

Project Disclosure

1. **Client / Project name:** Kelp Blue Biotech B.V. / Giant Kelp
2. **Client's website (if available):** [Kelp Blue – Blue water farming for a sustainable planet](#)
3. **Country of Investment:** Netherlands & Namibia
4. **Sector:** Agri-food
5. **Signing date (date of the main transaction document):** 26 September 2023
6. **Total Invest Financing:** EUR 500,000
7. **Source of funding:** Development Accelerator Facility

8. Project Description:

Kelp Blue has the objective to commercially process Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis Pyrifera*) and sell Giant Kelp related products globally. Furthermore, the intention is to support marine biodiversity, marine regeneration and enable large scale carbon sequestration through the development and cultivation of large Giant Kelp forests. Prior to scaling, Kelp Blue wishes to verify the technical and commercial viability of certain aspects of the business. Invest International will co-fund testing and pilot activities, including feasibility and design work required to achieve a scaled and diversified commercial processing capacity.

9. Impact / target SDGs:

- **SDG 8 Decent work and Economic Growth:** The project creates at least 30 local Namibian jobs during pilot phase and creates further academic and professional development opportunities for local staff.
- **SDG 13 Climate Action:** The cultivation of kelp creates significant carbon reduction opportunities. Giant kelp could potentially sequester 2,000 tCO₂e/km² per year, six times higher than a tropical rainforest.
- **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production:** Currently Kelp Blue produces biostimulant for the agriculture market and are testing and exploring products such as alginates, fucoidan and fucoxanthin which are sustainable inputs for cosmetics, textiles, and nutraceutical.
- **SDG 14 Life Below Water:** This project can help enhance marine ecosystems by providing habitats for various marine species. Over 800 species have been known to live in and around Giant Kelp forests. These forests serve as nursery areas for fish, provide shelter for other marine organisms, and contribute to overall biodiversity. It also acts as a nutrient sponge, absorbing excess nutrients from the water, thereby preventing eutrophication and improving water quality.

10. ESG Risk category: B