



## Sustainable Oceans Initiative

### FFI Sustainable Oceans Initiative

Over the past five years Forum for Impact has evolved from hosting intimate gatherings into a trusted organization with a global community of 1000+ impact-focused investors, family offices, and leaders from business and government in Europe, US, Canada, Asia, and the Caribbean.


As FFI has become more established we have turned our focus to create measurable impact from our dialogue series, ***prioritizing and facilitating outcomes from each dialogue to produce real change in the world.***

Each year we work as a consortium to identify impact challenges and launch collaborative initiatives to achieve specific outcomes or goals. These initiatives are called *FFI Impact Lenses*, and this year we are launching the Sustainable Oceans Initiative as one of our key focus areas.



## Creating Tangible, Measurable Impact

Forum for Impact has committed to identifying and selecting several key impact areas annually. This strategic focus allows us to translate the innovative ideas and solutions generated within our dialogues into tangible, real-world outcomes and measurable impact. This emphasis on actionable results and quantifiable change that strategically leverages our unique and extensive global network of impact investors, business leaders, and key government figures.



Forum for Impact has always maintained its position as a trusted entity within our network. This has enabled us to consistently provide a broad spectrum of valuable resources and support to our participants. This support has traditionally included introductions, investment opportunities, connections, and strategic advice. Our Impact Lens initiative represents a significant step forward in our commitment to fostering action and driving impact. Through this initiative, we aim to facilitate and **accelerate the transition from dialogue and ideation to concrete action** and measurable results within our identified impact areas.



## The FFI Sustainable Oceans Initiative

Our Sustainable Oceans Initiative is designed to enable public and private finance to work together to promote sustainable investment in the world's oceans.

Substantial financial resources are invested annually in the blue economy to foster sustainable oceans, yet challenges remain in integrating public and private finance to stimulate innovation within this sector. A pertinent illustration is Canada's strategy for sustainable oceans, where the absence of public-private partnerships in funding has resulted in a backlog of unallocated public funding. This funding requires private capital through mechanisms such as "match-funding," while investors seek de-risked capital deployment opportunities in ocean-related projects. This Impact Lens will convene leaders in public and private funding for sustainable oceans, along with leaders from the philanthropic and foundation sectors, to develop a blended finance approach to promoting sustainable oceans.

### Initial Target:

**To mobilize at least \$25 million in blended finance for sustainable oceans.**

We are targeting at least \$25 million in funding for sustainable oceans using a blended finance approach. This may include existing a range of approaches including blending existing public funding initiatives with private sources, philanthropy, business development funding, and the development of publicly available blended finance blueprints for further collaboration.

TARGET GOAL

**\$25 million**

in blended finance for  
sustainable oceans





**The FFI Sustainable Oceans Initiative is an international effort, and we have chosen Canada as our first port.**

Canada is a natural home for such an internationally-focused initiative. With the longest coastline in the world, the country has committed to billions of dollars of investment in sustainable oceans.

From its Marine Conservation Targets to protect 30% of its coasts by 2030, to its Ocean Protection Plan with a \$1.5bn commitment, Canada has invested heavily in this sector and is committed to becoming a leader in sustainable ocean innovation and infrastructure. Naturally the ocean's reach extends beyond Canada's borders and the initiative will focus on adapting its first blended finance models for the international finance community.

Despite significant investment in the sector, the ocean economy – particularly sustainable oceans – remains an underinvested sector globally for private capital. Over the last seven months we delved deeply into why the steady increase in public finance still needs to be matched with private capital for the ocean economy to flourish. Based on our analysis most, if not all, organizations in the sector want these blended finance models (in some cases they require it to deploy their capital) yet none are funded to do it themselves. Private investors often find working with these organizations frustrating as they're not equipped or structured to work with private investors to launch or scale businesses. Often designed to suit a source funding party or other agendas, their parameters and guidelines have yet to match outcomes that enable thriving ocean businesses. However, it is attractive for private investment because it helps de-risk the most capex-heavy part of investments (e.g., R&D, prolonged permitting or approval cycles, manufacturing, deployment etc), and also helps open up sectors that have traditionally lacked private investment, like the ocean economy.



## What are the Benefits in Participating in this Initiative?

The goal of our Sustainable Oceans Initiative is to move beyond a project-by-project investment focus in various fields of impact to enable an entire industry to scale. You can engage with all FFI Impact Lens as a **participant**, or as a **sponsor**. Participants commit to a small annual subscription which enables FFI to provide the convening events, platform, and reporting of outcomes to the wider network. Each subscription includes access to FFI's collaborative online platform, research and insights, and FFI's global and regional impact dialogues as well as other benefits. We have various levels of subscription depending on whether the participant is an individual, a family office, investor, NGO / foundation, financial institution, or company.

### Family Offices & Foundations

For discerning family offices and impactful foundations, we offer an exclusive seat at the table, fostering profound Measurable Impact and cultivating a dynamic, collaborative space for strategic partnering and shared vision. While not our central tenet, we also provide thoughtful curation services designed to strategically de-risk both investment portfolios and philanthropic endeavors, ensuring prudent growth and meaningful contributions.

### Funding Institutions

Empowering mandate-driven institutions focused on funding innovation and specific-impact ecosystems, our Impact Lenses significantly enhance your capabilities. We facilitate the discovery of a greater number of mission-aligned investment-ready projects, foster connections with valuable partners, provide crucial pathways to private capital (often a prerequisite for success), and unlock access to cutting-edge programs and blended finance solutions.





## **Corporate & Private Enterprise**

For forward-thinking corporates and dynamic private enterprises, our Impact Lenses unlock a wealth of new project opportunities, driving enhanced revenue streams and facilitating greater access to diverse funding avenues. Furthermore, we strategically elevate your company's thought leadership profile, opening doors to a network of new investors and synergistic partners.

## **Sponsors**

Each bespoke Impact Lens also presents a unique sponsorship opportunity. For Family Offices and Foundations, direct sponsorship offers enhanced ownership of tangible outcomes and elevates your reputation as a prominent co-convener and influential initiator in addressing the specific impacts most aligned with your values and philanthropic goals within the social impact sector. For corporate sponsors, we provide a powerful platform to elevate your brand, significantly enhancing brand presence and resonance with a targeted, qualified audience, ensuring authentic brand alignment with specific impactful initiatives, and promoting resulting outcomes and valuable insights across our comprehensive marketing channels.







## Engage With Us

Whether you'd like to join the **FFI Sustainable Oceans Initiative** as a participant, a sponsor, or would just like more information on **FFI** or our **Impact Lenses** we'd like to hear from you.

Contact us at  
**[impactlenses@forumforimpact.com](mailto:impactlenses@forumforimpact.com)**

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## The Team



### Michael Meehan

#### FFI Co-Founder, Managing Partner - Vancouver

With over 20 years' experience in impact and sustainable finance, Michael is an investor, thought leader, and senior advisor to public and private sector organizations around the world and serves on various boards for funds in the EU, UK, US, Canada and Asia. He is co-founder of the Forum for Impact and is the former Chairman of the UK Sustainable Investment & Finance Association, a consortium of leading institutional investors with AUM of over £11 trillion. Michael is also the former CEO of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the largest sustainability standard in the world.

As a pioneer in climate finance, he has also served on the board of trustees of Global Canopy, former CEO of Carbonetworks, vice-chair of the Natural Capital Coalition, and CEO of Canoe Carbon, an asset manager in climate finance based in Canada. Michael is also an adjunct professor at the University of Victoria, Canada where he serves as the faculty lead for Sustainable Finance. Throughout his career, Michael has worked with the White House, the UN, the World Economic Forum, and many other organizations in his mission to improve the state of the world through impact.



### Andy Harris

#### Director, Sustainable Oceans Initiative - Vancouver

Andy is a seasoned business owner who allows his fondness for the oceans influence his professional pursuits. He's worked all over the world in green building and sustainable development with clients such as Singapore Mandarin, Regent Hotels and Singapore Airlines. Andy co-founded and exited Waste to Energy Canada, a novel regenerative business and Feature Capital, supporting commercialization for scaling businesses, and as advisor to the UNOPS Global Sustainability

Fund. With Olympian Beckie Scott Andy co-founded Spirit North, empowering indigenous youth to play and learn outside. More recently he was part of the senior team at Radicle, acquired by BMO, supporting business transformation strategies to reduce environmental impact via monetizing carbon credits. Currently Andy mentors businesses at the Creative Destruction Lab and the Center of Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies.





## Lara Leigh-Wood

### FFI Chief Operating Officer - London

Lara Leigh-Wood joined Forum For Impact (FFI) in January 2025 as the Chief Operating Officer, leading operational growth from London. As a key member of the executive leadership team, she is responsible for overseeing the overall operational management of FFI, including sales, marketing, finance, and administration. Lara brings a strong track record of scaling businesses, optimizing processes, and delivering results. With 15 years of experience in impact finance and business growth advisory across various regions, she is an advocate for impact investment, aiming to link financial gain with positive social impact. Notably, she

transformed the Beacon Gainer Group wealth advisory model with her wealth tech platform Miolo, held senior development roles at organizations like Charities Aid Foundation UK and The National Autistic Society, and recently built a Donor Advised Fund operation in the US for Chapel & York International. Additionally, Lara actively volunteers with the International Women's Forum (UK).



## Simon Jacot de Boinod

### FFI Co-Founder, Partner - London

Simon is the founder of Forum, a global network of principals and experts, all personally invited to join by members of its Advisory Board. There are membership chapters in London, New York, West Coast, Singapore, Zurich, Vienna and Tel Aviv, with additional members residing in 20 further cities worldwide. The

membership is deliberately eclectic in its mix – a peer group [male & female] drawn from the senior échelons of the business community and family offices with journalists, economists, politicians, public speakers, academics, designers, writers and those working in the arts.