

A large manatee is the central focus, swimming horizontally across the frame. Its body is covered in green algae. A large school of small, dark fish follows it from below. The background shows a sandy seabed and some vertical structures in the distance.

Flotilla

FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2025

Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report

This year, we have seen our work reach further across the portfolio, strengthening our contribution to both policy and practice. Within our **Strengthening Ocean Resilience** pillar, we have continued to support solutions that protect and restore marine ecosystems, while placing greater emphasis on challenging false solutions, particularly technological approaches that risk delaying the systemic action needed to address the climate and ocean crises.

In the **Ending Ocean Pollution** pillar, we have deepened our focus on chemical pollution and its far-reaching consequences for both environmental and human health. The growing recognition that toxic chemicals can affect ecosystems, food systems and human health across generations has reinforced the importance of addressing pollution at its source and driving systemic change and policy reform. A key milestone this year was hosting our first **ChemCure** convening, bringing together partners and stakeholders from across the field to build shared understanding, strengthen collaboration and identify opportunities for more coordinated action on toxic chemical pollution.

More broadly, 2025 has been an important year for marine conservation, with growing global attention on ocean health, plastic and chemical pollution, and the role of policy in driving systemic change. Across our work, we have sought to contribute to this momentum by supporting evidence-based solutions, challenging approaches that risk causing further harm, and strengthening collaboration across the field.

We look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead, continuing to support ambitious and systemic approaches that can help protect and restore the health of our ocean for generations to come.

- Melanie Smith

Chair of the Board of Directors

A Message from Our Director

The environmental challenges we face are becoming more complex, more interconnected and increasingly difficult to ignore. Across the ocean and the wider natural environment, ecosystems are under growing pressure from climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and the intensification of human activity. At the same time, new scientific evidence continues to deepen our understanding of the scale and consequences of these pressures – from the impacts of toxic chemicals on human health and ecosystems to the cumulative effects of pollution and climate change on the resilience of natural systems.

The context in which environmental organisations and funders operate is changing too. A shifting geopolitical landscape, changing political priorities and growing pressure on public funding are creating a more uncertain environment for long-term environmental action. At the same time, technological and market-driven responses to environmental challenges are developing rapidly. Some may offer genuine opportunities, while others risk creating new environmental pressures or distracting from the underlying changes that are needed.

For Flotilla, these developments have reinforced the importance of remaining responsive and willing to evolve. We are constantly looking beyond individual environmental problems to understand the systems and industries that drive them, and to identify where intervention can create wider and more lasting change. This has meant supporting work that combines scientific evidence with policy, advocacy, community action and new forms of collaboration – while also challenging approaches that risk becoming false solutions.

Across the portfolio, we are also increasingly interested in solutions that address environmental pressures at their source: reducing harmful inputs before they reach our waterways, strengthening protection and restoration of ecosystems, and creating the policy, economic and social conditions that enable change at scale. At the same time, we recognise that resilience requires both protecting what remains and finding new ways to respond to a rapidly changing world.

We will continue to adapt our approach as the evidence, risks and wider context evolve. Our aim is not simply to respond to the challenges we see today, but to anticipate where environmental risks are heading and help build the collaborations, ideas and solutions needed to address them. In a period of increasing uncertainty, we believe that staying curious, responsive and willing to challenge established approaches will be essential to achieving lasting impact.

Tamar Matalon
Programme Director

Table of Contents



Strengthening the Oceans Resilience	6
Protection and Restoration	7
Challenging False Solutions	8
Innovations & Solutions	11
Blue Carbon	12
Ending Pollution in our Waterways	14
Pesticide Pollution	15
Nutrient Pollution	16
Chemical Pollution	18
ChemCure – Innovating for a toxic-free future	20
Update from The Challenge: Born Green Generation	21
Looking to the Future	23



Strengthening the Ocean's Resilience

The ocean is fundamental to the health and resilience of our planet. It regulates our climate, supports extraordinary biodiversity, provides food and livelihoods for billions of people, and sustains the natural systems on which we all depend.

Yet the ocean is facing growing and interconnected threats. Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, overexploitation and increasing pressure from human activities are placing ecosystems under unprecedented strain. At the same time, new and unproven technological interventions are being proposed as solutions to environmental challenges, potentially creating further risks for fragile marine ecosystems.

Strengthening the ocean's resilience means protecting and restoring ecosystems, addressing pressures at their source, and ensuring that responses to environmental challenges do not create new ones. It requires approaches that work with the ocean's natural systems rather than further exploiting them, while building the ecological resilience needed to withstand the many pressures facing our seas.



The resilience of the ocean will define the resilience of our planet

Strengthening Ocean Resilience through Protection and Restoration

Why Protection and Restoration Matter

Currently, **less than 10%** of the ocean is designated as a marine protected area and even less is fully protected. Meanwhile, **over one-third** of global fish stocks are overexploited, and critical ecosystems such as coral reefs and seagrasses continue to decline.

Designating well-managed protected areas allows ecosystems to recover, rebuild biodiversity and restore natural climate functions such as carbon storage and coastal buffering. Where degradation has already occurred, active restoration can accelerate recovery, helping habitats regain their ecological integrity and resilience.

Together, protection and restoration move us from slowing loss to rebuilding strength.



There are an estimated **4.9 million** fishing vessels in the global fishing fleet (FAO, 2024)



84% of coral reefs were affected by bleaching between 2023 and 2025 (ICRI, 2025)

Featured Projects

WWF European Policy Office – Restoration Done Right

WWF supports the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Law by helping ensure that Member States submit ambitious, high-quality nature restoration plans by 2027.

Through message testing, the project explores narratives around passive and active restoration to shape effective advocacy. By engaging businesses and policymakers, it will build broad support for measures to be included in these plans that reduce overfishing and enable marine ecosystems to recover.



Shark Conservation Society – From Global to Local

This project aims to reduce shark and ray mortality by turning international commitments into locally led conservation action across key regions, including the Western Indian Ocean, Eastern Tropical Pacific, and Coral Triangle.

SCF and WCS work with communities to establish protected areas, prohibit targeted catches, and strengthen enforcement, ensuring effective and lasting conservation outcomes.



Shark
Conservation
Fund



Effective conservation and restoration link top-down policy measures with bottom-up, community-driven action, for lasting impact

Strengthening Resilience by Challenging False Solutions

What are False Solutions?

As efforts to tackle the climate crisis accelerate, the ocean is increasingly being used as a **testing ground for technological ‘solutions’**. Marine geoengineering and seabed mining are being promoted as climate or resource solution, yet both carry significant ecological uncertainty and governance gaps. These approaches risk damaging fragile ecosystems, are excluding affected communities and **diverting political momentum** away from the urgent task of reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Strengthening ocean resilience requires precaution, accountability, and systemic emissions reductions, not experimental shortcuts.



Map of the planned marine geoengineering experiments taken from <https://map.geoengineeringmonitor.org/>



More than 300 people gathered in St Ives to protest the marine geoengineering experiment

The Case of St Ives Bay, Cornwall

In St Ives Bay, Planetary Technologies’ (PT) proposed ocean alkalinity enhancement trials were successfully halted, a major victory achieved through coordinated scientific scrutiny, legal pressure and sustained community mobilisation. None of which could have happened without the leadership of the **Seal Research Trust (SRT)** and **Keep Our Seas Chemical Free (KOSCF)**. After two years of determined advocacy, PT ultimately withdrew its plans.

Building on this success, efforts are now focused on long-term vigilance and protection of the bay. KOSCF is strengthening local networks through public engagement, documentary work, media outreach and ongoing monitoring of emerging geoengineering proposals, ensuring residents remain informed, connected and ready to respond.

At the same time, SRT is carrying out independent scientific monitoring, including volunteer diver surveys, habitat mapping, biodiversity tracking and water quality assessments. This work will establish robust baseline data to inform regulators and help safeguard the bay from future industrial or experimental pressures.



When communities are equipped with evidence and voice, global experiments can be stopped at the shoreline

Strengthening Resilience by Challenging False Solutions

From Local Action to Global Safeguards

Building on local successes, our approach scales resistance to false solutions through coordinated advocacy, movement-building and legal governance reform. The projects we support aim to resist normalisation and prevent deployment of dangerous, experimental marine geoengineering trials, whilst simultaneously refocusing policy-makers' attention and resources on real, proven solutions which address the climate and biodiversity crises.



Featured Projects:



HOME Alliance – Movement Mobilisation

The Hands Off Mother Earth (HOME) Alliance continues to strengthen marine geoengineering opposition through alliance building and coordination. They work holistically, across all resistance groups to promote restrictive governance that resists planned and ongoing experiments.

Through alliance building, grassroots activation and accountability advocacy, They work to dismantle the legitimacy of marine geoengineering and reinforce climate responses that are democratic, precautionary and rooted in justice.



CIEL – Legal Accountability and Governance

The Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) works to advance marine geoengineering opposition. They do this by working with key partners to expose the harms of marine geoengineering, and to deliver a proactive narrative shift to defeat dangerous marine geoengineering proposals and policies.

CIEL works to delegitimize and challenge marine geoengineering by enabling policymakers, civil society, journalists, and funders to scrutinize proposals at every stage, using legal analysis and strategic communications to advance precautionary governance and support proven, rights-based climate solutions that protect people and oceans.



Real ocean resilience avoids risky shortcuts and protects nature for the long term

Strengthening Resilience by Challenging False Solutions

The Risks Associated with Seabed Mining

Seabed mining, whether in the deep ocean or for shallow coastal deposits such as black sand, poses a significant and largely irreversible threat to marine ecosystems. These activities disrupt fragile habitats, destroy biodiversity hotspots and release sediments and pollutants that can travel far beyond the mining site.

In the deep sea, ecosystems may take centuries to recover, if at all, while coastal mining directly impacts fisheries, mangroves and local communities that rely on healthy seas for their livelihoods.

Framed as a solution to resource scarcity, seabed mining overlooks the hidden cost: the loss of crucial ecosystem services, such as carbon storage and natural climate resilience that intact habitats provide. Exploiting the ocean floor in pursuit of short-term gains threatens the very systems we depend on to buffer and adapt to climate change.

The ecological integrity of the seabed is crucial, as it supports habitat-forming species and drives processes that sustain marine ecosystem function.



Featured Projects



Deep Sea Mining Campaign – Defending the Ocean from Deep Sea Mining

The Deep Sea Mining Campaign (DSMC) works to halt the development of commercial deep-sea mining, partnering with Pacific communities, governments, scientists, and the finance sector.

They provide research and advocacy tools, engage investors and promote moratoria to prevent projects that lack strong political and financial backing. Ultimately supporting a growing international push towards a full moratorium on deep-sea mining.



IUCN Netherlands - Exposing the Risks of Shallow-Water Seabed Mining

Using the Philippines as a case study, IUCN strengthens seabed governance by highlighting the environmental and social risks of shallow-water seabed mining.

Combining scientific research, legal analysis and community testimony, they work with coastal communities and local governments to advance safeguards. They also amplify frontline voices and develop replicable models to help prevent the irreversible ecological damage and subsequent impacts on local livelihoods that are caused by seabed mining.

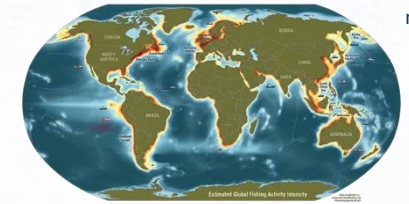


From global governance to local communities, the use of systemic pressure and site-level safeguards will help to protect the seabed and marine life

Strengthening Resilience Through Innovation

Building Resilience Through Innovation

Innovative approaches are essential to protecting the ocean and its critical role in climate stability. Advanced monitoring technologies and data-driven tools for managing marine protected areas and restoring degraded habitats are enabling action at scale. Equally important are incentive-based solutions that support a sustainable blue economy, including market mechanisms and community-led conservation finance, which align economic opportunity with ocean stewardship. Together, science, technology and well-designed incentives can strengthen ecosystems, support livelihoods and enhance the ocean's resilience to climate change.



AI generated map

Featured Projects:



Action for Ocean - Enhancing Coastal Community Livelihoods

Action for Ocean (AFO) promotes sustainable livelihoods in Tanzania's coastal communities through its Climate and Ecosystems Adaptation and Resilience (CLEAR) Model, combining innovation, incentives and environmental stewardship. By supporting Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), AFO provides capital, financial literacy and tools to expand small-scale seaweed farming.

Seaweed production enhances marine ecosystem health, reduces destructive fishing practices, and boosts biodiversity and water quality. By linking income generation with conservation, AFO strengthens the seaweed value chain in Tanzania, supporting resilient and sustainable blue economy.



Sea-Changers Innovation Fund



sea-changers

The Sea-Changers Innovation Fund supports community-led approaches to marine conservation that can be scaled locally, nationally, or globally. By focusing on grassroots projects, it harnesses local knowledge to develop solutions that are both culturally relevant and environmentally appropriate.

The Fund supports ideas ranging from early-stage prototypes to proven approaches new to the UK, helping to build community buy-in, strengthen long-term sustainability and generate replicable models. It also encourages collaboration between local groups and practitioners to share learning and amplify impact. In doing so, Sea-Changers demonstrates how small-scale, locally driven innovation can deliver significant environmental and social benefits.



Innovation drives ocean resilience by enabling effective and adaptable conservation solutions

Strengthening Resilience Through Blue Carbon Ecosystems

The importance of blue carbon ecosystems

Blue carbon ecosystems, mangroves, seagrasses and saltmarshes, are among the ocean's most powerful natural allies against climate change. They sequester and store vast amounts of carbon, often at rates far higher than terrestrial forests, while simultaneously providing critical habitat for marine life and protecting coastlines from storms and erosion.

Protecting and restoring these ecosystems not only mitigates greenhouse gas emissions but also strengthens the resilience of coastal communities and biodiversity, demonstrating how nature-based solutions can deliver multiple climate, ecological and social benefits simultaneously.



A healthy salt marsh captures carbon **40 times** faster than forests ([Duarte et al., 2005](#))



Globally, There are **15M hectares** of mangroves storing **21B tonnes** of CO² ([Lea et al., 2024](#))



Blue Marine Foundation –

Building the value of the ocean as a solution to the climate crisis

Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) drives conservation impact by integrating ocean-based climate solutions into policy and practice. Focusing on the UK, this project highlights the climate role of blue carbon ecosystems and seabed carbon stores, advocating for climate-smart marine protected areas and the removal of harmful practices such as bottom trawling and dredging.

By generating scientific evidence, engaging policymakers and aligning marine spatial planning with restoration and protection goals, BLUE aims to strengthen national climate and biodiversity strategies, including the UK's contribution to the 30x30 target.

Over the next two years, their efforts will focus on embedding blue carbon in policy frameworks, raising awareness of ecosystem connectivity and implementing whole-site protection approaches, ensuring ocean-climate solutions deliver measurable climate and biodiversity benefits ahead of 2030.



BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION

Integrating blue carbon into policy safeguards vital ecosystems and strengthens climate resilience



Ending Pollution in Our Water Ways

Our waterways are the lifelines of our planet, carrying water from land to sea and sustaining communities, ecosystems and economies along the way. Yet they are under growing pressure: nutrients from farms, chemicals from industry and plastic waste flow into rivers and streams, quietly eroding water quality and threatening the oceans they feed.

Stopping pollution at its source is essential, but progress is not simple. Policies can be slow to change, and shifting political priorities make regulation and enforcement uncertain. By addressing pollution at its source, we can restore the health of our waterways and protect the oceans they sustain.



Clean oceans are fundamental to a thriving, resilient planet

Ending Pesticide Pollution

The Pesticide Problem

Pesticide pollution in oceans is a complex, far-reaching problem with consequences at multiple levels. Chemicals carried from farms into rivers and coastal waters accumulate in marine ecosystems, harming and reducing biodiversity.

This contamination can disrupt reproduction and growth in marine life, weaken ecosystem resilience and degrades overall water quality. As pesticides persist and spread through the environment, they harm biodiversity and pose wider health risks to people who rely on clean water for food and livelihoods.

Addressing this challenge requires coordinated action across agriculture, markets and policy. Interventions in one area alone cannot fully protect human health or sustain resilient, productive marine ecosystems.



Long-term exposure to harmful pesticides increases the risk of Parkinson's disease over **2.5-fold** ([Hasan et al., 2025](#))



Like **DDT** in *Silent Spring*, today's pesticides continue threatening biodiversity and ecosystems.

Featured Projects



PAN EU – Pesticide Reduction in Retail Food

Pesticide Action Network (PAN) EU works across six EU countries to encourage supermarkets to reduce pesticide residues in key fruit and vegetable products.

PAN ranks supermarkets on their performance, raise consumer awareness, and support farmers in phasing out the use of hazardous pesticides. Over the four years, this integrated approach will reduce toxicity in food and improve environmental and public health outcomes.



Natuur en Milieu – Pesticide Country

There is an incorrect assumption that approved pesticides are inherently safe to use. Natuur & Milieu challenges this by assessing the health and environmental risks of commonly used pesticide combinations in Dutch agriculture.

They communicate these findings to farmers and policymakers and translate them into practical policy tools, including improved risk insurance frameworks, better access to knowledge and benchmarking systems.

These measures support a transition towards more nature-inclusive and healthier farming systems.

NATUUR
& MILIEU



Without systemic coordination, farming impacts overwhelm human health, ecosystems and oceans

Ending Nutrient Pollution from Sewage

Sewage Pollution and Nutrient Overload

Sewage pollution is a significant but often under-recognised driver of ocean degradation, introducing large volumes of nutrients, organic waste and contaminants into marine ecosystems. This pollution comes mainly from untreated or poorly treated human wastewater discharged from rapidly growing urban areas and inadequate sanitation systems.

Human sewage adds excess nitrogen and phosphorus, but also carries pathogens, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants that further stress ecosystems. Once in rivers and coastal waters, these inputs trigger eutrophication, causing algal blooms, oxygen depletion and “dead zones” that threaten biodiversity and coastal communities.



Featured Projects:

Surfers Against Sewage – End Sewage Pollution



Surfers Against Sewage (SAS) aims to end sewage pollution in UK waters by driving major reform in the water industry. They seek to create a fair, transparent, and well-regulated system that prioritises public health, environmental protection and value for customers. This responds to a growing ecological and public health crisis driven by weak regulation, ageing infrastructure, and repeated pollution incidents.

The project will use key legislative opportunities and public engagement to push for system-wide change. Working with a coalition of experts, communities, and campaigners, to strengthen accountability, improve financial transparency, and support fairer governance across the sector.



Coral Reef Alliance – Saving Coral Reefs



Coral Reef Alliance's (CORAL) Clean Water for Reefs initiative improves human and coral reef health by advancing community-driven wastewater solutions across the Western Caribbean and beyond. With most global wastewater entering oceans untreated, it addresses pollution through water quality assessments, policy advocacy and treatment systems.

CORAL assess wastewater pollution in the Southwestern Caribbean, Coral Triangle and Fiji, and uses those findings to guide expansion of infrastructure to wider regions. This scaled approach builds on a proven model that prevents millions of gallons of sewage from entering the ocean each year, directly reducing pollution that damages coral reef ecosystems and coastal health.



Integrated governance and local infrastructure enable scalable solutions to sewage pollution

Ending Nutrient Pollution from Fertilisers

Fertiliser Overuse - from Soil to Sea

Excessive fertiliser use can disrupt natural nutrient cycles by adding more nitrogen and phosphorus than crops can absorb. In soils, this can degrade long-term health by reducing microbial diversity and weakening soil structure, making land more dependent on continued chemical inputs.

When unused nutrients are washed away by rain or irrigation, they enter rivers, lakes and coastal waters as runoff. Just like the impacts from sewage, this drives eutrophication, triggering harmful algal blooms that deplete oxygen, suffocate aquatic life and create “dead zones” that damage entire ecosystems.



Excess fertiliser disrupts mycorrhizal fungi, weakening natural nutrient exchange and soil structure, increasing dependency on further chemical inputs in a vicious cycle.



Natural Pesticide Training in Nepal
(photo courtesy of Groundswell)



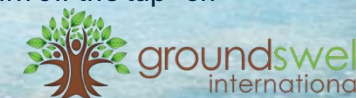
Native seed selection (photo
courtesy of Groundswell)

Groundswell International – Catalysing Soil Health

To address the pressures created by fertiliser overuse and declining soil health, this initiative focuses on restoring balance through agroecology. Groundswell International and its South Asia partners aim to scale farmer-led regenerative practices that rebuild soil fertility, reduce reliance on chemical inputs and cut nutrient run-off into rivers and oceans.

Through community-driven experimentation, smallholder farmers are supported to adopt low or no-tillage, soil bio-stimulants, diversified cropping and native seed systems. All of these are methods that help soils retain nutrients naturally.

Over three years, the initiative works to refine and scale proven approaches that improve soil health, resilience and livelihoods while reducing pollution at its source. This project highlights the importance of acting upstream to “turn off the tap” on chemical use before it reaches ecosystems downstream.



Better farmer knowledge transforms practice upstream, safeguarding soils and oceans downstream

Ending Industrial Chemical Pollution

Toxic Chemical Pollution

Toxic chemicals are widespread in modern industrial systems, used in products ranging from plastics and textiles to agriculture and consumer goods. Many persist in the environment, accumulating in air, water, soils, oceans and living organisms. In marine ecosystems, they contribute to pollution of waterways, harm wildlife and can enter the food chain.

Over time, exposure can also lead to a range of human health impacts, including hormonal disruption, immune effects and chronic disease risks. Because these substances cross borders and generations, they present a systemic crisis that no single solution can contain, requiring a coordinated response at scale.



Featured Projects:

CHE – Science Communications for Change



This project aims to accelerate systemic change to protect families, workers and communities from toxic chemicals by translating scientific research into clear, actionable public information and policy advocacy.

The Collaborative for Health and Environment (CHE) and partners communicate health risks in ways that counter industry misinformation, engage diverse audiences and build support for health-protective policies.

By working with scientists, health professionals, journalists and influencers across traditional and digital channels, the project broadens access to evidence, strengthens public understanding, and supports informed decision-making and systemic reform.



Planet Tracker – Global Toxic Footprint



This project scales Planet Tracker's Toxic Footprint research globally, analysing toxic emissions from ten multinational plastics and chemical companies across key production regions. It translates these emissions into Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) to quantify health impacts and enable comparison through total harm and toxic intensity metrics.

Using Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) data where available, alongside peer-reviewed modelling in other contexts, Planet tracker ensures transparency and methodological rigour. The findings will provide actionable insights for investors, policymakers and civil society, strengthening disclosure, improving risk management and supporting regulatory reform, including efforts towards the UN Global Plastics Treaty.



Coordinated global action is essential to address this systemic environmental health crisis

Ending Industrial Chemical Pollution

PFAS and its Environmental Legacy

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often called “forever chemicals”, are a large group of synthetic compounds used in products such as non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, food packaging and industrial processes. Their strong carbon-fluorine bonds make them highly resistant to breakdown, allowing them to persist in the environment and accumulate in water, soil, wildlife and the human body.

Exposure has been linked to potential health impacts, including immune disruption, hormone interference and increased risk of certain diseases. Because PFAS do not easily degrade, addressing them requires coordinated policy action, improved industrial regulation and advanced water treatment technologies to prevent long-term environmental and health harm.



PFAS are now ubiquitous across the environment, being found in, water, soils, and even in umbilical cord blood, impacting unborn babies.



Tegengif – Doctors Against PFAS



This project aims to accelerate the phase-out of PFAS and other toxic chemicals across the EU through coordinated, evidence-based action. It mobilises medical professionals, civil society and policymakers to translate complex chemical risks into clear, actionable understanding. Tegengif and partners combine research, advocacy and media engagement to build political momentum and counter industry narratives.

Tegengif engages medical organisations to adopt PFAS health statements, conducting biomonitoring studies and convening roundtables with Dutch and EU decision-makers. Communication efforts amplify any findings across media and social platforms to raise public awareness of the health risks and alternatives.

By highlighting safer substitutes, especially in healthcare, the project influences policy, strengthens public understanding and supports legislative reform that reduces long-term environmental and health harms across Europe.

Medical authority builds trust, accelerating environmental health policy action

ChemCure: Innovating For A Toxic-Free Future For All

A First for Flotilla

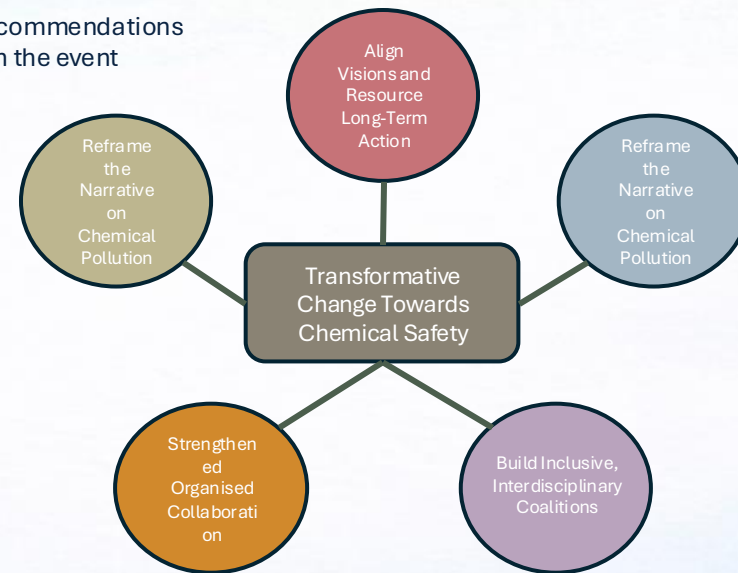


We were pleased to host our first ChemCure Summit in Amsterdam, bringing together 56 expert participants from 44 organizations to confront one of the most overlooked global challenges: chemical pollution. Despite its profound impacts on human health, biodiversity and food systems, chemical pollution remains underregulated, underfunded and insufficiently prioritized in environmental and health agendas.

ChemCure was convened to help practitioners better understand the urgency of the issue and to explore pathways for more strategic and coordinated action. Across plenary sessions and breakout discussions, participants examined key scientific insights and systemic drivers of pollution, highlighting major exposure pathways including food packaging, agriculture, air and water pollution and consumer products.



Next steps and recommendations that emerged from the event discussions.



Speakers and participants consistently emphasized that incremental technical fixes are not enough. Instead, they called for systemic solutions, ranging from narrative change and new economic incentives to circular economy approaches, grounded in collaboration across science, policy and civil society.

Participants shared candid reflections on the current landscape, noting persistent underinvestment, the absence of a shared vision and the opportunity for greater impact through alignment and coalition-building. The workshop concluded with a shared ambition for a toxic-free future, along with concrete next steps to advance collaboration, strengthen narratives, support regulatory progress and drive systems-level change.

Update from The Challenge



Born Green Generation: Delivering toxic-free healthcare Healthcare Without Harm

The Born Green Generation Initiative is working to establish a new model of maternity and paediatric care that reduces the exposure patients to plastic pollution and toxic chemicals, with the long-term goal of ensuring the first generation of babies in over a century being born into healthier, more sustainable healthcare environments. The project embeds environmental health principles into clinical practice, supporting healthcare professionals and parents to adopt safer, more sustainable behaviours in hospital settings.

To date, the programme has moved from pilot implementation to early scale-up across hospital partners, with 27 best practices already embedded in wards and a further 14 in development. Working across four pilot hospitals, the initiative has reached 38,864 patients under the age of two, including newborns. Annual impact includes the elimination of over 100,000 single-use plastic medical devices, prevention of 5.7 tonnes of plastic waste, and cost savings of approximately €300,000.

Building on these results, the project has developed an implementation toolkit to support wider adoption and launched a “Fast Follower” programme, with 12 additional hospital teams already engaged. These tools are designed to help scale the model across healthcare systems, with the ambition of reaching at least 1,000 providers and 5 million babies over the next five years.



The UK NHS is estimated to dispose of around **133,000 tonnes of plastic** each year, with plastics making up **approximately 30%** of all healthcare waste, highlighting the scale of plastic use in healthcare systems. ([Rizan *et al.*, 2020](#))



Looking To The Future

As we enter the second half of the UN Ocean Decade, the urgency to protect ocean health and resilience is only intensifying. From accelerating biodiversity loss to growing pressures from climate change and pollution, the ocean is in a critical condition. This moment calls not just for continued action, but for more strategic, innovative efforts that can address interconnected challenges at the scale required.

At the same time, reductions in public funding are placing growing pressure on philanthropic organisations to support ocean protection and restoration. In this shifting landscape collaboration is essential, ensuring that limited resources are aligned and directed toward interventions that can drive systemic change across marine ecosystems, rather than fragmented progress.

Looking ahead, we will focus more closely on key marine ecosystems and the industries that most significantly shape them. This includes exploring how the necessary offshore activities can evolve to minimise harm and contribute more positively to ocean health. We will also deepen our work on toxic chemicals and ocean pollution, building on the momentum of our recent convening to strengthen the evidence base and accelerate changes in practice that reduce harmful inputs into marine ecosystems.

In the years ahead, our focus will remain on strengthening partnerships, advancing ocean-focused solutions and supporting approaches that protect and restore marine systems at scale. Through coordinated action, we can help ensure a healthier, more resilient ocean for the future.

The Flotilla Team

Tamar Matalon, **Programme Director**

Imogen Hamer, **Program Manager**

Mirjam Van der Zanden, **Operations Director**

Monique Taal, **Operations Manager**



