LOVE THE OCEANS CONSERVATION

Empowering Communities, Conserving Oceans



2025 IMPACT REPORT

Yudmila attaching a bag of mussels for a growth trial © Francesca Trotman

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A lionfish comes to say hello © Janavi Kramer

“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

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Our Founder speaking during an interview © Kaushik Subramanian

A note from our Founder

I'm thrilled to share Love The Oceans' 2025 Impact Report - a year that tested us, stretched us, and ultimately strengthened us.

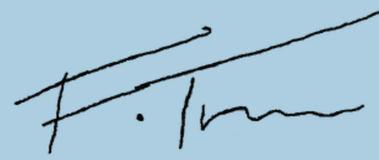
2025 didn't start easily. Political unrest in the early months slowed project delivery, and just as momentum began to build, extreme weather severely damaged our base in March. Luckily, we're a small but mighty team that thrives in uncertainty and loves a challenge.

This year, we launched some of our most ambitious and meaningful initiatives to date. We piloted a new reef revival project, taking a bold, science-led approach to biodiversity recovery in response to ecosystem decline. We launched our Ripple Network - a global collaboration platform to promote knowledge sharing between grassroots initiatives. Peixhino, a documentary on our work received over 20+ awards and was screened all over the world. We expanded our team, strengthened our community partnerships, and continued to build solutions designed not just for Jangamo, but for coastal communities globally.

2025 was also a year of recognition and reflection. Speaking on the global stage at the United Nations Ocean Conference allowed us to share why grassroots, community-led conservation must have a seat at global decision-making tables. We were proud to receive multiple awards this year, and to see one of our team members recognised as a Darwin200 Leader - a powerful reminder that investing in local leadership creates lasting impact.

None of this happens in isolation. Every swim lesson taught, every coral plot cleaned, every data point logged is made possible by a network of supporters who believe that conservation works best when people are at its centre. When you support Love The Oceans, you're not just funding projects, you're backing resilience, innovation, and a team that refuses to give up when conditions are tough.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our vision, and for helping us turn challenges into momentum. We're proud of what we've achieved together in 2025, and even more excited for what's ahead.



Francesca Trotman
Founder and Managing Director

The Problem

If you like breathing, you need to Love The Oceans.
The ocean produces over half the world's oxygen, regulates our climate, and feeds billions, but it's under threat. Climate change, biodiversity collapse, and overexploitation are unravelling the marine ecosystems we all rely on, with devastating knock-on effects for humanity. Your life is more connected to the ocean than you think.

Love The Oceans is tackling the triple threat of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution through community-led, evidence-based marine conservation.

Our vision is to empower coastal communities globally and inspire collaborative action to restore and protect our oceans, ensuring healthy marine ecosystems for generations to come.

A pod of dolphins swim past to check us out © Francesca Trotman

Why Mozambique

Mozambique is on the frontlines of ocean degradation, facing global pressures like climate change and biodiversity loss, compounded by local challenges like unsustainable fishing and poverty. But that makes it the perfect place to pioneer solutions. The issues we're tackling here mirror those faced around the world, and the tools we're developing, from community engagement to scalable science, are designed to work globally. This is ocean conservation for everyone, starting at the grassroots.

Our mission is to create a scalable holistic conservation strategy that can be replicated along the coastline of Mozambique and beyond.



Yudmila and Mario preparing a plot for Project BEAM © Francesca Trotman

Our Strategy

At Love The Oceans, our strategy is grounded in holistic conservation, addressing environmental challenges through a multi-pronged approach. We believe in integrating scientific research, local knowledge, community empowerment, and sustainability initiatives to achieve our goals effectively and sustainably. 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

We integrate local knowledge with science to inform effective conservation action. Through our projects we reduce pressure on marine resources while strengthening community resilience to environmental change. This empowers our community as long-term environmental stewards, supporting ecological sustainability and secure, resilient livelihoods.

SCALABILITY AND IMPACT

We are committed to transparency and open knowledge sharing, recognising that lasting conservation impact depends on collective learning. Our projects are designed to be shared, adapted and strengthened by others facing similar challenges. We launched the Ripple Network to formalise this ethos by connecting grassroots NGOs globally to knowledge exchange, collaborate, and amplify impact.

2025 by numbers

700+
children taught swimming

2.5km+
of reef filmed and analysed

40+
of megafauna research completed

40
new coral colonies tagged for project BEAM

60+ HOURS
of Baited Remote Underwater Video Footage amassed

40+
beach cleans completed

Over **600**
people engaged with through talks

21 RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
helped us collect valuable data

3200+ hours
of fisheries research completed

Over **200kg**
of trash collected off our beaches

1000+
coral colonies monitored

£10,000
crowdfunded through our online community

Over **360** hours spent underwater

3600+
plastic fragments collected off the beach

30%
increase in ocean literacy knowledge at our partner schools

100 children
taught ocean literacy

A cuttle fish on one of our local dives poses for a photo © Kaushiik Subramaniam

Our Team

2025 marked another step forward for Love The Oceans as our team expanded with passionate new staff members and volunteers. Each brings their own experience and insight, enriching our work and reinforcing the collaborative, community-led approach that sits at the heart of everything we do.



Helena Artur
Swimming Teacher



Rafael Américo
Field Assistant & Sustainable Fishing Project Monitor



Laura Ruiz de Azúa
Social Media Manager



Francesca Trotman
Founder & Managing Director



Pascoal Nhamússua
Community Outreach Manager



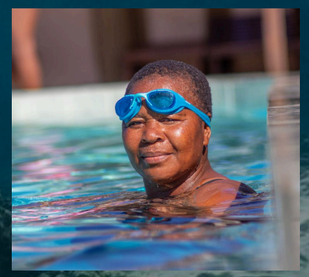
Andrea Biden
Non-Executive Director



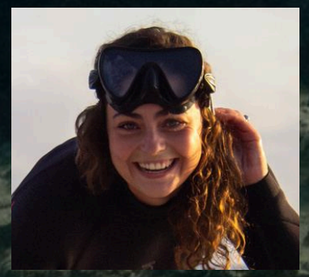
Genece Grisby
Video Editor



Yolanda Artur
Project Staff: Sea Her



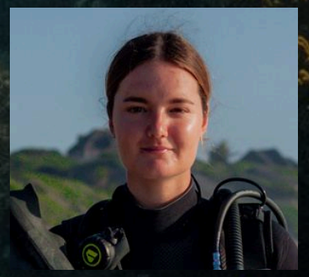
Leonor Marrengula
Project Staff: Sea Her



Inés Costa
Partnerships Manager



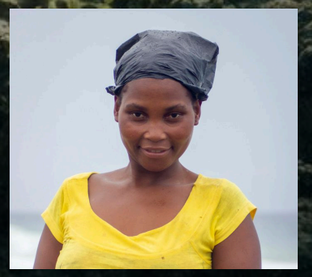
Yudmila Chunguane
Coral Biologist



Lena Pollett
Marine Program Coordinator



Cristina Nhaguilunguane
Project Staff: Sea Her



Rita Nhabomba
Project Staff: Sea Her



Márcia Artur
Ocean Conservation Champion



Bento Armando
Field Assistant



Mário Guilamba
Storyteller and Field Assistant



Luisa Rafael
Field Assistant and Swimming Teacher



Edmundo José
Project Staff: Sustainable Fishing Project



Luís Rafael
Project Staff: Sustainable Fishing Project



Eugénio Nhauche
Team Chef

Coral gardens, one of our local reefs © Chris Beard

Research

2025 was a year of momentum across our research and conservation programmes. While continuing to build on long-term projects, we also launched new initiatives and advanced emerging areas of work. Below are some of the standout research and delivery highlights from the year.

Our volunteers and staff clocked **over 3200 hours** of fisheries surveys

We completed **450+ hours** of megafauna and apex predator surveys

Our team monitored **1000+ hard coral colonies** and launched a new study on algae removal as a method of coral reef revival, creating **40** new monitoring plots.

Our students and staff completed over **400 hours of coral surveys**

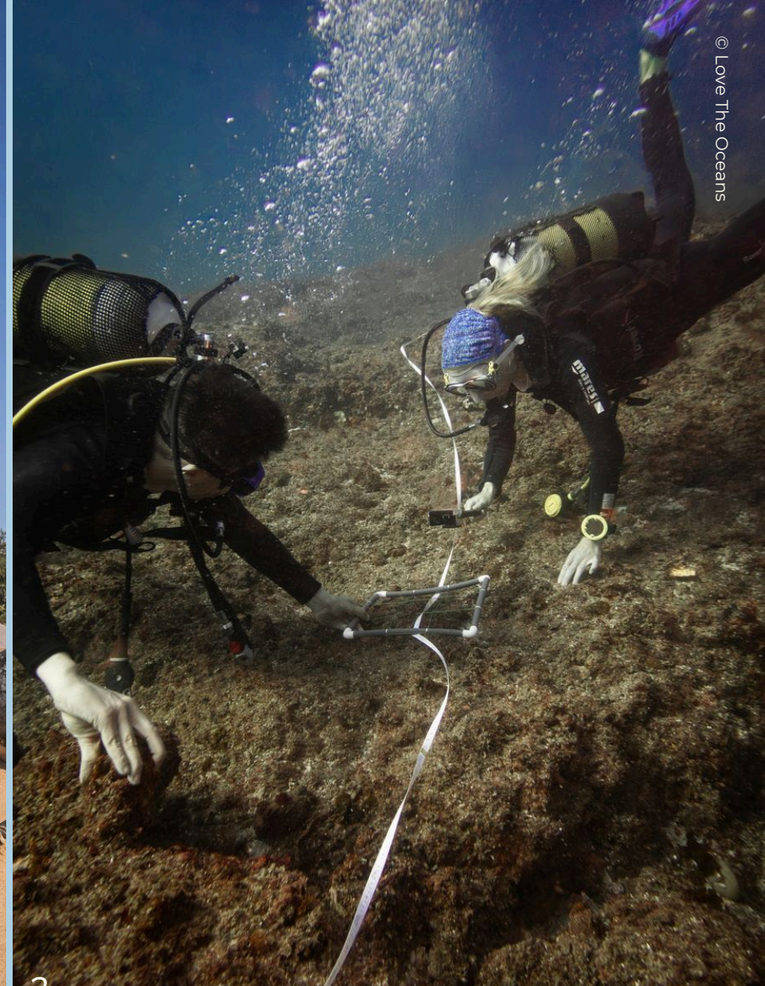
We submitted our biodiversity surveys to be utilised in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2025

5 turtle nests were successfully laid and guarded

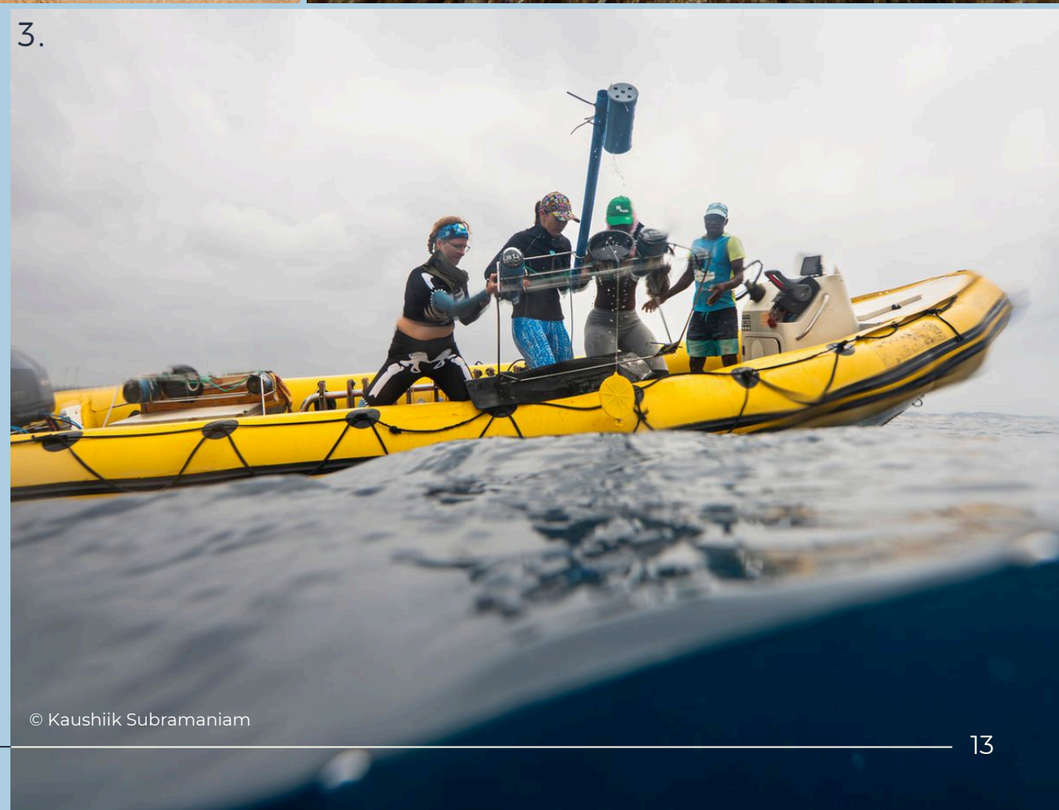
We completed over **40 beach cleans** removing **over 200kg of trash** from the ocean

We launched social surveys to understand more about local food security and historical catch rates





1. Our team removed a ghost FAD from the ocean.
2. Reef biodiversity surveys underway.
3. Deployment of one of our baited remote underwater videos.



Research: Corals

Biodiversity Surveys

In 2025, we continued our long-term coral reef monitoring programme, strengthening one of the longest continuous reef datasets in the country. Our research remains focused on understanding reef condition, biodiversity trends and ecosystem change over time in a region often assumed to be relatively intact, yet increasingly showing signs of ecological stress.

This year, our team completed over 100 biodiversity surveys, spending more than 80 hours underwater and surveying approximately 2.5 km of reef. As we approach our tenth consecutive year of data collection in 2026, a major focus of 2025 has been preparing this extensive dataset for scientific publication. Our findings were also submitted to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network's Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2025, ensuring that data from this underrepresented region contributes to global reef assessments.

Together, these efforts ensure that Love The Oceans' research continues to provide credible, policy-relevant evidence to support marine protection, inform future restoration efforts, and underpin the long-term case for a community-led Marine Protected Area in Jangamo Bay.

The Hard Coral Recruitment and Mortality Study

Love The Oceans' Hard Coral Recruitment and Mortality Study is delivering the first long-term scientific assessment of coral growth, mortality and recovery in Jangamo Bay, Mozambique. This is part of a global comparative research programme with the University of Leeds and Evercare, contributing data alongside sites in Indonesia, Japan and Australia. Jangamo Bay is the only Western Indian Ocean site in this programme, making the findings globally significant.

In 2025, our team continued monitoring over 1,100 tagged coral colonies across seven reef sites, building one of the most comprehensive coral datasets ever collected in Mozambique. The data has begun to reveal worrying declines in overall coral abundance, increasing signs of disease and physical stress, and a dominance of smaller colonies, indicating ongoing recruitment but reduced long-term survival. The data is being used in one Master's project, and a subsection of the results will be presented in New Zealand at the International Coral Symposium in 2026.

This long-term research directly informs conservation action through Project BEAM. Grounding conservation efforts in rigorous, science ensures future reef management in Jangamo Bay is evidence-based, relevant, and scalable.

Our team consult our plot maps underwater after locating a coral tag © Francesca Trotman

Research: Corals

Project
Biodiversity
Enhancement and
Algae
Management

In 2025, Love The Oceans launched Project BEAM, a new science-driven pilot exploring whether targeted macroalgae removal can reduce coral stress and improve growth in Jangamo Bay. In reef systems like ours, where high coral disease prevalence makes traditional coral planting unviable, Project BEAM tests an alternative intervention approach: temporarily filling the role of missing herbivores by manually clearing algae from around living coral colonies - like weeding your garden, but underwater. This work complements our Sustainable Fishing Project, which tackles the root causes of reef degradation by reducing fishing pressure and restoring ecosystem balance.

Following extensive site selection and underwater mapping, the team established a fully tagged experimental site on a shallow reef in 2025, selecting 40 coral colonies across two genera (*Goniastrea* and *Pocillopora*). Each genus includes 10 control and 10 experimental colonies, allowing us to rigorously compare coral performance with and without algae removal. In 2025 alone, our team spent over 90 hours underwater surveying, mapping, tagging colonies, and preparing the site.

Algae removal will continue through to late 2026, with monthly maintenance dives and repeated photographic monitoring to track coral growth, stress and recovery. The project is being developed in consultation with Hillary Smith (James Cook University), building on her previous macroalgae-removal research while adapting the methodology to a new ecological context. As one of the first studies of its kind globally, Project BEAM has strong potential to inform scalable reef-management strategies in systems where restoration options are limited. This work was made possible predominantly through the Big Give fundraiser, and we are deeply grateful to all supporters who helped bring Project BEAM from concept to reality.

Yudmila places a quadrat over a tagged BEAM colony ready for Mario to photograph © Florian Allgaeuer

Research: Fisheries

Long-term Fisheries Monitoring

Love The Oceans' fisheries research continued throughout 2025, building on one of the longest-running community-led fisheries datasets in Mozambique. Staff and visiting marine scientists logged over 3,200 hours collecting, validating and analysing fisheries data, strengthening our understanding of catch composition, fishing pressure and ecosystem change over time. This long-term dataset underpins all of LTO's conservation interventions and remains central to informing sustainable fisheries management and MPA planning in Jangamo Bay. The team is now working to produce a comprehensive identification guide for fisheries catches along this coastline.

With the dataset now spanning 11 years, we are preparing this data for peer-reviewed publication in collaboration with government partners, with journal submission expected in the first half of 2026. Four interns supported intensive data cleaning and preparation this year, while four new community members were trained in fisheries monitoring, further embedding local capacity and ensuring the longevity of this vital research program.

1. Our team met with Miguel Guilamba, Community Fisheries Council President and District Fisheries Chief to discuss seasonal net closures and advancing the Sustainable Fishing Project.
2. A mono-filament net caught a critically endangered guitarfish. Love The Oceans' data shows this is most unsustainable type of fishing.

1.

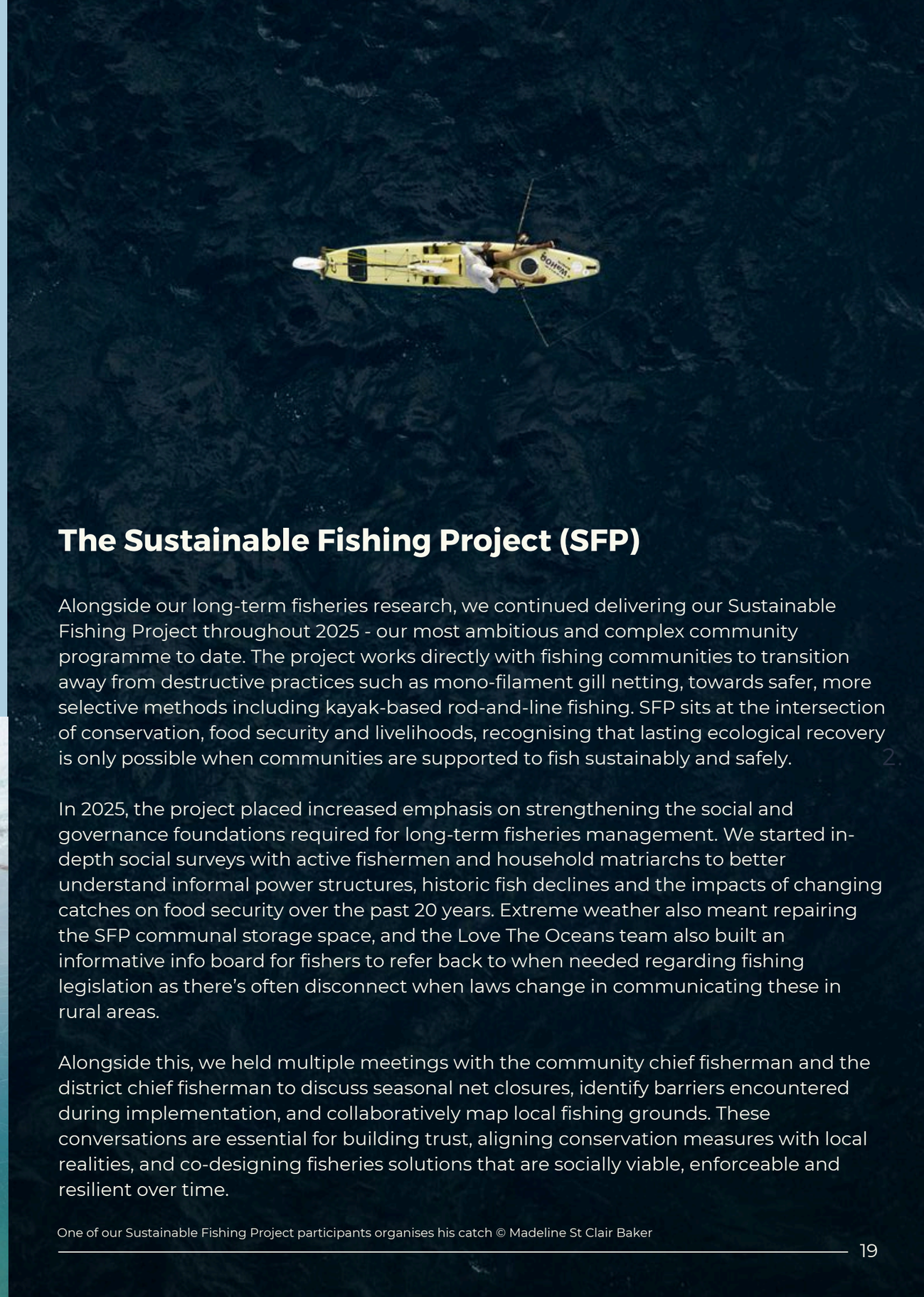


© Love The Oceans

2.



© Kaushiik Subramanium



The Sustainable Fishing Project (SFP)

Alongside our long-term fisheries research, we continued delivering our Sustainable Fishing Project throughout 2025 - our most ambitious and complex community programme to date. The project works directly with fishing communities to transition away from destructive practices such as mono-filament gill netting, towards safer, more selective methods including kayak-based rod-and-line fishing. SFP sits at the intersection of conservation, food security and livelihoods, recognising that lasting ecological recovery is only possible when communities are supported to fish sustainably and safely.

2.

In 2025, the project placed increased emphasis on strengthening the social and governance foundations required for long-term fisheries management. We started in-depth social surveys with active fishermen and household matriarchs to better understand informal power structures, historic fish declines and the impacts of changing catches on food security over the past 20 years. Extreme weather also meant repairing the SFP communal storage space, and the Love The Oceans team also built an informative info board for fishers to refer back to when needed regarding fishing legislation as there's often disconnect when laws change in communicating these in rural areas.

Alongside this, we held multiple meetings with the community chief fisherman and the district chief fisherman to discuss seasonal net closures, identify barriers encountered during implementation, and collaboratively map local fishing grounds. These conversations are essential for building trust, aligning conservation measures with local realities, and co-designing fisheries solutions that are socially viable, enforceable and resilient over time.

One of our Sustainable Fishing Project participants organises his catch © Madeline St Clair Baker

Research: Megafauna

In 2025, we continued our megafauna and BRUV (Baited Remote Underwater Video) research in Jangamo Bay, building on our long-term efforts to understand the presence, distribution and ecological role of larger marine species. Across the year, our team logged 400+ hours of megafauna surveys using visual observations, bio-acoustic monitoring, aerial surveys, and boat- and shore-based transects, contributing to a growing multi-year dataset on humpback whales, manta rays, whale sharks and dolphins.

Targeted BRUV deployments enabled continued monitoring of meso- and apex predators, a critical but under-studied component of the local ecosystem. Although limited funding reduced BRUV effort in 2025, the deployments completed once again confirmed alarmingly low numbers of apex predators in Jangamo Bay, an area designated as an Important Shark and Ray Area (ISRA) by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. These findings highlight the combined impacts of fishing pressure and climate change on reef and pelagic food webs.

Despite financial constraints, both the megafauna and BRUV datasets are now being prepared for peer-reviewed publication. A paper analysing humpback whale visual cue data is being led by a former Love The Oceans student and will be submitted in 2026. These data directly inform our Sustainable Fishing Project and strengthen the scientific case for a community-led Marine Protected Area.

At the end of 2025, our marine biologist Yudmila Chunguane secured funding from the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) to expand megafauna research through aerial drone surveys. With support from Mario and Bento, and guidance from wildlife biologist and drone pilot Kaushiik Subramaniam, the team mapped key coastal access points and began developing a rigorous, publishable aerial survey methodology.

Megafauna species are both ecological indicators and key drivers of sustainable ecotourism. Looking ahead, Love The Oceans aims to scale this research through renewed funding, including a Green Match fundraising campaign in 2026, ensuring these iconic species continue to guide conservation and marine management in Jangamo Bay.



© Kaushiik Subramaniam



© Love The Oceans



© Janavi Kramer

1. Our team deploying a BRUV.
2. One of our Research Assistants completing land-based humpback whale visual surveys.
3. Aerial surveys have proved more and more useful to confirm pod dynamics.

A mother and calf cruise by in our breeding grounds © Kaushiik Subramaniam

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

Research: Turtles

Our turtle patrols continued throughout 2025, focusing on the protection and monitoring of sea turtle nests along Jangamo's beaches. Across the season, five nests were successfully identified and guarded: four loggerhead nests and one leatherback nest, a rare and critically endangered species in the region. Once located, each nest was marked, surrounded by protective barriers, supported by 24-hour guards, and accompanied by informative signage to raise awareness.

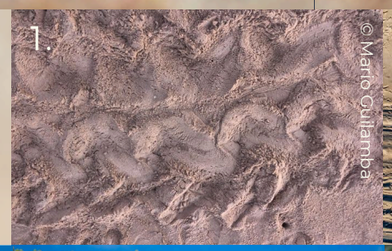
Despite intensive protection efforts and no recorded poaching, only one nest successfully hatched in 2025, with approximately 100 hatchlings reaching the ocean. The remaining nests were lost due to a combination of extreme weather, powerful tides, sand erosion, and one tragic incident involving an irresponsible drunk driver who drove over a nest. Detailed data, photographs and notes were collected for the nests, contributing valuable information on how climate-driven impacts are increasingly shaping nesting success in the region. Our team delivered a free educational workshop on turtle nesting in an effort to tackle irresponsible behaviour on the beach that impacts the nests.

Turtle nesting in Jangamo remains highly vulnerable to environmental change, especially climate-driven coastal erosion and storm surges. While hatch rates were low, the data gathered strengthens our understanding of these threats and will inform future adaptive management strategies, including nest relocation protocols and beach-use advocacy.

Outside the nesting season (April–October), patrol activity paused as expected but in Q4, they resumed, with three new nests identified and nine guards employed, most of whom are former fishermen. By providing alternative income, the project reduces fishing pressure while delivering much-needed livelihoods in a community where most families live below the poverty line. The three guards pictured alone support 27 children between them, highlighting the project's dual impact for conservation and community wellbeing.

Sea turtle conservation remains both a biological priority and a vital livelihood initiative in Jangamo Bay. Through continued patrols, community awareness, and rigorous data collection, Love The Oceans remains committed to protecting loggerhead and leatherback turtles and advocating for stronger coastal management to safeguard these species in an era of increasing environmental instability.

1. Tracks help us ID the species of the nest. These are loggerhead turtle tracks.
2. One of our nests laid directly in tyre tracks. Irresponsible, illegal driving on the beach remains an issue in our area.
3., 4., & 5. Three of our turtle guards: Manuel (3), Carlos (4) and Fernando (5), who support 27 children between them with their wages from this project.











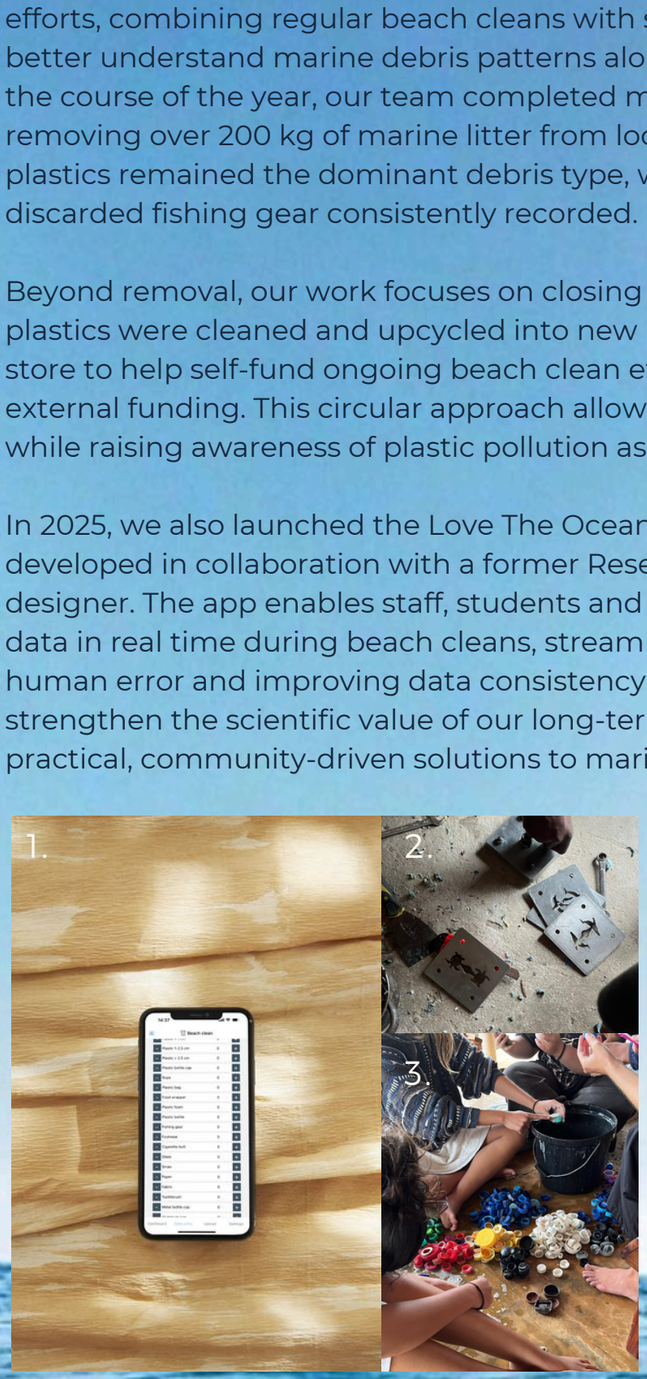
Research: Ocean Trash

In 2025, Love The Oceans continued its ocean trash research and removal efforts, combining regular beach cleans with systematic data collection to better understand marine debris patterns along the Jangamo coastline. Over the course of the year, our team completed more than 40 beach cleans, removing over 200 kg of marine litter from local beaches. As in previous years, plastics remained the dominant debris type, with fragments, bottle caps and discarded fishing gear consistently recorded.

Beyond removal, our work focuses on closing the loop on waste. Collected plastics were cleaned and upcycled into new products, sold through our Etsy store to help self-fund ongoing beach clean efforts and reduce reliance on external funding. This circular approach allows the project to remain active while raising awareness of plastic pollution as both a local and global issue.

In 2025, we also launched the Love The Oceans ocean trash logging app, developed in collaboration with a former Research Assistant who is a software designer. The app enables staff, students and visiting researchers to log debris data in real time during beach cleans, streamlining data collection, reducing human error and improving data consistency. Together, these efforts strengthen the scientific value of our long-term debris dataset while supporting practical, community-driven solutions to marine pollution in Jangamo Bay.

Support our beach clean efforts and buy an item from our upcycled plastic store by following this QR code.



1. We deployed our ocean trash data collection app in 2025
2. Our team continued to upcycle beach plastic into other items - these are some of the moulds involved.
3. Our research assistants sorting beach trash into colours for upcycling efforts.

Our team removes a discarded and floating industrial fish aggregating device (FAD) from the ocean © Lena Pollett

Community Outreach

Our conservation outcomes are only possible because of the deep knowledge, trust and collaboration we share with local communities. In 2025, our community outreach work continued to strengthen this foundation through targeted, locally led initiatives.

We taught **over 100 children** in 2025 about the ocean **over 250 hours** of our ocean literacy program in partnership with two local schools.

We saw some children's knowledge of the ocean increase by as much as **30%** over the period of school ocean literacy outreach.

We distributed **over 100kg of school equipment** donations in classes across both our partnership schools.

We implemented a literacy program for one of our Sea Her projects who is an illiterate woman - arguably one of the most excluded demographics in ocean governance.

Over 700 children attended our swimming lessons, and we opened women-only swimming lessons and fishermen's swimming lessons.

We launched our women's **sexual health and reproductive rights** project under our Sea Her project, tackling gender inequity in the ocean space.

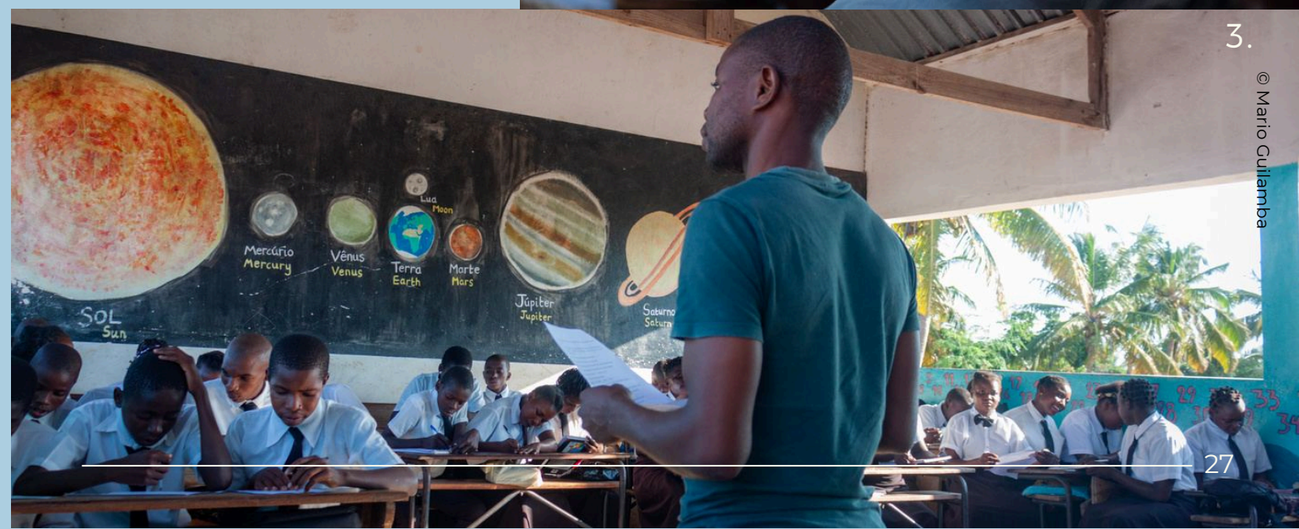
We continued mussel growth trials under our Sea Her project to assess micro mussel farms as an alternate source of income.

We obtained the copyright and permissions and completely translated Julia Rothman's incredible ocean literacy book **Ocean Anatomy**, a **200 page essential learning tool** we utilised for our Ocean School.



1. Inhambane Provincial government arrived at the pool to open our women's swimming lesson, doing a speech on the importance of inclusive swimming in a coastal area.
2. One of our students looks on in our ocean literacy classes.
3. Our Community Outreach Manager Pascoal conducts a pre-teaching ocean literacy survey to be able to measure impact more accurately.





Community Outreach: Ocean Literacy

Marine Resource Management

Throughout 2025, we strengthened our Ocean Literacy programme within local schools, engaging over 100 students aged 10-13, in learning about ocean ecosystems, sea safety, and sustainable resource use. These impactful lessons at our two partner schools introduced the connections between healthy marine environments and community wellbeing, with a strong focus on how to safeguard fish stocks for future generations.

Designed in line with the national curriculum and supported by school leadership and community elders, the programme joined marine science with practical conservation principles, aided by 100 kg of stationary brought by expedition participants. Students developed not only an understanding of human impacts on marine life but also values of shared responsibility for protecting coastal resources.

Pre and post student assessments showed children improving their knowledge as much as 30%, establishing this program as an effective tool for improving ocean literacy and strengthening conservation awareness at the local level. The impact of these lessons travels well beyond the classroom, as students share this new knowledge with their families and strengthen community awareness. Through this approach, Love The Oceans continues to increase local capacity for marine conservation by empowering young people to become informed voices and future custodians of their coastal environment.

Ocean Conservation Champion Program

Despite the closure of schools and slowing of projects at the beginning of the year due to political unrest, our Ocean Conservation Champion (OCC) Program continued in 2026 with Marcia, our current OCC, continuing swimming lessons and learning English. Marcia has also started to get involved in our Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights project, through our Sea Her initiative.

Ocean School

In 2025, seven women from the local community continued their participation in our Ocean School programme, a six-month course delivered in Portuguese and designed to strengthen local capacity for marine conservation. The curriculum covered core ocean science topics, from plate tectonics and atmospheric formation to coral reef ecology and shark conservation, using interactive and discussion-based learning facilitated by our intern, Yolanda.

To support ocean literacy, we worked with author Julia Rothman to translate her book *Ocean Anatomy: The Curious Parts & Pieces of the World under the Sea* for use in the programme. This book is the most comprehensive and accessible ocean education resource we identified throughout Ocean School's development. Participants are due to finish in early 2026, with top marks awarded to Luisa Rafael, now assisting with fisheries research after completing her PADI Advanced Open Water certification, demonstrating the programme's role in building informed local leadership and long-term marine stewardship.

1. Luisa received a copy to keep of Julia Rothman's *Ocean Anatomy*, an incredible resource our team translated, with Julia's permission.
2. Stationery donations were well received at our partner schools.
3. Yolanda, our intern, led Ocean School throughout 2025.



1. © Mario Guilamba


2. © Mario Guilamba



3. © Mario Guilamba

Community Outreach: Increasing water safety

Swimming is a key skill required to successfully manage a Marine Protected Area as you need to be able to swim in order to collect data to monitor the Marine Protected Area's ecological effectiveness. With high poverty rates, and a wild coastline with unpredictable weather, 95% of our coastal population cannot swim. There is a huge skill gap in swim teaching, something Love The Oceans is working to bridge. On top of this, our wild ocean has claimed the lives of 10 people from our district in 2025 alone. Lack of swimming skills and knowledge of ocean safety was the main cause of these deaths, instilling fear of the ocean into our community rather than inspiration. This has to change for successful community-led ocean governance. This pillar of Love The Oceans work is critical to ensure inclusive ocean governance and eliminate barriers coastal communities face in successfully managing their marine resources.

Children's Swimming Lessons

We have been teaching children's swimming lessons since 2016 but 2025 has had the biggest attendance to date. This year, more than 700 children between 4 and 18 years old attended our free Saturday swimming lessons, taught by local community members who have qualified as swimming teachers and lifeguards through Love The Oceans. We are actively supporting the development of safer and more resilient coastal communities, whilst working to reduce drowning rates by shaping the future generation into ocean guardians with strong ocean awareness.

Women's Swimming Lessons

2025 saw the launch of public, women's only, free swimming lessons as part of our Sea Her gender equity projects. These lessons are working to remove systemic barriers women face in participating in ocean governance decision-making spaces, as they are not seen as 'ocean users'. Empowering women to learn to swim provides women with essential life-saving skills, reduces drowning risks, and builds confidence in the water. Beyond safety, swimming enables women to actively participate in marine research, monitoring, and decision-making - confidently making them 'ocean users' and therefore able to participate in ocean governance meetings ensuring women - 50% of Jangamo's population - are represented in decision-making ocean spaces. These swimming lessons are delivered by female swim teachers and in 2026 we hope to qualify more swim teachers (funding dependent), creating visible role models and strengthening long-term community ownership.

Fishermen's Swimming Lessons

In 2025 we launched our Fishermen's Swimming Programme in response to a tragic drowning incident in which multiple local fishermen lost their lives after a boat capsized. The event highlighted a critical but often overlooked reality: many fishermen in Jangamo Bay rely on the ocean daily but cannot swim. The programme provides swimming lessons to improve safety, confidence and resilience at sea, with around 66% of the fishing community participating by the end of 2025. In 2026, participants will also receive essential life-saving and water safety training delivered by our Community Outreach Manager following his RNLI-led training in Zanzibar, helping to reduce risk, prevent future loss of life and strengthen long-term ocean safety within the community.

The first women's swimming lesson underway © Mario Guilamba

Community Outreach: Sea Her Project

Since 2023 Love The Oceans has been building our gender equity projects under our Sea Her project umbrella. As is common with complex social route causes to environmental issues, more challenges have emerged that need to be addressed, causing our Sea Her project to continue, and expand in 2025.

Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights Project

This year we received funding from the Global Ecofeminist Climate Action Fund which enabled us to launch our Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights project. This project was launched as a result of the 200 women's surveys we conducted to understand sexual health, education, and barriers women face locally. It was clear from the survey results and information we received that education on sexual health and reproductive rights was both wanted and needed. The full report of these surveys can be read here on our website. Building on our women's swimming lessons, this project aims to strengthens women's knowledge, agency and wellbeing through recognising that bodily autonomy is fundamental to meaningful participation in conservation and community decision-making.



Looking to 2026, we've partnered with Blue Marine Foundation to create a documentary on Leonor, one of our Sea Her project participants, examining inclusive ocean governance in our district through the lens of gender equity, with the goal of amplifying inspiring more equitable participation in ocean governance. In 2025, Blue Marine Foundation supported Love The Oceans in providing Leonor with a 6 month literacy program as she started the year completely illiterate - representing one of the most excluded demographics in ocean conservation (illiterate women).

Aquaculture

Our mussel project is working to provide women in our community with an independent income, supporting financial security, bodily autonomy and poverty reduction while creating the financial space to consider conservation in everyday life. Following the completion of environmental and social assessments, the project is now focused on understanding the economics of micro mussel farming by measuring natural spat growth rates and testing locally available equipment and methods. Throughout 2025, the methodology was significantly refined through multiple trials. Led by women with deep local knowledge of the coastline, the project promotes sustainable use of marine resources while increasing women's participation in ocean governance and decision-making spaces traditionally closed to them, strengthening both community resilience and long-term ecosystem health.

Yudmila and Pascoal deploying sacks of mussel spat for one of the growth trials © Francesca Trotman

Other News

We launched **Love The Oceans' Ripple Network** - a global platform for grassroots knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Mario, our storyteller, featured in **PADI's Pro blog** about his journey to becoming the first Divemaster in the District.

In April we ran our first big fundraiser in over five years and raised a record amount for Project BEAM through The Big Give's Green Match Fund campaign.

We built new partnerships and nurtured older ones. We welcomed **University of Plymouth** and **University of Bournemouth** as official placement partners for marine biologists in-training.

Our founder spoke at the **United Nations' Ocean Conference** on the importance of gender equity in marine science.

Our team engaged with over 500+ university students, speaking at **over 25 institutions**, include HX Expeditions Headquarters and the University of Oxford, raising awareness of Love The Oceans and our work.

Our team's capacity and skills expanded with staff participating in **training and workshops** in Cape Town, Bali and Zanzibar, learning about co-designing conservation solutions, leadership in conservation and life-saving skills.

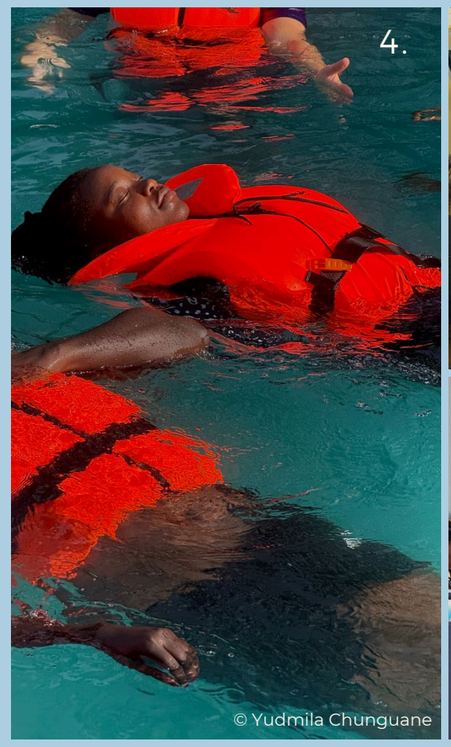
Peixhino, a documentary about our ocean access work, was released and has received over 23 awards globally.

Francesca, our Founder won **University of Southampton's Rising Star Alumni** award in recognition of her work with LTO and spoke at the **2025 Ocean and Earth Graduation Ceremony**, while Yudmila, our Marine Biologist became a **Darwin200 leader** and joined turtle rehabilitation efforts in Cape Town.







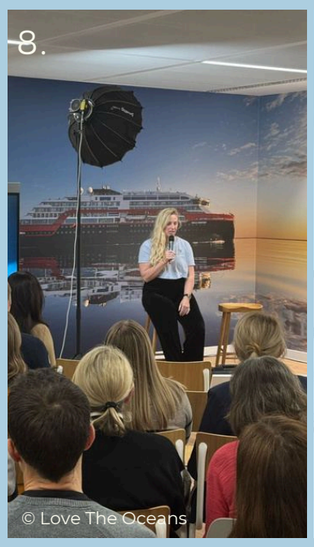








1. Francesca and Inés meet with Sylvia Earle at the United Nations' Oceans Conference representing Jangamo Bay Hope Spot.
2. Yudmila presents during her leadership training in Bali with the Conservation Leadership Program.
3. Francesca speaking at University of Southampton's Ocean and Earth graduation ceremony after receiving the Rising Star Alumni Award.
4. Yudmila and Pascoal attend RNLI life-saving training in Zanzibar to learn new skills to bring home and teach in our community, working to remove fear of the ocean.
5. Pascoal participating in a Western Indian Ocean Marine Science association workshop in Cape Town on co-designing conservation strategies.
6. Kaushiik Subramaniam, creator of multi award-winning film Peixhino accepts the Jury Award for the film at the International Ocean Film Festival.
7. Francesca doing a talk at the United Nations Oceans Conference on gender equity in marine science.
8. Francesca speaking at HX Expeditions Headquarters about Love The Oceans work.
9. Lucy, Love The Oceans first placement from new partner University of Plymouth sectioning vertebrae samples.
10. Yudmila in Cape Town announced as a Darwin200 Young Leader.







The Ripple Network

In 2025, Love The Oceans launched The Ripple Network, a global initiative born from a simple but powerful idea: grassroots organisations are often doing extraordinary work in isolation, creating scalable solutions under immense time and funding pressure. The Ripple Network exists to change that. It brings together small, community-embedded NGOs from around the world to share knowledge, strengthen practice, and increase collective impact through collaboration rather than competition.

Designed as subject-specific working groups, the Network connects organisations working across water safety and ocean access, gender equity, fisheries, ocean literacy and community conservation governance. Participation is intentionally light-touch: WhatsApp groups enable day-to-day problem solving, while quarterly facilitated meetings create space to share challenges, lessons learned and practical solutions. In a sector where grassroots teams are time-poor but insight-rich, the Ripple Network prioritises efficiency, trust and real-world value.

By the end of 2025, the Ripple Network had active members in Cambodia, Mozambique, California and the UK, with more organisations in conversation to join. Each member meets clear criteria: they are locally led, deeply community-embedded, and committed to openness, integrity and reciprocity. The Network operates on the principle that over time, what an organisation receives should be balanced by what it contributes - not necessarily immediately, but through shared experience, tools, data or support. This model enables credible global impact narratives while protecting local ownership and autonomy.

The Ripple Network reflects Love The Oceans' belief that scalable solutions do not come from exporting models, but from connecting people. Mozambique remains our living pilot - where ideas are tested, refined and grounded in reality - while the Ripple Network allows those insights to travel, adapt and evolve globally. Because remember: together we are the ripples that create the waves of change.



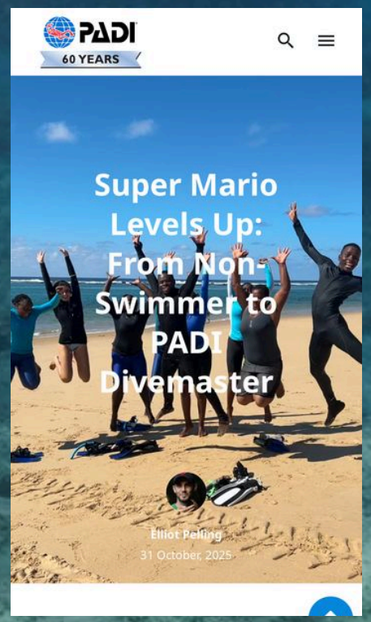
A ripple of change in our ocean © Janavi Kramer

Love The Oceans *in the press*

In 2025, Love The Oceans continued to gain national and international media attention, reflecting growing recognition of our community-led, science-driven conservation work. Here are some samples of the media Love The Oceans has featured in. Coverage across conservation, academic and lifestyle platforms highlighted both our research and the human stories behind it, from swimming as a tool for ocean access to pathways for local leadership in marine conservation.

This visibility has helped amplify community voices, reach new audiences and strengthen the profile of grassroots conservation globally. By combining rigorous science with compelling storytelling, Love The Oceans continues to show that locally led solutions can drive meaningful change far beyond our coastline.

1.



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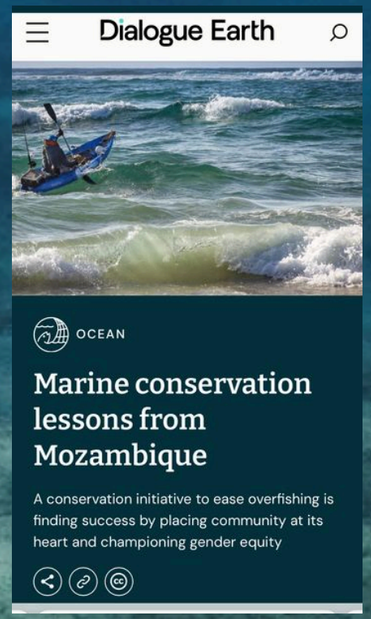

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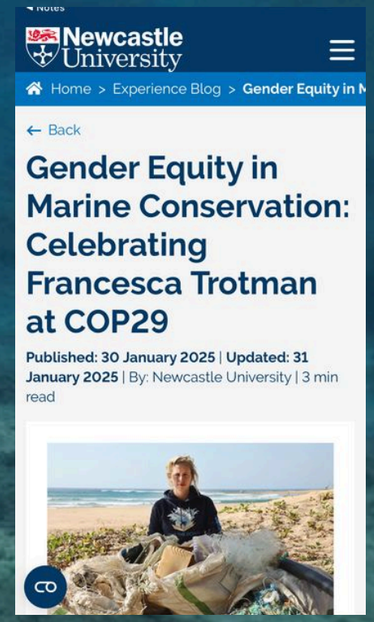

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1. Mario, our Storyteller, featured in PADI's Pro blog speaking on his journey from a non-swimmer to the first PADI Divemaster in the District through his work with Love The Oceans.
2. Dialogue Earth joined us on site in Jangamo and wrote a comprehensive article discussing the scalability of Love The Oceans' conservation strategy, with a spotlight on our community outreach work.
3. Newcastle University spotlighted Francesca and Love The Oceans' Gender Just Climate Change Solutions Award we received at COP29 in 2024.
4. Icarus Magazine spotlighted Love The Oceans' Sea Her projects and the importance of Gender Equity in marine science.
5. BluSink featured Francesca, our Founder, and Love The Oceans' work for International Women's Day.
6. A past Research Assistant wrote about his transformational time with Love The Oceans in Mozambique for Ocean Culture Life's online platform.

Yudmila freedives for research © Chris Beard

Bento with his speargun © Kaushiik Subramaniam

A FILM BY KAUSH

PEIXINHO

A STORY OF COURAGE

Peixhino, a film created by award-winning wildlife filmmaker Kaushiik Subramaniam, tells the powerful story of Bento, one of our Field Assistants, and his journey with Love The Oceans, from a young man who couldn't swim to a qualified swim teacher and field assistant through our Ocean Conservation Champion (OCC) programme. Kickstarted by a grant from Ocean Culture Life, the film captures how access to swimming, education and opportunity can unlock pathways into conservation, breaking down barriers that often exclude coastal communities from ocean governance. Screened and winning over 20 international awards, Peixhino has helped spark global conversations about inclusive conservation, community leadership and the human stories behind protecting our oceans. The Film is available to watch for free on Kaushiik's Youtube now.



> Filming Peixhino was a powerful reminder that conservation is deeply human. Bento's journey reflects the impact that access, trust and community-led action can have.
> *Kaushiik Subramaniam, creator of Peixhino*

Partners and Collaborators

Love The Oceans' impact is amplified through partnerships based on shared-values, trust and long-term commitment to our oceans.. From long-term scientific research, to swimming, gender equity and ocean literacy initiatives that promote inclusive participation in conservation, our supporters are who make it happen.

Partnerships for Purpose

As a small organisation working in a complex and underfunded space, values-aligned, long-term financial support is especially powerful. Our partnerships for purpose allow us to respond to emerging challenges, invest in local capacity, and sustain projects that often sit outside traditional funding cycles but deliver lasting impact for both people and marine ecosystems.

A long-standing strategic partner, Milkywire has supported multiple core programmes across Love The Oceans. Their flexible & understanding funding approach, including support for essential operational costs such as salaries and vehicle maintenance, has enabled us to maintain stability and momentum in complex, long-term conservation work.

Now in its fourth year, Evercare has powered our Hard Coral Mortality Project, strengthening reef monitoring and enabling the continued upskilling of local community members as scientific scuba divers. Their sustained commitment has been instrumental in advancing coral research in Jangamo Bay.

A critical supporter of our turtle conservation project and broader environmental monitoring, Dots.eco has helped protect nesting turtles while strengthening long-term ecological data collection along our coastline.

A valued long-term partner, Good-Loop has helped secure donor funding for multiple campaigns, unlocking vital financial support across a range of conservation and community initiatives.

Blue Marine Foundation shares our collaborative, community-led conservation ethos and is a valuable long-term partner. In 2025 they supported Leonor's literacy programme, and in 2026 are backing our gender equity in marine governance film, combining social justice and ocean protection in powerful, scalable ways.

A key fundraising ally, The Big Give secured matched funding through its Green Match Fund, enabling us to raise £10,000 for Project BEAM in 2025, directly supporting coral conservation through macroalgae removal.

A Ripple commercial supporter, Barekind donates a percentage of profits from each pair of socks sold, including their hammerhead design supporting Love The Oceans. A long-term partnership rooted in shared environmental values.

Another Ripple commercial supporter, TagLab donates a percentage of profits from every sale to Love The Oceans. Their founder has joined our 2026 Advisory Board, bringing valuable sustainability expertise and strengthening our long-term strategic capacity.

Interested in becoming a Partner in Purpose? Read more about that here.

Collaborators and In-Kind Partners

These collaborators and partners work with us on a range of different projects, providing equipment, services or supplying specialist expertise. We're so grateful for their ongoing support.

Academic Partners

Our academic partners work with us on our research, providing skills, students, and technical expertise. We host a number of students from across the world for their MSc & BSc projects, and to train them in field marine science. We pride ourselves on our robust scientific methodologies that inform our evidence-based conservation efforts, and global data gaps.

Swimming lessons underway © Florian Allgaeuer

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. We're incredibly thankful for their support.



Megan McCubbin
Wildlife TV Presenter and Zoologist



Janavi Kramer
Marine Artist and Scientific Illustator

Yudmila freediving for our coral research © Chris Beard



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



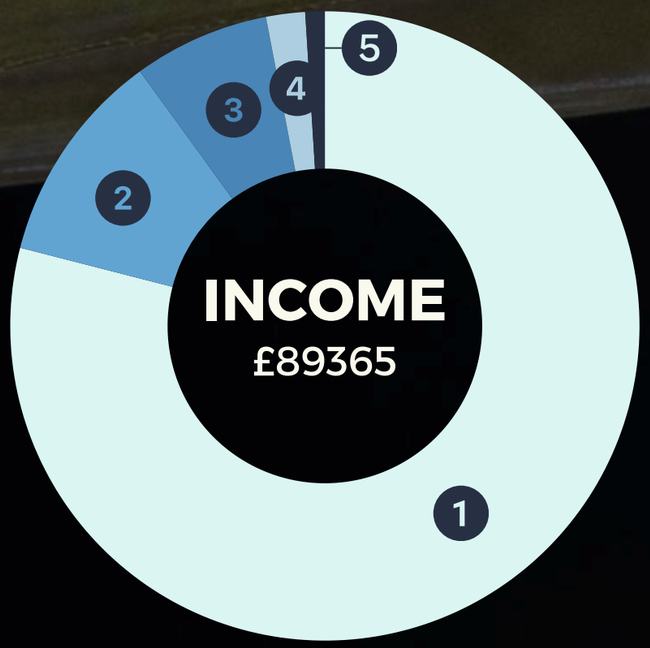
Dr Imogen Napper
Waste and Pollution Scientist, National Geographic Explorer

Financial Overview

Financial year: December 1st 2024 - November 30th 2025

2025 was a year that tested us, but ultimately demonstrated the strength and adaptability of our grassroots model. Political unrest following the 2024 elections temporarily slowed activity at the start of the year, yet our team regrouped quickly and continued to deliver across research, community programmes and new project launches. Operating in complex contexts is a reality of community-led conservation, and 2025 reinforced both our resilience and our commitment to long-term impact.

Despite operating on a modest budget, Love The Oceans continues to deliver a disproportionately large impact. This year we successfully pivoted our funding strategy, securing a greater number of smaller grants and launching our first crowdfunding campaign. Supported by our online community and matched through the Green Match Fund, this raised £10,000 for our work and marked an important step in diversifying our income and strengthening our supporter base. Our grassroots structure allows us to remain agile, responsive and embedded in the communities we serve. Looking ahead, we are focused on building longer-term partnerships and sponsorships, including raising capital for a permanent research and training base in Jangamo. If you are interested in supporting this next phase of growth or connecting us with potential partners, we would love to hear from you.



1. **Grants - 79%**
   This year we pivoted to smaller grants but more applications. This was more financially successful but arguably more time consuming with more deliverables, adding more pressure on the team.
2. **Fundraising - 11%**
   We ran a fundraiser utilising our online community for the first time in 5 years and had success! We had these funds matched by The Big Give's Green Match Fund.
3. **Corporate Donors - 7%**
   Our long-term small but dedicated group of corporate sponsors trust us and donate to different projects and overhead costs, enabling us to continue our work with reduced financial pressure.
4. **Merchandise - 2%**
   These sales are from our Trash 2 Trade Etsy store, our Adopt a Whale Shark or Turtle packages and our Christmas Card sales.
5. **Private Donors - 1%**
   This incredible group of individuals donate to our projects and keep our work going.



1. **Project Running - 36%**
   These are costs associated with each of the projects we run. This includes things like boat rental, kit hire, and pool rental.
2. **Personnel - 26%**
   These are salary costs, and payments to contractors who contract their services to us for certain projects.
3. **Equipment - 20%**
   This is spent on equipment we need to run the projects. This includes chlorine for the swimming pool, BRUV equipment, educational equipment and more.
4. **Travel - 10%**
   This includes car repairs and flight costs for different skilled people to join us and deliver capacity building workshops to community members.
5. **Administration - 5%**
   These costs associated with project launch and employment paperwork. This includes fees for consultants who assist in the legal processes.
6. **Fundraising - 2%**
   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, careful and transparent use of funds remains central to how we operate. We allocate resources on a project-by-project basis and release funds only when required, ensuring that spending is directly linked to measurable outcomes. This approach allows us to remain accountable, responsive and focused on impact across our research, conservation and community programmes.

As a grassroots organisation, securing funding for core costs and infrastructure continues to be a challenge. However, our small and agile team enables us to keep overheads low while maximising on-the-ground delivery. In 2025, this model allowed us to stretch limited resources further than ever, supported by a more diversified funding approach that included smaller grants and our first successful matched crowdfunding campaign.

By prioritising fiscal responsibility and minimising unnecessary expenditure, we ensure that the majority of funds go directly towards empowering local communities, protecting marine ecosystems and building long-term, sustainable solutions. As we look ahead to the next phase of growth, including plans for a permanent research and training base, continued support will be essential in helping us scale our impact while staying true to our grassroots values.

A fish on our reefs swings by for a closer look © Janavi Kramer

Social Media

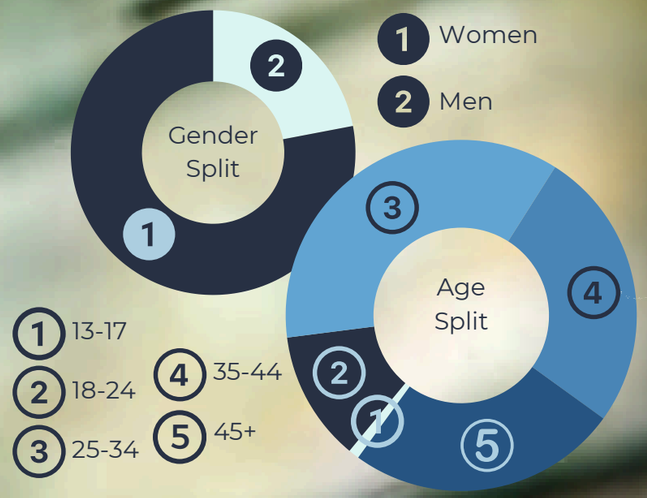
Our social media platforms are a powerful extension of Love The Oceans' conservation work, enabling us to reach far beyond our physical footprint in Mozambique. In 2025, we continued to use digital storytelling as a tool for education, advocacy and mobilisation, sharing real stories from the field and amplifying voices that are often underrepresented in global conservation conversations.

Through compelling imagery, short-form video and honest, behind-the-scenes content, we bring our community-led conservation work to life. From highlighting threatened marine species to showcasing grassroots solutions and community leadership, our platforms act as digital classrooms, helping audiences understand both the urgency of ocean protection and the people-centred solutions required to achieve it.

By the end of 2025, our online community had grown to over 21,000 followers on Instagram alone. This engaged global audience has become an integral part of our impact, supporting campaigns, sharing our work widely and helping drive awareness. Together, we are turning visibility into momentum and using storytelling to create lasting change for people and the planet.

800,000+

reels and posts views on instagram alone



31,000+

followers across instagram, facebook, twitter, linkedin and tiktok.



A juvenile boxfish comes out of hiding to say hello © Kaushiik Subramaniam

Looking forward

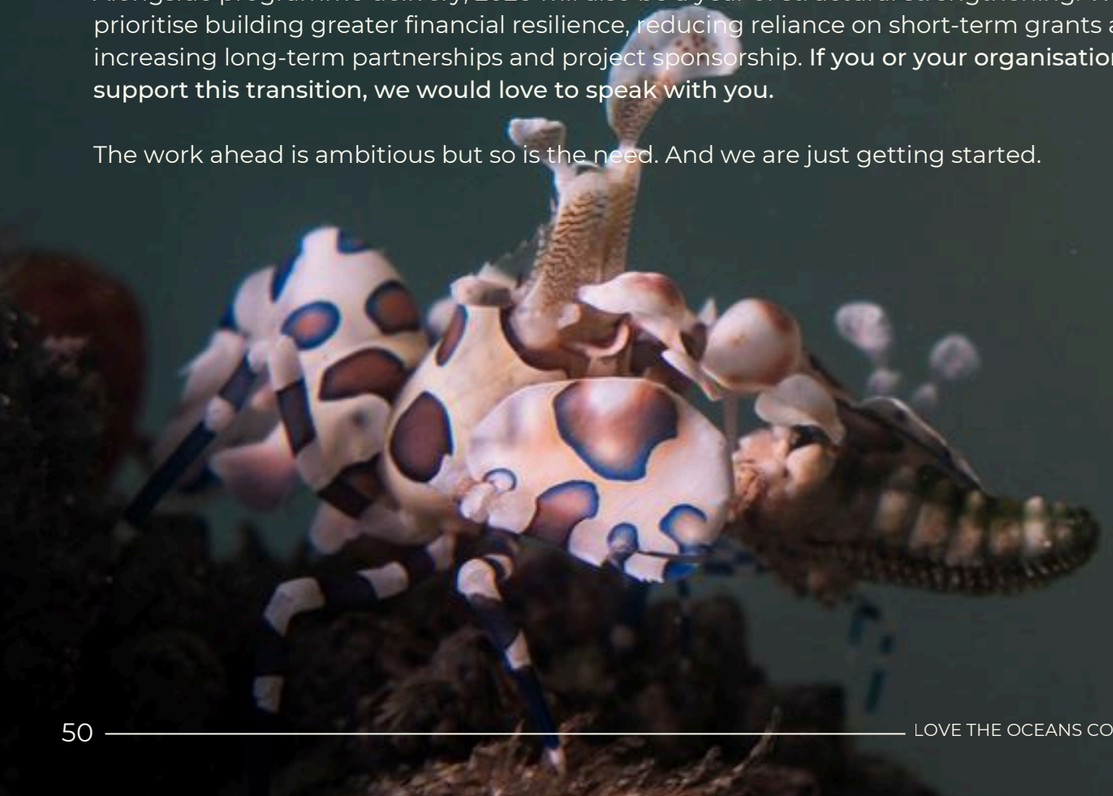
2026 Priorities

As we move into 2026, our focus is clear: consolidate the science, strengthen local leadership, and build the foundations for long-term resilience. This year is about turning years of data collection into published evidence, scaling community training, and laying the groundwork for financial and institutional stability. Each priority below represents a tangible step toward delivering our vision for a community-led, scientifically robust Marine Protected Area in Jangamo Bay.

- Publish our 11 year fisheries dataset, our benthic coral reef data and our humpback whale visual and social behavioural data, some of the most comprehensive records for this coastline
- Complete primary data collection for Project BEAM's pilot study and our socio-economic surveys to better understand household reliance on marine resources
- Expand university placements to strengthen early-career student pathways
- Train new community swim teachers and new swim instructors from elsewhere in the Inhambane Seascape to scale impact
- Grow and strengthen the Ripple Network, welcoming new grassroots organisations committed to shared learning

Alongside programme delivery, 2026 will also be a year of structural strengthening. We will prioritise building greater financial resilience, reducing reliance on short-term grants and increasing long-term partnerships and project sponsorship. **If you or your organisation can support this transition, we would love to speak with you.**

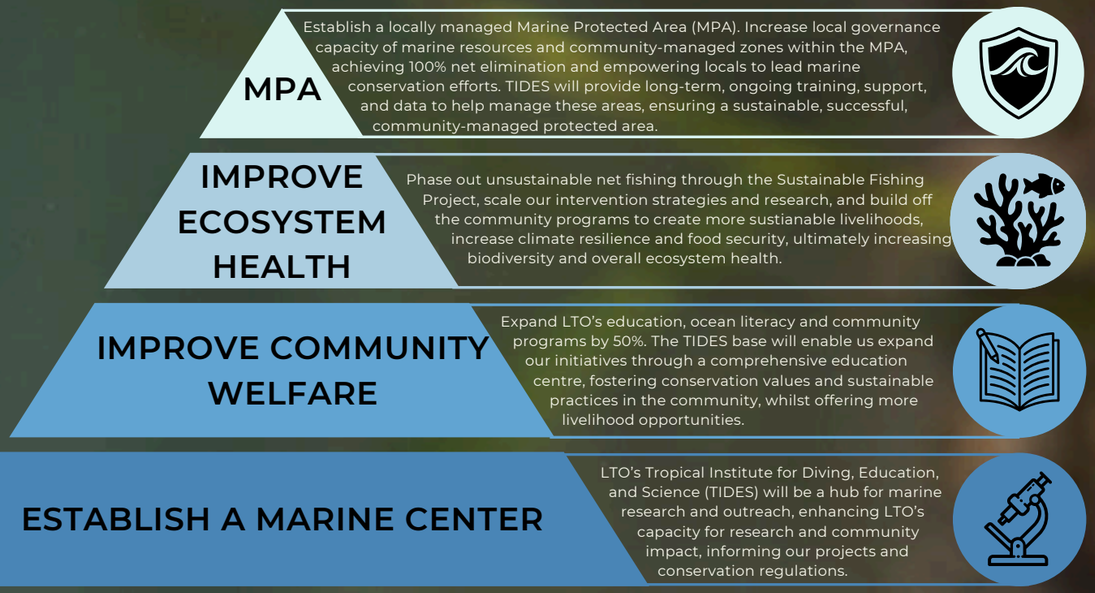
The work ahead is ambitious but so is the need. And we are just getting started.



2026 marks the launch of our capital campaign for TIDES - the Tropical Institute for Diving, Education and Science - the first permanent marine conservation base and training centre in Jangamo Bay.

TIDES is not an expansion. It is the enabling infrastructure that makes long-term impact possible. It consolidates over a decade of scientific data, strengthens local leadership, and secures the future of the proposed Marine Protected Area.

The model illustrated here represents the full system we are building: a community-led MPA supported by rigorous research, expanded ocean literacy, sustainable fisheries transition, and locally anchored conservation governance.



TIDES is the engine behind each layer.

With the science established and community partnerships in place, the next step is structural: a dedicated centre to train fishers, educate youth, host researchers, and coordinate long-term monitoring and management.

We are now seeking aligned businesses, philanthropists and impact investors to help build this foundation.

The science is ready.
The community is ready.
Now we build the structure to match the ambition.

A harlequin shimp finishes his starfish lunch in our estuary © Francesca Trotman

Thank You

Thank you to our private donors. We couldn't do our work without you.

Aderinsola Otubanjo
Alasdair Sinclair
Andrew Mercer
Corey Tremblay
Deborah Brown
Pieter Brouwer
Deborah Casey
Gabby Dupuis
Zakia Rashid
Gabrielle Wortley
Jessica Clifton
Nancy McConnell
Stuart Deignan
Terry Lawson Dunn
Gabriele Wagenhofer
Jeroen van den Bosch

Thank you to our 2025 research assistants who helped us complete our work. We are very grateful for your time and effort and hope you stay involved in Love The Oceans' work.

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Luka Maro
Isobel Gordon
Lucy Hare
Aisyah Wan
Maria Neves
Juan Arias
Lily Hunter
Brienna Nguyen
lla Buky
Kiah Korosso
Jade Metwally
Charlotte Dijks
Zana Monaghan
Monique Conlan
Emily Gibson
Nimna Wickramasingha
Arwen Borthwick-Hunter
Dylan Coundley-Hughes

Your support helps turn evidence into action and ideas into real-world solutions. By backing Love The Oceans, you are investing in locally driven change with global relevance. You become part of a community that believes conservation works best when it is inclusive, collaborative and rooted in the needs of coastal communities. We are deeply thankful for your trust and commitment. Together, we are building momentum for healthier oceans and more resilient communities.

Join us in building a better world in 2026. Donate today by following this QR code or visiting lovetheoceans.org/donate

Please consider making a regular small donation on a monthly basis to help us continue our work. You can do this here.

A big frogfish relaxes on our reef © Kaushiik Subramaniam



LOVE THE OCEANS
CONSERVATION

Get In Touch

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@lovetheoceans

A nudibranch on one of our surveys © Francesca Trotman