

Alasdair Harris, Scotland, 29 years old

A passionate social entrepreneur creates of local community-run Marine Protected Areas.

Harbouring a life-long obsession with marine biodiversity, as a student Al found himself investigating the impacts of climate change and human disturbances on the unexplored coral reefs of south-western Madagascar. Here he experienced, at first hand, the grave threats facing the region's critically important marine biodiversity.

At the age of 24, Alasdair established Blue Ventures, a marine conservation organisation dedicated to promoting conservation efforts to safeguard the region's marine biodiversity as well as the livelihoods of its indigenous, semi-nomadic fishing communities, entirely dependent on marine resources for subsistence, income and cultural identity.

Since 2003, the focus of Al's work has been a partnership