

WOMEN IN OCEAN SCIENCE

YEAR 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**PREPARED BY:  
MADELINE ST CLAIR**



# A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

In 2023, Women in Ocean Science (WOS) continued its mission to empower and elevate women in marine science. This year was marked by significant advancements in our training programs, impactful research, and a growing global community.

Despite challenges, our commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity in ocean science has never been stronger. This report showcases our achievements and the collective effort of our dedicated team and supporters.

Thank you to all in our community and our supporters for another fantastic year.

*Madeline*

**MADELINE ST CLAIR**  
FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we reflect on the transformative journey of Women in Ocean Science (WOS) throughout 2023, it becomes evident that this year has been marked by growth, impactful initiatives, and a steadfast commitment to empowering women in the field of ocean science.

**Training Local Talent:** In collaboration with our dedicated local partners, WOS's Empower Ocean initiative successfully trained 7 women in Raja Ampat (Indonesia) and Fuvahmulah (Maldives). Empower Ocean training programs provide marine science and dive training, exchanging valuable skills and knowledge to empower local women and enhance their contributions to ocean conservation.

**Gender Research for Ocean Access:** WOS collaborated with local Maldivian NGO Women in Fuvamulah to design and conduct a baseline gender research study in the Maldives. This study identified and addressed barriers hindering women's access to the ocean. The insights gained are instrumental in fostering a more inclusive and accessible marine environment.

**WOS University Program:** Our University Ambassador Program grew to 104 global ambassadors in 2023, from 84 academic institutions spanning six continents. This global network of ambassadors plays a pivotal role in amplifying our mission and fostering a supportive community for women in ocean science!

**Community Engagement and Impactful Events:** WOS Ambassadors orchestrated over 55 events worldwide, ranging from study clubs to beach cleans and community dives against debris. These initiatives not only fostered community engagement but also made a tangible impact on environmental conservation and awareness.

**Professional Development Workshops:** The launch of our monthly online Professional Development Workshops added another dimension to WOS's commitment to continuous learning. These engaging online sessions provided valuable insights and skills to our network, contributing to their professional growth in the field of ocean science.

**Elevating Science Communication:** Recognising the importance of effective science communication, WOS provided two paid social media internships, awarded to marine biology graduates Cara Still and Caitlin Rentell. These opportunities not only elevated the science communication skills of early-career graduates but also contributed to amplifying the voices of women in ocean science.

**Spotlighting Impactful Stories:** Our Instagram series spotlighted over 50 women, sharing their impactful stories and research journeys. This initiative not only celebrated the achievements of women in the field but also served as an inspiration for the next generation of ocean scientists.

**Charity Registration Milestone:** A significant milestone was achieved as WOS received its official charity registration. This formal recognition solidifies our commitment to our mission and opens avenues for broader support and collaboration!

As we express our heartfelt gratitude to our amazing community, sponsors, and partners, we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that 2024 will bring. Together, let us continue to create a more inclusive future for women in ocean science.

Thank you to all who follow along, amplify our mission and for being part of our journey - let's make 2024 a year of even greater impact and empowerment.



# MISSION STATEMENT & GOALS

Women in Ocean Science is a non-profit female empowerment organisation that aims to break down gender barriers and elevate female voices within the marine science and conservation space. With a reach that spans the globe, Women in Ocean Science has created an international movement and forms the largest network of marine scientists and conservationists in the world.

Since 2018, we've tackled gendered issues in the ocean space. We work to close the gender gap through education, celebration and empowerment, highlighting the intrinsic link between the need to protect the ocean and the need for a diverse, inclusive workforce of those working to protect it.

We are dedicated fostering inclusivity, and creating a supportive network that transcends geographical boundaries. Through training programs, research initiatives, and a global community of ambassadors, we strive to inspire positive change, ensuring that women have equal opportunities and recognition in the realm of marine sciences.

In our mission to support and advance women in the field of ocean science, our goals for 2023 included expanding our training programs, enhancing our social media outreach, and growing our ambassador program to create a more inclusive and supportive community for women in this field.





## **EMPOWER OCEAN**

Our initiative, 'Empower Ocean,' made waves in 2023. We trained seven local women across Raja Ampat and the Maldives in marine science and diving skills, thanks to support from Ocean Culture Life and the Bank of Maldives. We conducted a baseline gender research study in the Maldives, identifying and addressing barriers for ocean access in collaboration with Women in Fuvahmulah.





# CHARITY REGISTRATION

A significant milestone was achieved as WOS received its official charity registration!

# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Our team attended and hosted events across the world in 2023, including in Jersey, Indonesia, Maldives and the UK! We hosted workshops on grant writing, storytelling and branding for marine scientists.



# ADVISORY BOARD

We are delighted to welcome a new advisory board to guide Women in Ocean Science forward into the next year. Thank you to our previous advisory members for their support and time!







# AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

The WOS University Ambassador Program expanded remarkably this year, recruiting 104 inspiring students to represent WOS across 84 universities, spanning six continents! This global network of ambassadors plays a pivotal role in amplifying our mission and fostering a

supportive community for women in ocean science. WOS Ambassadors organised over 55 events worldwide in 2023, including study clubs, beach cleans, talks on marine topics, professional development workshops, and community dives against debris. These initiatives not only fostered community engagement but also made a tangible impact on environmental conservation and awareness within our ambassador communities.



# SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT

## 50

women spotlighted on our Instagram series, sharing their impactful stories and research journeys.

## 26K

members in our marine science jobs, internships and opportunities group on Facebook, with daily postings of new opportunities!

## 46K

followers on Instagram! We're delighted to see our community grow even further in 2023!

With special thanks to our

# SPONSORS, PARTNERS & GRANT AWARDS

## BLUE SPONSORS

Ocean Borne Foundation

Alpha-H Skincare

The Hidden Sea Wine

## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

British Airways

PADI

Scuba Club Fuvahmulah

Arborek Dive Centre

House of Ocean

Elise Gibbins Film

Keira Bird Film

Fujifilm UK

## GRANTS AWARDED

Ocean Culture Life

Fisheries Society of Biology

Bank of Maldives

# THE WOS TEAM 2023



**MADELINE ST CLAIR**

FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR



**ANNA SAFRYGHIN**

DIRECTOR



**MADYSON MILLER**

AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME MANAGER



**DANIELLE DILLMAN**

AMBASSADOR CO-ORDINATOR



**SARAH HARRIS**

AMBASSADOR CO-ORDINATOR



**CAITLIN RENTELL**

SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN



**CARA STILL**

SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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