

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL EQUITY AND OCEAN CONSERVATION



Through our mission to reverse the trend of destruction to the ocean, we've seen that communities with the most to lose are disproportionately affected by climate change. Those communities are also typically contributing the least to disrupting the climate. If we don't listen to those voices and equip their communities with what they need; then we are failing to successfully meet the most demanding global challenge of our time.

Environmental racism refers to public policies and industry practices that unfairly place the burdens of climate change, environmental degradation, and pollution onto disenfranchised and indigenous people and low-income communities. These marginalized people are compromised by their lack of access to resources, political power, and income opportunity. Decades of neglecting to address climate change has also left these communities with enormous stress from fending off the environmental and health consequences.

Compassion, equity, and inclusivity are essential requirements to heal the ocean. We need to meet the needs of all people to fully resolve ocean issues - not allow risk to be pushed onto marginalized communities and pretend they are solved for now. Our role is to provide equipment, training, and policymaking services, so that we can break the cycle of colonial science and propel research and development that serves local needs.

We are also actively exploring ways in which we can drive change through our work, as we recognize that this is not an exhaustive list or silver bullet solution to address Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) issues. There is more that can be done, and when we invest in these communities to become more resilient, we also ensure the rest of the world will also be more prepared to mitigate and withstand the effects of climate change.



Factors Currently Undermining Communities



Climate Gentrification. Originally segregated from beachside property, residents of low-income neighborhoods are pushed to move to new locations, as home buyers and developers eye land less vulnerable to the effects of climate change.



Lack of Solidarity. Marginalized scientists, communities, and individuals are not met with understanding or assistance to gain the resources they need to be resilient, even though they're hit first and hardest by natural disasters, sea level rise, and more.



No Strategic Planning Inclusion. The conservation sector is not representative of the communities they serve. These voices are not brought to the table to assist in the decision-making process as they must to develop effective solutions.



Colonial Science. When scientists and those supporting them don't invest where they conduct their research, they inhibit those communities from implementing solutions or building infrastructure, and create dependencies on foreign expertise instead of developing local talent.



Pollution Segregation. Pollution of freshwater, salt water, and the air is most prevalent in places that don't have the financial and political resources to protect their neighborhoods. Oil drilling, pipelines, disposed plastic, and landfills unfairly plague their communities.



Some of Our Ocean Solutions



Build Capacity. Everyone should be their own best line of defense. Our initiatives train in restoration and conservation best practices, and we work closely to deploy unique solutions for our partners, such as providing ocean acidification monitoring kits for laboratories and shellfish farmers.



Policymaking Services. From facilitating regional ocean acidification commitments to engaging legislators on transitioning their community to a circular economy, inclusion of local voices ensures we introduce new, long term solutions without presenting any unanticipated challenges.



Innovation with Local Partners. From implementing blue carbon sequestration methodologies that also enhance storm resilience and fisheries habitats, we have also recently pioneered *Sargassum* insetting, which has turned the problem of nuisance algae blooms into a solution that supports local, independent small-scale farmers.



A New Blue Economy. Policy agendas that work toward improving human welfare and social equity, while also mitigating environmental risks and ecological scarcities, also work toward economic wellbeing. This is a cross-cutting goal of all of our work, in particular as we advocate for a just transition to a more sustainable post-COVID global economy.



Our Role as a Community Foundation



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice

Our principles were established to address the lack of diversity in the marine conservation community and the lack of equitable practices in all facets of the sector; from funding distribution to conservation priorities.



Hosted Projects

As a fiscal sponsor, we reduce operational complexities by providing the critical infrastructure, proficiency, and expertise, so they can focus on successful program development, implementation, and outreach.



Grantmaking & Advised Funds

Grants through our initiatives build capacity and enhance community resources. We also host Donor Advised Funds and recommend distributions to fund urgent needs across the planet for beloved ocean causes.



Research Pages

As a result of being a trusted consultant, facilitator, researcher, and collaborator, we are proud to be able to provide the public a thorough, curated collection of key publications that have guided our work.

SUPPORT THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Move our work forward by supporting the only community foundation for the ocean, ensuring the frontline communities we serve have the resources they need to reduce and respond to the growing effects of climate change.

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