

Pioneering new approaches to marine conservation

“ Conservation models pioneered by Blue Ventures have guided marine policy and been adopted at national and regional levels. ”

DR DARIAN STIBBE,
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM



About Blue Ventures

We are an award-winning marine conservation organisation, dedicated to working with local communities to conserve threatened marine environments.

Our acclaimed conservation programmes work with some of the world's poorest coastal people to develop conservation and poverty alleviation initiatives that protect biodiversity and coastal livelihoods. The results of our work help us to propose new ideas to benefit coastal communities everywhere.

In recent years, we've won international acclaim for our innovative approaches to addressing the challenges faced by coastal communities. Recent accolades include the Buckminster Fuller Challenge, the United Nations' Equator Prize and IUCN's SEED Award – some of the most prestigious global awards for innovation in biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.

Amongst other achievements, we have created the largest community-managed marine reserves in the Indian Ocean, and pioneered ambitious research programmes tackling critical issues facing marine biodiversity conservation and resource-dependent coastal communities.

Alongside our work in fisheries management and protected area development, our programmes encompass marine and fisheries research, endangered species conservation, and environmental education and community capacity building.

Beyond more 'conventional' approaches to conservation, we also manage sustainable aquaculture initiatives, family planning and public health projects, and advocate at national and international levels for fisheries policy reform.

Our projects now focus on replicating and scaling-up conservation activities at national and international levels in the Indopacific and Atlantic regions.



At our core, we're a social enterprise - innovating new approaches to financing marine conservation, and generating much of our conservation funding independently. Business models include highly acclaimed ecotourism programmes, blue carbon initiatives, and village-based sustainable aquaculture projects.

“Our partners in making conservation happen are perhaps some of the most innovative and visionary communities on the planet.”

DR GARTH CRIPPS
SENIOR CONSERVATION SCIENTIST

Key achievements to date

Conservation

- Applied, multidisciplinary marine conservation, education and research programmes in Madagascar, Belize, Fiji, Malaysia and Ghana
- Creation of Velondriake; the largest community managed marine protected area in the Indian Ocean – winner of the UNDP Equator Prize for biodiversity conservation and the WWF J. Paul Getty Award for conservation leadership
- Velondriake's model for short-term fisheries closures has been replicated over 130 times in Madagascar and other areas in the Indian Ocean
- Development of innovative fisheries research and management efforts over 500 km of coastline, focusing on shark, turtle, mangrove and coral reef fisheries
- Recognition from numerous awards for responsible tourism, including the IUCN Young Conservationist Award (2010), the Condé Nast Environmental Award (2009), the National Geographic Geotourism Award (2008), the international Skål Ecotourism Award (2006) and the UK's Responsible Tourism Award (a record 6 times from 2004 to 2010)

Investing in people

- Provision of educational scholarships enabling hundreds of children each year to attend school in partner communities
- Provision of intensive residential marine conservation training scholarships to over 50 graduate students from developing countries, as well as fully-funded undergraduate and post-graduate study scholarships (to PhD level) to under-privileged students
- Field-based training in SCUBA and marine conservation for over 1,000 international volunteers, partners and community members

Economic development

- Creation of sustainable aquaculture initiatives in Madagascar. The first commercial-scale sea cucumber farms in the Indian Ocean provide new alternative income sources for communities involved in conservation activities
- Creation of socially and environmentally-responsible ecotourism programmes within partner communities providing long-term financial sustainability for conservation efforts
- Catalysing partnerships between private enterprises and communities to develop biodiversity businesses that reduce poverty and conserve biodiversity. Examples include promoting eco-certification of sustainable fisheries and pioneering mangrove REDD+ projects that integrate a range of ecosystem services.
- First European-based organisation to win the SEED Award (UNEP, UNDP, IUCN), in recognition of innovative entrepreneurial solutions for sustainable development

Community health

- Development of pioneering reproductive health and family planning services in partner communities, as part of integrated population, health and environment (PHE) programmes

For further information or to discuss partnership opportunities please contact:



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Environmental Policy
Specialist
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“ Our challenge is so much more than conserving the exceptional beauty of coral reefs: it is protecting the ecosystems that provide food for over 400 million people in the world’s poorest countries. Blue Ventures’ innovative, scalable solutions give me hope that we can succeed in doing this. ”

MIALY ANDRIAMAHEFAZAFY
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY SPECIALIST

For more information on our award-winning work, please visit www.blueventures.org



Winner, Buckminster Fuller Challenge, 2011
For work to protect marine resources and improve the livelihoods of poor coastal communities in Madagascar.



Observer Ethical Awards, runner-up 2010.
Blue Ventures was commended for creating the Indian Ocean’s first replicable blueprint for community-centred marine and coastal conservation planning.



Condé Nast Traveler Environmental Award, 2009
For two decades, Condé Nast Traveler has been honouring environmental visionaries around the world who have found innovative solutions to seemingly intractable problems.



Responsible Tourism Awards 2004: highly commended for "Best in a Marine Environment"



Responsible Tourism Awards 2006: highly commended for "Best Volunteering Organisation"



Responsible Tourism Awards 2007: highly commended for "Best in a Marine Environment"



Responsible Tourism Awards 2008: highly commended for "Best Volunteering Organisation"



Responsible Tourism Awards 2009: highly commended for "Best in a marine environment"



Responsible Tourism Awards 2010: Winner for "Best volunteering organisation"



Ashoka & National Geographic Geotourism Challenge 2008: finalist



Changemakers & National Geographic Geotourism Challenge 2010: finalist



United Nations SEED Award 2005: winner, "Madagascar's first experimental community-run MPA"



Enterprising Young Brits 2005 & 2006: highly commended, "Social and Environment"



United Nations Development Programme Equator Prize 2006: the Village of Andavadoaka, winner (in partnership)



Skal Ecotourism Awards 2006: Winner, "General Countryside"