of this waste is plastic. Since 2019, it is illegal for Balearic businesses to sell single-use plastic products, but there is little enforcement from the government. As a signatory of the UN-Global Tourism Plastics Initiative, Plastic Free Ibiza & Formentera works with hospitality and tourism businesses to encourage the uptake of their certification scheme to reduce single-use plastic usage and offer sustainable alternatives.



PLASTIC FREE SCHOOLS

Grantee: MareVivo

80% of Sicilians drink bottled water on a daily basis, putting huge pressure on the local (and deficient) waste management infrastructure and to human health itself, due to the proliferation of microplastics. Plastic Free Schools is a campaign and competition for schools from the Sicilian archipelago that inspires the community to reduce single-use plastics and engage young people. The project installed water purification stations in the three winning schools.



TILL THE COAST IS CLEAR

Grantee: Till the Coast is Clear

UK households throw away around 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging every year, with just 12% being recycled and much of it ending up in our seas. Till the Coast is Clear recovers plastic pollution from hard-to-reach locations on the South Devon coast, using volunteer-crewed recycled kayaks and an electric motor vessel. The project is also set to campaign and advocate for a rapid transition to circular models of commercial, recreational and business activities that put nature and people first for the benefit of all.



SIN.PRAXI GREEN SPOT

Grantee: SIN.PRAXI

Corfu relies heavily on tourism, which accounts for 97% of its income, attracting 1.7 million visitors in 2022 alone. This influx strains waste management systems, leading to landfill overflow during the Summer. Sin.Praxi's Waste Management Green Spot Centre is a community project in north-east Corfu that focuses on the island's waste crisis. Its strategy is to boost infrastructure and education to divert waste from landfills through reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and circular economies. In the summer months, it aids the management of high waste levels, while in winter, it trains locals on waste management best practice.



PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES



Team members from across the network were lucky enough to enjoy Depeche Mode concerts.

Our game-changing partnership with Depeche Mode and Hublot has brought Conservation Collective unprecedented visibility via social media and through films screened before every gig on the Memento Mori World Tour. We are thrilled to see our work celebrated on such a large scale!

Hundreds of thousands of fans have learnt about the issue being addressed and have hopefully been inspired by the solutions.

We further leveraged the partnership through a highly successful raffle, raising nearly \$100,000 for these projects.

CC collaborated with Earth Minutes to produce short films to showcase the projects' impacts. Each of these can be viewed on our website.

Depeche Mode and Hublot collaborate with each venue and Live Nation's Green Nation team. Their work helps limit single-use plastics, provide water refill stations, improve recycling, reduce waste and food, and, wherever possible, encourage their fans to make more sustainable choices.

Keep updated about new projects being supported through this partnership via our website!

TACKLING PLASTIC POLLUTION

ROUND 1 of 4 - JUNE TO DECEMBER 2023 - 7 COUNTRIES

WITH **DEPECHE MODE** and **HUBLOT**

100% increase in sea turtle nests after beach cleanups in Kenya

30 PADI diving certifications awarded to cleanup volunteers in Sri Lanka

57,000 plastic bottles avoided per year in Sicily

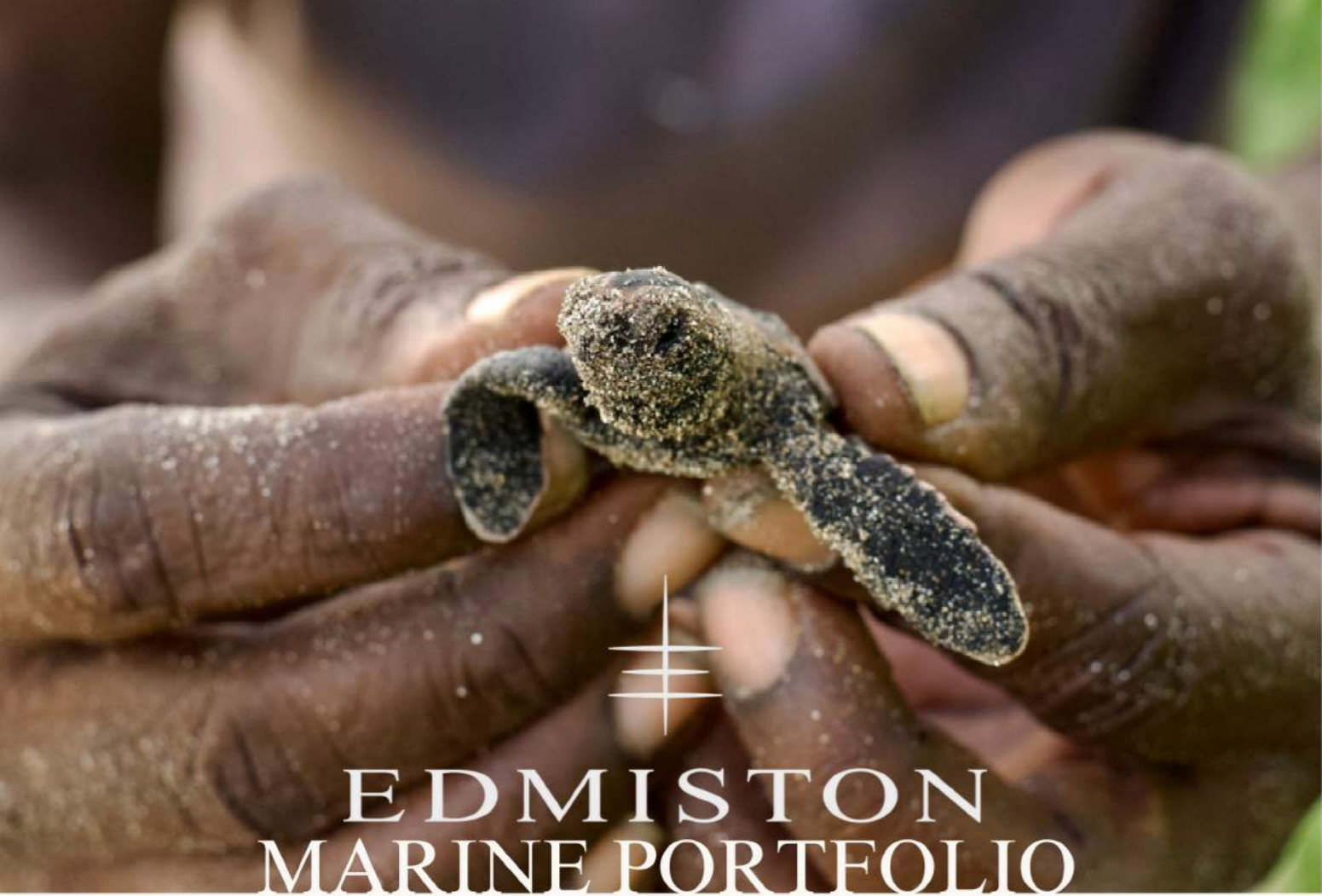
350 cleanup volunteers

2 businesses certified Plastic-Free in Ibiza.

360,000 people engaged in plastic awareness activities

71 CLEANUPS LED TO:

- 6,600kg** plastic recycled locally
- 5,869kg** plastic waste removed
- 1,000kg** of fishing nets recovered



EDMISTON MARINE PORTFOLIO

In 2023, Edmiston partnered for a second year with Conservation Collective and its Foundations in the Balearics, Greece and the Caribbean. The luxury yacht brokers donated £76,000 to continue funding a bespoke marine portfolio protecting seagrass, promoting sustainable fisheries and protecting turtles.

SEA TURTLE MONITORING NETWORK

Grantee: St. Vincent & the Grenadines Environment Fund

In 2017, the killing of sea turtle was officially banned in St Vincent and the Grenadines. While this was a symbolic milestone, ineffective enforcement and rising demand on the black market means that turtles are still vulnerable in the archipelago.

This project expands the network of sea turtle monitors on the island of St Vincent. 16 trained and paid monitors now record turtle nesting activity on 14 beaches. In 2023, 230 students learned about the environmental and economic importance of conserving the nesting grounds. The network feeds into the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) to recommend policy to the government which would ensure sea turtles' survive and thrive in the country.



“ Our beach monitors play a crucial role in the survival of sea turtles which leads to their recovery. We would like to thank Edmiston for making this possible. ”

STEPHAN HORNSEY, PROGRAMME MANAGER SVGEF

OUR PARTNERSHIPS



MARINE DATA COLLECTION, BARBADOS

Grantee: Digifish

Data scarcity in Barbados hinders effective fisheries management. Project Digifish gathers data to map the status of Barbados' fisheries and contribute to policymaking for Marine Spatial Planning, whilst improving the safety of small-scale fishers,

In 2023, 38 solar-powered vessel-tracking devices were installed on small-scale fishing boats in Barbados. Data gathered from these devices will feed into plans to zone different marine activities, including fishing. Mapping 'catch per unit effort' (i.e., how abundant different fish species are), enables fishing hotspots to be overlapped with fish nursery and spawning areas.



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES, BALEARICS

Grantees: Calant Xarxes, an alliance with MAPF, IP, MEP, BLUE, and Marilles

The Mediterranean is the most overfished sea in the world, with around 75% of the stocks being fished above sustainable limits. This issue affects both the marine environment and human livelihoods, as small-scale fishers have to spend longer hours at sea for smaller yields compared to only a few decades ago.

Calant Xarxes (Nets for Fair Fishing in Catalan) aims to find and apply solutions to end the problem of illegal fishing, working collaboratively with local fishing groups, restaurants, and conservationists across the three islands to address this.



POSITONIA PROTECTION IN GREECE

The **Repositonia** project, led by iSea, aims to improve the data availability on Posidonia meadows in the Ionian Islands, identifying areas that require immediate intervention and, ultimately, driving the designation of protected areas for the preservation of Posidonia and the Mediterranean marine ecosystem. Research and mapping on the Eastern Ionian meadows were completed in 2023. Anthropogenic pressures such as anchorage, aquaculture, sewage pollution, coastal development, and tourism and leisure activities were exposed, and priority areas for conservation were identified.

Small Cyclades Posidonia Alert, led by Cyclades Preservation Fund, raises awareness about the importance of Posidonia meadows and shares anchorage best practices with the boating and yachting industries to prevent further harm. In 2023 informative buoys and informational boards were installed in key areas, and a 'Yachting and the Environment guide' was distributed throughout marinas to warn boats of the presence of Posidonia meadows and the need to avoid anchoring.



ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY ON LAND & AT SEA

In 2023, **Regatta Foundation** and its brands **Craghoppers** and **Dare2B**, supported Conservation Collective, Highlands & Islands Environment Foundation, Ionian Environment Foundation and Mallorca Preservation. Each Regatta brand highlighted two projects, showcasing work supported by the Foundations, raising awareness of the causes and amplifying future impact.

Regatta generously donated prizes to our 2023 Collectives Awards, and kit to the Albania Overboard swim and to a number of the grassroots heroes working on the ground to protect and restore nature.

CC was honoured to be asked by Regatta to be involved in the judging of their Craghoppers Film Prize in August, in partnership with The Discover Film Awards.



DARE2B X IONIAN ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

REPOSIDONIA
Grantee: *ISEA*



This project mapped valuable but threatened Posidonia meadows and identified the N.E. Corfu coastline as the highest priority for Posidonia conservation (with near-pristine conditions and intense levels of human pressure). The partnership allowed us to raise awareness about anchor damage to a wide audience.

CETACEANS & MONK SEALS CONSERVATION
Grantee: *Ionian Dolphin Project*



The only species of seal in the Mediterranean is the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), which is one of the most endangered marine mammals on Earth. For the third year running, in partnership with Blue Marine Foundation, IEF supported this project to continue dolphin and monk seal monitoring and research in Paxos, Anti Paxos, and the Inner Ionian Archipelagos. The project recorded sightings and engaged members of the local fishing community.

CRAGHOPPERS X MALLORCA PRESERVATION

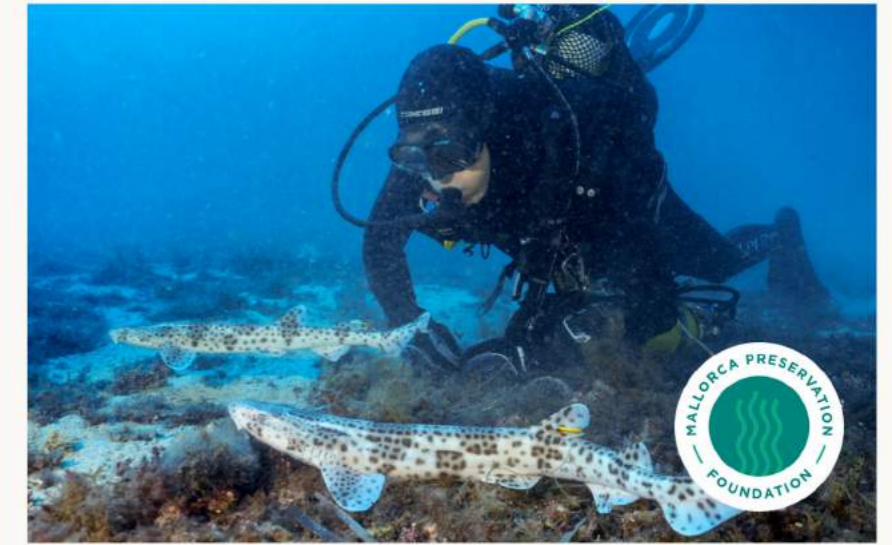
WETLAND RESTORATION
Grantee: *Mallorca Preservation X WWF*

Pictured left, S'Estany des Ponts and Maristany, located in Alcúdia, are some of the most degraded wetlands in Mallorca. Led by WWF, this project focused on restoring the wetlands and boosting breeding bird populations.

Across 5 hectares, local community members removed invasive species including pampas grass and mouse-hold tree. Thirty students collected 61,000 kgs of waste including plastics, tyres, cardboard, rubble and other household items. Supported by experts from the University of the Balearic Islands, children from local secondary schools conducted water quality monitoring.

Since September 2023, a local police team patrols and monitors the wetland 24 hours a day to avoid further destruction and pollution.

STELLARIS PROJECT
Grantee: *Palma Aquarium*



Palma Aquarium recovers endangered nurse hound sharks caught in bycatch, leading a captive breeding and nursing programme, which has had an impressive survival rate of over 90%. 185 hatchlings were born and survived in 2023, with 36 juveniles tagged for monitoring and released into national marine parks. A comic book titled 'The Nursehound Shark: Not a Thorny Story' was distributed across schools, National Parks and in Palma Aquarium. This launched part of an awareness-raising campaign targeted at fishers to minimise shark bycatch incidents.

REGATTA X HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

SCOTLAND'S RAINFOREST
Grantee: *Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest*



Scotland's rainforest is a precious habitat; as important as tropical rainforest, but even rarer. Alliance partners have produced a strategy for Saving Scotland's Rainforest 2023 – 2026. A rainforest management guidance document was disseminated to local land managers in 2023, as well as a case study to develop future rainforest restoration biodiversity credits. Rainforest management workshops were conducted with land managers and members of the Scottish Parliament enjoyed a field trip to raise awareness about the Scottish rainforest and lobby for its protection.

SHOREWATCH YOUTH PROJECT
Grantee: *Whale & Dolphin Conservation*



Whale & Dolphin Conservation's flagship citizen science project collects data on the 21 species native to Scotland. Data collection points were set up in Torry Battery, Wick, Thurso, Greenock, Clach toll, and Fraserburgh, and 81 young community members were trained in and equipped for whale and dolphin data gathering, recording approximately 682 sightings. Informative talks were held in local communities, alongside webinars and podcasts. The project team created the WDC Young Adult Network to lobby the Scottish government for cetacean conservation and the Highly Protected Marine Areas designation.



FINANCIALS
& SUPPORTERS

GHOST CRAB IN CYPRUS photo by Michaelangelo Pontikis

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Conservation Collective works through two types of foundations:

Branches: 'In-house' subsidiaries of the Conservation Collective UK charity, governed by a branch constitution. Decision making is delegated to local Steering Committees. Branches are expected to spin out into independent entities within three years.

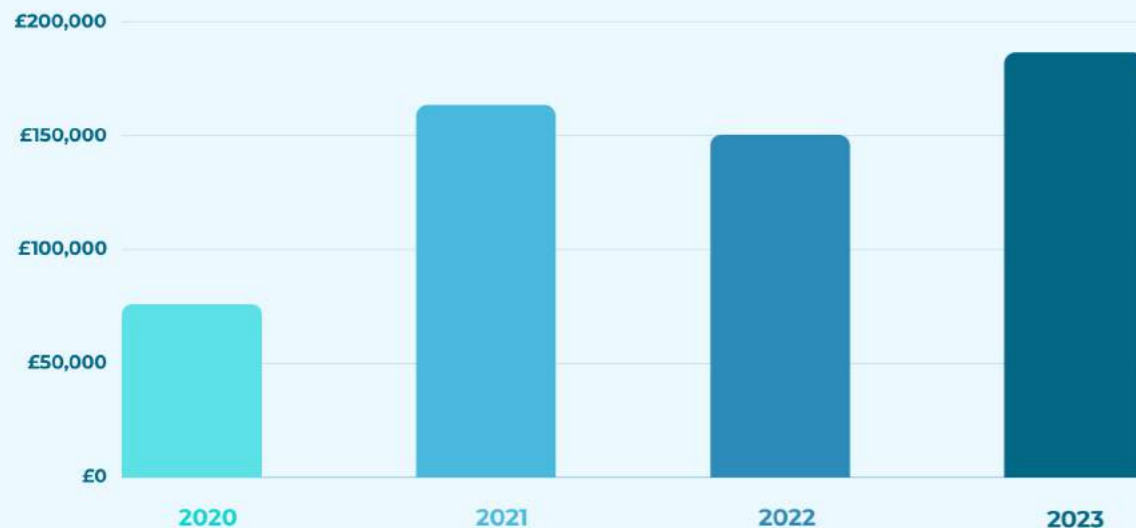
Affiliates: Independent, locally registered charities. An affiliate agreement defines the relationship between the local entity and the Conservation Collective.

Network Income

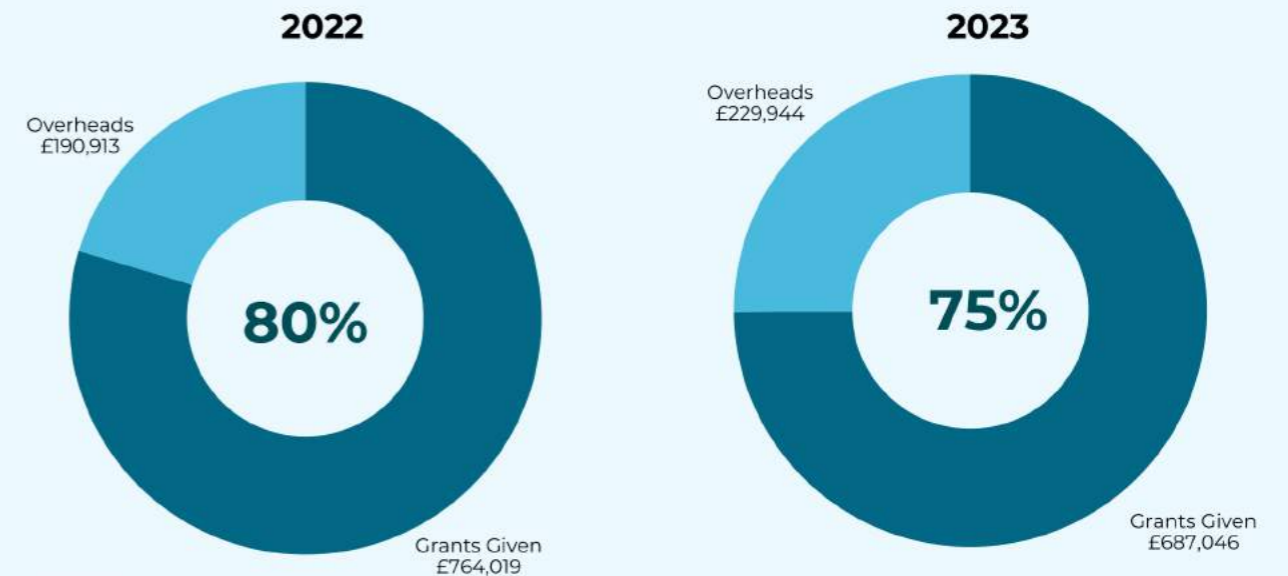


Total income includes funds raised by CC core, branches and affiliates in the UK and through local organisations. Total raised locally by affiliates 2023: £2,146,937; 2022: £1,297,637. Affiliates figures raised locally are unaudited.

Average Foundation Size



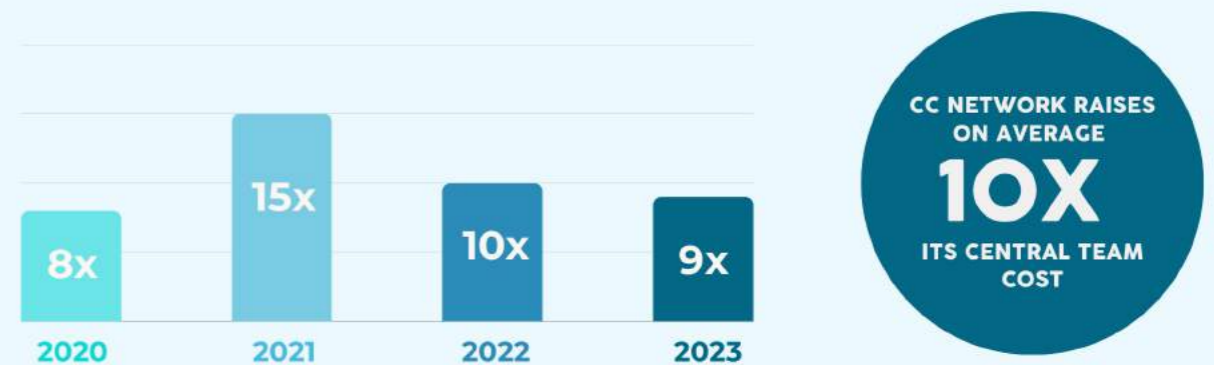
Grants: Expenditure Ratios



NOTES

- Each branch has one full-time director, or 2 part-time, at the outset, and a target that minimum of 70% of the total expenditure should be given out as grants within three years.
- 2023 Affiliate figures are unaudited
- Foreign exchange fluctuations apply as all local currencies were converted to GBP (above).
- The ratio of money raised to disburse is distorted by the calendar cycle for grant dispersals.

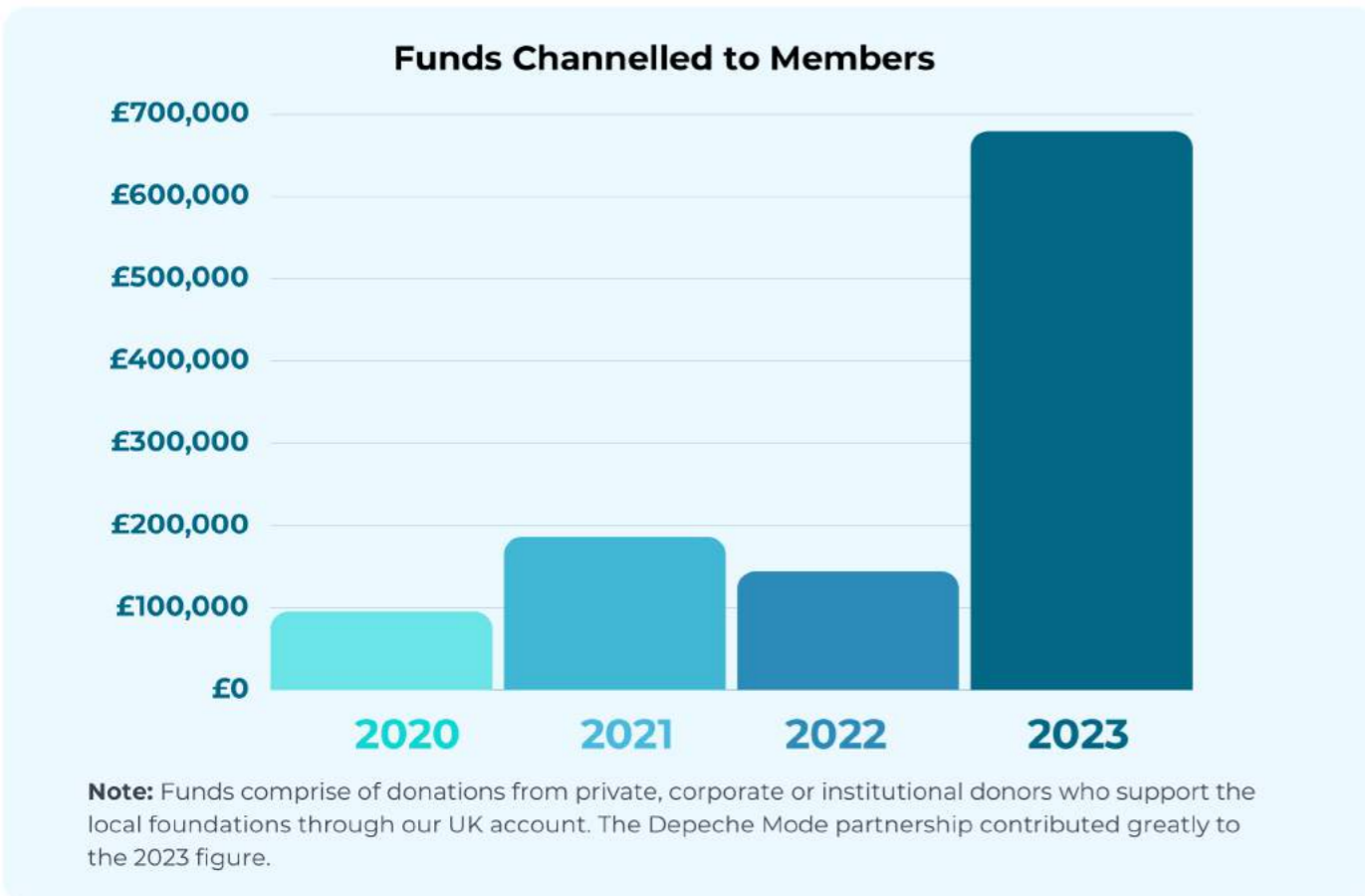
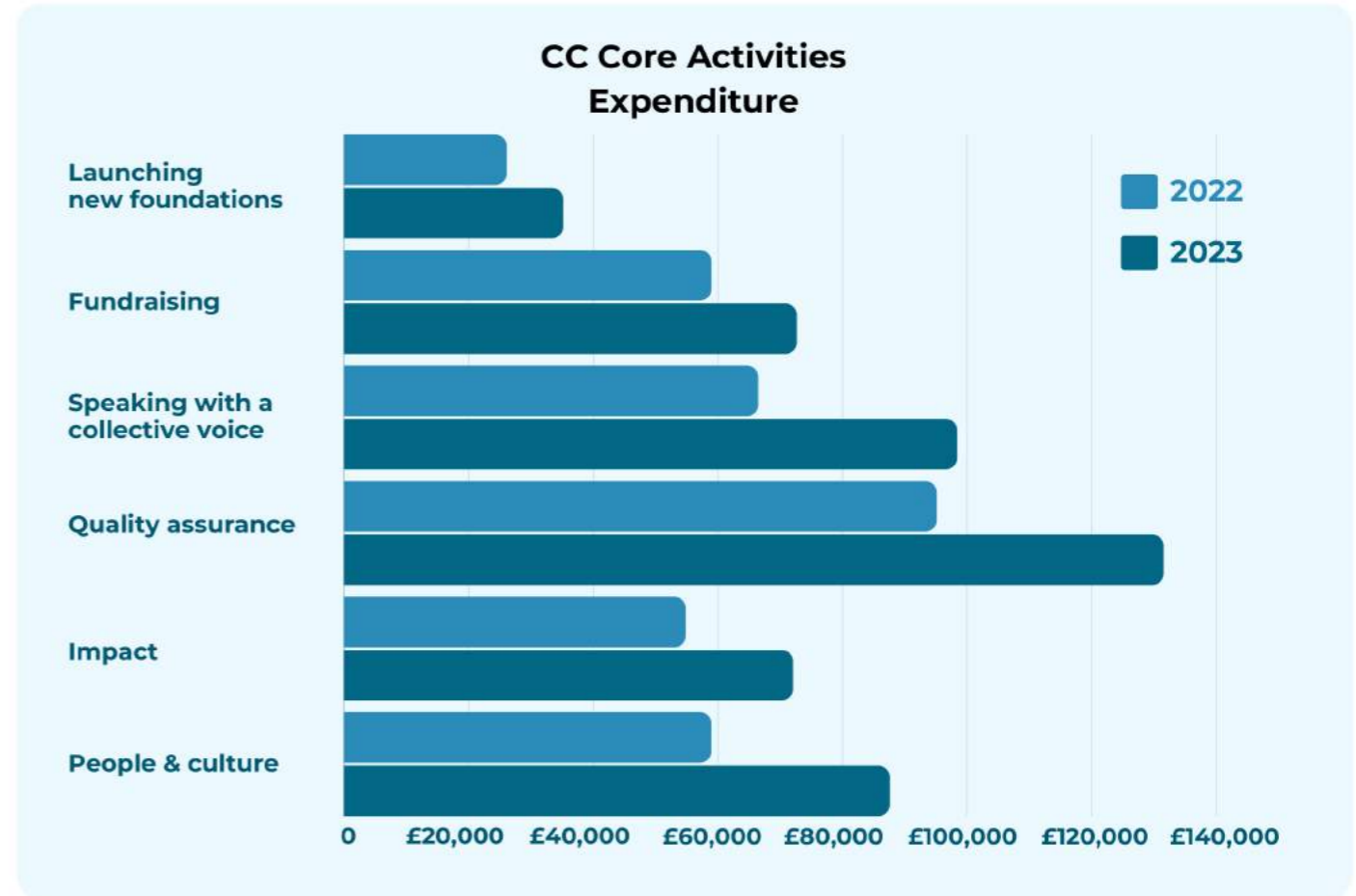
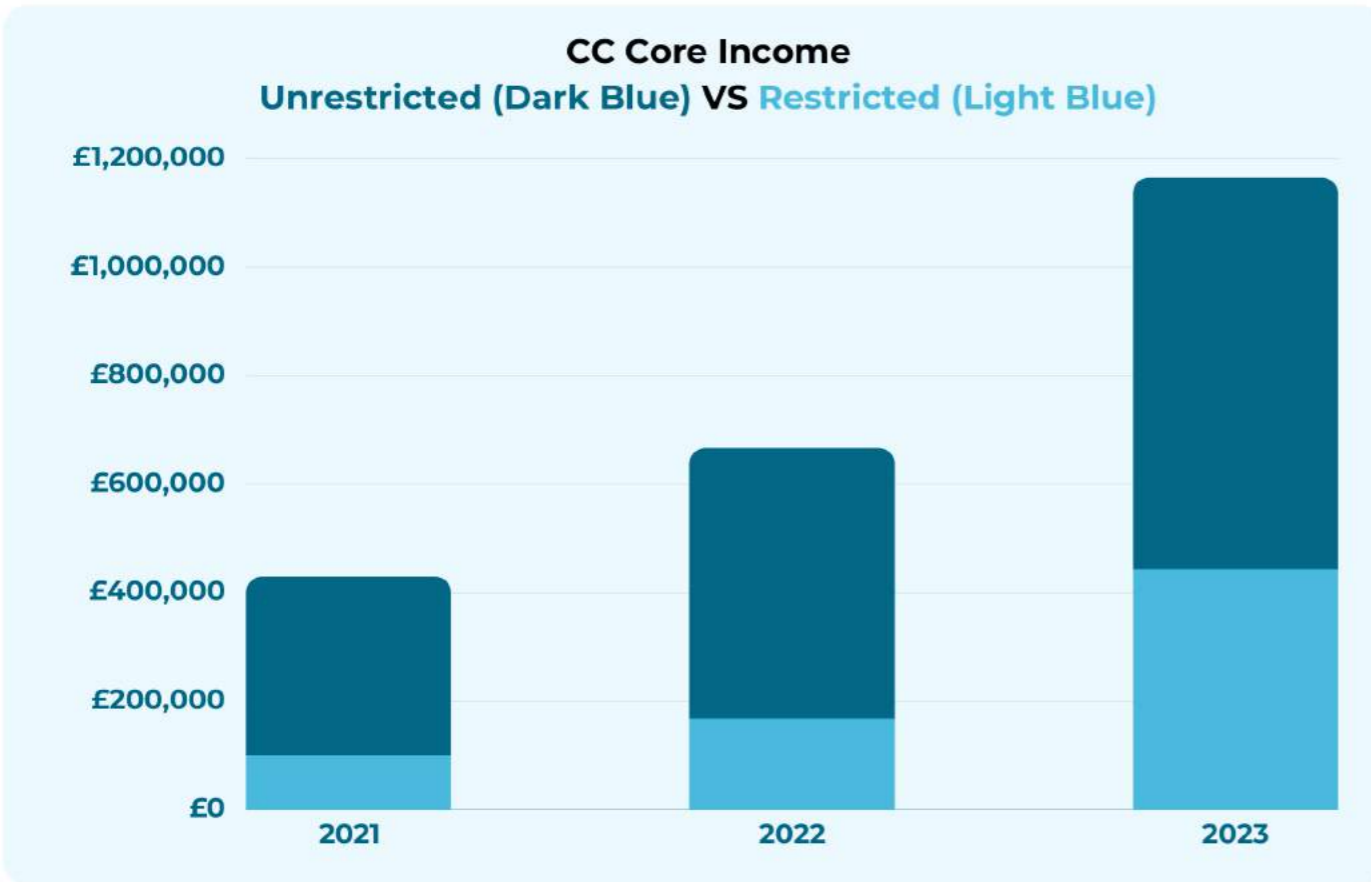
Central Costs



PAULINA KING-BRAVO, FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

In the year to 31 December 2023, Conservation Collective continued to grow impressively. Our network income reached £4,452,856; up 26% compared to 2022.

Conservation Collective keeps maximizing its impact in everything we do. We are so proud that 75% of total branch expenditure goes to grass-roots projects, demonstrating complete dedication to our mission.




AMANDA KEETLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEVON ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

"Just THANK YOU for everything. Being part of the network is key to our success, feel so grateful for all the support."

OUR SUPPORTERS



We're proud to support Conservation Collective's remarkable work and love hearing about the impact we've been able to have through our partnership with Conservation Collective and Hublot. Together we've been able to get rid of tonnes of plastic waste, provide sustainable options and empower communities – something we care about deeply. That's what it's all about.

DEPECHE MODE

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS



CORPORATE PARTNERS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



OUR TEAM

CORE TEAM



Jade Brudenell
Executive Director



Kendra Walsh
Network Director



Paulina King Bravo
Finance Director



Nikki Harrison
Operations Manager



Berta Manzano
Programme Manager



Sekoah Kwon-Salkin
Development Officer



Francesca Hicks
Communications Manager



Lauren Park Ramsay
Head of Communications
(February 2024)



Iona Marshall
Network Coordinator
(February 2024)

OUR FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN

Ben Goldsmith – a lifelong nature lover & Founder of Conservation Collective.

Ben is the Chief Executive Officer of Menhaden, a London-listed, sustainability-themed investment firm. He is also proud to be a Trustee of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), one of the world's largest climate change-focused philanthropic funds. From 2018 until 2022, Ben served as Non-Executive Director of the UK Government's Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs.



TRUSTEES



George Duffield
Co-founder of Blue
Marine Foundation



Sara Siegel
Global Health Care Sector
Leader at Deloitte



Brendon Moorhouse
Environmental Law Professor &
Barrister at Six Pump Court



Andy Brainin
Co-founder of
Biofarm



Michael Maunder
Conservationist



Emma Askew
Founder/Director of
Earth Minutes



"I'm delighted to be supporting Conservation Collective as a core funder and Trustee. The Charity's rapid growth as a trusted, agile, and supportive intermediary, demonstrates an organisation punching above its weight! Accessing impactful grassroots projects, restoring nature and empowering communities across the world, is what excites me most as a funder. I look forward to seeing this work scale regionally and even globally, via Conservation Collective connections."

CHRISTOPHER PARKER, TRUSTEE, CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE

GLOBAL ADVISORY PANEL (GAP)

The GAP comprises experts who voluntarily share their time and advice with members of Conservation Collective to turbocharge our local capacity.

We are so lucky to have the support of:

Max Bello - Marine Protected Areas - Mission Blue | Florence Miller - Environmental Funders Network | Dr Axel Moehrenschrager - Biodiversity - IUCN | Kathryn Matthews - Marine Ecosystems - Oceana | Hassan Sachedina - Carbon Markets - BCP | Darius Sanai - Responsible culture - Lux Magazine | Samantha Welsh - Responsible culture - Lux Magazine | Brendon Moorhouse - Environmental Law Professor | Ed Maltby - Wetlands | Mark Beeston - Carbon Credits - Conservation International | Astrid Vargas - Regenerative Agriculture | Jonathan Hall - Invasive species - Conservation International | David Newman - Waste management | Alice Brudenell Bruce - Conservation PR and Journalism | India Heathcote - Events and production

WHAT'S NEXT?

Marine Protected Area - Greece

In the Mediterranean sea, fish stocks are depleted, flagship species are becoming extinct and marine pollution and over-exploitation of resources has seriously degraded the region.

Amorgos is an island in the Aegean, where, in 2019, fishers came together to tackle these challenges, with a new concept called 'Amorgorama'.



AMORGORAMA IN ACTION photo by Agios Pavlos

The fishers committed to a seasonal closure of all fishing during April and May each year, in a zone stretching 1.5 miles around Amorgos. Instead of fishing, they use their time and boats to gather litter and discarded fishing nets from hard-to-reach areas. The community have also committed to a gradual switch to more sustainable fishing gear.

In December 2023, a study on possible restricted fishing areas, funded by Blue Marine Foundation and Cyclades Preservation Fund, was submitted to the Greece Ministry of Rural Development & Food.

In April 2024, at the Our Oceans Conference, the Greek government announced their support for these Fisheries Restricted Areas, enabling their establishment, in a landmark moment for Amorgorama.

Achieving this milestone serves as an example to other fishing communities in Greece, supporting the country's commitment to establish more MPAs and FRAs by 2030.

Cyclades Preservation Fund has created Cycladorama, harnessing the positive momentum of Amorgorama to inspire and empower other Cycladic fishers to move towards more sustainable practices.

Nature Capital Pilot - Spain



WALL LIZARD IN FORMENTERA photo by Tono Balaguer

Conservation Collective and Ibiza Preservation partnered with Mishcon Purpose and Nature & People Foundation to pilot an urban biodiversity methodology on the island of Formentera in 2024. First, the vegetation stock will be mapped, and historical, current, and potential vegetation cover in the island's semi-urban areas will be assessed. Then, the benefits that planting certain native species of trees and shrubs could have on the local communities' health and livelihoods will be mapped, indicating the value they provide as ecosystem services (shade cover, CO2 absorption, pollination, ect.). The pilot explores the potential for urban biodiversity credits to encourage investment in nature enhancement on the island and beyond.

Closed Season for Conch - Caribbean



CONCH SHELL SURVEY photo by Blue Marine Foundation

The Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines announced the passing of The Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2023, introducing a closed period for conch harvesting, as recommended by St Vincent & the Grenadines Environment Fund (SVGEF) and Blue Marine Foundation. This landmark legislation will ensure a closed season of three months each year between 1st September and 30th November. A proud moment for us all to round up 2023. A second assessment of SVG's fisheries stock was conducted in early 2024 and will feed into recommendations to the government for marine protection measures.

THANK YOU

to all our donors and supporters.
We couldn't have done it
without your generous support.



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