Marine Programme

Saving the ocean from the grassroots up
AN URGENT CALL TO ARMS

Marine ecosystems across the globe are among the most important natural systems on earth, supporting significant levels of biodiversity, playing a critical role in regulating the earth’s atmosphere and climate, providing food and livelihoods to over three billion people, and sustaining local and national economies.

Marine environments support some 230,000 recorded species – ranging from whales (the world’s largest mammals), unique and iconic sea turtles, and sharks and rays, through to reef-building corals, sponges, shellfish, and plankton. Each of these species has a vital role to play in maintaining the health and function of complex ocean systems. As we continue to learn more about the ocean and its hidden depths, many more species are being discovered every year. However we are also learning more about the damage that has been done to ocean habitats – from our coastal estuaries to the bottom of deep ocean trenches.

Despite the importance of the ocean for every human life (in helping to drive the water cycle and to produce the oxygen that we breathe), marine ecosystems are also some of the most threatened on the planet. Past decades of neglect and over-exploitation have proved that the ocean is not only vulnerable but is becoming rapidly degraded, putting at risk species, habitats and human populations.

The unprecedented rate of change and the scale of the threats necessitate urgent and coordinated global action. FFI is committed to ensuring that we can have a clear impact in conserving marine and coastal ecosystems, and in mobilising action from the grassroots up to reverse ocean decline. We see a specific role for ourselves in creating models of successful conservation that can inform wider systemic change, and in inspiring others to take action for sustainable and productive seas.
OUR OCEAN IN CRISIS

There are serious challenges facing the ocean, which if addressed with urgency, will allow the ocean to recover and to continue to support biodiversity and our growing human population into the future. The good news is that we know what is needed. We now need to build the will and momentum behind the solutions that work, and amplify the efforts.

- **OVERFISHING**: Increasing global demand for fish has pushed the ocean to its limits. Nearly half of commercial fish stocks are at the point of collapse and destructive fishing techniques (such as some forms of bottom trawling, dredging and the use of explosives) destroy seafloor habitats that fish and other marine life rely upon.

- **COASTAL POLLUTION**: Pollution from urban, industrial and agricultural sources enters the sea and kills marine life. For example, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean each year, and chemical contamination, sedimentation and nutrification are also rife.

- **HABITAT DESTRUCTION**: Coastal habitats are impacted by conversion or development of coastal land and by extractive industries offshore. Our seas contain some of the most threatened habitats on the planet: it is estimated that 90% of the world’s coral reefs will be lost by 2050; seagrass area is declining by 7% every year; and mangrove forests are disappearing at a faster rate than tropical rainforests.

- **CLIMATE CHANGE**: The ocean has absorbed more than 90% of the heat and about 40% of the CO2 generated by global greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, the oceans are warming, which is resulting in sea level rise, coral bleaching, and major changes in species distribution, plus the absorbed CO2 is making oceans more acidic so that animals such as corals and shellfish struggle to form skeletons and shells.
OUR APPROACHES

We develop multi-stranded marine projects to address the complex threats facing the marine environment, but which draw on FFI’s wider core strengths.

FFI’s marine work focuses around three strategic approaches:

- securing important areas to safeguard marine biodiversity;
- informing and influencing policies and practice affecting the marine environment; and
- supporting key national and local institutions to help them deliver effective marine conservation.

For further information, please see our Marine Approaches document.

OUR ETHOS

We believe that FFI can play a unique and important role, complementing the many other organisations already active in marine conservation. In line with FFI’s strategic approaches to conservation, our projects:

- Are developed hand-in-hand with local institutions. Our partnership approach, working with others within and beyond the conservation sector, is key to overcoming the interconnected and pervasive threats facing marine ecosystems.

- Embed skills, resources and leadership in-country. By investing in local organisations, rather than in our own infrastructure, we develop conservation solutions that we believe are more relevant, likely to succeed and sustainable.

- Fully involve local communities to ensure ongoing support for conservation. Creating a constituency of those who depend on the ocean is an essential ingredient in effective marine governance that is often overlooked. We seek to enable the genuine participation of key stakeholders, and to ensure that local benefits are realised, so that conservation action better accounts for the range of practices, expectations and interests, and is therefore sustainable.

- Respond to national and local priorities, which relate to the international context, rather than imposing our own agenda.

- Start small and develop effective models that can subsequently be scaled up.

- Track their impact and document learning to enable wider sharing.

An externally commissioned review of FFI’s work, which focused in part on our Marine Programme, concluded that we have “a unique role characterized by (i) collaboration through lasting partnerships, (ii) leadership through innovative models, and (iii) a lean entrepreneurial style allowing fast and flexible engagement on critical issues.”
Since we started our Marine Programme in 2010, FFI has supported over 35 projects across 19 countries, and engaged with over 200 partners to achieve the following impact:

- **55 MPAs Either Established or Better Protected**

- **68 New “No Take Zones” in Eight Countries**

- **Destructive Fishing Reduced in 48% of All Sites**

- **Signs of Recovery in 17 Key Species Groups and Four Habitats**
EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS

ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE MARINE PROTECTION IN TURKEY

The Gökova Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established to offer protection to globally important seagrass beds, commercially important fishing grounds, and nursery habitats for endangered sharks. Until 2012, the area lacked effective management allowing overfishing to continue, and damaging sensitive habitats.

By working with local partner Akdeniz Koruma Derneği (AKD), FFI has helped to develop a thriving network of No–Take Zones within the MPA which are actively patrolled by community rangers. The patrols are deterring illegal fishing, with infringements reduced by over 75% since 2014.

The biomass of key commercial fish (such as grouper) is now up to six times higher within the No–Take Zones compared to the surrounding fished areas. Restrictions on commercial trawling and purse seining activity in the Bay has also added value to the catches of local fishers, boosting community support for the MPA. Critically Endangered Mediterranean monk seals, are now regularly observed in the MPA, and there has been successful breeding in two caves, suggesting broader ecosystem recovery. The Turkish government is now seeking to expand the existing No–Take Zones network, and five additional sites have been put forward to replicate this successful model to new areas.

LOCALLY DRIVEN MARINE MANAGEMENT IN MYANMAR

The highly biodiverse Tanintharyi region of Myanmar is home to coral reef, seagrass and mangrove habitats, and a wealth of charismatic and commercially important species.

Working alongside the government and local communities, we have helped to establish the country’s first Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs). This locally relevant solution is proving how communities can take practical strides to protect the marine areas and resources they rely on, and has helped to shape new legislation that ensures greater civil society participation in marine management. Critically, this work – which highlights the impact of overfishing on habitats, local livelihoods and vulnerable species – is driving government appetite to establish larger MPAs, with plans for three new MPAs prepared and supported, and to pursue wider fishery reforms.

Ecological surveys have helped to identify conservation priorities across the seascape, and in collaboration with NGO, academic and government partners, FFI is working to secure protection of these areas as the first demonstration for how a representative, functioning and effective network of MPAs could be delivered.
Overfishing, the use of destructive fishing techniques (especially bottom trawling), and unsustainable coastal development have led to degradation of critical biodiversity, including coral reefs and seagrass beds.

In a move to overcome these threats, in 2012 FFI began supporting local partners in the planning and establishment of Cambodia’s first Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) around the Koh Rong Archipelago, in close collaboration with the Fisheries Administration. This involved working with Community Fishery (CFi) groups, helping them to play an active role in the design and delivery of the MFMA, which resulted in their local management plans for specific areas becoming legally recognised. FFI provided years of support to government partners and other stakeholders, which culminated in the development of Cambodia’s first ever MPA legislation and legal documents for MPA management, and in 2016 Koh Rong MFMA was officially designated, the first of its kind in the country. The site has since been upgraded to a marine national park, increasing the level of legislative protection.

Monitoring in and around Koh Rong has indicated some promising results at this pioneering site, including a declining number of illegal fishing incidences, an increase in predatory grouper (indicative of a healthy balance of fish on reefs), an increase in seagrass cover, and perceived increases in fish stocks among local communities.

Having helped to influence the MPA agenda in Cambodia, we are now working to expand our efforts to other priority areas, with the ultimate goal of establishing a network of MPAs along the Cambodian coastline.

Plastic pollution is increasingly recognised as an insidious threat to marine life – with risks of entanglement and ingestion. In particular recent research has shown how small particles of plastics (microplastics) concentrate pollutants and facilitate their entry into the food chain (as plastic particles are ingested by marine organisms).

FFI was the first biodiversity organisation to specifically focus on the threat from microplastics, and engaged on this issue since 2009, initially undertaking research to understand the risks and then working to raise consumer awareness, to drive change in industry and where necessary to implement legislation.

FFI focused on the use of microplastic granules – or “microbeads” – in facial scrubs and similar products, which reach waterways and then the sea when they are used and rinsed off. FFI developed “The Good Scrub Guide” in 2012, and subsequently engaged with retailers and manufacturers to gain voluntary commitments from companies to remove plastic from their products. As part of a coalition with three other UK-based organisations we helped to drive a high profile campaign to ban the use of microbeads in toiletries, which was subsequently adopted by the UK government, which came into force in 2018. This world-leading ban is the most comprehensive piece of legislation on this issue to date.
BRINGING NEW VOICES TO MARINE PROTECTION IN SCOTLAND

Scotland’s coast supports a multitude of species, such as basking sharks and dolphins, vast populations of seabirds along with cold-water corals and maerl beds. Although Scotland has established a network of MPAs, the voices of the local communities that live in and around the coast are often left unheard in the management of their seas. Decision making is predominantly influenced by a powerful industrial fishing lobby.

In close partnership with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) – recognised as global pioneers of community conservation – FFI has supported six communities to develop their own aspirations for the management of their neighbouring coastal waters, helping fledgling community groups to realise their own ambitions for locally appropriate marine protection.

For example, support to the Fair Isle community resulted in the establishment of a new MPA in their waters, which will enable research to determine how they can best protect the globally-renowned seabird colonies that nest here. In addition, FFI is helping these communities create a strong and sustainable network, to enable them to work together more effectively and create a community-led voice for Scotland’s inshore waters.

EMPOWERING LOCAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS IN INDONESIA

Indonesia’s Aceh province is host to some of the most diverse coral reefs in the world, supporting an array of marine life – from endangered sea turtles to thousands of fish species. Acehnese communities have a long history of fishing and managing their waters. However, following the 2006 tsunami, traditional management approaches were undermined and a rise in unsustainable practices (such as dynamite fishing) and overfishing have resulted in damage to key habitats and declining fish catches.

FFI has worked to re-establish traditional fishing organisations, and with them has helped to establish some of Aceh’s first Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), as well as ensuring these traditional groups are represented and have a voice in the management structures of national MPAs. Locally-led enforcement at these sites, has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the use of reef-damaging fishing methods such as dynamite, drag-net and poison fishing. For example, at our initial project site (Weh island) dynamite fishing has been eliminated, with no new reported incidents. These outcomes have now inspired the Acehnese government to expand its MPA network.
OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WE WILL BE:

• Focusing on scaling up from our demonstration sites – looking for opportunities to evolve our work in the countries where we operate
• Strengthening our engagement on key policy weaknesses affecting the oceans – such as the issues of fishery reform and IUU around many of the coastlines where we work
• Continuing to address corporate practice that damages our ocean – through a combination of science, constructive engagement, and where necessary, targeted regulations
• Expanding our network of in-country marine conservation partners – and investing in their development and sustainability – be they civil society or government agencies
• Helping our partners to document the results from their marine conservation actions (in terms of both biodiversity and socio-economic returns) and to share their learning more widely
• Ensuring effective conservation action persists over the long term, through focused capacity building, exploration of market-based financing models and by resolving conflicts over resources.
MARINE PORTFOLIO

Below we have grouped our projects according to the three approaches of our marine strategy, to illustrate the breadth of approaches that we adopt, although many of our projects have been designed to deliver outcomes that span across several of these approaches.

SITE PROTECTION

Many of FFI's marine projects focus efforts at specific priority sites at local and sub-national scales, which face perceptible threats. We support approaches to effective governance and management of marine and coastal resources that are crafted to suit the local situation and that include local communities as key partners and determiners of success.

MPA ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN CAMBODIA

FFI supported local partners, government and communities to establish Cambodia’s first national MPA in the Koh Rong Archipelago which was designated in 2016, and has since been upgraded to a marine national park. We are now building capacity for effective management of the coral reefs, seagrasses and threatened marine species within the MPA and working to reduce illegal fishing practices that threaten community livelihoods. FFI is also collaborating with the community of the Koh Sdach Archipelago to design and operationalise a second MPA, as part of a long-term ambition to establish a network of protected areas across the Cambodian coast.

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN MPA NETWORK IN THE MYEIK ARCHIPELAGO, MYANMAR

Myanmar’s 2,278km coastline hosts rich wetlands, seagrasses, reefs and regionally significant mangrove forests. FFI co-ordinated and published the first in-depth survey of the biodiversity of the Myeik Archipelago, which is now identified as a conservation priority. In collaboration with fishing communities, FFI also facilitated the establishment of Myanmar’s first three Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in 2017, and continues to support these sites whilst working to set up further LMMAs. In parallel, FFI is now supporting the government to establish three MPAs in the archipelago, within which community fishing rights will be safeguarded and critical habitats protected.
INTEGRATED SEASCAPE MANAGEMENT IN ATLÁNTIDA, HONDURAS

The Caribbean coastline of Honduras supports highly diverse and ecologically connected coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, and estuaries, and is home to Endangered Antillean manatees, hawksbill turtles, and reef sharks. Threats include poor fishing practices, illegal hunting of wildlife, unregulated tourism, pollution and sedimentation from agriculture. FFI is working with five NGO partners, local communities and government to improve co-management of three MPAs within the ‘seascape’, and the surrounding ocean, which has resulted in increased collaboration to address issues of joint concern, and a reduction in the use of damaging fishing practices. Progress has also been made in reducing manatee and turtle egg poaching.

IMPROVING MPA EFFECTIVENESS IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

FFI has worked for many years in several Caribbean countries to help protect and restore the unique island fauna and flora, but is also supporting conservation of the closely inter-linked marine environment. Coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves are under high levels of threat given the human pressure on these small countries from tourism, fishing, pollution and unsustainable coastal development. In Anguilla, FFI is working with its partners to develop management plans for the MPAs and improve enforcement. In Antigua we are supporting the government to establish a new MPA around the remote island of Redonda, a stronghold for hawksbill turtles and endangered coral species. We are also looking at options for supporting effective MPA management on St Lucia, and on Union Island in the Grenadines.
**EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF MPAS IN TURKEY**

The MPA in Gökova Bay on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey hosts globally important seagrass beds, commercially important fishing grounds and habitats for endangered sharks. FFI has supported a local partner and government with the establishment and management of a network of six No-Take Zones (NTZs) within this MPA. This is the first time in Turkey that NTZs have been implemented and effectively enforced through a system in which local fishers and community members play an active role in patrolling and monitoring, which has demonstrated an increase in fish biomass and fisher revenue, and the return of important apex predators to the Bay, including the Endangered Mediterranean monk seal. FFI is now working with partners to expand the network of NTZs and improve the effectiveness of MPAs along 500km of Turkish coastline.

**ESTABLISHING AN MPA NETWORK IN SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE**

São Tomé and Príncipe is a small nation of two islands off the coast of West Africa. The islands and waters surrounding São Tomé and Príncipe include important breeding grounds, habitats and nesting areas for sea turtles and seabirds, and the country is known for its high levels of fish endemism and important shark and cetacean populations. The islands’ communities are dependent on fisheries for livelihoods and protein, but have experienced a decline in catch. With local and international NGO partners, government and local communities, FFI is supporting the designation of an MPA network and encouraging a participatory approach to MPA management that will involve and benefit local communities, while also working to reduce dependence on fishing.

**PARTICIPATORY MARINE CONSERVATION IN CAPE VERDE**

The archipelago nation of Cape Verde supports a wealth of globally important and endemic marine species, including 17 species of whales and dolphins, over 60 species of sharks and rays, and five species of marine turtle including one of the three largest nesting populations of loggerhead turtles in the world. FFI contributed to the participatory process of developing a zoning plan for an MPA network for Maio Island, designed to reduce pressure from tourism, coastal habitat destruction and unsustainable and illegal fishing, and we are helping a local NGO to improve monitoring and management of these MPAs. FFI is now expanding this work to Brava Island, a strong hold for sharks, and we expect shark conservation to become a major component of our work in Cape Verde in the coming years.
PROTECTING MARINE SPECIES

While all of our projects aim to benefit marine biodiversity, we have pulled out projects that have developed specific strands of work that target the specific needs of particular groups of species at the sites at which we work.

COMMUNITY-LED SEAHORSE CONSERVATION IN CAMBODIA

Seahorses are vital components of shallow-water marine ecosystems, however each year an estimated 15-20 million seahorses are collected and traded for traditional medicine, aquariums and souvenirs. The Koh Rong Archipelago in Cambodia is thought to be a hotspot for seahorses, with six species recorded, however seahorses and their seagrass habitats are threatened by illegal trawling and collection. FFI is working in this area to monitor seahorse populations and to identify threats, including the local seahorse trade and its linkages to the international wildlife trade, with the ambition to develop local and national actions to protect Cambodia’s seahorses.

SAFEGUARDING SHARKS IN MYANMAR

Myanmar may be home to as many as 58 shark and 71 ray species. Despite a nationwide ban on shark fishing, surveys by FFI in partnership with a local university revealed hundreds of juvenile sharks for sale in markets in Myeik, sourced from an active fishery in Myanmar. As part of national efforts to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and rays, FFI aims to support the government in strengthening regulations, improving compliance through awareness raising and enforcement, demonstrating solutions to reduce by-catch, and increasing protection of important shark and ray habitats. FFI is also leading some of the first in-water surveys for sharks in the Myeik Archipelago, seeking to identify where populations remain.

CONSERVING SEA TURTLES ON THE PACIFIC COAST OF NICARAGUA

The Pacific coast of Nicaragua is home to globally important nesting beaches for Eastern Pacific hawksbill, leatherback (both Critically Endangered), and olive ridley turtles. Traditionally, many turtle nests were poached for their eggs. FFI has worked with local communities to monitor, protect and patrol nesting beaches since 2002, which resulted in the annual protection of over 90% of Nicaraguan leatherback turtles, 50% of the known nesting population of Eastern Pacific hawksbills, and close to 70,000 olive ridley turtle nests. FFI plans to expand to tackle in-water threats posed to these species, and develop sustainable revenue for management efforts. However in the meantime, FFI intends to remain a conservation presence in this critical turtle nesting region throughout the period of political turmoil in Nicaragua.
INFLUENCING POLICY

We recognise that achieving sustainable ocean management and marine biodiversity protection also requires introducing major policy shifts. Therefore through many of our projects, FFI engages with national governments to raise the profile of, support local stakeholders to lobby for improved policies addressing, and where appropriate, engage in wider international debate on, critical marine issues, which include fishing, oil and gas, mining, plastic pollution and tourism.

REDUCING SOURCES OF MARINE MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION

FFI has been tackling marine microplastic pollution for a decade, prioritising prevention of direct sources as the most effective approach. FFI partnered with NGOs to highlight the danger that microbeads in personal care products pose to marine life, which culminated in the UK government introducing a world-leading ban on microbeads in these products in 2018, which FFI is now helping to implement and using to improve EU legislation on microplastic ingredient use. We have also developed a programme of work preventing the loss of microplastics from supply chains, including pellets (or “nurdles”) and microplastic fibres, which are the second and third largest direct sources of marine microplastic pollution by weight respectively. FFI is also exploring solutions to pollution from marine industries’ use of expanded polystyrene, as a unique instant source of microplastic spheres.

ADDRESSING MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION THROUGH SITE-BASED CONSERVATION

FFI is starting to develop projects aimed at solving the root causes of plastic pollution in some of the countries and sites where we are supporting other marine conservation activities. Projects are being developed in Cambodia and Honduras and opportunities have also been explored in Indonesia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Kenya and Mozambique. For example, in Cambodia’s Koh Rong Archipelago we are building an evidence base of local plastic pollution sources, collaborating with communities to design locally led solutions and starting to support government to connect with island communities and strengthen laws to eliminate plastic pollution.
REDUCING THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES ON THE OCEANS

FFI is working with oil and gas companies that operate in offshore and deep water areas in a number of countries including South Africa, Ghana, Congo Brazzaville, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, and São Tomé and Príncipe, to identify and mitigate the impacts of their operations on marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. FFI published industry guidelines best practice for oil and gas operations in the marine environment in 2016, and these have been widely disseminated. FFI also engages with international financial institutions to encourage wider use of the guidelines. In 2019, FFI became a member of the Deep Sea Coalition and joined the call for a moratorium on deep seabed mining. We will be working with a host of partners to ensure that deep seabed mining activities do not deplete resources nor damage or destroy fundamental elements and function of marine ecosystems.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FOR MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN COSTA RICA

FFI’s initial work in Costa Rica focused on supporting our partners to end bottom trawling for shrimp, which causes extensive damage to seabed habitats, and to turtles, rays, sharks, and lobsters that are caught as by-catch. In 2014, the government banned the issuing of new trawling licenses until sustainable methods are introduced. However large-scale, unregulated artisanal fishing remains a major threat. FFI has thus worked with a local NGO to support the designation of Cabo Blanco Marine Management Area in 2017 and to ensure that this new MPA type legally requires local community participation in decision-making. FFI also helped to improve management of Marine Areas for Responsible Fishing (MARFs), and we supported a pilot project in Tarcoles MARF to test new traceability technology, which provides a tool for improved management and potential higher incomes for sustainable artisanal fishers, and there is interest for this to be replicated in a number of other MARF’s. FFI is now making plans to hand the continuing work in Costa Rica over to our local partners.
ENHANCING PARTNER EFFECTIVENESS

FFI believes that the most effective, sustainable solutions for ocean protection lie in local hands. Therefore through all of our projects we aim to build strong and effective local organisations so as to ensure sustained, long-term conservation impact.

BUILDING ON TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO CREATE EFFECTIVE MPAS IN ACEH, INDONESIA

The rich coral reefs of Aceh’s offshore islands in northern Sumatra were severely impacted by the devastating 2004 tsunami, and continue to suffer from illegal and destructive fishing. Starting in 2006, FFI worked helped to establish a network of LMMAs on Weh Island by supporting the re-establishment of Aceh’s traditional village-based fisheries organisations and their management systems that were undermined following the tsunami, an approach we have since implemented within PiSiSi MPA on Simeulue Island. Monitoring data are showing reduced levels of illegal fishing within this MPA, and increasing fish biomass within the LMMAs as a result of locally-led enforcement. A network of formal MPAs was designated by the Acehnese government throughout the province in 2018, and FFI is now supporting the operationalisation of four of these, ensuring that locally-driven management is retained.

CO-MANAGEMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES ON PEMBA ISLAND, ZANZIBAR

The Pemba Channel Conservation Area (PECCA), designated in 2005, protects the rich marine biodiversity of this large area which includes reefs, seagrass beds and concentrations of large pelagic fish and cetaceans. FFI is supporting the government, local communities and a local NGO to improve the governance of this MPA by equipping village-level associations (known as Shehia Fishers Committees) to play an active role in its management. We have supported the establishment of three LMMAs within PECCA, where communities implement strict protection, which is resulting in higher fish catches. The project is also introducing mechanisms, such as village credit schemes, to enhance local livelihoods and incentivise conservation.
COLLABORATIVELY MANAGED AREAS, NORTH KENYA COAST

FFI had worked in northern Kenya for many years and helped to set up the Northern Rangelands Trust-Coast (NRT-Coast), an NGO that helps to bring together communities to address conservation challenges. We are supporting NRT-Coast to work with the local conservancies (organisations that are mandated to promote community-based conservation) to improve management of the important marine resources in this area. FFI has helped NRT-Coast develop its marine strategy, and has provided support for patrolling the Beach Management Units, the community-led institutions that manage LMMAs in this region. Further work is being developed to expand this approach along the coast and implement the emerging co-management system for effective management of Kenya’s MPA network.

SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND

FFI has worked to support local partners in Scotland since 2011. Over this time it has established the ‘Coastal Communities Network’, which now supports some 16 grass-roots community-led organisations to take action to protect their local marine environments. FFI supports individual groups to develop their own capacity and structures, and provides technical advice enabling them to establish new MPAs and/or influence the management of their local seas. In addition, through the network we are enabling communities to support each other and share experience, and have helped them to develop a united voice to influence national decision-making on the management of Scotland’s inshore resources.

CHAMPIONING MARINE LEADERS THROUGH THE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

FFI is a founding member of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative’s Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP), which develops, mentors and champions young conservation leaders from around the world. Through CLP funding, the Marine Programme has supported young marine conservationists to manage their own projects addressing threats to important marine habitats and species, and to develop these into larger programmes of work. Examples include work to address fisheries threats to rays in Sulawesi, Indonesia, which has received ongoing support from government to continue project activities, and work to characterise unexplored coral reefs in Cozumel, Mexico, which has resulted in scrutiny of Mexico’s black coral fishing quotas. FFI plans to continue investing into this programme in order to mobilise marine conservation champions in countries where they are most needed.
If you have any questions or would like more information about the Marine Programme, please contact:

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