



Ocean Health

An initiative by Van Oord



For more info contact:

Rogier Wilmink

T: +31(0)6-113 00 462

E: rogier.wilmink@oceanhealth.world

Seagrass meadows

Seagrass meadows are one of the most widespread coastal marine habitats on the planet, growing in both temperate and tropical regions. Seagrasses form extensive underwater meadows, creating complex and highly productive, biologically rich habitats. They have an important role in providing food security, protecting coastlines, purifying water, controlling diseases and mitigating climate change by storing carbon.

If a seagrass meadow has been damaged beyond self-repair or it has been lost completely from an area where it previously existed, human interventions could be essential to restore the meadow.

Ocean Health is setting up long-term partnerships and developing techniques to implement this 'Building with Nature' solution at a large scale.

Recent project - 2022

Seagrass Restoration in Constanta, Romania

Marine ingenuity for the rehabilitation of seagrass by:

- Creating a physical landscape optimized for seagrass growth
- Design and construct hybrid coastal protection works that include seagrass meadows
- Collaboration with world-leading seagrass experts

Our solutions

- Restoration of seagrass habitat
- Create sustainable livelihoods and align economic development with seagrass conservation

Processes

- Site conditioning to facilitate natural recovery (with or without planting)
- Seed-sowing, buoy deployed seeding bags and other seeding techniques
- Planting of seedlings, (short) shoots, rhizome fragments, sprigs, or plants in 'peat pots'
- Planting of cores, plugs, small sods or multiple shoots tied to weighted frames
- Mechanical methods to harvest and plant seagrass sods
- Mechanical methods to salvage large sods for relocation in suitable areas

Creating value



Diversifying seagrass habitat



Coastal protection



Habitat creation



Economic value



Enable CO2 compensation

Our added value

Scale

Set up large scale seagrass rehabilitation projects using unique combination of expertise and equipment. Large scale restoration increases positive impact and stimulates self sustaining feedback mechanisms

Ingenuity

Seagrass rehabilitation is yet hampered by low success rates, limited knowledge, and the inability to scale up. Through effective collaborations and development of scalable techniques Ocean Health can overcome these challenges

Field trial implanting techniques, Lake Grevelingen



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Seagrass to reinforce Romanian coastline



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Pilot project in Denmark: Submerged transplantation through sods



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