

LFF Strategy Outlook

February 2023

Introduction

The Foundation, Philanthropy and the Oceans



The Levine family decided to create a Foundation because we have a shared love of the environment and wanted to help pass on a healthier world to our children.



We are encouraged that more attention is being paid to environmental issues, by governments, companies and society more generally, but the threats are still grave, and we know that philanthropy can help drive agendas and solutions that quicken the pace of change.



We realised that the oceans remain an often overlooked and poorly protected part of our ecosystem, despite being so integral to planetary health, and so decided to focus our efforts on conserving and restoring the marine environment.

Why support ocean conservation and restoration?

The importance of the oceans

The ocean is the largest ecosystem on Earth and is the planet's life support system. It is essential for all life on Earth, including humans.

It covers **71% of the planet's surface** and supports an estimated **80% of all life on Earth**.

The ocean absorbs **25-30% of the carbon dioxide we emit** and produces over **half of the planet's oxygen**.

Ocean currents distribute heat across the globe and play an important role in regulating temperature and weather.

The ocean hosts **248,000 known marine species** (as of Oct 2025), while an estimated 1-2 million species are yet to be discovered.

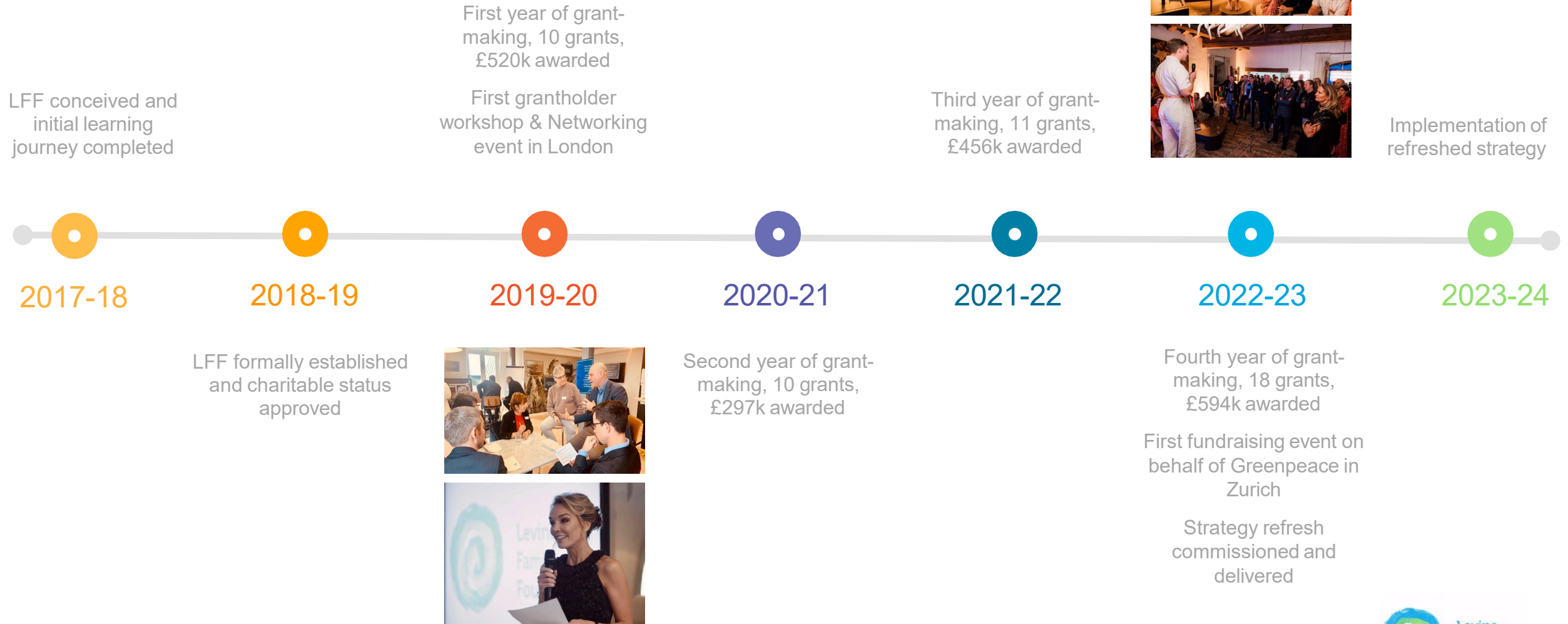
Marine habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds support the vital balance of global ecosystems.

Over **3 billion people** rely on the oceans for protein, with many coastal communities reliant on them for food and livelihoods.

The oceans yield essential components for medicines and are integral to the global economy, via shipping, fisheries and tourism.

Our journey

From conception to the present



A summary of our
refreshed 3-5 year
strategy

Refreshing our strategy

Rationale and commitment

Rationale

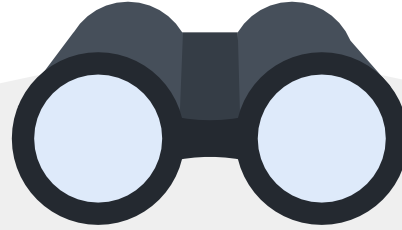
Entering our fourth year of operation we decided to review our granting and strategy to date, to see if we could increase our efficiency and the effectiveness of our giving.

Results

We remain committed to protecting and restoring ocean health and resilience, and to supporting innovative approaches and leaders we believe in.

A new focus – area-based protection

Rationale and implications



To give a clearer focus to our grant making we have decided that the majority of our funding will support area-based protection.

We have defined this as actions which focus on protecting specific geographic areas through active management.

Within this we remain open to a wide range of approaches and tactics, from globally negotiated agreements to local engagement projects.

In addition:

- We want to help orchestrate the collective efforts of our grantees and collaborate with other funders.

Grant criteria

Who should apply and how



The process

We will make changes to our application and review processes to make them more streamlined and grantholder friendly.



International

We continue to support applications from any part of the world.



Invitation and referrals

We will remain invite only but encourage referrals from our existing network, including our grantholders.

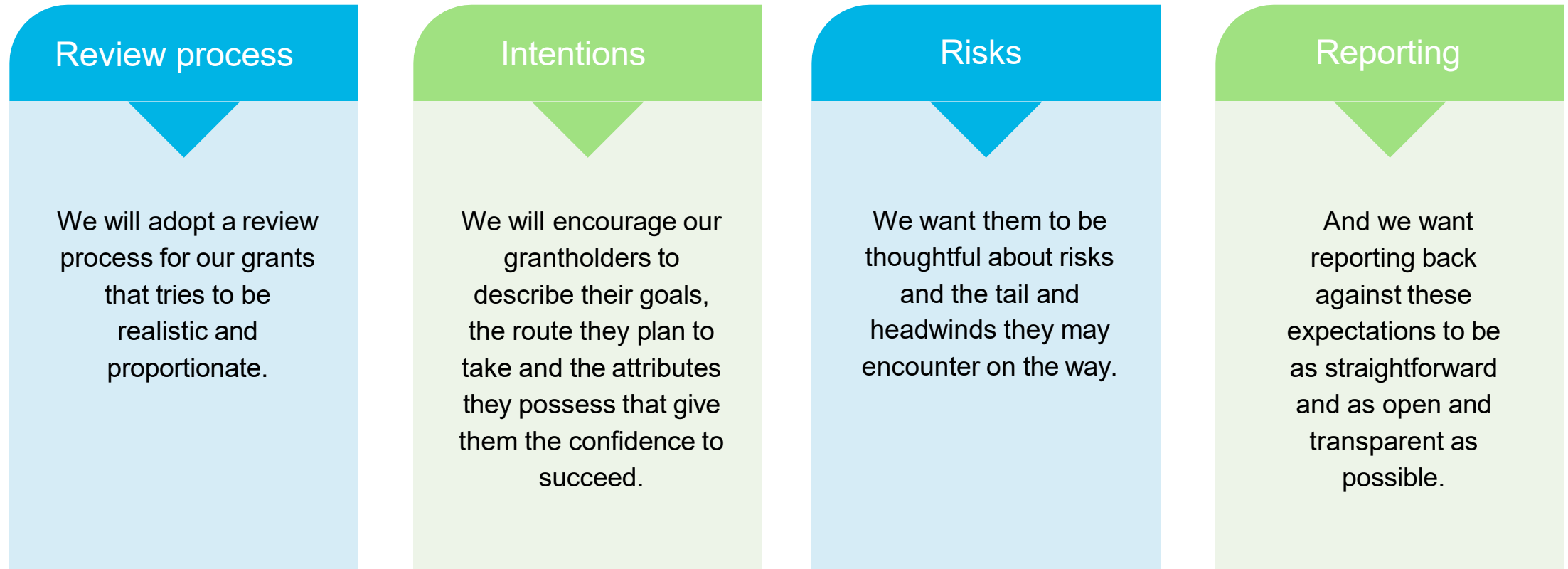


Credibility and innovation

We value leaders with a proven track record. We remain open to innovation/ riskier/less proven ideas and organisations which are at an early stage in their development.

Revised approach to impact assessment

Clear purpose, pragmatic and proportionate



Being part of a network

Working together to maximise our impact

Collaboration

We believe in the power of networks and have invested in bringing our grantholders together. We will continue to do so whilst being open to new ways of strengthening collaboration.

Partnership

We greatly value our relationships with our advisers and the generosity other funders showed towards us when we were first starting out.

Collective action

We will continue to encourage other people, be they organisations or individuals, to give what they can to support the effective protection of our marine environment.

Impact investment

Rationale and what we hope to achieve



- Part of our strategy review considered other ways we can invest and make a difference, alongside our grant-giving.
- We know that markets can be a powerful force for change and examples exist where profit making acts to further conservation aims, rather than working against them.
- Opportunities of scale are still limited, but we are interested in exploring the additional impact we could make.

- We will commit a portion of our annual funding to impact investment opportunities which support marine conservation and restoration.

Thank you...



We are grateful to Bryony Worthington and Meera Craston who conducted our strategy review and to the experts who so willingly gave time to feed in their thoughts: Callum Roberts, Chuck Fox, Matt Elliott, Peter Bryant, Sophie Hulme and Torsten Thiele.



Thanks also to our trustees, family and friends who have supported us on this journey so far. We have a lot more work to do but feel hopeful about the opportunities for change that lie ahead.



For further information about the
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