



# REGENERATIVE OCEAN FARMING

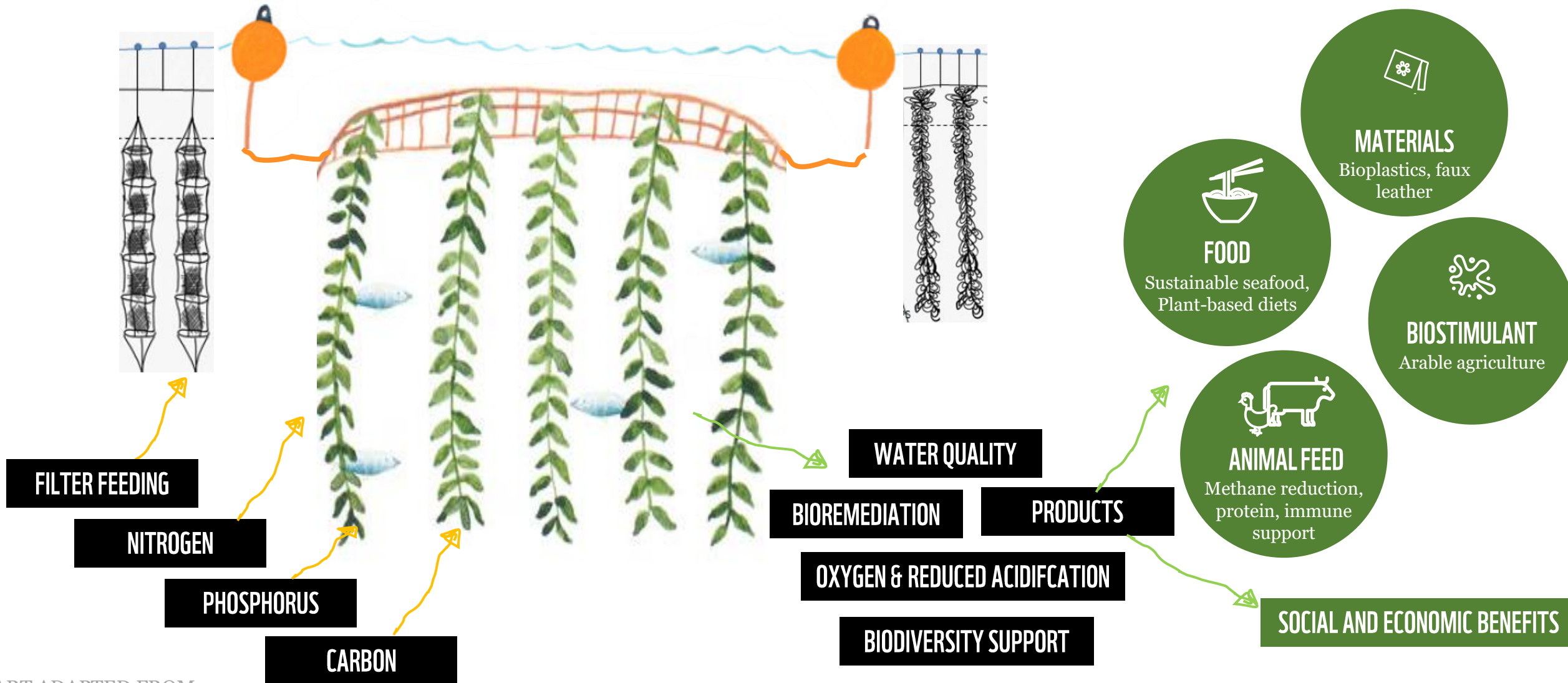
Mollie Gupta, WWF UK, November 2023



Richard Shucksmith



# WHY REGENERATIVE SEAWEED FARMING?



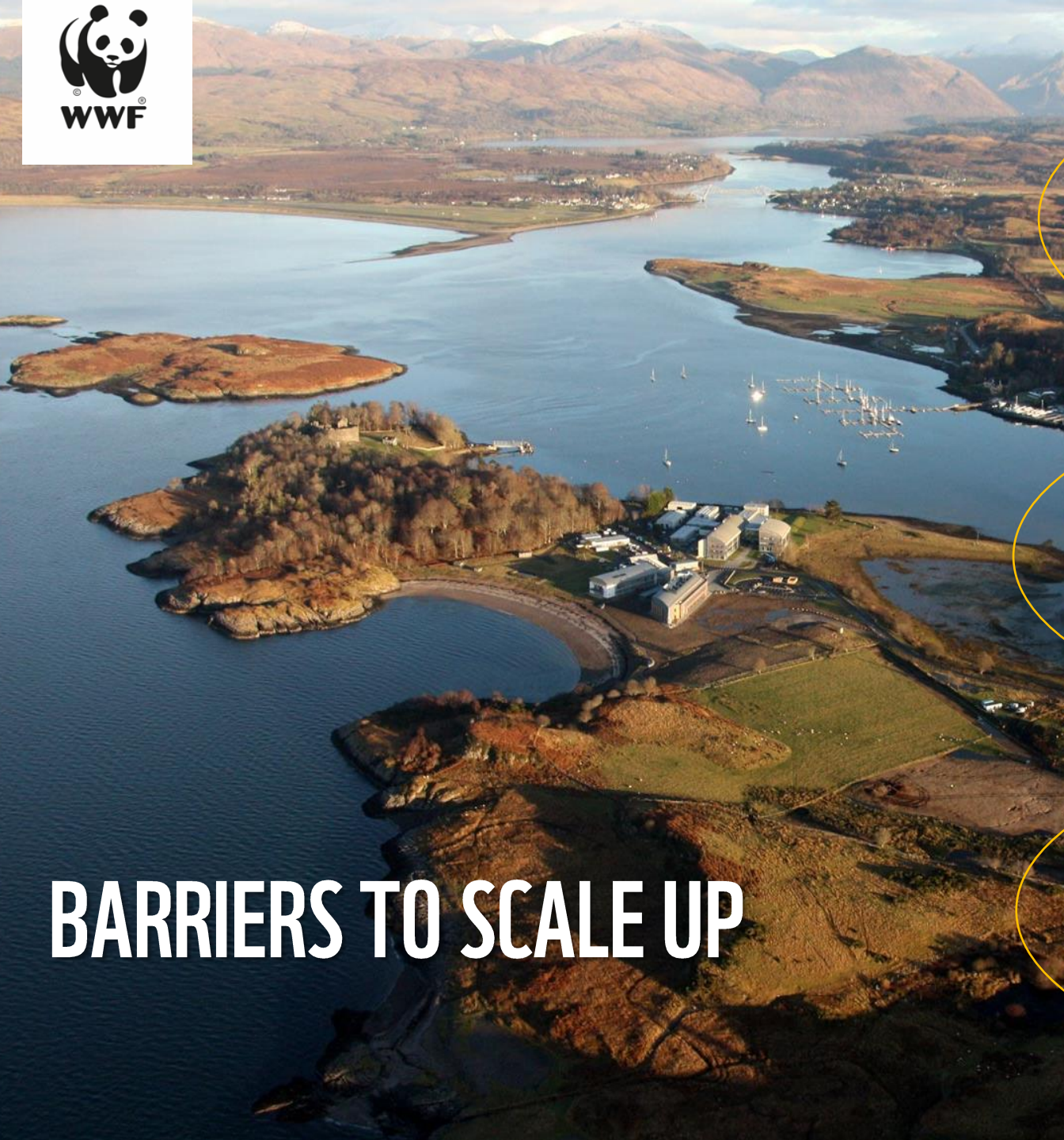




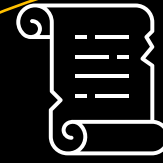
# SEAWEED IS PART OF UK'S HISTORY, CULTURE & NATURAL HERITAGE







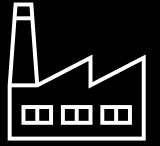
# BARRIERS TO SCALE UP



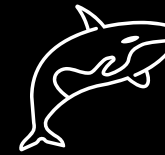
Licensing



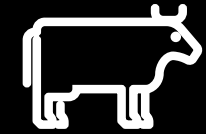
Social  
license



Processing



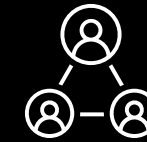
UK data on  
impacts



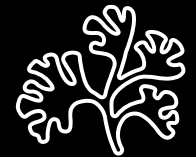
Robust products  
and claims



Investment



Industry  
support



Technical  
know-how



## Initiative aims to take UK seaweed sector to the next level

A new project aims to comprehensively map the current state of the seaweed farming industry in the United Kingdom and set out a path to help maximise its future potential.

Value of UK seaweed



Biodiversity monitoring



## What seaweed farmers can do to foster social acceptability

### BUILD

a context-specific approach to site-selection and farm development. Take into consideration how a new farm might fit within the local community, how it might impact current users of the area, and whether it will change the livelihoods and culture of people living in the area. What might be acceptable in one location, will not necessarily be acceptable in another.

### ENGAGE

with local communities and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., fisheries, conservation groups, recreation organisations) about the environmental sustainability of the farm and farming practices. This may include answering questions about day-to-day operations, end-uses for the seaweed, the economic viability of the farm, and how the seaweed farm's environmental impacts

### ADAPT

farming practices to improve environmental sustainability as more science becomes available and talk about these improvements with local communities and relevant stakeholders.

# WWF UK: SEAWEED SOLUTIONS PROGRAMME

## Guidance on how to approach Social License to Operate

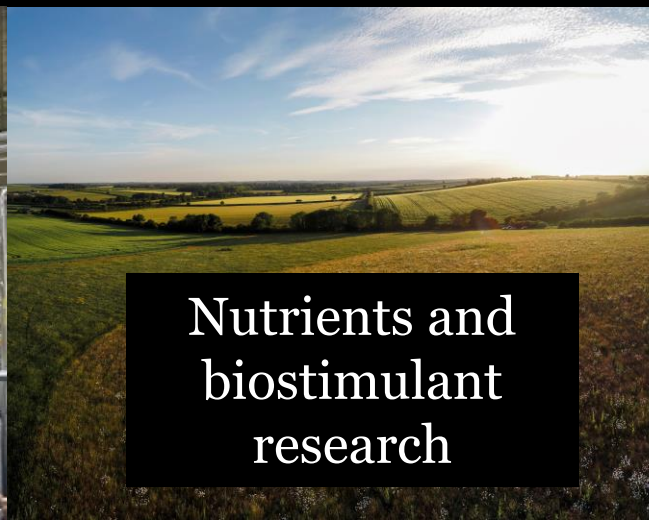
### DEVELOP

and/or contribute to activities to increase the general public's knowledge of what seaweed farming involves, from hatchery through to product. This should include the positive and negative aspects of the industry, to help manage expectations around what seaweed farming can achieve. This will prepare the general public for seaweed farming expansion and may reduce the spread of misinformation and comparisons to controversial activities (e.g. mechanical harvesting of wild seaweed).

stakeholder bodies and/or industry-led farming experiences, and where regulations and planning processes could be improved.



Protein extraction



Nutrients and biostimulant research



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE?



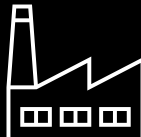
Civil Society



License regulators & govt



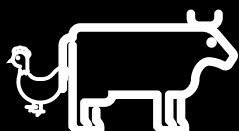
Operators



R&D



Investors



UK Food + Farming Sector



PHOTO: Matthew Horwood





# CLOSING THOUGHTS...

Could regenerative seaweed farms (+ IMTA) support local ocean biodiversity, recreation, local fisheries, and community resilience?

Could seaweed products contribute to a vibrant UK seafood culture, and support a transition to a more sustainable agricultural system?



Mollie Gupta, [mgupta@wwf.org.uk](mailto:mgupta@wwf.org.uk)

