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Leontine Elisabeth Becking, also known as Lisa, was born on the 29th of November 1978 in Amsterdam. Lisa graduated from the Barlaeus Gymnasium Amsterdam in 1997 and in 1998 she commenced the study of Biology at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). Since she was a small child she has been mesmerized by the sea – in fact she could swim before she could speak. As a result, she decided to specialize in marine biology during her studies by taking all possible marine biology courses and conducted four research projects focused on marine biology topics in The Netherlands, Indonesia and the U.S.A. After receiving an MSc in Biology from the UvA in 2004, Lisa was selected for the Japan Prizewinners Programme, a postgraduate fellowship set up by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science to study Japanese and conduct a seven month internship in academia and business in Tokyo. Upon returning to the Netherlands in 2005, she became a research associate in the Marine Zoology department at Naturalis (Leiden, The Netherlands) and a member of the Naturalis Zeeteam. During this time at Naturalis, she wrote a PhD proposal together with her supervisor/co-promotor Nicole de Voogd for the Netherlands Organisation of Science (NWO-ALW) in order to study marine lakes in Indonesia. In the months before the referees and committee members passed their wise judgments on the proposal, Lisa worked as a junior researcher in a project at the University College Dublin (Ireland) on the evolutionary history of plankton populations in open sea and isolated in marine lakes. In the Fall of 2007 she commenced her PhD at Naturalis and Leiden University (UL) with the funding of NWO-ALW. Once Lisa receives her PhD degree, she will start a two-year postdoc that is funded by an NWO-RUBICON grant to continue research on marine lakes at the University of California Berkeley. She is now also working part-time as a tropical marine ecologist in the Tropenteam of the Dutch Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies Marine (IMARES).

