

IMPACT REPORT

Regenerative Agriculture Accelerator

October 2024



In collaboration with:



Muzinich & Co



NextEnergy
Group



boatfolk



Kennedys

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Foreword

Harry Wright

CEO and Founder, Bright Tide

The global food system faces an unprecedented convergence of environmental crises. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), agriculture is currently the primary driver of soil depletion and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reports that close to 90% of the world's marine fish stocks are overexploited, compounding the strain on our natural resources.



In the face of such pressing issues as biodiversity loss, climate change, and food insecurity, our commitment to nurturing sustainable practices is more pertinent and urgent than ever. The solution lies in embracing regenerative farming, both on land and in the ocean. This nature-informed approach to food production has the potential to improve soil health, boost terrestrial and marine biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration, and provide resilient, long-term livelihoods for farmers worldwide.

At Bright Tide, we are dedicated to driving this transformation. As the CEO and Founder, I am thrilled to present this report highlighting the success of our groundbreaking Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme - an initiative that couldn't be timelier.

By fostering a diverse cohort of 20 visionary companies from Ethiopia to Spain, we aim to be a catalyst for change on the global stage, strengthening the interconnections between land and sea for a holistic approach to regenerative farming.

In collaboration with our esteemed partners and delivery partners, we are committed to providing comprehensive technical and advisory support to the selected cohort. Through this programme, we aspire to play a pivotal role in addressing these critical issues head-on, laying the foundation for a more harmonious coexistence with our environment.

Vincent Doumeizel

Founder of the Global Seaweed Coalition

I am Vincent Doumeizel, senior advisor for Ocean at United Nations Global Compact, Food Programme Director at the Lloyd's Register Foundation as well as author of the book, The Seaweed Revolution. I am also the founder of the Global Seaweed Coalition, hosted by United Nations Global Compact, which gathers today over 2.000 seaweed stakeholders to support and represent the industry.



I have many years of experience in the food business before launching this seaweed movement. There I realised how much we have reached the limits of our systems which are fully based on land and completely disconnected from the ocean. The ocean covers 71% of the planet but contributes to less than 2% of our food. Every year our agriculture drops millions of liters of nitrogen and phosphate in ocean out of agri run-off of chemical products. Not only they destroy the biodiversity but these nutrients are lost for millions.

If we want to repair the ocean instead of destroying them, seaweed, as the lowest trophic level, is the best place to start ! Being fed by all additional nutrients floating in the water, it has the potential to upcycle our waster and turned them into something valuable. We could then create a really circular economy and create a link between land and ocean! Large food brands have put regenerative farming very high in their agenda and keep talking about it but there cannot be any regenerative farming without the ocean. Most of the elements cycle go through the ocean! This is especially important in the UK due to the high reliance on importation for these nutrients to support agriculture.

It was really fantastic to join and speak at the launch of the Ocean Regenerative Seaweed Farming accelerators programme at the House of Lords and connect there with such high level industry leaders, policy makers, investors, etc. Cooperation and knowledge sharing is missing so much in this very nascent sector of seaweed. If we manage to deliver this Seaweed Revolution, we could be remembered as the first generation to feed the entire world. But it can only be altogether!

Tatjana Greil Castro PhD

Co-Head of Public Markets at Muzinich & Co

We are the natural world. We are all connected. However, as we have moved from natural jungles into urban ones and industrialised the process of food production we have lost our connection to the world around us. Nature has become something to conquer and control.



Intensive farming practices have brought us a breathtaking increase in yield; one acre of land produces around four times more grain than it did fifty years ago. Nevertheless, food security remains a concern. Intensive farming practices heavily deplete the soil. How quickly depends on the soil type and where it is; soil around the equator and tropics tends to degrade faster than farmland in colder climes.

While we overproduce today, we are also increasing food insecurity for the future. Farming accounts for roughly 25-30% of all carbon emissions, is the largest user of freshwater outside the industrial sector and the biggest contributor to species loss. Climate change is also making farming more unpredictable, with sowing and harvesting windows narrowing.

Awareness of these issues is increasing among farmers, policy makers and food producers who rely on the farming supply chain. We know we need to change our farming methods, cutting out pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, chemical fertilisers and ploughing, whilst ensuring yields remain high enough to keep us fed.

Easier said than done. Portfolio manager by day, three years ago I embarked on a regenerative farming journey after buying an estate in East Anglia. The transition has been anything but straight forward. It takes time to return biology to soil that has been sprayed with chemicals for years. It takes time to establish permanent soil cover to fix nitrogen, instead of spraying fertiliser to grow a crop large enough to warrant the cost of running a combine harvester, let alone buy one! And it takes time to change attitudes. My farming journey has all been under the watchful eyes of neighbouring farmers who, while supportive, are sceptical this regenerative farming 'experiment' could ever be commercially viable.

The transition from conventional to regenerative farming is expensive; it entails a loss of income while soil health is re-established. Knowledge and experience of regenerative farming practices are still not widespread. And while it takes just the push of a button to make a change in a multibillion-pound portfolio, it can take years to change the productivity of a small field.

We need pioneers who are willing to take risks and forge a path for others to follow. This is why we at Muzinich & Co decided to sponsor the regenerative farming accelerator programme, organised by Bright Tide.

Andy Cato

Co-Founder of Wildfarmed

Seventeen years ago I was on my way back from a gig as one half of GA when I picked up an article about the environmental consequences of food production. Inspired by the line “if you don’t like the system don’t depend on it”, I planted my first seeds. When I saw this mixture of summer greens emerge miraculously from the soil and become food on the family table, there was no going back. But I could never have foreseen that this first home grown salad was the beginning of something that would take me to the Bright Tide speaker’s podium at Barclay’s Canary Wharf HQ.



My introduction to the idea of regeneration was a brutal one. The veg patch had become a market garden and full of naive optimism about the idea of farming on a bigger scale, I had sold my music publishing rights, a musician’s pension , to finance the purchase of a farm near where we lived in South West France. I did so without so much as testing the soil. What happened next was a perfect storm: a very humbling lesson in the vast array of skills required to be a farmer and the reality of trying to grow on post green-revolution soils without chemicals.

Farmers have been pushed to the financial brink by a post WW2 cheap food policy that required maximising every last bit of output in order to survive. The policy was a success: we now produce enough food to feed three billion more people than exist. But this food is judged on weight, not its nutritional value to people nor the planetary cost of growing it.

Ten years after the initial, despairing days on the farm, we were growing wheat in nature rich fields and, to allow the nutritional and environmental value of these crops to be rewarded, had opened a farm bakery supplying local schools and communities. Local people used their food choices to support our farming whilst our farming supported the health of the local people and their landscape.

But the road to this point had been exhausting and there were many dark days. It left an indelible mark about the importance of community in farming. Farmers are the most resourceful people in the world, and I haven’t met a single one who doesn’t want to grow quality food in nature rich landscapes. But this can’t be achieved through the imposition of environmental regulation. It has to be a field-to-plate collaborative effort which rewards farmers for the outcomes we want to see.

Wildfarmed was born out of a mission to make this collaboration happen at scale , by properly rewarding farmers for growing pesticide-free food in diverse, regenerative systems and making this produce available on the high street, accessible to all.

In this sense, the heart of regeneration is about rebuilding relationships: between plants and soil microbes, farming communities, growers and shoppers, food and health, economies and the ecosystems on which they depend.

It can feel overwhelmingly difficult. The Wildfarmed loaf on a Waitrose shelf began with building a farming community one field at a time, with all the years of test and learn research, agronomy support, webinars, podcasts and resources that were needed for effective communication with farmers as to how they could grow differently and how they would be rewarded for doing so. 7

About Bright Tide

Bright Tide is a leading environmental consultancy in the UK, dedicated to fostering innovative solutions that address the critical issues surrounding biodiversity loss, climate change, and food security.

Bright Tide runs some of the leading sustainability accelerator programmes available in the UK and has developed an extensive global network in the sustainability field, work with leading ventures around the world. Notable accelerator programmes included the Blue Carbon and Blue Economy programmes that were a huge success.

With a deep commitment to driving positive change, Bright Tide has embarked on an ambitious initiative – the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme.



Executive Summary

Regenerative Farming is a transformative approach that emphasises the restoration and enhancement of farm ecosystems to improve soil health, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. The concept encourages us to consider how all parts of agriculture are interconnected and to understand the biological relationships between biotic and abiotic factors that enable sustainable and efficient land management. By working in harmony with nature, rather than attempting to control it, regenerative agriculture represents a crucial step toward meet our food production needs without degrading our planet.

Simple changes to land management, such as diverse cover cropping and crop rotation, can have significant outcomes, including increased biodiversity and improved soil health. These practices are not only crucial for maintaining our terrestrial ecosystems but also hold immense potential for carbon sequestration, a vital component in combating climate change. While there are notable examples of how regenerative farming can be integrated into land management — with farms and businesses around the world pioneering this transition — the shift from industrial farming to regenerative practices has not yet progressed at a wide scale rate. The extensive list of benefits associated with regenerative farming raises the question of why this practice has not been more widely adopted. Our accelerator programme aims to address this gap and facilitate the broader adoption of regenerative farming practice by empowering the pioneers of the concept.

With our lands covering only about 30% of the planet, it is crucial not to overlook the vast potential of our oceans. Bright Tide's Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme represents a pioneering effort to drive the transition toward sustainable food production systems by integrating regenerative land practices with innovative ocean management strategies. This groundbreaking programme unites a diverse cohort of 20 visionary ventures from around the globe, all committed to revolutionising agriculture and aquaculture practices. By incorporating ocean regenerative management, the programme aspires to create a wholescape approach — an interconnect ecosystem of ventures both on land and water that collectively enhanced the health of our planet.

Overview of the Regenerative Agriculture Accelerator Programme

Background to the Programme

Recognising the urgent need for a paradigm shift in how we produce food and manage our natural resources, Bright Tide launched the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme. The programme tackles the concept of regenerative farming which revolutionises the way farmers manage their land. By working with nature and prioritising holistic approaches, regenerative farming can lead to benefits such as improving soil health, increasing biodiversity and enhancing water cycles. Additionally, regenerative farming goes beyond sustainable practices, aiming to reverse the environmental damage caused by conventional farming.

This comprehensive initiative seeks to empower and support entrepreneurs, farmers and innovator who are at the forefront of developing regenerative solutions for both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. By providing a robust framework of resources through workshops, mentorship, and networking opportunities this programme aims to accelerate the growth of the 20 amazing ventures and the impact of their inspiring leaders.

Through strategic partnerships with industry experts, networking opportunities with investors and like-minded visionaries, this programme emphasises the importance of community engagement and knowledge sharing. Our tailored approach ensures that each participant receives the guidances needed to navigate any challenges faced and scale their solutions effectively.

Building on our Blue Carbon Accelerator programme, it became clear that ocean restoration projects are significantly influenced by land-based activities. For instance, as illustrated in Figure 1, nutrient runoff from inorganic fertilizers can severely impact benthic ecosystems by promoting algal blooms that obstruct oxygen flow. Similarly, the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide contributes to ocean acidification, which poses a grave threat to coral ecosystems globally. These examples underscore the deep interconnection between oceanic and terrestrial ecosystems, highlighting the necessity of adopting a wholescape approach that includes regenerative practices for both.

Our unique wholescape approach integrates land and ocean management practices, acknowledging the inherent interconnectedness of these ecosystems. By merging efforts across land and sea, the programme showcases a diverse array of innovative projects, all committed to transforming agricultural practices. These 20 pioneering ventures are at the forefront of the regenerative farming movement, and our programme is dedicated to highlighting their exceptional talents and supporting their growth, ensuring they reach their full potential.

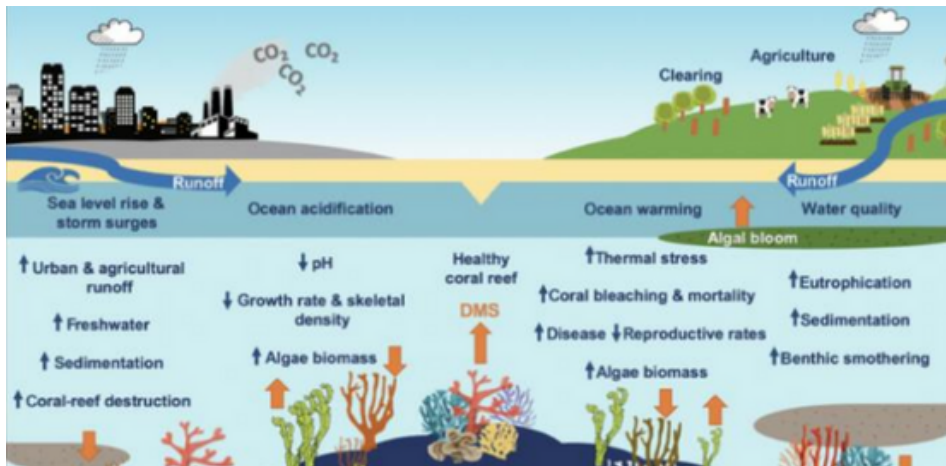


Figure 1: Wholescape approach linking land and water (Jackson et al. 2020)

Cohort Profiles: Participating Farms | Ventures

This groundbreaking programme unites a diverse group of 20 visionary ventures from around the globe, all committed to revolutionising agriculture and aquaculture practices (Cohort). By incorporating ocean regenerative management, the programme aspires to create a wholescape approach — an interconnect ecosystem of ventures both on land and water that collectively enhanced the health of our planet.

As such, the programme boasts a truly global cohort, with participants representing a wide range of farm sizes, geographical locations, and agricultural sectors.

Land ventures



Seawater Solutions regenerates coastlines through blue ecosystem restoration and produces regenerative ingredients for the green transition.



Agreed Earth's mission is to accelerate the transition to more sustainable farming by tracking nitrogen use and loss.





Tierra Foods are on a mission to transform global food companies' value chains through harnessing biomineralisation-capable plants for permanent carbon removal, superfood ingredients and restoration of nature.



Chirrup AI is a biodiversity management platform for the food and farming sector, which reveals the species richness and ecosystem balance of farms, using bioacoustic monitoring and AI.



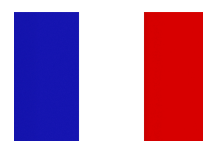
Wildfarmed is a Regenerative food and farming company. Our regenerative farming practices are transforming lives and landscapes through the power of food and community.



Afro Valley is a decentralised cross-border trading and logistic platform enabling farmers to directly trade in the international market while digitising relevant data of farmers to better identify food security.



ReGeneration speeds up the transition of agriculture towards regenerative practices by deploying a model supporting farmers on the ground, financially and technically, through the high valuation of measured eco-benefits.



New Foundation Farms is building a regenerative agrifood enterprise which will produce food in a way that supports our soils, our communities and our health now.





Gentle Farming makes up three generations of regenerative farmers, who have farmed using regenerative principles for sixteen years.



Nunwell Home Farm is a nature-friendly farming business that is committed to prioritizing biodiversity and animal welfare.



Ocean Ventures



The Oyster Restoration Company's mission is to improve ocean health by restoring the functionally extinct native oyster through farming and reef deployment.



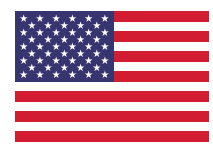
Ole Blu aims to process farmed seaweed into biofertilizers for use in agricultural crops. While monitoring data to understand the impact of two red seaweed in soil health and the agricultural crops.



Aquít has developed a preventive treatment for infections in fish that improves survival rates, growth and animal welfare enhancing immunity and replacing antibiotics



Pine Island Redfish is a saltwater land-based RAS (recirculating aquaculture system) development culturing redfish. They cut the carbon footprint of imports and provide a responsible and sustainable production facility in the market we will serve.





Seaweed Café is a social enterprise pioneering innovation and production of a diverse range of nutritious seaweed-based food products while empowering the lives of women seaweed farmers.



THREE-SIXTY
AQUACULTURE

Three-Sixty Aquaculture excels in RAS design and shrimp farming.



SEA VENTURES
FISHWASTE TO VALUE

SeaVentures offers a brand of products called Zuri Feeds, animal feeds made from fish waste. They reutilise the disregarded fish waste, in collaboration with the fisher folk fraternity, and facilitate these products to aquaculture farmers, poultry farmers, livestock farmers and pet owners.



ATLANTIC
MARICULTURE
LIMITED

Atlantic Mariculture is a leading UK seaweed processor and manufacturer of green fertilisers and biostimulants for use in agriculture and horticulture. Their flagship product, Liquid Kelp™, is the first of its kind to be made entirely using sustainably farmed sugar kelp.



Marine Biotechnology for Agriculture

FICOSTERRA is a marine biotechnology company that manufactures plant biostimulants for improving agronomic performance of crops.



algapelago

Algapelago's pioneering restorative offshore mariculture solutions.



Unlocking Impacting: Key SDGs Covered in our Accelerator Program

The programme aimed to unlock impactful solutions by focusing on key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that we cover in detail with a commitment to high quality. Our approach emphasises delivering impactful, sustainable results in these selected areas, driving significant change through focused innovation and collaboration. The SDGs covered in our programme represent our dedication to addressing global challenges with precision and excellence. In this report, we have specifically highlighted SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as they closely align with the core objectives of the Regenerative Farming Accelerator and its focus on fostering sustainability across land and ocean ecosystems



SDG 13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience, and promoting sustainable development.

The Regenerative Farming Accelerator supported ventures that addressed SDG 13 by promoting sustainable agricultural practices aimed at improving soil health and increasing carbon sequestration. Farmers, who are experts in their field, worked closely with businesses to gain the technical advice needed to scale their operations and embed climate action into their business strategies. Through this partnership, ventures can continue to develop successful business models to achieve future climate-resilient food systems that reduce emissions, capture carbon and mitigate climate change. Going forward, the Accelerator's legacy is set to advance the venture's efforts to to integrate sustainability into their long-term strategies, driving global efforts toward a thriving low-carbon economy.



SDG 14: Life Below Water - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development by preventing marine pollution and protecting biodiversity..

By recognising the critical connections between land-based farming and marine ecosystems, the Accelerator helped ventures address SDG 14. Ocean farmers and received the business and technical support they needed to continue to scale sustainable ocean management solutions. These ventures will continue to focus on restoring marine biodiversity, reducing nutrient runoff, and tackling ocean acidification. Through this collaboration between experts and business leaders, the programme not only addressed immediate challenges but also set the stage for future partnerships that will safeguard marine ecosystems. The Accelerator continues to play a pivotal role in driving collective action among businesses, governments, and NGOs to protect life below water.



SDG 15: Life On Land - Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, and halt biodiversity loss

The Regenerative Farming Accelerator championed SDG 15 by supporting farmers in adopting nature-based solutions to regenerate land, improve biodiversity, and restore ecosystem health. While the farmers brought invaluable knowledge of sustainable practices, they needed guidance from businesses to help scale their impact and ensure long-term viability. Together, these collaborations led to tangible improvements in land management and soil regeneration. As the partnerships continue beyond the programme, these ventures will continue to integrate these regenerative principles into their business models, ensuring that future land-use practices are sustainable and beneficial for biodiversity



SDG 17: Partnerships For The Goals - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development through collaboration between governments, the private sector, and civil society.

At the heart of the Regenerative Farming Accelerator was SDG 17, which emphasised the importance of partnerships. Collective impact is key to this SDG, as it brings together stakeholders from various sectors—businesses, charities, governments, and philanthropists—to tackle shared challenges. The Accelerator fostered this collaborative spirit by connecting farmers with business experts to scale their sustainable practices. By joining forces, participants were able to pool resources, share knowledge, and develop strategies that aligned their business decisions with sustainability goals. While collaboration takes time and requires compromise, the long-term benefits of shared achievement and mutual support far outweigh the challenges. The Accelerator continues to be a platform that encourages businesses to embrace collective action and reshape their future strategies to contribute to a more sustainable global economy.



Summary of the Programme

Our unique cohort of ventures were carefully selected for their critical contributions to advancing our understanding of regenerative agricultural processes, making them true pioneers in their fields. The diversity and reach of these ventures are a testament to the impact of our accelerator programme, which we hope will be a catalyst for widespread adoption of regenerative agriculture. Below is a summary of the key aspects of the programme:

Partnership Summary

20

VENTURES

350+

**PEOPLE ATTENDING
NETWORKING EVENTS**

50%

**OF VENTURES LED
BY WOMEN**

9

**DIFFERENT COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED BY
VENTURES**

Bright Tide's Accelerator has four main areas:

1. Facilitating Partnerships, Networks and Fostering Collaborations
2. Enhancing Regenerative Farming Knowledge
3. Providing technical and Advisory support
4. Identifying and Aiding Funding Opportunities

To support these core areas and the accelerator as a whole, partners from various business sectors joined the programme, bringing invaluable expertise and resources.

LEGAL & INSURANCE



BASE Kennedys
BUSINESS &
SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE

FINANCE

Muxinich & Co **NextEnergy Group**



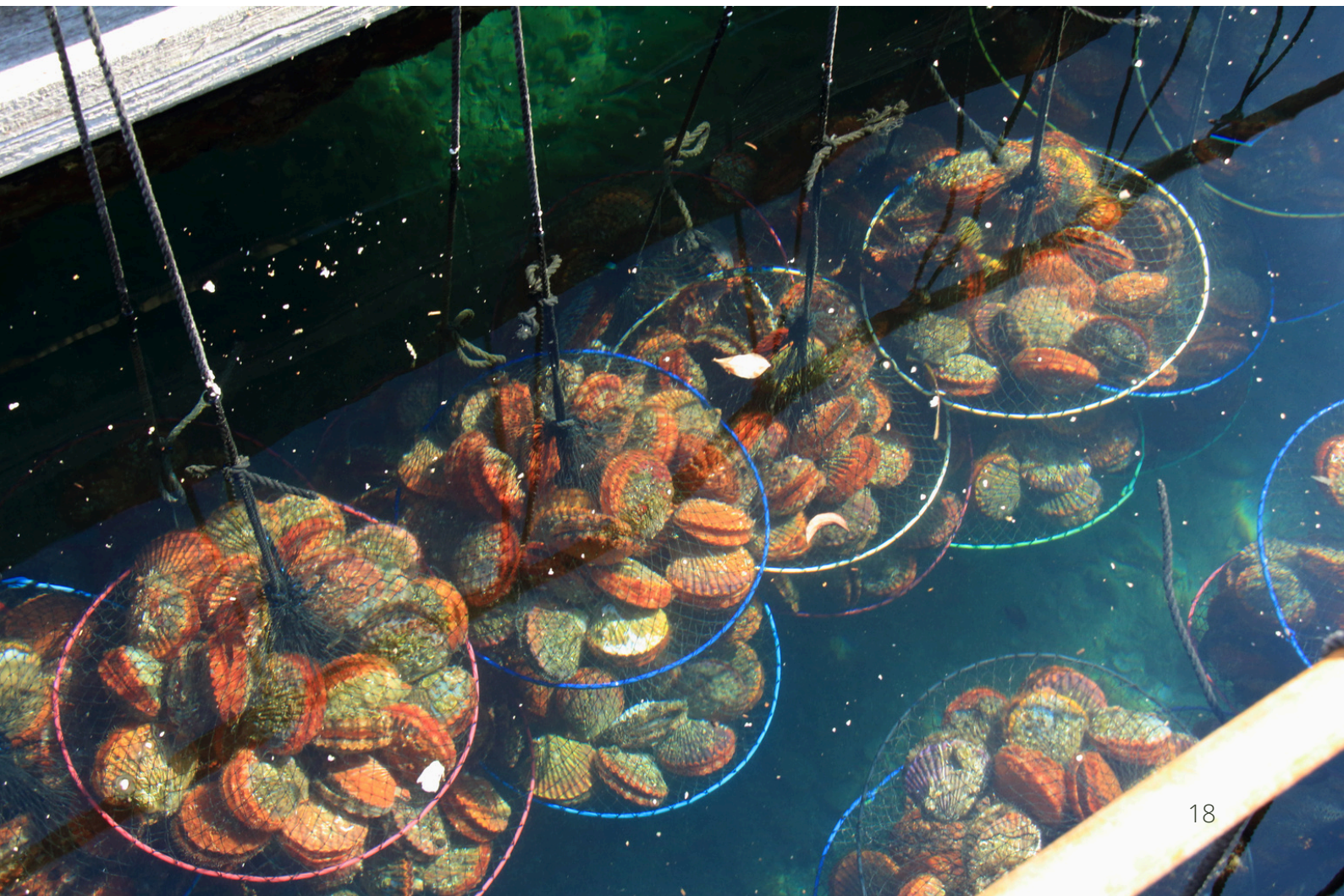
CADMAN CAPITAL GROUP

TECHNICAL



boatfolk

NETWORKING



Key Events

The Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme featured a series of high-impact events designed to facilitate networking, knowledge-sharing, and showcasing the ventures' innovative solutions.

Launch Event

On February 22, 2024, the programme was officially inaugurated at the Hogan Lovells head offices in London. This significant launch event brought together distinguished guests from around the globe, providing a platform to explore innovative approaches to accelerate the growth of regenerative farming initiatives.



The launch event was a huge success with 80 people attending. The keynote speaker of the event was Rt Hon Kerry McCarthy MP, Climate Minister, who gave a passionate speech on the importance of addressing our current land use management methods and the potential of ocean conservation. Adding to this, Kerry stated: 'We know our food system is broken,' and valued each and every startup involved with the accelerator, appreciating their efforts in contributing to rectifying this issue. This was followed by two panel discussions one from four of our land based farming ventures and one from four our ocean land ventures.



The land panel discussion featured Conrad Young from Chirrup AI, Kelly Price from Agreed Earth, Yanik Nyberg from Seawater Solutions and Marcela Flores from Tierra Foods. A highlight of the panel discussion was Kelly Price's in depth explanation on the role of nitrogen in agriculture and its importance as a keystone chemical.

The ocean panel discussion featured Owain Wynn-Jones from Oyster Restoration Company, Megan Sorby from Pine Island RedFish, Olly Hicks from Algapelago and Adrian Macleod from Atlantic Mariculture. Ocean regeneration has long been overshadowed by terrestrial projects which made the points of the panel very captivating and eye opening. Especially a point by Owain Wynn-Jones, who noted the importance of oysters as an ecosystem engineer and the scale at which they have declined in the past 100 years. All four panelists combined to praise the project and insight hope in all of us that their projects will lead the way to large scale ocean regeneration.

"Our participation in Bright Tide has created connections which will stand the development time of our company. The power of the network we have built in this programme continues to open new doors, even new ones we didn't know existed. We are also building new collaborations within our industry to address systemic barriers to entry for innovative food production and environmentally regenerative projects."

—— **Megan Sorby, CEO of Pine Island Redfish**

House of Commons Parliamentary Reception Event

On March 4, 2024, we hosted a joint second event with Bankers For Net Zero at the British House of Commons in Westminster. The event was a major success attracting over 130 people from across the private and public sector and hosted a number of keynote speeches and panel discussions.



For example, the event was opened by the Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP, Defra Minister, who spoke the potential of seaweed farming in the United Kingdom and its benefits to carbon sequestration and an increase in biodiversity. Following this, Rt Hon Sally-Ann Hart MP (former Chair of the Ocean APPG) spoke the hidden treasure of blue carbon and its potential to change our oceans, our climate and our economy. We were also treated to insightful words from some of our partners of the programme, including a passionate speech from Tatjana Greil Castro from Muzinich & Co, Nick Thomas from Kennedys Law who spoke on the important role of insurance in facilitating nature restoration and Yasmin Waljee from our longtime legal partners Hogan Lovells.

We also welcomed Vincent Doumeizel (author of the Seaweed Revolution), who discussed the transformative potential of seaweed in revolutionising agricultural practices and its crucial role in sustaining marine ecosystems. Vincent criticised our current food systems by stating that “these food systems are contributors to the triple planetary crisis” which includes climate change, nature loss and pollution. He emphasised the mission of the Global Seaweed Coalition, highlighting how seaweed aligns with various ventures' objectives and underlining its importance in daily life and to counteract the effects of our current food systems. His message reinforced the significance of marine ecosystems in addressing global challenges and improving sustainable practices.



The programme continued with a series of panel discussions featuring some of the participating ventures. These discussions were divided into land and ocean-focused sessions, with the land panel taking place first. The land panel featured Andy Cato from Wildfarmed, Kelly Price from Agreed Earth, Francesca Cooper and Hollie Fallick from Nunwell Home Farm, and Mark Drewell from New Foundation Farms. A particularly thought-provoking point was made by Mark Drewell, who discussed keystone species and how our current food systems are contributing to humanity's failure to uphold its role as a keystone species.

The second panel focused on our ocean-based ventures and included Daniela Allerbon from Aquit, Megan Sorby from Red Pine Fish, Luis Lombana from Ficosterra, and James Fox-Davies from 360 Aquaculture. A notable highlight was Megan Sorby's observation on the rising significance of blue carbon and the blue economy, which she suggested could soon rival terrestrial farming. She emphasised the immense potential of our oceans in sustainably feeding the global population.

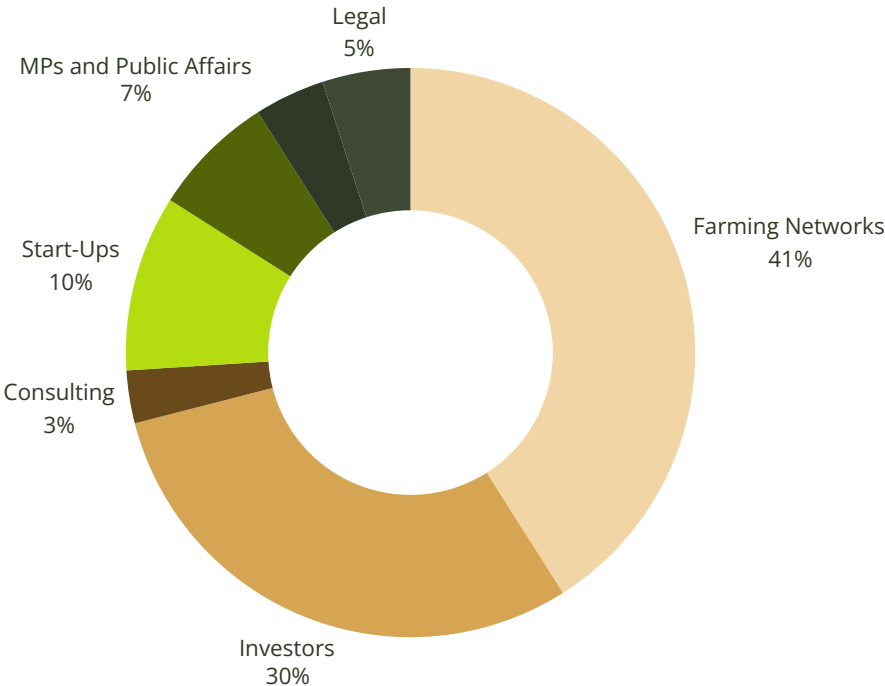
"We are thrilled to have been included in the Bright Tide Accelerator Programme, where we've made invaluable connections and engaged with like-minded individuals. The comprehensive curriculum covers everything a start-up in the regenerative farming industry needs to thrive."

—— **James Fox-Davies, Director of Three-Sixty Aquaculture Ltd.**

The event was closed by the prestigious Sir Ian Redmond, a natural history filmmaker who perfectly summarised the interconnectedness of all living beings on earth. Insisting on the need to value individual animals as more than just ornaments but as crucial beings in a balanced earth. To illustrate this point, Ian used an example of how ecological processes in the tropical rainforest can have a cascading effect on the rainfall seen in the United Kingdom. He extended the importance of a balanced earth by talking about his own experiences in working with apes and elephants, which was truly fascinating.



This event offered valuable insights and sparked meaningful discussions on the challenges and opportunities within regenerative farming. As the most attended event of the accelerator programme, it proved to be highly beneficial for networking and knowledge sharing among people from varying sectors as seen below.



Venture Showcase Event

The culmination of the programme was the Venture Showcase Event, hosted by Barclays on May 24, 2024. This highly anticipated event brought together over 120 participants, including investors, supporters, corporate leaders, civil servants, politicians and key stakeholders in the regenerative agriculture and ocean sectors. The ventures had the unique opportunity to pitch their impactful solutions, demonstrating the significant progress they had made throughout the accelerator programme.



The event began with an opening address by Adam White, Head of Barclays Agriculture, who highlighted the importance of supporting innovative approaches to agriculture in the face of global challenges. Following his remarks, we welcomed Andy Cato from Wildfarmed as our keynote speaker. Andy shared his personal journey into farming and the founding of Wildfarmed, delivering an inspiring narrative about the transformative power of regenerative farming. His story underscored the critical role that sustainable agricultural practices can play in producing nutritious crops while restoring ecological balance.

After the keynote, the venture pitches commenced. Although brief, each pitch was captivating, infused with the energy and passion of the entrepreneurs. The presentations were not only a showcase of innovative ideas but also a testament to the potential of regenerative practices to reshape our food systems and environmental stewardship. The room buzzed with excitement and optimism as the ventures outlined their mission statements, leaving a lasting impression on the audience and instilling a sense of hope for the future of regenerative agriculture.

The event provided a powerful platform for these pioneering ventures to connect with potential investors and partners, setting the stage for future collaborations and continued success in their respective fields.

"I found the programme inspirational. I made some great connections that has really progressed my business. A particular highlight was the **pitch event** which brought together leaders in the industry to discuss and progress the future bringing truly practical solutions to the market."

—— **Thomas Gent, Founder of Gentle Farming**

"What a great concept to bring both land and sea together and explore all the learnings from the past and the potential for amazing, holistic collaborations in the future. The organised support events culminating at the Barclays pitch event also allowed us to zero in on our critical path and current points; helping us to clarify our message. Overall, I just want to thank Harry and his amazing team for the energy and effort they all put throughout the programme. It was well worth it!"

—— **Ali Mirell, CFO/COO New Foundation Farms**



Collaborator Workshop Summaries

Building on the momentum from these high-impact events, the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme also placed a strong emphasis on hands-on learning and collaboration through a series of targeted workshops. These workshops, led by our esteemed partners, were designed to equip the participating ventures with the practical knowledge, resources, and skills necessary to overcome challenges and drive sustainable change within the regenerative farming landscape. Below is a summary of these collaborative workshops, highlighting the key insights and strategies shared with our cohort.

Legal Compliance

By prioritising legal compliance, regenerative farming ventures can mitigate risks, build trust with stakeholders, and operate within the boundaries of applicable laws and regulations. This not only protects their business interests but also contributes to the credibility and legitimacy of the regenerative farming movement as a whole.

Hogan Lovells (BaSE)

With nearly 50 participants, the workshop was Hogan Lovell's largest BaSE Catalyst workshop yet. Lawyers from Hogan Lovells worked alongside their clients, including Booking.com, UBS, Bank of America, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, and Cisco, to advise Atlantic Mariculture, Chirrup, Seawater Solutions, Aquit and Tierra Foods.

The event was an enriching in-person workshop that allowed the ventures to gain pro-bono legal support on getting their company started and navigating the scaling of their operations. The workshop was praised by insightful words from some of the ventures that attended:



"We were lucky to be able to take part in a legal workshop with Hogan Lovells. Speaking to our own dedicated team of legal experts regarding a variety of challenges and opportunities that we are facing as a company. We are so grateful to all the team at Hogan Lovells and Bright Tide who gave their time and effort to bring together such a formative event."

—— **Amabel H., CEO of Atlantic Mariculture Limited**

“My experience was fantastic. I didn’t know what to expect, but what happened surpassed what I could imagine: all my questions and doubts about distribution agreements were answered. It was hard for me to find mentors and advisors specialized in the field without conflict of interest.

It was a privilege to have such an insightful 1:1 mentorship. We are truly grateful.”

—— **Daniela Allerbon, CEO of Aquit**

“I was so impressed with the amount of topics we were able to discuss at some length and the support I received during my 1:1 (well, it was 3:1!) session at HL BaSE.

In fact, we have continued to benefit, and one of the pro-bono advisors is now joining my board meeting to help us navigate some corporate legal changes that would have otherwise cost us thousand to address. The money saved can go into impact projects instead. So, thank you for the support!”

—— **Marcela Flores, CEO of Tierra Foods**

Muzinich & Co

Bright Tide was delighted to welcome Tatjana Greil Castro, Co-Head of Public Markets at Muzinich & Co. as a keynote speaker at both our Parliamentary reception event and our pitch event at Barclay, where Tatiana outlined the case for regenerative farming and the important role that finance can play in accelerating the transition into a sustainable future. In addition, alongside Archie Beeching, Director of Responsible Investing at Muzinich & Co, both hosted a thought-provoking workshop that provided valuable insights into the emerging landscape of sustainability regulations and their impact on corporate supply chains.



The session explored the potential penalties and consequences companies may face for non-compliance with sustainability regulations, shedding light on the pivotal role these regulations play in driving change across entire supply chains. Key topics discussed included the growing importance of ESG reporting and the concept of "insetting" emissions, where companies offset emissions within their own value chains.

Tatjana and Archie's expertise and the engaged participation of attendees fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas and perspectives, illuminating the opportunities for regenerative farming ventures to capitalise on the regulatory shifts and sustainability imperatives faced by large corporations.

"The Bright Tide Accelerator Programme is a critical piece of the regenerative agriculture puzzle - the all-important sinew that connects and guides those with a combined passion for agriculture, business, conservation, and nature, and will no doubt create a powerful network long into the future. It has been a great privilege to be involved in the 2024 programme."

— **Archie Beeching, Director of Responsible Investing at Muzinich & Co**

Insurance & Risk Management

When it comes to farming, managing risk is crucial. This requires ventures to stay vigilantly informed about the ever-evolving landscape of regulations and legal frameworks governing biodiversity conservation efforts in their respective countries.

Kennedys

After the House of Commons event, Kennedys hosted nine of the ventures at their London office for a morning roundtable on how insurance could bridge the protection gap, mitigating risk, risk management. About 20 Kennedys lawyers and colleagues attended, discussing how insurance can support regenerative farming and reduce investment risks. They also explored various insurance products available for land and ocean regenerative farmers and how Kennedys could assist by connecting the ventures with insurers and brokers.

"It's been a privilege for Kennedys to be involved in this Accelerator. Kennedys is a global law firm that helps business and insurers identify and deal with risks. We have a passion for environmental sustainability, and it's of particular importance to our insurer clients who know how much ecology and climate change impact on their bottom line.

Our role in the Accelerator has been to help bridge the gap between these amazing agri-tech businesses and the insurance world. It has already helped start conversations about opportunities for insurers to better support innovation in agriculture, and help address a global problem."

— **Emily Clift, Senior Associate of Kennedys Law LLP**



In addition, Kennedys held a workshop on the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) approach, mandatory for developments in England since 2021. BNG ensures that developments leave wildlife habitats in a better state than before. This legal framework offers landowners and farmers a chance to enhance biodiversity and contribute to sustainable development. By understanding BNG requirements, UK-based ventures can better align their projects with these goals, potentially opening up new revenue opportunities while promoting ecological restoration. Overall, a total of **10 lawyers** from Kennedys participated in the programme contributing over **75 hours** to support the ventures through discussion forums and webinars, together with the coordinating team dedicating **260 hours** to coordinate events, briefings and championing the Accelerator firm wide.

Finance & Raising Investment

Cadman Capital Group

Securing investment is a critical component for ventures aiming to achieve the profitability and long-term growth needed to make a real change to our agricultural systems. To address this crucial aspect, the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme organised a valuable workshop on the subject.

This session was facilitated by James Dinsdale from the esteemed partner organisation, Cadman Capital Group.

During the interactive session, James shared invaluable insights into the mindset and expectations of investment groups, banks, and funders when evaluating potential ventures. He emphasised the importance of crafting a compelling narrative that resonates with investors, highlighting the problem the business aims to solve, the benefits it creates, and the target audience willing to pay for the proposed solution.

Participants gained a deeper understanding of the key elements that investors seek, including a well-defined market size, pricing strategies, and a clear understanding of the circumstances under which customers would adopt the venture's offerings. James's guidance empowered the cohort to refine their approach and position themselves favorably in the pursuit of investment opportunities.

Koen Van Seijen, Manager at Toniic and Host of the Podcast 'Investing in Regenerative Agriculture and Food'

Still, since the landscape of regenerative farming is rapidly evolving, staying attuned to the latest developments and trends is critical, especially for organisations introducing new solutions to the market.

To address this need, the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme invited Koen van Seijen, Manager at Toniic, a global action community for impact investing, to host an insightful session titled "Lessons and Trends in Regenerative Farming."

During this comprehensive intervention, Koen shared valuable insights and data on agro-ecological practices, productivity trends, and the latest research findings related to regeneratively farmed food, soil biodiversity, landscape restoration at scale, and ecosystem payment models for farmers.

Koen's expertise and global outlook on investment trends in the regenerative farming sector provided the cohort with a unique opportunity to stay ahead of the curve. Being equipped with a well-rounded perspective on industry's dynamic from latest advancements, productivity metrics, and ecosystem-based approaches - will allow ventures to better position themselves to receive and manage investment.

Overall, both financing workshops received high praise from attendees, who said this was their biggest hurdle yet now felt more confident in their ability to navigate the fundraising waters successfully.

Supply Chains

Scaling up these regenerative solutions requires the knowledge and foresight necessary to navigate the evolving corporate landscape successfully. This is why we ran several workshops underscoring the importance for ventures to position themselves as valuable partners and solution providers within established supply chains.

Boatfolk

Dominic Zammit, Group Marketing Director at Boatfolk, conducted a workshop focused on the power of partnerships. The workshop provided a platform for Dominic to share Boatfolk's experiences in forging remarkable partnerships and for his team to passionately discuss their mission to reduce the impact on oceans.

His experience highlighted how cross-sector collaboration and synergistic relationships are crucial for accelerating the transition towards sustainable practices. This session left ventures with a clear idea of how forming strategic alliances can amplify their impact, access new networks and audiences, and drive systemic change at a larger scale.

Unilever

We also facilitated an invaluable workshop that provided the cohort with a behind-the-scenes look at how global corporations like Unilever are addressing regenerative farming practices, seaweed cultivation, and their processes for working with startups.

During the session, Unilever shared insights into the company's approach to integrating regenerative agriculture principles into its operations, including sustainable farming methods and the utilisation of seaweed as a renewable resource. Participants gained a deeper understanding of Unilever's selection criteria and evaluation processes for partnering with innovative startups in this space.

The workshop offered a unique opportunity for the ventures to gain firsthand knowledge of how multinational corporations assess and onboard startups, enabling them to better align their offerings and pitches with the needs and expectations of potential corporate partners.

Moreover, the session fostered a dialogue on the broader systems and supply chain considerations that influence the adoption of regenerative practices within large-scale operations.

Policy & Governance

Conservative Environment Network

Marine-based regenerative farming ventures face numerous hurdles, ranging from policy barriers to investment challenges and permitting processes. To address these obstacles, the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme organised an insightful session titled "Navigating Coastal Opportunities," hosted by the Conservative Environment Network (CEN).

The CEN, a group of conservative politicians dedicated to environmental preservation, offered invaluable expertise through their advocacy efforts for fairer farm subsidies and their championing of the Blue Belt initiative around the UK and its overseas territories. Their deep understanding of marine biodiversity and conservation issues made them well-suited to provide guidance to the participating ventures.

During the session, the CEN shared practical insights into critical topics such as marine biodiversity net gain and strategies for capitalising on opportunities historically focused on land-based initiatives. Participants had the chance to explore potential solutions to overcome the challenges unique to the marine sector, benefiting from the CEN's experience and network.

This collaborative session not only empowered the marine-based regenerative farming ventures with crucial insights but also fostered a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in navigating the coastal and marine sectors. To see the CEN manifesto click [here](#).

“Several of the ideas that participants raised with us, particularly around simplifying the licensing process for marine restoration projects, made it into our CEN manifesto for this parliament.”

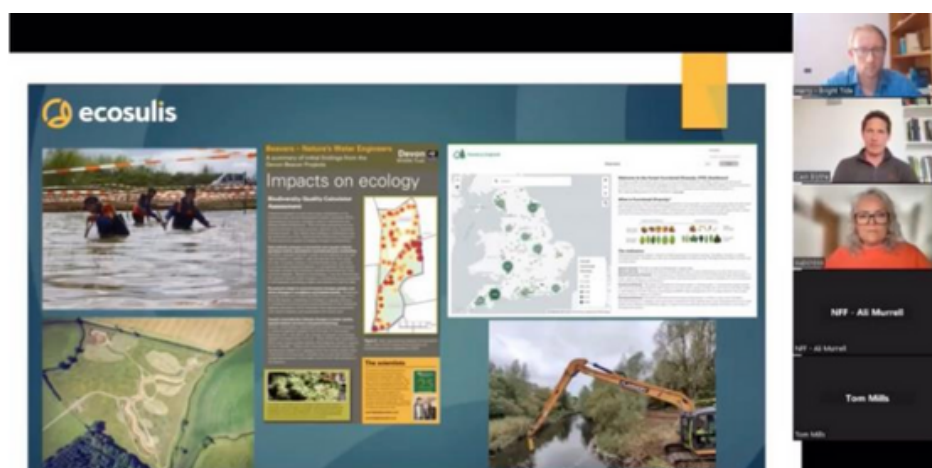
— **Sam Hall, Director of the Conservative Environment Network**

Biodiversity & Rewilding

Ecosulis + Credit Nature

When it comes to Biodiversity and Rewilding, the best way to learn is from the experience of those who have done it. This is why we organised an illuminating workshop led by Ecosulis, a true pioneer in the field of rewilding and biodiversity conservation.

During the interactive session, the participating ventures gained profound insights into the journey of Ecosulis, from its inception to its current role as a leading force in the rewilding movement. The workshop delved into the intricacies of brand building, the lessons learned from transitioning into a cooperative model, and the importance of effectively communicating company values to stakeholders.



Among the key takeaways, the cohort learned the significance of seeking legal counsel from specialists in their respective fields and company types, particularly when navigating the complexities of shareholder structures. Additionally, the session highlighted the benefits of client segmentation, enabling ventures to identify key income streams, allocate resources strategically, and pinpoint potential growth opportunities.

Furthermore, the workshop emphasised the challenges associated with cultural transformation within organisations. Ecosulis shared valuable strategies, such as face-to-face workshops and educational programmes, that can facilitate the alignment of staff with the company's vision, fostering a cohesive and purpose-driven workforce.

The engaging session received high praise from attendees, who expressed their gratitude to Cain Blythe and Suzi Cross of Ecosulis for their candid sharing of the company's journey and their deep expertise in the field of biodiversity and rewilding.

Zoological Society of London (ZSL) – Our Sea Our Life: where bivalve markets meet mangrove conservation

Jeremy Huet, Our Sea Our Life programme manager at ZSL, delivered an insightful presentation to the cohort, showcasing ZSL's work on oyster restoration and mangrove conservation in Mozambique. He shared firsthand experiences of collaborating with local community groups and highlighted the success of these restoration efforts on the ground.

A key focus was ZSL's **Our Sea Our Life** project, which works with vulnerable communities to manage local fisheries through nature-based solutions. The project aims to improve the resilience of coastal ecosystems and enhance community well-being by establishing community fishers' councils to manage marine areas. Additionally, ZSL develops sustainable financing mechanisms and supports Village Savings and Loan Associations, helping communities invest in small-scale businesses and diversify their income sources. Many ventures followed up with ZSL after the presentation, continuing discussions on potential collaborations and ways to work together.

The screenshot shows a ZSL project page. At the top, there is a green menu icon and the ZSL logo. Below is a banner image of a beach with palm trees and people. The banner text reads: "Tackling unsustainable fishing practices" in green, "OUR SEA OUR LIFE - TACKLING UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES" in white, and "SUBSCRIBE TO ZSL CONSERVATION EMAILS" and "CONSERVATION IN AFRICA" in green buttons. Below the banner is a table with project details:

PROJECT STARTED	PROJECT STATUS	HABITAT	REGION/COUNTRY
1 January 2022	Active	Sea	Africa

Below the table is a section titled "PROJECT COLLABORATORS" with two entries:

- Jérémy Huet, Our Sea Our Life Programme Manager
- Ana Pinto, Outreach Specialist

Storytelling & Pitching

Alex Searle – Storytelling with Impact

Mastering the art of digital storytelling is key for these regenerative farming ventures to better communicate their missions, connect with stakeholders, and drive impact through compelling narratives.

The communication series with an insightful session on "Building Blocks of Digital Storytelling." Facilitated by Alex Searle, Founder of Humble Mind and renowned storytelling expert, this two-part workshop provided invaluable insights and techniques for effective storytelling in the digital age.

Key takeaways included the importance of understanding consumer perspectives, crafting intuitive and relatable narratives, and leveraging universal themes to communicate complex ideas effectively. Click to find out more information about [Humble Mind](#) or [Alex Searle](#).



Laura Secorun – Founder of Meridian

Ahead of the showcase event at Barclays, the Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme participants received invaluable guidance on effective pitching from Laura Secorun, Founder and Managing Director of Meridian, a leading environmental communication agency.

Laura's masterclass covered essential aspects of crafting a compelling pitch, emphasising the importance of concise and impactful content delivery. She shared framing techniques to captivate investors' attention from the first word to the last, ensuring a lasting impression.

Additionally, Laura provided practical advice on preparation strategies, enabling the cohort to approach pitch sessions with confidence and poise, ready to address potential questions effectively. Her detailed tactical insights on how to transform investor reticence into enthusiasm and stand out in an increasingly crowded space equipped the participants with the tools necessary to deliver memorable and persuasive pitches during the showcase event

Programme Impact Summary

The insights gained and connections forged during these collaborative workshops were instrumental in shaping the trajectory of our participating ventures. The workshops not only equipped the ventures with practical tools and knowledge but also fostered a sense of confidence and readiness to tackle the challenges ahead. Reflecting on these experiences, we now turn to the broader impact of the programme, highlighting the transformative outcomes that emerged from this intensive period of learning and collaboration.

1. Fostering Diversity

The programme fostered an environment of diversity, inclusion, and global collaboration, creating a fertile ground for rich peer-to-peer learning experiences. Half of the participating ventures were led by women, a testament to the programme's commitment to centering diverse voices and perspectives. Additionally, the cohort boasted representation from three different continents, offering a truly international stage for the exchange of ideas, challenges, and solutions.

This melting pot of backgrounds, and experiences catalysed unique insights that transcended geographical boundaries. Participants had the invaluable opportunity to learn from one another's journeys, share best practices, and gain a more nuanced understanding of the multifaceted challenges facing the regenerative farming and sustainability sectors globally.

Beyond the intellectual discourse, genuine relationships blossomed among the participants, forging connections that will undoubtedly bear fruit in future collaborations and continued knowledge-sharing. This global peer-to-peer learning experience not only enriched the individual participants but also strengthened the collective vision for a more sustainable and equitable future in agriculture.

2. Enhancing Understanding of Systems

An invaluable takeaway from the programme was the ventures' enhanced understanding of the broader systems and corporate landscapes within which they operate. Through insightful discussions and knowledge sharing, participants gained crucial insights into the inner workings of large organisations, uncovering potential avenues for integration and long-term partnerships. They explored how their innovative solutions could seamlessly align with and complement the value chains of major corporations, fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

This systemic perspective empowered the ventures to navigate the complex dynamics of corporate decision-making processes, legal and regulatory frameworks, and evolving consumer values. By bridging the gap between their agile, entrepreneurial approaches and the established methodologies of industry giants, participants identified opportunities for pilot projects, strategic procurement initiatives, and collaborative value creation.

CASE STUDY: FICOSTERRA'S SUPPLY CHAIN ALIGNMENT WITH A MAJOR FOOD COMPANY

Luis Lombana, CEO of the Spanish marine biotechnology company Ficosterra, develops innovative plant biostimulants that enhance crop performance. However, his participation in the programme unveiled a game-changing opportunity – the potential to integrate Ficosterra's regenerative solutions into the supply chain of a major food and beverage company.

Through the programme's networking sessions and corporate engagement activities, Lombana seized the chance to connect the major company's representatives, showcasing Ficosterra's expertise in leveraging seaweed-based compounds to boost agricultural productivity sustainably.

His pitch resonated with the major company's commitment to responsible sourcing and environmental stewardship, sparking their interest in exploring a collaborative partnership. For a 7 year old venture like Ficosterra, this potential partnership may represent a monumental leap forward.



CASE STUDY: CHIRRUP AI AND A MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANY - ALIGNING BIODIVERSITY GOALS

Through the programme, Chirrup AI, a platform using bio-acoustic monitoring and AI to manage biodiversity, identified a major insurance company as a key partner with shared goals. Recognising the growing importance of biodiversity in corporate risk management, Chirrup AI initiated discussions with the insurance company to explore how their technology could support the insurance company's biodiversity and sustainability strategies.

By integrating Chirrup AI's insights, the major insurance company could improve its risk assessments and encourage sustainable farming among its clients. These ongoing talks highlight the value of understanding the broader environmental landscape and demonstrate how Chirrup AI can become a crucial partner for leading insurance companies.



3. Deepening the Regulatory Confidence

A clear impact of the programme was the marked boost in confidence the ventures gained when it came to navigating the intricate regulatory systems that govern the regenerative farming sector. Often an overlooked yet paramount factor in the journey towards scaling sustainable agricultural practices, regulatory compliance and risk mitigation strategies had previously remained an underdeveloped area in the early-stage support ecosystem.

Recognising this critical gap, the programme placed special emphasis on demystifying the complex legal and regulatory landscapes, an emphasis that proved immensely additive for the participating ventures.

Through direct engagement with legal experts, insurance professionals, and cross-pollination of insights among peers, the ventures were equipped with practical strategies for navigating the labyrinth of rules, policies, and risk assessment frameworks.

Whether it was understanding the implications of evolving environmental legislation, mitigating potential liabilities, or structuring operations to align with industry standards, this immersive learning experience alleviated the participants' apprehensions about regulatory hurdles but also empowered them with the confidence to proactively shape their growth strategies around compliance best practices.

CASE STUDY: ATLANTIC MARICULTURE TACKLES REGULATORY HURDLES

Atlantic Mariculture, a trailblazing Scottish aqua-technology company, has been at the forefront of developing innovative solutions for sustainable marine farming. However, as they set their sights on scaling their operations, the team quickly recognised that navigating the complex web of regulations governing their industry would be a core challenge.

Participating in the programme provided Atlantic Mariculture with a timely opportunity to confront this barrier head-on. Through interactive sessions and direct access to legal counseling, the venture gained invaluable insights into the specific nuances of the Scottish and broader UK regulatory landscapes.

What emerged was a clearer understanding of the intricate permitting processes, environmental compliance requirements, and risk management considerations that would shape their path forward. From aquaculture zoning regulations to water quality monitoring protocols, Atlantic Mariculture's team immersed themselves in the intricacies of their regional realities.

However, the programme went beyond mere knowledge transfer. It facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges, where Atlantic Mariculture's experience also served to teach other ventures like Pine Island Redfish in the USA. In turn, they are now also focusing on gaining clarity on their own intricate permits systems.

As a result of this proactive approach, both ventures have bolstered their confidence in their scalability plans, significantly increasing their chances of success but also helping pave the way for other regenerative agriculture ventures that will follow in their footsteps.



Lessons Learned and Tips for the Next Programme

The reflections on these lessons learned highlight both the significant progress made and the challenges that remain in the journey toward transforming the agricultural sector. As the programme continues to evolve, it is crucial to incorporate these insights into future iterations, ensuring that the support offered to ventures is not only robust but also adaptive to the unique needs of the regenerative farming landscape.

By addressing the gaps identified—whether in financing mechanisms, systems thinking, or strategic storytelling—the next programme can further empower ventures to drive meaningful, scalable change, fostering a more sustainable and resilient future for agriculture.

1. Finance Mechanism Mismatch

The finance mechanism mismatch in regenerative agriculture emerged as one of the largest shared challenges among ventures, a subject that was repeatedly brought up during peer calls.

The reality is that farming operates within a unique paradigm and timeline, very distinct from other industries. Yet many existing financing mechanisms for innovative initiatives, such as venture capital, do not adequately align with the needs of the agricultural sector. This mismatch has posed significant obstacles for ventures seeking to drive the adoption of regenerative farming practices.

This is a complex issue, so it is clear that the solutions will need to be multilayered and tailored to the specific context of regenerative agriculture. It will also require a collaborative effort from various stakeholders, including venture capitalists, impact investors, banks, insurers, policymakers, and agricultural organisations.

Transition finance and blended finance models, which combine different sources of capital, such as grants, loans, and equity investments, could play a crucial role in bridging the gap.

Additionally, dedicated research and development efforts focused on designing financing mechanisms that better suit the requirements of regenerative farming initiatives are essential to ensure that farmers are not subjected to further financial risks.

2. Importance of Understanding The Broader Picture

The lessons learned from the workshop underscore the importance of systems thinking for young ventures in the regenerative farming space. Successful integration and long-term relationships with larger organisations hinge on understanding the broader systems and value chains within which these ventures operate.

By comprehending the dynamics that govern corporate ecosystems, the cohort can position themselves as valuable contributors to the goals and processes of established players. This understanding will enhance their ability to seamlessly solve their solutions and cultivate mutually beneficial, long-term relationships within the broader value chain.

The first-hand expert knowledge from the programme's workshops has empowered the participating ventures to forge strategic partnerships and drive the adoption of regenerative farming practices on a larger scale.

Moving forward, we believe that more integrated approaches to corporate-venture partnerships are crucial. Bringing together these two worlds necessitates not just more formal structures where players can interact but also a genuine willingness to learn from each other's approaches. Ventures must be willing to dive into the complex legal and regulatory landscapes that rule the broader market while corporations must embrace value changes and seize opportunities to pilot and procure innovative solutions.

3. Need for More Strategic Storytelling

Communication was also a key thread for both ventures and partners. One of the critical lessons learned by both the importance of having a clear and precise value proposition for regenerative farming ventures.

In an industry where the benefits of sustainable practices can often be intangible or long-term, it is crucial for these ventures to be able to articulate their unique offering and the specific value they bring to the table. By clearly defining their product-market fit and the additive impact they aim to create, ventures can better resonate with their target audience and effectively communicate the significance of their solutions.

Yet this is not enough. Ventures in the regenerative farming space must also prioritise amplifying their message and upskilling themselves in effective communication strategies. By leveraging technology and embracing innovative storytelling techniques, they can cut through the noise and ensure that their solution deeply resonates with stakeholders, investors, and potential partners.

A positive step in this direction can be to nurture more peer-to-peer learning in the space. These groups can serve to bounce off communication ideas, share winning strategies and also find support during tough times. The path to transforming the agricultural sector is paved with challenges, and the ability to bounce back from adversity is essential.

4. Importance for more Reliable and Robust Biodiversity Data

Biodiversity is a cornerstone of regenerative agriculture, yet the data needed to measure, manage, and enhance biodiversity remains insufficient. The availability and accuracy of biodiversity data are critical for understanding the impact of regenerative practices and for making informed decisions that can drive positive environmental outcomes.

The development and deployment of advanced monitoring technologies are essential to gathering more reliable biodiversity data. These technologies, such as remote sensing, drone-based monitoring, and AI-driven data analysis, offer unprecedented opportunities to track changes in ecosystems with high precision. However, these technologies are often costly and complex to operate, which can be a barrier for farmers and small ventures.

Investing in research and development to improve the affordability, accessibility, and ease of use of these technologies is crucial. By lowering the barriers to entry, we can empower more farmers and stakeholders to monitor biodiversity effectively, thereby contributing to the broader goals of regenerative agriculture.

As biodiversity data becomes more accessible, it is vital to ensure that farmers are equipped with the knowledge and skills to utilise this data effectively. This includes understanding how to integrate biodiversity metrics into their farming practices and how to leverage these metrics in nature-based market opportunities.

Initiatives like the Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes and Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) payments offer financial incentives for practices that enhance biodiversity. However, many farmers may not be fully aware of how to take advantage of these opportunities. Providing targeted education and training to upskill farmers can help them better understand the benefits of these schemes and how to maximise their participation in nature markets.

The importance of robust biodiversity data extends beyond the farm gate. As global supply chains become increasingly scrutinised for their environmental impact, having reliable data on biodiversity is crucial for compliance with regulatory requirements.

Corporates are now facing growing pressure to align with frameworks such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and upcoming legislation like the Nature Restoration Law. Moreover, regulations like Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the anticipated Marine Net Gain laws require businesses to demonstrate measurable improvements in biodiversity.

For ventures in the regenerative farming space, the ability to provide accurate and transparent biodiversity data can open up new market opportunities and partnerships. It also positions them as leaders in sustainability, aligning with the evolving expectations of consumers, investors, and regulators.

Emerging Trends Section

Building on the success of our previous accelerator programmes and the invaluable feedback from our Regenerative Agriculture Accelerator, Bright Tide is deeply committed to expanding its global network of startups and investors focused on sustainability. As the intersection of technology and sustainability becomes increasingly crucial, we are closely monitoring investment trends to identify high-potential areas for innovation, particularly in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence (AI).

AI is poised to revolutionise agricultural processes, offering innovative solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in the sector, such as optimizing resource use, enhancing crop resilience, and improving supply chain efficiency. By leveraging AI, we can drive significant improvements in sustainable farming practices, making it possible to meet the growing global demand for food while minimising environmental impact. Recognising the transformative potential of AI in agriculture, Bright Tide places high value on ventures that integrate AI into their sustainability efforts, seeing them as pivotal to the future of regenerative agriculture and beyond.

In collaboration with EY, Bright Tide is running an Accelerator Program focused AI and Agriculture, which will set the stage for our upcoming Sustain.AI Accelerator Programme which launches at the GITEX in Dubai in October 2024. This new accelerator programme will mirror the successful framework of the Regenerative Agriculture Accelerator but will specifically focus on ventures that merge AI with sustainability initiatives. Through the Sustain.AI Accelerator Programme, Bright Tide aims to create a pioneering network of leaders who are driving AI-powered solutions to global sustainability challenges.

Furthermore, the Sustain.AI Accelerator Programme will feature a comprehensive mentorship programme alongside the accelerator, providing ventures with tailored, specific support to address their unique needs. This approach ensures that each participant receives the guidance necessary to maximise their impact and potential. By nurturing these AI-driven ventures, Bright Tide is not only fostering innovation but also shaping a sustainable future where technology and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

Conclusion

The Regenerative Farming Accelerator Programme has proven to be a transformative force in the regenerative agriculture sector, serving as a powerful catalyst for innovation, collaboration, and growth. By bringing together a diverse cohort of forward-thinking ventures, the programme created a unique environment where cutting-edge ideas could flourish, and meaningful connections could be forged. Through a meticulously designed combination of high-impact events, targeted workshops, and strategic partnerships, we have successfully equipped these ventures with the essential knowledge, skills, and networks they need to address some of the most urgent challenges facing sustainable agriculture today.

The programme's impact is evident in the remarkable strides made by each participating venture. From fostering global collaboration across continents to deepening their understanding of complex corporate ecosystems, our cohort has demonstrated not only their capability to innovate but also their resilience in navigating the multifaceted landscape of regenerative farming. The confidence these ventures have gained in understanding and maneuvering regulatory frameworks, coupled with the strategic insights shared through workshops, has laid a robust foundation for their continued success. This foundation is not just about immediate outcomes; it is about empowering these ventures to drive long-term, systemic change in the agricultural sector.

Throughout this journey, we have been continually inspired by the innovation, determination, and resilience displayed by our participants. Their unwavering commitment to their missions—whether it's advancing sustainable farming practices, promoting biodiversity, or pioneering new regenerative technologies—has been truly remarkable. The willingness of these ventures to engage deeply with the programme's offerings, to learn from one another, and to forge partnerships that transcend geographic and sectoral boundaries is a testament to the strength of their vision and the viability of regenerative solutions as a cornerstone of future agriculture.

Moreover, this programme has not only catalysed the growth of individual ventures but has also sparked a broader movement towards sustainability within the agricultural sector. The insights gained and partnerships formed during this accelerator will undoubtedly continue to influence and shape the future trajectories of these companies. We are confident that the relationships and networks established here will endure, creating a lasting impact that extends far beyond the duration of the programme. We are committed to keeping these innovative companies within our circle, supporting them as they continue to evolve and contribute to the global push for sustainable practices.

Looking ahead, the momentum generated by this programme is set to continue, with emerging projects and trends highlighting the future of sustainability in agriculture. As we expand our focus to include the intersection of technology and sustainability, particularly through the integration of AI in agricultural processes, we are paving the way for even greater advancements. AI holds the potential to revolutionise farming by optimising resource use, enhancing crop resilience, and improving supply chain efficiency—key areas that will be crucial in meeting the growing global demand for food while minimising environmental impact. The upcoming Sustain.AI Collective, launching in Dubai in October 2024, represents our commitment to nurturing ventures that merge AI with sustainability initiatives. This new accelerator programme will mirror the successful framework of the Regenerative Agriculture Accelerator, further expanding our global network of startups and investors dedicated to sustainable innovation.

By nurturing these AI-driven ventures and fostering innovation at the intersection of technology and environmental stewardship, Bright Tide is not only continuing the work begun by the Regenerative Farming Accelerator but is also shaping a sustainable future where these powerful tools drive meaningful change. This is just the beginning of what we hope will be a long and impactful journey towards a truly regenerative and technologically empowered future.



Glossary of Terms

As sustainability, conservation, and regenerative farming often involve technical language, this section aims to ensure that readers have a clear understanding of the essential concepts referenced in the report. It is our hope that this resource will enhance your comprehension of the report's content and provide valuable insight into the complex, multifaceted efforts required to achieve positive environmental and social impact.

1. Nutrient Runoff: The process where excess nutrients (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) from agricultural fertilisers or animal waste are washed away from the soil by rainwater, entering rivers, lakes, or oceans. This can lead to harmful environmental effects like water pollution and algal blooms.

2. Carbon Sequestration: The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide in plants, soil, oceans, or other carbon sinks to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and mitigate climate change.

3. Ocean Acidification: A decrease in the pH level of the ocean caused by the absorption of excess atmospheric carbon dioxide. This process harms marine ecosystems, particularly organisms like corals and shellfish that rely on calcium carbonate for their shells and skeletons.

4. Biodiversity: The variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem. It includes different species of plants, animals, and microorganisms, as well as the ecosystems they form. High biodiversity contributes to the resilience of ecosystems.

5. Biodiversity net gain (BNG): is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The word 'biodiversity' comes from the term 'biological diversity'.

6. Regenerative Farming: An agricultural approach that focuses on restoring and improving the health of the soil and ecosystems. It involves practices like crop rotation, reduced tillage, and cover cropping to enhance soil fertility and biodiversity.

7. Ecosystem Services: The benefits that humans receive from ecosystems, such as clean water, fertile soil, pollination, and climate regulation. These services are vital for human survival and well-being.

8. Sustainable Aquaculture: The practice of farming aquatic organisms like fish, shellfish, and seaweed in a way that is environmentally responsible, does not deplete natural resources, and ensures long-term ecological balance.

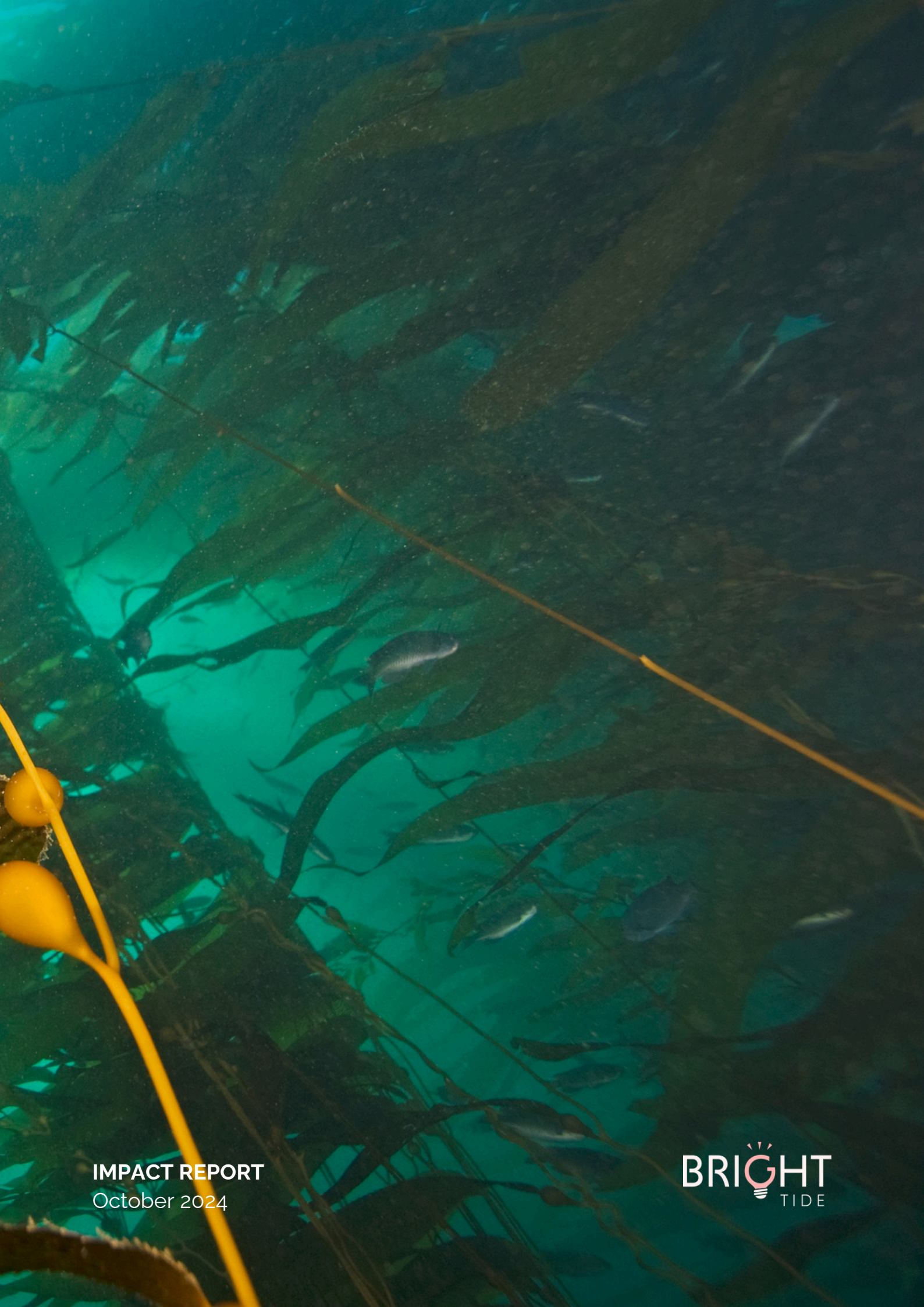
9. Wholescape Approach: A method that considers the interconnections between land and sea ecosystems when developing sustainable practices. It aims to integrate management of both ecosystems for a more holistic and sustainable outcome.

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- Kelly Price - Agreed Earth
- Sara Power – Agreed Earth
- Yanik Nyberg - Seawater Solutions
- Marcela Flores - Tierra Foods
- Owain Wynn-Jones - Oyster Restoration Company
- Megan Sorby - Pine Island RedFish
- Olly Hicks – Algapelago
- Humphrey Atkinson - Algapelago
- Adrian Macleod - Atlantic Mariculture
- Mark Spencer - MP, Defra Minister
- Sally-Ann Hart - MP, former Chair of the Ocean APPG
- James Dinsdale - Cadman Capital Group
- James Reed - Cadman Capital Group
- Rebecca Redden - Cadman Capital Group
- Koen van Seijen - Toniic and Host of the Podcast 'Investing in Regenerative Agriculture and Food'
- Dominic Zammit - Boatfolk
- Michael Prideaux - Boatfolk
- Adam White - Barclays
- Andy Cato – Wildfarmed
- Rob Bray - Wildfarmed
- Francesca Cooper - Nunwell Home Farm
- Hollie Fallick - Nunwell Home Farm
- Mark Drewell - New Foundation Farms
- Daniela Allerbon - AQUIT

- Luis Lombana - Ficosterra
- James Fox-Davies - Aquaculture
- Ian Redmond - Rebalance Earth
- Cain Blythe - Ecosulis
- Suzi Cross - Ecosulis
- Kate Miller - Ecosulis
- Neil Melleney - Ecosulis
- Alex Searle - Humble Mind
- Laura Secorun - Founder and Managing Director of Meridian
- Rocco van den Berg - Unilever
- Sam Hall - Conservative Environment Network
- Kitty Thompson - Conservative Environment Network
- Heather Buchanan - Bankers for Net Zero
- Elliot Cyriax - Bankers for Net Zero
- Jeremy Huet - Zoological Society of London
- Ana Pinto - Zoological Society of London
- Jennifer Godderidge - Atmo
- Dianna Fletcher - Fletcher Media
- Camila Curry - AXA XL
- Paddy Tarbuck - UK Agri-Tech Centre
- Ann Dingemans - Kennedys LLP
- Michelle Blythe - Kennedys LLP
- Sarah MacDonald - Kennedys LLP
- Tim Stansfeld - Kennedys LLP
- Paulina Nabazaite - Kennedys LLP
- Deborah Newberry - Kennedys LLP
- Emily Clift - Kennedys LLP
- Nick Thomas - Kennedys LLP
- Ann Dingemans - Kennedys LLP
- Cameron Dowd - Inverto Earth
- Claudio Colombo - NextSTEP
- Aldo Beolchini - Next Energy Group
- Adam Dorogdi - Photographer
- Lisa Boulton - Nestle Purina Petcare
- Rhianna Rees - Scottish Seaweed Industry Association



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