



Sky Blue

/skʌɪˈbluː/ *n.* 1. The colour of the unclouded sky at noon

Impact Report

Sky Blue is an online leadership programme for people working on our environmental challenges.

Sky Blue is inspired by the belief that, in order to tackle the world's environmental challenges, we need to re-imagine and transform the systems that support our way of life. Many of the issues involved are extremely complex and cannot be solved by one individual, organization or sector acting alone.

Therefore, we need leaders who can cross the boundaries of sector, generation, professional discipline and belief - and build collaborations that deliver results.

The story so far

The Sky Blue pilot launched in 2020, and two further programmes followed in 2021 and 2022.

The aim was to:

- bring together a dynamic, inter-generational group of leaders from many different fields who have one thing in common - they are working on an environmental project, idea or issue that requires them to collaborate across sectors or disciplines
- give them the cross-boundary leadership skills, broader networks and peer support that will help them to produce the quality of collaboration needed to deliver sustainable, and socially just, solutions for both people and nature.

The ambition

The first three Sky Blue programmes have been a great success - we have proof of concept.

The broader aim is to convene a community of leaders around the world who are committed to our environment and who are working collaboratively, across sectors and divides, to create a sustainable future.

The ambition is to develop cross-boundary, collaborative leadership abilities amongst a critical mass of leaders working at the heart of these environmental challenges.





97%

Feel better prepared to
work collaboratively

"Sky Blue helped me to understand that we can solve the climate and biodiversity challenges on our planet if we all start with local solutions. If we collaborate and understand ourselves as a global movement, we will be able to contribute to fundamental change."

- Gabriel Schwaderer, Executive Director, EuroNatur Foundation

Sky Blue at a glance

246

alumni

60

countries

59%

women

The programme

The Sky Blue curriculum is underpinned by the Common Purpose thought leadership - Leading Beyond Authority (LBA) and Cultural Intelligence (CQ) which provide a framework for leading across boundaries. As a result, the Sky Blue participants are better equipped to work collaboratively.

Leading Beyond Authority (LBA)

The ability to produce change beyond your direct circle of control. People who develop this ability are more effective in unfamiliar territory, where the authority (or credibility) gained in their own organization or sector is often not present.

Cultural Intelligence (CQ)

The ability to cross divides and thrive in multiple cultures. Our simple and empowering CQ framework helps leaders unpack their own culture and confidently work with others.

94%

feel better prepared to influence beyond their circle of authority

96%

feel better prepared to work with people who are different from them

90%

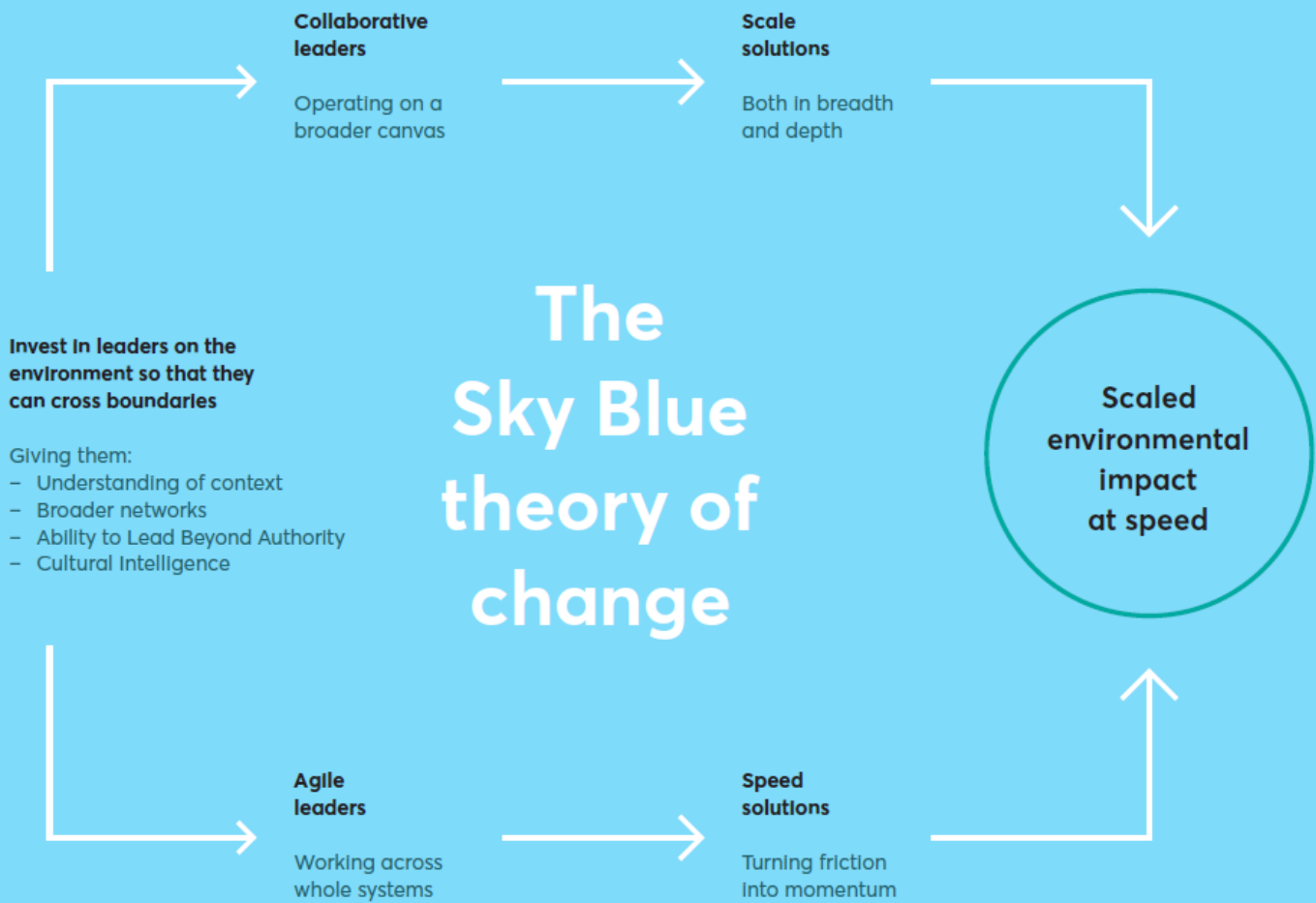
feel better prepared to make an impact on environmental challenges



"We wanted to work with Common Purpose on the MAVA Leaders for Nature Academy because of their track record, and their expertise in cross-boundary leadership. It has proved to be a very successful and fruitful partnership. It is hugely important that leaders working in conservation, and the wider environmental movement, are able to work collaboratively with leaders from other fields."

- Lynda Mansson, Director General, MAVA Foundation





What the participants say

At the end of each Sky Blue programme we asked the participants about their experience, what they had learned, and the value of the Sky Blue community. Did it equip them to work more collaboratively?

98% would recommend Sky Blue to another person

97% feel better prepared to work collaboratively

90% feel better prepared to make an impact on environmental challenges

94% feel better prepared to influence beyond their circle of authority

95% feel better prepared to adjust their behaviour in culturally diverse situations

97% recognize the value in bringing in wider perspectives when making key decisions

93% feel better able to balance humility and self-belief

96% feel better prepared to challenge their assumptions

96% feel better prepared to adapt to new environments

96% feel better prepared to work with people who are different from them

87% feel better prepared to thrive in complexity

94% feel more confident in their voice as a leader tackling environmental challenges

90% say the Sky Blue community will help them to make a positive contribution to addressing environmental challenges

75% will commit to working on an idea or project with at least 1 fellow participant

90% feel better prepared to act more courageously in difficult situations

"Sky Blue allowed me to get to know other changemakers as humans first, and experts second. I started to understand how this is key in leading and collaborating within and outside your organization."

- Alexander Gunkel, Founder and Managing Director, Space4Good

"A truly transformative experience, my sky has a deeper, richer colour of blue now and I have met so many inspiring peers from across the globe."

- Emma Ernsth, Director of Membership and Development, European Environmental Bureau

"I came to Sky Blue very excited. The sequence of feelings as the programme went on progressed from excitement to freedom and safety, then deep awareness, some soberness and ultimately, I am here...feeling empowered."

- Dupe Killa-Kafidipe, Founder, Platinum Fisheries Limited



"Sky Blue has helped develop my leadership and improve my communication skills. This has assisted me with the environment education work I carry out. I am able to reach out and talk to the neighbouring community members, as well as the clans and tribe elders who visit, about the functions, values and benefits of the eco systems and biodiversity that we conserve in the park."

- Obrain Kamwale, Senior Wildlife Police Officer, Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Looking ahead

Sky Blue has proved to be a very powerful leadership programme for those taking part. Beyond that it has created a community of leaders committed to working collaboratively to tackle our environmental challenges.

We want to build on this to:

1. **Run more programmes** – we want to develop and refine the programme and grow the Sky Blue community.
2. **Develop a community of practice** – to sustain the Sky Blue community by providing opportunities for continued learning, mutual support and the sharing of ideas.

We are keen to explore possibilities with anyone interested in Sky Blue.

If you would like to know more please contact alison.coburn@commonpurpose.org

"Sky Blue has been a remarkable experience and community of like-minded, like-hearted people!! It has given me ideas, confidence, inspiration, energy, and the courage to take more risks! I'm already making different decisions."

- Ana Porzecanski, Director, Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History

90%

Say that the Sky Blue community will help them to make a positive contribution to addressing environmental challenges



"I have changed my approach to promoting sustainability across my industry. Attending Sky Blue has helped me strengthen the way I communicate sustainability in design and the way I impact my team and our sustainability effort across the company.

Following my participation, I have been able to garner more awareness towards sustainability and create greater momentum to integrate sustainable practices into our projects. This has contributed towards the overall impact of the work that I do within my firm."

**- Stefano Tronci, Associate
Principal, Woods Bagot**

"Sky Blue was a surprisingly dynamic process. Having started the course with challenges around leading a complex project, it was fascinating how the mountains started to move, with only a few conscious changes in approach and behaviour! It certainly helped me think more about the impact I have (both positive and negative) within these situations and how a slight shift or flex really can make a huge difference."

**- Annette McDonald, Deputy
Managing Director, The Tatton
Group**

Participant organizations & countries

Included below are a some of the participant's organizations and countries

AFCD Foundation, Morocco

African Leadership University, Mauritius

Al-Shouf Cedar Society, Lebanon

American Museum of Natural History, United States

Association Biom, Croatia

Bhoomi Network Bangalore, India

BirdLife International, Cyprus

BirdWatch, Zambia

Black Seeds Network, United Kingdom

British Asian Trust, United Kingdom

Children's Investment Fund Foundation, India

Clean Earth Energy, United Kingdom

Clúid Housing, Ireland

Co.Cre8 Ltd., United Kingdom

County Councils Network, United Kingdom

Creative Carbon Scotland, United Kingdom

Cultivate Ireland Limited, Ireland

Department of Communications, Climate Action
and Environment (DCCAE), Ireland

Department of Finance, Ireland

Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Zambia

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), South Africa

ECE Marketplaces, Germany

Eko Korijen LLC, Montenegro

Energia, Ireland

English Football League Trust, United Kingdom

Environment Agency, United Kingdom

EuroNatur, Germany

European Environmental Bureau, Belgium

FishCORAL, Philippines

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN,
Hungary

FoodBlessed, Lebanon

GreenNet, United Kingdom

High Atlas Foundation, Morocco

Institute of American Indian Arts, United States

IUCN Med, Spain

Jordan Green Building Council, Jordan

Lang Tengah Turtle Watch, Malaysia

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development,
Croatia

National Agency of Protected Areas, Albania

National Campaigner Committee - Fairtrade
Foundation, United Kingdom

National Youth Engagement Network,
United Kingdom



Participant organizations & countries cont...

Nature Kenya the East Africa Natural History Society, Kenya

Nature Seychelles, Seychelles

Nature4Climate, United Kingdom

New Philanthropy Capital, United Kingdom

Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom

Notre Grand Bleu, Tunisia

Nottingham City Council, United Kingdom

Onda Solidaria, Brazil

Open Data Institute, United Kingdom

Plastic Move, Turkey

Platinum Fisheries Limited, Nigeria

PPNEA - Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment, Albania

PT Supreme Energy, Indonesia

Royal Meteorological Society, United Kingdom

Royal Scientific Society, Jordan

Shared Interest Foundation, Ghana

Soil Association, United Kingdom

Space4Good, Netherlands

Sustrans, United Kingdom

Swiss Child Rights Network, Switzerland

Tatton Group, United Kingdom

Temple University, United States

The Kilimanjaro Project, Tanzania

The National Trust, United Kingdom

The Society for the Protection of Nature, Israel

The Society for the Protection of Nature, Lebanon

Thera, Namibia

Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre, Malaysia

UNICEF, Ivory Coast

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland

Universitas 21, United Kingdom

University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Victorian Water Industry Association (VicWater), Australia

Wetlands International European Association, Netherlands

Wilaya of the Marrakech-Safi Region / Ministry of the Interior, Morocco

Woods Bagot, Hong Kong

World Economic Forum, Germany,

World Toilet Organization, Singapore

WWF MedPortugal, Italy

"We are not alone, we have hope, we have friends, we have lots to do... we are stronger than we thought... We can make a change and can build together solutions... We are global citizens, we are Sky Blue!"

- Ricardo Calcado, Founder, Onda Solidaria

