

# KELP BLUE

## RE-WILDING THE OCEANS

### ABOUT US

Accelerating the shift to sustainability in multiple industries and reviving coastal communities, by revolutionizing seaweed cultivation through planting vast kelp forests that rewild our oceans, boost biodiversity, and lock away carbon.

### WHAT WE DO

Kelp Blue cultivates giant kelp on large-scale, offshore structures. Giant kelp grows fast and forms dense forests with canopies that support a wealth of marine life, offering food, shelter and nursery grounds.

Giant kelp stores carbon from surrounding waters in its tissue during its growth, of which a portion becomes sequestered in the deeper ocean for long timescales. By absorbing carbon and excess nutrients, giant kelp buffers ocean acidification locally while filtering surrounding waters.

Our in-house hatchery supports the cultivation of kelp on our innovative submerged structure, on which the kelp forms a forest. The canopy biomass is harvested and processed into a biostimulant – a liquid kelp extract that, when applied to agricultural fields, enhances crop resilience against climate-induced extremes like droughts, salinity, and heat. The biostimulant contributes to local food security, ensuring a stable and healthier food supply, and helps reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers.

For coastal communities, kelp cultivation creates green, stable job opportunities, diversifies income sources, and drives the reskilling of individuals in areas affected by climate change and declining fish stocks, promoting inclusivity and equity.

Our solution takes a holistic approach towards change – coupled with KFF, we fill critical gaps in scientific knowledge regarding kelp, whilst our capacity building and ocean education program through the Lüderitz Blue School educates the Lüderitz community about marine ecosystems and their importance. We upskill the community with essential skills such as swimming, diving and robotics. Thus, our solution integrates environmental stewardship, community empowerment, and societal well-being through sustainable kelp farming.



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### WHY WE DO IT

Biodiversity loss and climate change are two of the biggest environmental challenges that the planet is currently facing. The Namibian coast has been overfished, impacting the ecosystem balance and the resilience of the coastal communities. Kelp forests help to replenish and rewild these coasts as they are de facto no-fish-zones and provide food and habitat for a myriad of species.

The ocean absorbs most excess CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, causing the oceans to become more acidic. This chemical disbalance negatively impacts marine species: the smelling sense of fish, needed for navigation, is reduced, whilst calcifying organisms have trouble forming shells. Giant kelp captures some of this excess carbon in ocean waters through photosynthesis and in exchange both oxygenates and de-acidifies surrounding waters. The kelp organic carbon is cycled to deeper layers of the ocean when it floats away and sinks, contributing to carbon sequestration and a long-term reduction of excess carbon in the atmosphere.

Future development towards a more livable planet needs to apply a just transition framework, where communities and the environment are integrated. Skilled employment opportunities and education are needed to build thriving, resilient communities that can navigate the challenges of a changing world.

To adopt practices that restore ecosystems, we strive to progress the knowledge, science and data around the ecosystem services of kelp. We do this at different levels – by supporting university-level students – and offering after-school activities that include unique STEM-focused programs to the community at large.

### CONTACT

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### PRESS INFO

Press kit with photos for download: <https://kelp.blue/press-media/>

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