

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Change must be measurable to have meaning.

In 2025, I had the honor of stepping into the role of CEO at Sustainable Ocean Alliance at a pivotal moment for both the organization and the planet.

As someone who has spent my career at the intersection of impact and market-based solutions, I'm driven by a simple belief: change must be measurable to have meaning. And this past year, the numbers speak volumes about what's possible when we invest in people and ideas designed for scale.

2024 also marked SOA's 10th anniversary—a decade of bold action to restore ocean health and build climate resilience. What began as a grassroots initiative in a university dorm room has grown into a dynamic global network of over 300 initiatives across 100+ countries. Our mission remains clear: to close the gap between urgent ocean challenges and the capacity of communities and innovators to meet them.

Since 2018, SOA has deployed \$5.8 million in catalytic funding through grants, investments, scholarships, and fellowships—nurturing a unique ecosystem where youth-led ideas and venture-backable solutions thrive. In 2024, we supported our most diverse cohort yet: 50 new grantees, many led by Indigenous communities, youth, and organizations in Small Island/Large Ocean Developing States and the Global South. Together with our affiliate investment fund, Seabird Ventures, 50% of our capital this year directly supported initiatives in Developing countries.

Our investments are delivering real impact. The organizations and startups we've supported reported employing over 1,200 people in 2024 and creating 570 new jobs in the sustainable blue economy—advancing SDG 14.7 and unlocking economic opportunities from the sustainable use of marine resources.

We also deepened our commitment to leadership development and capacity building. In partnership with the Environmental Defense Fund, we concluded two fellowships focused on sustainable fisheries; and we launched a new fellowship with Waitt Institute supporting ocean entrepreneurship in Tonga and the Federated States of Micronesia. And a new collaboration with the University of California Santa Cruz helped student innovators turn ideas into real-world ocean solutions.

Finally, our work to combat marine pollution reached a major milestone: more than \$1.8 million deployed to pollution-reducing efforts to date, with 26,000 metric tons of waste and 450,000 m³ of nutrient pollution removed or prevented over the last two years—bringing us closer to achieving SDG Target 14.1 for reducing marine pollution by 2025.

As you explore this page and our annual report, I hope you'll feel the same sense of grounded optimism that I do. SOA's next chapter is defined by measurable impact, powerful partnerships, and the belief that ocean solutions—when supported early and equitably—can change the course of our planet's future.

Thank you for being a part of this mission.

**Anne Park**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER • SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE





Sustainable
Ocean
Alliance

2024 Ocean Impact Report

SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE · PUBLISHED JUNE 2025

BY THE NUMBERS

343

Grantees & companies funded to date

\$5.7M

Deployed in grants & investments across 96 countries

363

Mentors from 59 countries

33

Countries with positions against deep-sea mining

\$550M

Raised by SOA-backed startups (~\$900M valuation)

840

Youth from 115 countries at 11 events in 7 countries

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT · 2023-2024 COMBINED

84,621t CO₂e avoided or removed

14,519t sustainable blue food produced

26,892t waste removed or avoided

84 youth-led hubs across 48 countries

3,969 ha coastal ecosystems restored or protected

65% micro-grants to developing countries ·
17% Indigenous-led

570 new blue livelihoods · **1,475+** startup employees

50% of SOA-supported startups female-founded or led

\$5.8M catalytic funding deployed since 2018

300+ initiatives across 100+ countries

Impact Areas



01 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

84,621t CO₂e avoided or removed

SOA Tanzania — Coordinator Shadya Ngiri built a seagrass farm in Bagamoyo and trained 33 members; since 2021 the hub has planted 42,500 mangroves, trained 800+ youth, and created 50 blue jobs.

SDG 13 · CLIMATE ACTION



02 POLLUTION REDUCTION & CIRCULAR USE

26,892t waste removed · 450,000 m³ pollution prevented

Marulho (Brazil) — Turns ghost nets from nearshore reefs into handcrafted goods — 2,600 kg of nets became 18,341 products in 2024, earning \$40,000+ for local fishermen.

SDG 14.1

SDG 12.5



03 ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & PRESERVATION

3,969 ha restored or protected · 204,000+ mangroves planted

Carbon Ethics (Indonesia) — Planted 97,163 mangroves and 2,000 seagrass plants in 2024 (~5,692t CO₂ over their lifetime) and contributed data to Indonesia's National Seagrass Map.

KUNMING-MONTREAL GBF 30X30

SDG 15



04 SUSTAINABLE FISHING & AQUACULTURE

14,519t seafood sustainably produced · 593t unsustainable catch avoided

West Coast Kelp (Canada) — Restores kelp forests with Toquaht and Tlaouquiaht First Nations; now among Canada's largest kelp-seed suppliers, serving five farms across 15 ha and six restoration sites.

SDG 14.7

SDG 14.B



05 OCEAN DATA, LITERACY & COMMUNITIES

570 new blue jobs · 1,475+ employed by SOA-supported orgs

SOA Nigeria — Adenike Adeiga's deep-sea-mining campaign reached 13,000+ views and convened a NIMASA conference — one of 33 countries where SOA has shifted official positions against seabed mining.

SDG 4.7

UNCLOS

HIGH SEAS TREATY (BBNJ 2023)