

2023 IMPACT REPORT

PELORUS FOUNDATION



**THE PELORUS
FOUNDATION**

Photo: Megan Gieske

2023 IN REVIEW

From Pelorus Foundation, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters, whose unwavering generosity and dedication have been the cornerstone of impactful work in wildlife conservation, enabling significant strides to be made towards preserving the natural world for future generations.

Throughout the year, our focus has been on individuals and communities leading the charge in climate and conservation efforts. We've celebrated those dedicated to preserving nature and those disrupting traditional methods for innovative environmental solutions and have acted as a catalyst for persistent defiance against the climate crisis wherever we could.

At Pelorus Foundation, we are propelled by this desire for change, aiming to amplify this momentum, support its champions, and encourage our network to become change agents. With our numbers growing, we believe in the power of collective action to make a significant impact.

With exciting news from the year, we are proud to present you with this 2023 Impact Report.

As a key part of our work in 2023, we continued to partner with local community-led organisations to tackle specific conservation challenges.

In Namibia we are working together with local conservationists, helping to protect the world's most trafficked mammal - the pangolin. We also supported the first co-managed marine protected area in Kuruwitu, Kenya, and its numerous conservation initiatives, directly benefiting the local community.

During the year fundraising initiatives have helped raise vital funds, with donations enabling an increase in environmental conservation efforts.

Among them, Pelorus' inaugural charity dinner in support of Pelorus Foundation, helped support our mission to address key challenges faced by our partners in Kenya and Namibia.

Your support has also contributed to the expansion of work into Botswana, where focus is currently on supporting conservation efforts to protect the African elephant and developing solutions to enhance human/wildlife co-existence.

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

4

New project partners

3

Countries supported

£16,041

Invested in Project Partners

NEW PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS IN BOTSWANA



PROTECTING PANGOLINS

An update from Namibia



In 2023 Pelorus Foundation partnered with Namibian NGO, Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation (PCRF), which engages local people to protect the critically endangered pangolin, and creating one of the first comprehensive conservation-based research databases on the species.

Their community conservation approach in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, collaborates with 18 villages, a number that continues to grow. The recent inauguration of a Research Camp marks a significant milestone. The camp is essential for their “soft release” approach, addressing post-release monitoring challenges of pangolins rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Through donations of infrastructure, time, and money, support has enabled the employment of San pangolin rangers, increasing local livelihood opportunities and community guardianship of pangolins. PCRF are also paving the way for southern African transboundary collaboration to assess pangolin populations within the region.

THE OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE

- Assist in building capacity for PCRF to grow and increase protection and rehabilitation of pangolins.
- Provide an economic safety net for the organisation to set up a working space.

PROJECT SUPPORT

- Development of a five-year plan, enabling PCRF to bring in consultancy expertise and a designer.
- Three month’s rent gap, enabling security of new office space with additional accommodation to house scientific research students, interns and international volunteers.

THE OUTCOME

Through its collaboration with PCRF, Pelorus Foundation set ambitious goals to enhance PCRF’s operational capacity and provide a financial safety net, crucial for its expansion and sustainability. This support will continue into 2024.

“Even when pangolins are intercepted from the wildlife trade, their death rate following is extraordinarily high. Every bit of pangolin research informs and evolves ongoing pangolin conservation, meaning we’re one step closer to bringing pangolins back from the brink of extinction.”

Kelsey Prediger, Founder, PCRF.



RESTORING THE KENYAN COAST

The first Co-Managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Kuruwitu

We partnered with Kenyan NGO, Oceans Alive Trust, supporting efforts to protect the coastal coral reefs and develop scalable, community-led ocean conservation solutions. Oceans Alive has been creating networks to catalyse and share coastal collaborative management initiatives with communities, relevant stakeholders, and partners. Together with coastal communities, they're sharing sustainable solutions, creating a ripple effect to improve local livelihoods.

A key element of their community partnership has been the Coral Gardening Programme. This initiative features a coral nursery, nurturing over 20,000 juvenile corals. The impact of these new coral colonies has already shown a 400% increase in fish biomass and 17% in seagrass recovery. The nursery serves not only as a conservation tool, but also as an educational platform for school children, teaching the importance of coral reefs, their critical role in marine biodiversity, and need for their protection.

Expansion of this project is ongoing, with efforts to identify new sites and securing additional funding.

THE OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE

Assist in bringing together members of the community to maintain the first co-managed marine protected area (MPA) on the coast. Support in monitoring outcomes for similar projects

PROJECT SUPPORT

- Funds supported the organisation of a meeting between local village chiefs to ensure the ongoing protection of the MPA by the local community through the formal signing of a new memorandum agreement.

THE OUTCOME

With Oceans Alive Kenya, we are supporting the array of sustainable solutions initiated by the MPA, including empowering local fisherwomen, the Mama Karangas, who gained recognition during a recent visit by His Majesty King Charles III.

"The amount of fish was so overwhelming that we wondered if this was the same place where there were almost no fish in the past" Katana Ngala, Local fisherman and former Vice Chairperson of the KWC CBO, Oceans Alive



ENHANCING HUMAN-ELEPHANT CO-EXISTANCE

Our New Partners in Botswana

At the end of 2023, we developed two new project partners to expand our work into Botswana, with a focus on human-elephant conflict management.

Cutting-edge science and education are at the forefront of the work of our new partners.

ELEPHANT HAVENS

Elephant Havens Wildlife Foundation protects and preserves African elephants, primarily through the operation of Botswana's only elephant orphanage. Their work involves rescuing orphaned and abandoned elephants, addressing human-elephant conflicts, and safeguarding natural habitats against human encroachment. Efforts extend beyond rescue, including community outreach and education to foster co-existence and conservation awareness.

Additionally, Elephant Havens emphasise the physical and emotional care of young elephants, offering round-the-clock attention and specialised feeding, with the ultimate goal of eventually re-wilding the orphans.

THE OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE

To protect elephants at risk, focusing on the rehabilitation of orphaned elephants and the promotion of coexistence between humans and wildlife, through educational programmes, community outreach, and innovative practices.

WILD ENTRUST AFRICA

Wild Entrust Africa focuses on cutting-edge science for wildlife conservation, particularly in the area of predator repellants. They run educational programmes that inspire children to care about wildlife and community development by implementing human-wildlife conflict mitigation. Their educational outreach extends to supporting the capacity building of local conservationists. In addition to their work with elephants, they aim to promote the sustainability of apex predators and their habitat management through applied science.

"As the evidence builds, there is no escaping the conclusion that [...] we can develop deterrents based on chemical signals to protect both predators and livestock" Dr. Peter Apps, Director of Bioboundary Research, Wild Entrust Africa.

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUND

A dynamic carbon removal portfolio committed to addressing travel emissions consciously



Pelorus Foundation's Climate Investment Fund focuses on scaling projects that actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, distinguishing itself from traditional carbon offsets by investing in a minority of carbon credits aimed at true carbon removal.

It prioritises the novel technologies that facilitate the transition to more permanent carbon storage solutions which communities at the forefront of the climate crisis benefit from. Our projects emphasise the importance of both nature-based solutions such as afforestation and the critical role of including involvement with the local communities.

The concept is simple :

- Work with the minority of carbon credit projects that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, including both nature and technology-focused solutions to encourage the transition to more permanent carbon storage solutions.
- Support projects that improve the lives of people and communities on the frontline of the climate crisis.
- Invest in the scale of novel technologies working to develop new solutions for increased carbon removal.

“The immense restorative power of nature itself is one of the most cost-effective ways to tackle climate change, yet there is also an urgent need to invest in novel technology pioneering new methods needed to reverse climate change. Our Climate Investment Fund enables both.”

Geordie Mackay-Lewis, Founder, Pelorus Foundation

SCALING CARBON REMOVAL

In 2023, the Climate Investment Fund made significant strides in the battle against climate change. Through strategic investments into innovative solutions, we are successfully advancing our mission to reduce carbon emissions and restore environmental balance.

The Climate Investment Fund has received widespread interest within the travel industry for its innovative outlook on an old-time problem, and for shaking up the uninspiring carbon offsetting tick-box approach commonly prevalent in travel.

This report provides a snapshot of our portfolio's impact, showcasing the tangible progress achieved in carbon removal initiatives, sustainable practices, and the preservation of our planet's precious ecosystems. To highlight this, our impact report shares a brief update from each project

Thank you to all Climate Investors who have made these developments possible, and ultimately, for helping to preserve our planet for future generations.

THE 2023 PORTFOLIO AT A GLANCE

ENHANCED ROCK WEATHERING

Enhanced rock weathering is an innovative geoengineering technique that involves crushing and spreading rocks such as basalt, on land surfaces to accelerate the natural carbon dioxide absorption process, mitigating climate change.

SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Soil carbon sequestration is a sustainable practice aimed at capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide in the soil through techniques that contribute to carbon mitigation and soil health like grazing rotation.

AGROFORESTRY AND MANGROVE REFORESTATION

Agroforestry and mangrove reforestation are key strategies for sustainable development, blending the growth of trees and woody vegetation in agricultural regions and mangroves along shorelines to fortify biodiversity and soil health while supporting sustainable land use and protecting critical habitats.

SEAWEED FARMING

Seaweed is cultivated to then be sunk to the bottom of the ocean which is a specialised aquaculture operation designed to capture and sequester carbon dioxide from the surrounding seawater. Thought to be one of the most permanent forms of carbon removal, it also promotes marine ecosystem health.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

6

Number of project countries

2

Corporate partners

£16,827

Funds raised to support carbon removal projects

GET INVOLVED

In 2024, we plan to support more corporate partners with their sustainability mission, and in doing so, increase the impact of the Climate Investment Fund. You can contact us today to learn how we can support your company's Corporate Social Responsibility needs.

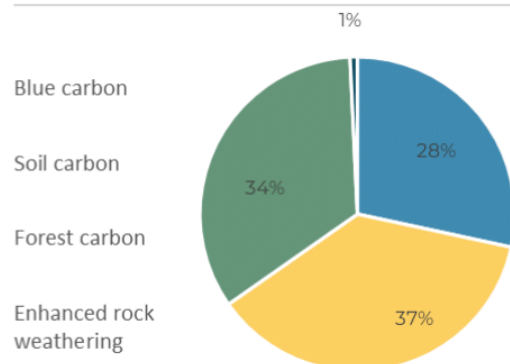
Contact us today to help re-balance your carbon emissions.

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UK Registered Charity Number: 1189966

PLANTING KELP FORESTS

In 2023, our project partner, Running Tide, made significant strides in its mission to protect the world's oceans, expanding the growth of kelp forests to new regions and leveraging technological innovations such as robotics and AI to develop sustainable solutions for coastal restoration and plastic pollution mitigation.

Pioneering and delivering the first-ever carbon removal credits from an open ocean project this year, Running Tide has removed 25,000 tonnes of carbon and delivered the first-ever carbon removal credits from an open ocean project. Making waves in other places, Running Tide has expanded its projects to new regions. Through advocacy efforts and extensive community engagement Running Tide has also influenced policy changes at various levels to promote sustainable practices and protect marine ecosystems.



ENHANCED ROCK WEATHERING (ERW)

Our new project partner, UNDO's first full year was one of breakthroughs, growth, and advancement in the field of enhanced rock weathering. In 2023, UNDO spread 140,000 tonnes of mineral-rich silicate rock globally on more than 9,000 hectares of agricultural land. This enriched the soils of over 180 farms across the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia and removed more than 30,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

UNDO continued to drive the science around enhanced rock weathering forward, both internally and in the wider community, hosting the first-ever ERW academic conference in Edinburgh. Over the course of the year, they collected more than 750 soil pore water samples which are building our body of evidence around ERW's effectiveness as a carbon removal solution. The efforts of UNDO culminated in them winning two awards, including EUROPA for "Hottest Climate Tech" of 2023.



INCREASING AGROFORESTRY

Our new 2023 agroforestry project partner, CO2 Operate manage the Gula Gula Forest Programmes in Indonesia. During 2023 they focused extensively on biodiversity, conducting a collaborative biodiversity impact study from January to June, in partnership with Malang University and Biometrio Earth, to uncover a wealth of biodiversity in the region. This included 169 bird species, critically endangered Sumatran tigers, and near-threatened Asian golden cats. Furthering their research into below-ground agrobiodiversity revealed an increase in carbon content in older agroforests, largely attributed to thriving earthworm populations which are indicators of soil health.

Continuing to restore agroforests and enhance livelihoods in Indonesia, CO2 Operate successfully expanded their projects into the South Sumatra Province and West Sumatra District - championing both sustainable agriculture and poverty alleviation.



PLANTING AND PROTECTING MANGROVES

With the mangrove forests of Mikoko Pamoja and Vanga Blue Forest thriving, both projects have spent the year working on expansion plans with new communities, including in The Gambia. Encouragingly, our new blue carbon project partner, ACES, which manages the projects, are being approached by more and more communities who are keen to engage after witnessing the environmental and social benefits that ACES has delivered so far.

In 2023, Vanga Blue Forest worked with the local fishing community to formalise a Locally Managed Marine Area for 577 acres of seagrass meadows in Vanga Bay. The initiative involves seasonal and area-based restrictions on fishing methods that were damaging the meadow, forming vital developmental research into seagrass credits. Both projects also spent the year channelling finance from carbon credits into projects to enhance local livelihoods, as well as constructing wells, educational facilities, and buying community land, improving farm access, building sea walls, and upgrading hospital equipment.



RESTORING DEGRADED GRASSLANDS

Our soil carbon sequestration project partner, Mongolian Society for Range Management (MSRM), has had a busy sixth year. They have found that year after year, the engagement and participation within herder groups continue to grow, enabling the development of new activities in pasture management, livelihood improvement, and conservation. Notably, in 2023, the project opened the "Vivo Center" Market in Ikh Tamir soum, Arkhangai province, which was designed by the herding communities and funded by sales of carbon certificates. The initiative includes shopping counters for selling livestock meat and dairy products, along with a cafeteria which provides herders with an alternative source of income.



REFORESTING AN ISLAND

Working in Timor Leste, our project partners, FCOTI, have had an incredibly productive year having added 111 more smallholder farmers to the project in 2022. Their main focus for 2023 included monitoring carbon stocks in historical sites, counting trees to ensure their health and growth, and establishing nurseries to propagate seedlings for underperforming areas. Additionally, through collaboration with GIZ, they have developed innovative agroforestry training in vocational schools, fostering knowledge, and instigating research projects and career opportunities among Timorese.



SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Pelorus Foundation is dedicated to driving impactful change within businesses through our sustainability consultancy services. By offering these services, we generate crucial funds for frontline conservation efforts. Our expertise extends to a wide range of initiatives, including strategies for emission reduction and removal, corporate social responsibility, B Corp certification, and engagement within various conservation projects.

In 2023 Pelorus Foundation started a new programme to generate funds through providing sustainability consultancy services.

Our first CSR project commenced in April for Roam, Pelorus' Destination Management Company (DMC) in Saudi Arabia, providing them with a two-month consultancy to create their first Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy.

The second consultancy contract was with Pelorus over the summer to develop a CSR strategy, submit their B-Corp application, establish a Sustainable Aviation Fuel partnership with Neste, assist with CSR-related copywriting and marketing, and finally creating Pelorus' Responsible Travel Policy.



“We are extremely impressed with the comprehensive understanding Pelorus Foundation demonstrated towards our business ethos. Their ability to align our values with the creation of our CSR strategy has been invaluable. Working to tight deadlines, they delivered a professional, yet creative strategy that has brought a fresh approach to our sustainability initiatives. Their expertise has propelled our organisation towards a more sustainable and conscientious future”

ROAM

SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANCY

Whether your company requires brief consultations or comprehensive support over several months, Pelorus Foundation is committed to assisting your business in navigating and thriving within our complex environmental and social landscape.

**Get in touch today for a consultation with our Sustainability Manager:
E: info@pelorusfoundation.org**



FUNDRAISING FOR NATURE

The impact of our work last year would not have been impossible without the help of our supporters.

During the year, we were delighted to share the news that our corporate partner Pelorus is donating one percent of all their travel sales income to support our conservation work in addition to their other support.

We also launched two fundraising initiatives through the Big Give matched-funding campaigns, highlighting our work with Pangolin Conservation and Research Foundation in Namibia and Oceans Alive in Kenya. Thanks to our donors and matched funders these campaigns raised £24,193.

We were also delighted to reach out to our international supporters through a Global Giving Matched funding campaign which helped bridge much needed funds.

CHARITY GALA DINNER, NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON

November marked Pelorus' inaugural charity dinner in aid of Pelorus Foundation, supporting our mission to address the greatest challenge society is facing by selecting sustainable options, connecting with nature, and engaging with environmentally respectful brands.

The evening highlighted stories and commitments to environmental sustainability and wildlife preservation. The event commenced with guests enjoying the 59th Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition, followed by engaging speeches from Pelorus Foundation Founder Geordie Mackay-Lewis and keynote speaker, renowned marine biologist and BBC TV Presenter, Monty Halls, who has completed a series of global expeditions.

The event raised over £160,000 helping to support our vital work into 2024, underscoring Pelorus Foundation's mission to protect the environment and support local communities on the frontlines of conservation.



"It was a terrific night - I attend a lot of events and yours genuinely stood out. Energy, dynamism, a great cause, iconic venue, and a thoroughly nice bunch of people in the room."

Monty Halls, BBC TV Presenter and Marine Biologist

Interested in getting involved? Please get in touch.

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