

JULY-SEPTEMBER
2021

THRIVING
FISHERS
THRIVING
OCEANS

HEADLINE UPDATE AND ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENTS, FROM THE PERIOD **JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021**

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This month we've relaunched our [website](#) with a comprehensive rebuild to bring our vision and strategy to life. The site is designed to share our mission to help coastal communities to thrive by rebuilding fisheries and protecting ocean life. It is structured around our 2025 strategy, available to [read here](#), which charts our course towards our vision of thriving fishers, thriving oceans.

The first quarter of our new financial year has also seen the launch of a major new strategic initiative within BV, as we build a team focused on championing the rights of small-scale fishers to advocate for targeted policy reforms around key issues facing this overlooked sector. You can read more about this growing new area of our work below.

We've welcomed some brilliant new colleagues to the BV family over the quarter. [Natasha Houseman](#) joined us in July in an exciting new role as Managing Director. Natasha brings a wealth of experience of scaling organisations in the non-profit sector, including roles as Chief Operating Officer with both Farm Africa and Forum for the Future, and ten years with PwC.

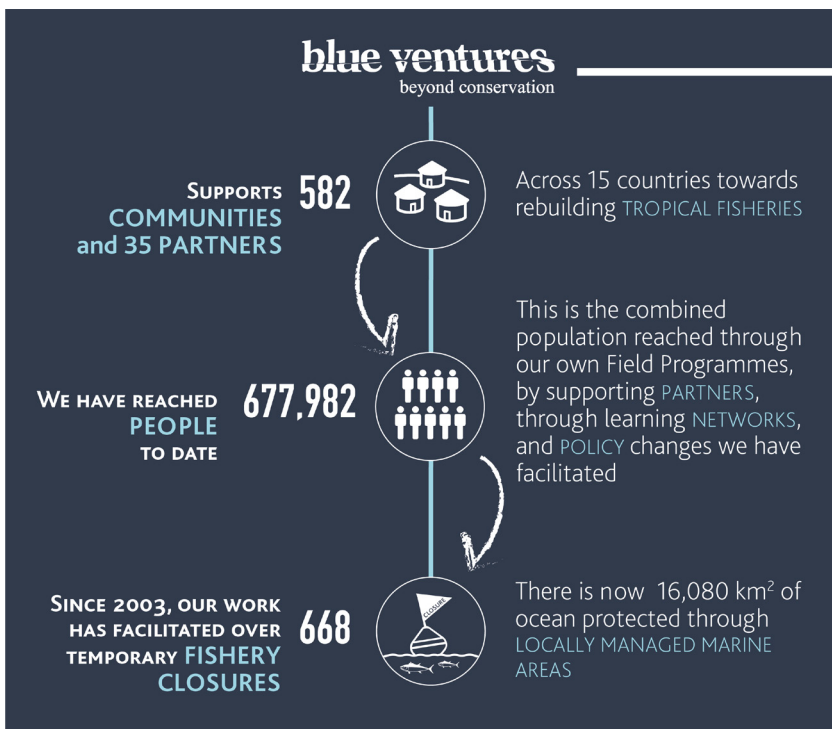


Natasha joins us in leading the next stage of our journey, delivering our strategy and supporting our team and global network of partners as we navigate the opportunities and challenges of growth. We were also thrilled to [welcome new trustees](#) to our board in July, bringing new experience and insight in charity governance.

July saw the [launch of our sister Indonesian organisation](#) Yayasan Pesisir Lestari. Over the last five years BV has worked to support and train an inspirational team of Indonesian marine conservationists. Now employed by [YPL](#) as an independent Indonesian organisation, this team is working in close partnership with BV to support a growing movement of locally led marine conservation across the Indonesian archipelago. Based out of a coordinating office in Bali, YPL is currently providing support to 42 villages across 16 districts of Indonesia, with ambitious plans for expansion over the coming years.

We end the quarter looking forward to the urgent conversations that will take place at November's COP26 climate talks. BV will be sending a delegation to Glasgow to help make the case that ocean action is climate action. We'll be convening a number of events focused on the integration of critical marine issues into the climate process, with a particular emphasis on blue carbon and the climate impacts of industrial bottom trawling.

IMPACT CHALLENGE UPDATE



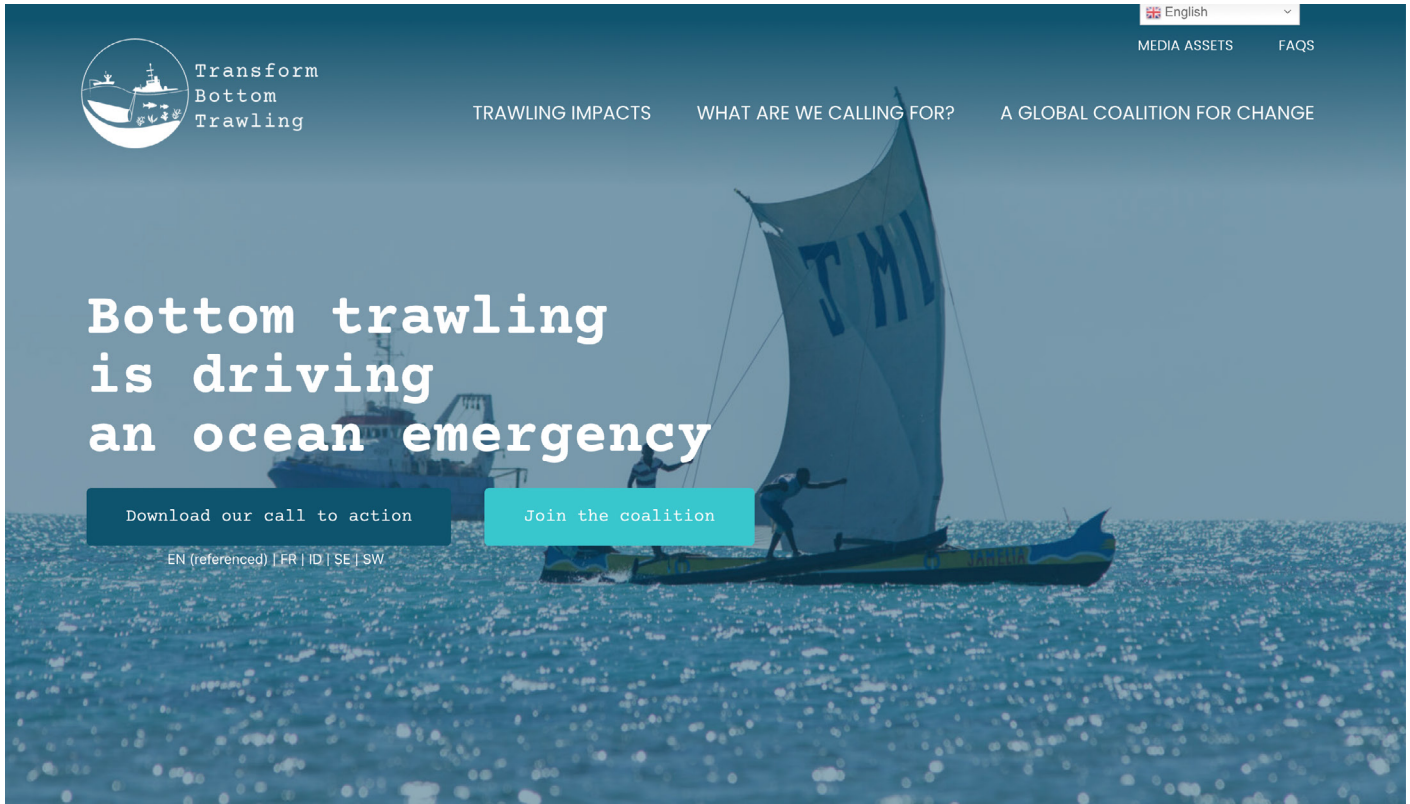
A GLOBAL GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE

Rebuilding fisheries and restoring ocean life is much bigger than one organisation alone. As part of our new strategy we're building [an advocacy movement](#) with fishers at its centre. We're working to give coastal communities a collective voice and influence to defend and promote their rights, mobilise wider civil society and inspire dialogue with governments on policy reform. We embarked on this new endeavour this quarter, and are currently working towards two main global advocacy priorities, with additional targeted efforts in the Western Indian Ocean.



Transform Bottom Trawling global coalition

We launched a global coalition urging coastal states to reduce the footprint of destructive bottom trawling by 2030 at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille in September. The [Transform Bottom Trawling coalition](#) has already been joined by over 40 organisations across the fisheries, conservation and human rights sectors. The coalition is [calling](#) for urgent measures to reduce this widespread yet inherently destructive fishing practice, including calling on coastal states to establish national inshore exclusion zones (IEZs) for small-scale fishers in which bottom trawling is prohibited.



Transform Bottom Trawling website.



Download our position paper [here](#).

30x30 and local communities

In April 2022, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will gather in Kunming, China, to consider adoption of the new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including a global goal to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030, a target gaining growing momentum and also known as 30x30.

While this goal represents an opportunity to halt biodiversity loss and put the world's oceans on a pathway to sustainability, it also carries potentially widespread negative consequences for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC).

In September, we launched our [position on 30x30](#) highlighting these risks. We believe that the best way to protect nature is to protect the human rights of those who live among it and depend upon it. From a marine perspective, only a community-led 30x30 approach can benefit people and nature alike, delivering sustainable fisheries, vibrant oceans, and improved food security for over a billion people.

Our board member Mialy Andriamahefazafy spoke at the [opening](#) of the World Conservation Congress urging delegates to consider the primacy of social justice to marine conservation.



“IT’S IMPORTANT THAT WE LISTEN TO ALTERNATIVE VOICES SO THAT WE CAN EVOLVE TOGETHER IN AN INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE WAY TOWARDS OCEAN CONSERVATION AND SCIENCE.”

“ IT’S IMPORTANT THAT WE LISTEN TO ALTERNATIVE VOICES ”

- BV trustee Dr Mialy Andriamahefazafy, speaking at the opening of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September.

We're working with other conservation and human rights organisations to integrate our recommendations into the upcoming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to secure tenure rights for coastal communities and ensure that IPLC are front and centre of the global 30x30 goal.

- MADAGASCAR -



Fisheries
Transparency
Initiative

Beyond these global initiatives we're taking steps to tackle illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Western Indian Ocean. Our current priorities include establishing an independent industrial fishing observatory in Madagascar and supporting the government towards a more transparent fisheries governance.

This work has already seen some significant early successes. In April the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries signed a [decree banning bottom trawling](#) within an IEZ stretching from the water's edge to two nautical miles offshore. This is a significant victory for small-scale fishing and marine conservation.

And in September Madagascar's government formally announced its intention to join the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) – a significant political commitment towards more transparent and sustainable fisheries governance. We are now working with Madagascar's Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy to support the implementation of FiTI's standards.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE QUARTER

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS IN TIMOR-LESTE

In September we celebrated the fifth anniversary of our work in Timor-Leste. From our first community partnership on the island of Atauro in 2016, we've seen a [new model of locally led marine conservation](#) based on Timor-Leste's customary [Tara Bandu](#), and international learning exchanges between communities in Timor-Leste, West Papua (Indonesia) and Borneo (Malaysia). Alongside locally managed marine areas, communities have developed a coral reef, seagrass and fisheries monitoring system, and a network of [community-led marine ecotourism entrepreneurs](#), all of which have helped spawn a growing movement of community interest in marine conservation.

Earlier this year, our largest peer-to-peer learning exchange to date took place, with fishers from nine communities coming together to share best practice in locally managed marine areas. We're now supporting 12 communities on mainland Timor-Leste and Atauro to scale our collective conservation impact, and have further plans for replication over the remainder of FY22. Our colleagues Oldegar and Birgit reflect on our journey working with communities to drive locally led marine conservation in this [blog](#).



The village of Behau, around 40 km east of the capital city of Dili.

HELPING OUR PARTNERS BECOME STRONGER

We've developed a new framework for tracking progress in our local partners' skills and capacity in building local governance, fisheries management, and monitoring and evaluation – all critical skills for establishing locally managed marine areas with communities. This information is managed in a partner portal, and used to prioritise targeted technical support and training – from leadership training to assistance in monitoring and evaluation. These assessments will enable us to optimise our support for our growing network of local partner organisations, and monitor the progression of our partners' capabilities over time.

DEMOCRATISING DATA

Our 2025 strategy is underpinned by the collection and use of fisheries data by communities, to guide locally led conservation on the water. Building on last quarter's systems review with Rippleworks, this quarter has seen a focus on building the systems and processes needed to manage incoming data from across our growing network of sites, ensuring quality and provision of timely feedback and analyses to communities.

On this year's big priority of rolling out mobile monitoring, this quarter we've started pilots for new mobile monitoring systems for a number of fisheries in Madagascar, Indonesia and Comoros.



Mobile monitoring in Indonesia.

LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR NEW YEAR

At the start of the quarter we identified three high level organisation-wide objectives for our new financial year (FY22 – running from 1st July until 30th June 2022) within the year’s OKR framework:

Firstly, we aim to reach more fishers: expanding the area of ocean under local management and permanent protection – and population reached – through BV’s work. We aim to increase the number of people reached through locally led marine conservation to over 754,000 – up from 664,000 at the end of June, with an increase in the area of ocean under community management supported by BV to exceed 21,000 km² (up from 16,073 km² in June).

Secondly, we aim to enhance our impact: keeping key impact indicators stable or improving across a majority of sites globally.

Thirdly, we aim to achieve full digitisation of reach and impact data collection and feedback systems across all sites by July 2022.

In the Western Indian Ocean we’ll be embarking on new or expanded marine management initiatives in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Mozambique, Comoros and Madagascar. In the Coral Triangle we’ll be expanding our partnerships in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, continuing our existing pilot partnership in Papua New Guinea, and embarking on a new initiative in the Philippines for the first time. Our new partnership approach is also getting underway in Belize with the first of several new partnerships with local fisher associations now signed.

BLUE VENTURES’ PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN INDONESIA

1 **FORKANI**
PUSIRIN KALIEDUPA TORIDANI
Forkani
Darawa Village, Kaledupa Island,
Wakatobi, Southeast Sulawesi

2 **YAYASAN LINI**
Banggai Laut & Banggai Kepulauan,
Central Sulawesi

3 **YAPEKA**
Bulutui & Gangga Satu Village,
North Minahasa, North Sulawesi

4 **PLANET INDONESIA**
Yayasan Planet Indonesia
Nibung River Village,
Kubu Raya, West Kalimantan

5 **FONEB**
Cia-cia area, Binongko Island,
Wakatobi, Southeast Sulawesi

6 **KOMANANGI**
Kapota area, Wangi-wangi Island,
Wakatobi, Southeast Sulawesi

7 **JARI**
Labuhan Lombok Village,
East Lombok & Poto Tano
Village, West Sumbawa,
West Nusa Tenggara

8 **YAYASAN TANANUA FLORES**
Raporendu and
Tetandara Village,
Ende, East Nusa Tenggara

9a **BAILEO**
Nusalaut Subdistrict,
Central Maluku

10 **AKAR FOUNDATION**
AKAR
Merpas Village,
Kaur, Bengkulu

11 **JAPESDA**
Japesda
Uwedikan Village,
Banggai, Central Sulawesi

12a **YAYASAN HUTAN BIRU**
Sembilang National Park,
Sumatera Selatan

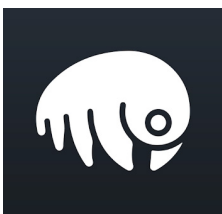
9b **GROGOS ISLAND**, East Seram

12b **Medan Mas Village**,
Batu Ampar, Kubu Raya,
West Kalimantan

Other milestones for the year include continuing the [Africa Marine Conservation Leaders Programme](#) initiated last year, which has so far provided support to 17 leaders and eight trailblazing marine conservation organisations in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean. As we continue the programme with our brilliant partner [Maliasili](#), this year we'll also be supporting leaders from West Africa for the first time.

Beyond fisheries, we'll be exploring new ways to provide low income fishers with the cash means to overcome the upfront costs of effective fisheries management and conservation. We're piloting a community [eco-credit](#) initiative with our Kenyan partner [COMRED](#), building on [GreenFi](#)'s experiences of supporting fishing communities to self-build community-owned and managed credit cooperatives. This approach has been successfully applied in Tanzania with our Zanzibar-based partner [Mwambao](#). Also in East Africa we'll be strengthening our engagement with Tanzania's Ministry of Fisheries, training fisheries officers from the five districts along the length of the Tanzanian coast.

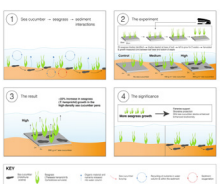
MEDIA & RESEARCH



Our mangrove conservation work was featured in [this superb short film](#) on the [Water Bear](#) network. It also got a [mention](#) in Science magazine, and was the focus of our summer edition of Hooked: [Frontline Climate Defenders](#).



Current conservation featured an [interview with Vatosoa Rakotondrzafy](#), the President of Madagascar's network of locally managed marine areas. The network, MIHARI, has been incubated by BV since its inception in 2012, and we're working to launch the network as a fully independent civil society platform in 2022.



We've published new research showing that benefiting future generations is a [key motivation for community support for marine conservation](#), and highlighting the [benefits of sea cucumber aquaculture](#) to the recovery of carbon rich seagrass ecosystems.