

THE LIVING OCEAN

Overview 2025

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Stichting The Living Ocean

Garsenshof 23

7231LA Warnsveld

Nederland

info@thelivingocean.org



The Living Ocean

The Living Ocean is dedicated to conservation, development and protection of marine- ecosystems and all the flora and fauna within. By supporting small, local projects and initiatives.

Involving the local community is crucial for sustainable solutions. Their contribution and understanding of the importance of protecting the marine ecosystems will generate benefits in the future. Through training , education and employment The Living Ocean is changing attitudes towards conservation. The communities are becoming aware of the need to conserve these ecosystems for future generations.



Organisation

The board has changed on March 19, 2025. Nima Lorje is our new board member and secretary. His arrival brings an enthusiastic and experienced diver to the board, and given his expertise and work experience, he will primarily focus on legal and compliance matters. Dirck Zadeh took over as chairman on March 19, 2025.

In 2025, we continued with Yong Mi Janse as a paid, part-time director to ensure we could devote sufficient attention to our fundraising and project coordination.

The board and director met four times in 2025, two times in person and two times online. Minutes were taken of each meeting.



Nima Lorjé, Yong Mi Janse, Dirck Zadeh, Mirjam Diederén

Fundraising & Collaboration

We continued our long-term relationship with the Jamiti Foundation, and funding has been promised for the period 2024-2028.

We successfully presented our project plan for "Fishermen's Livelihood" to the AFAS foundation in 2024 and received a donation for the years 2024 -2026.

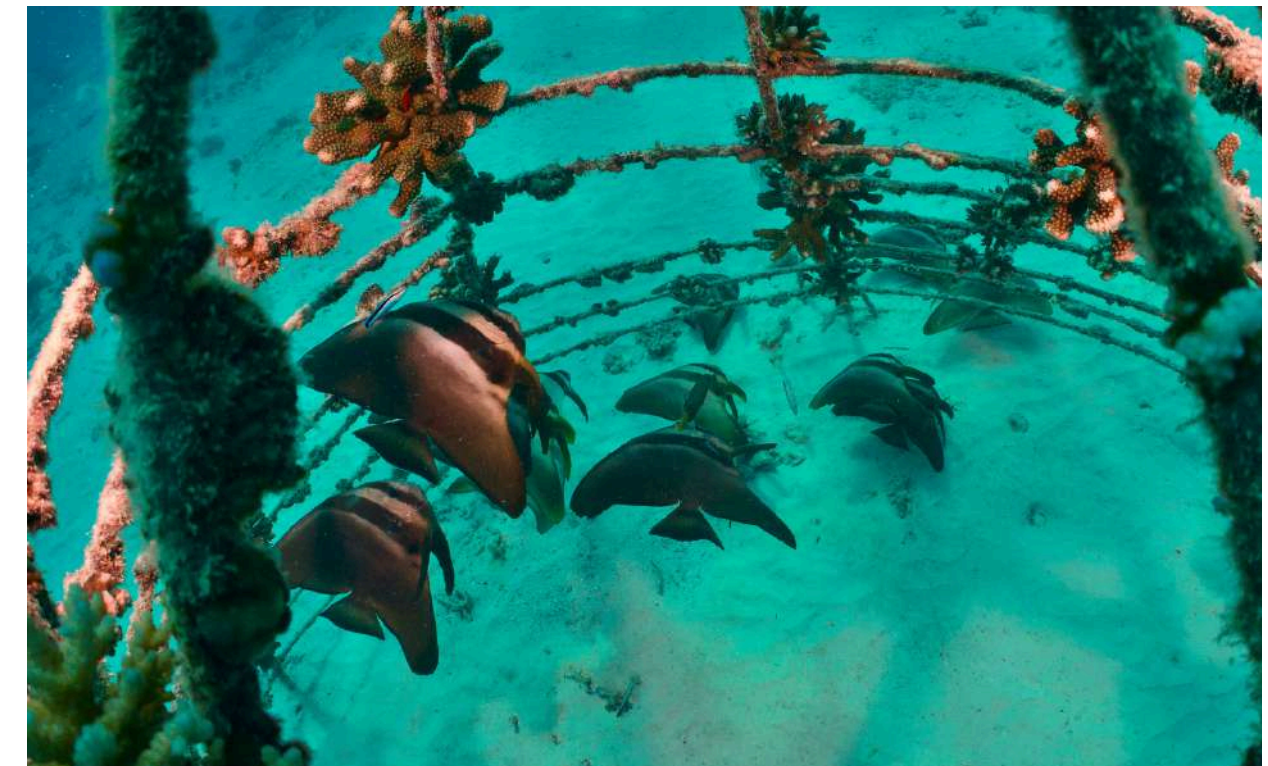
The agreement with World-Unite for supporting volunteers in Zanzibar has been extended. The volunteers receive training on the ocean, marine life, and threats, and assist with the projects.

We continued our intensive collaboration with NGO UnderTheWave in Zanzibar to start and implement projects locally.

We've taken a step towards reducing the dependence of our partner UnderTheWave on funding from The Living Ocean. We're delighted that a partnership with Blue Ventures has been established, with Blue Ventures providing UnderTheWave with funding starting in 2026 to launch ocean conservation activities with the local community, ensuring their livelihoods.



Key projects



Environmental education programme

A partnership with local schools since 2022, holding educational sessions on topics such as plastic pollution, sea turtles, fish ecology, sustainable fishing practices, and corals.

Sea turtle conservation project

This includes a multitude of activities focused on preservation of sea turtles, such as a turtle hatchery, an awareness programme and guidelines for turtle aquariums.

Coral project

This includes various subprojects focusing on protecting and restoring coral reefs, such as a coral nursery, building artificial reef structures and cleaning and monitoring corals.

Key projects



Sea cucumber project

This project is aimed at providing alternative livelihood possibilities for the local fishing communities, by setting up a sea cucumber farm.



Dolphin project

This project aims to understand the impact and protect the dolphin population from tourism activities and harm by fishers.



Reef health monitoring project

Reefs are important for marine life, and for protecting the shoreline from waves and storms. Understanding the factors that impact their health is vital for marine management.



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's mission is to ensure that Bonaire's sea turtles have a secure future, and to connect people to sea turtle conservation in ways that inspire caring for nature.

Environmental education programme in 2025

In 2025 we enabled NGO UTW to deliver classroom training on a weekly basis to approximately 120 students. This was combined with field trips such as visiting the mangroves, snorkelling in the lagoon and Beach and village clean up actions.

We also enabled research into how to integrate marine education on all the schools in Zanzibar. The recommendation is to create a handbook that can be used by teachers themselves.



Sea turtle conservation project in 2025

In 2025 we enabled NGO UTW to refresh the turtle hatchery with fresh sand, a new fence and information board.

An important step is the request by the Ministry of Fishery & Blue economy to draft guidelines for sea turtle aquariums, where tourists can touch and feed turtles, in order to improve living conditions and reduce the number of turtles in captivity. Ultimately our aim is to stop the practice of aquariums, but we realise this is a long and difficult route.



Coral project in 2025

In 2025 we enabled NGO UTW to expand the coral nursery with 6 additional coral tables, more coral ropes and also three coral dome structures. This allows for more coral growth and a wider variety of corals and growth structures.

They also installed six artificial reef structures and 120 reef stars (metal structures planted with young corals). By doing this a new reef structure is created, providing a new habitat for marine life. In addition it provides an alternative snorkel location, thereby reducing the impact of existing coral reefs.



Sea cucumber project in 2025

In 2025 we enabled NGO UTW to work closely with the local community to maintain the first sea cucumber pilot that was set up in 2024. The pilot experienced many difficulties. The cucumbers were grown sufficiently in size but unfortunately not in weight. In addition many sea cucumbers were gone, probably due to theft, predators or aggression between juveniles and adults. On top of that has a large part of the farm been destroyed by a huge storm. These setbacks forced NGO UTW back to the drawing table and a new plan for 2026 is made.



Dolphin project in 2025

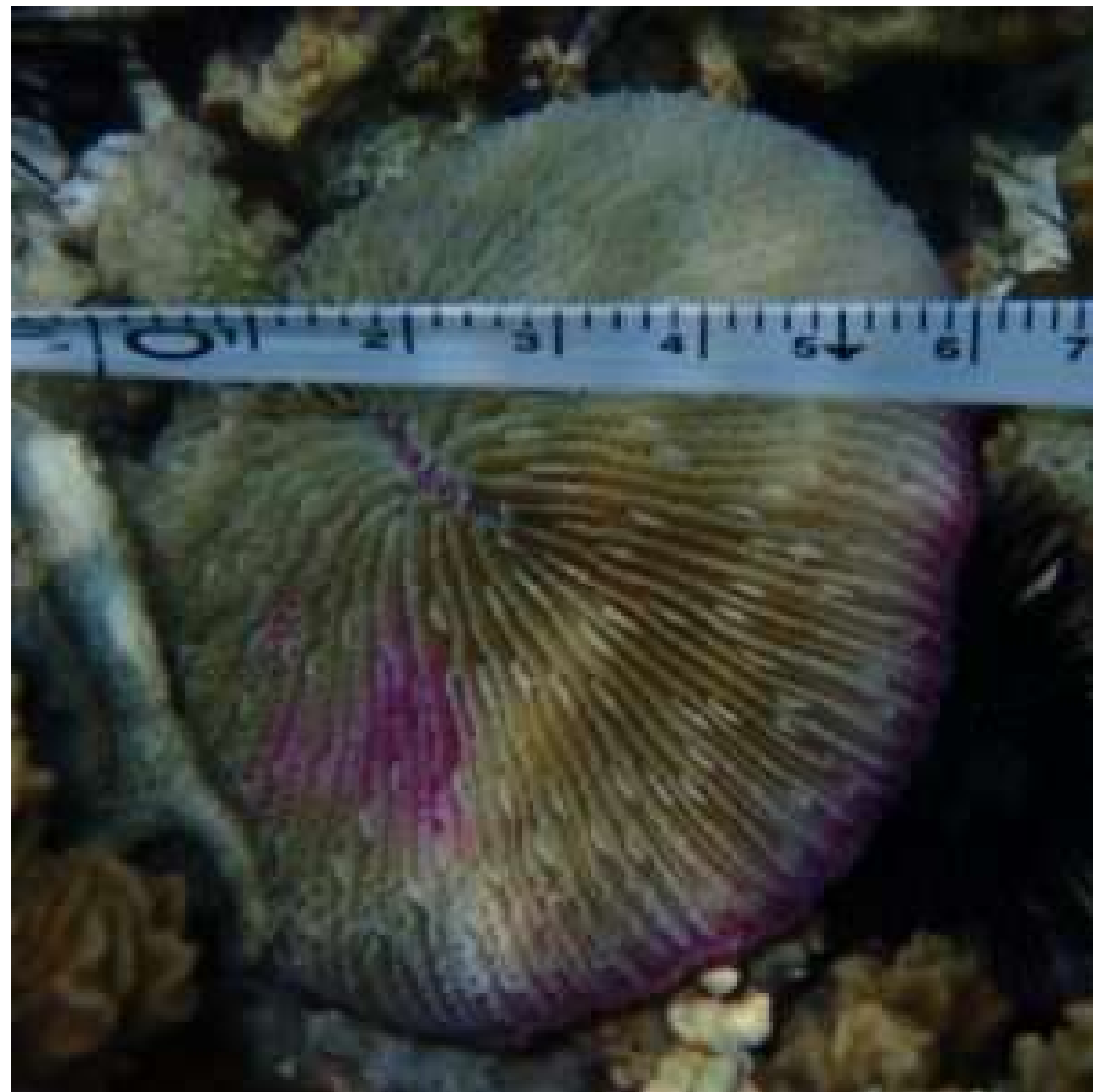
In 2025 we enabled NGO UTW to implement official guidelines for dolphin watching. Meetings with the local community were held and a workshop for 13 rangers was delivered to improve the protection of dolphins. Research into behaviour of dolphins impacted by boats showed the necessity of an eco-guide training course for boat captains and guides, which will be delivered in 2026.

NGO UTW started a photo-identification programme to map the current population of resident Indo-Pacific dolphins. This will enable better insight into the population, individual behaviour and the use of the marine area.



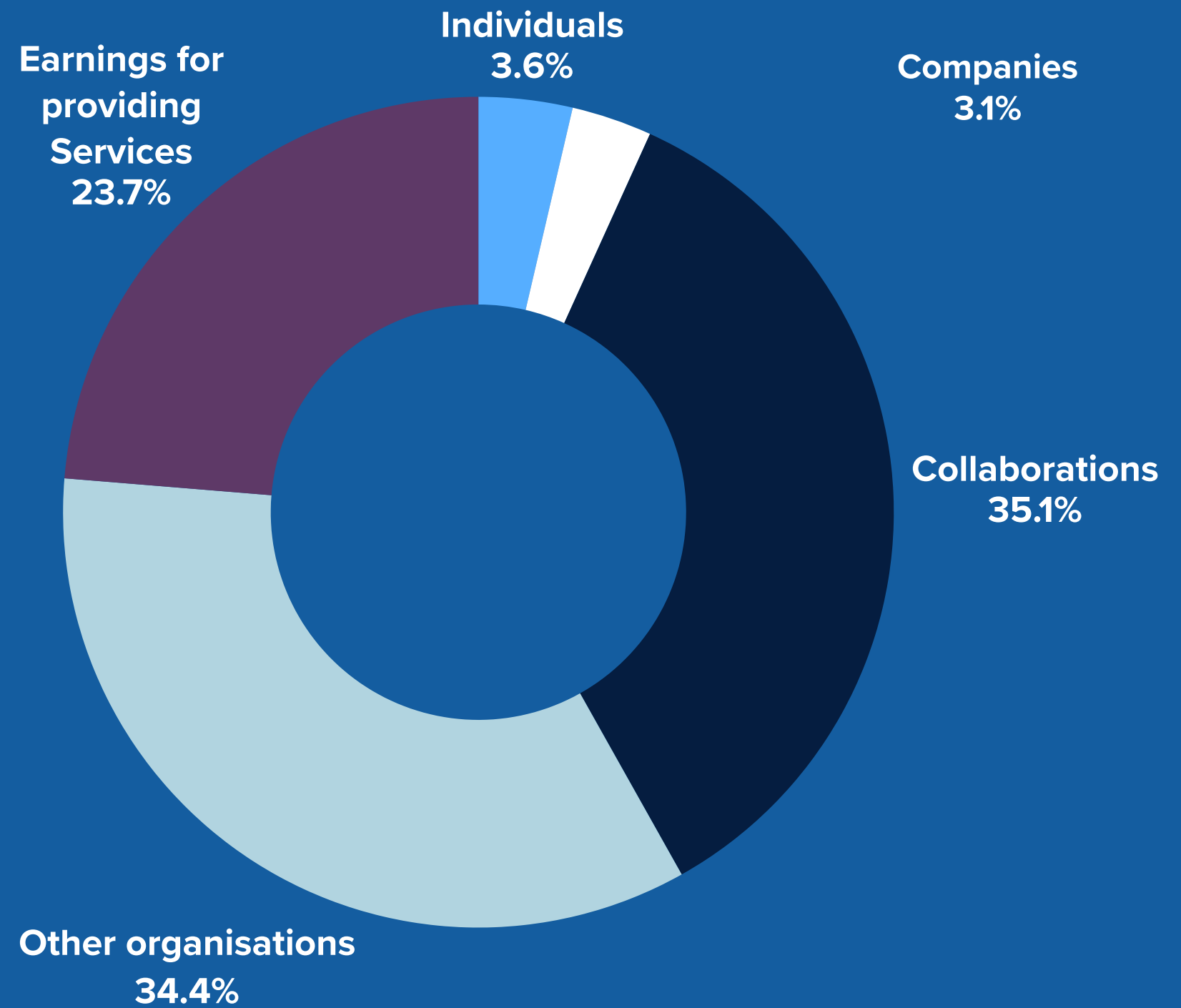
Reef health monitoring project in 2025

In 2025 we enabled NGO UTW to use the newly updated reef monitoring protocol, thereby ensuring high quality, reliability, reproducible and expandable data. The reef health was monitored twice, measuring fish diversity, invertebrates and corals. Monitoring took place in the lagoon and on the fore reef. The collected data will be used for analysis and basis for marine management.



Total revenue

EUR 159.700



Total Expenses

EUR 179,800



Project expenses

