



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

MANGROVE ACTION PROJECT

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Letter from Executive Director

Much has been written about the suffering due to Covid, the loss of livelihoods and lives. As MAP has always been an NGO scattered to the four winds and across disparate time zones, working from home and zoom-life were second nature. But after Jim Enright managed a hugely successful [CBEMR training in Tanzania](#) at the start of the year, for the IUCN and WWF Germany, we have been unable to get into the field since due to travel restrictions.

Despite the challenges, 2020 turned out to be a very productive and busy year, in which we were able to both continue with program work and bolster MAP's infrastructure. Martin Keeley's 'Marvellous Mangrove' schools education program won funding from the UK government's Darwin Initiative for work across Cayman. Martin took the opportunity of a delay to start of his program to initiate the Cayman Island Mangrove Rangers. MAP's CBEMR training moved online for the WWF network and others. Working closely with Dylan Skeffington, who has managed a tight ship with great skill as General Manager, we clarified our strategic direction, sourced operational funding and developed partnerships and proposals for a range of countries including Madagascar, El Salvador and

Bangladesh. Bangladesh. Co-Founder Alfredo Quarto led MAP's support of NGOs in the Maldives and elsewhere, and the Enright's exemplary honey production supplementary livelihood project in Nai Nang, southern Thailand continues to flourish. Our Creative Director (Leo Thom)'s Mangrove Photography Awards was the biggest and best yet, ably amplified by our new communications manager, Dr. Laura Michie, who we were delighted to welcome aboard in the second half of the year.

Thanks to these efforts, what was a difficult year in many respects turned out to be highly productive, thanks to key donors' support, the wisdom and experience of our board, and perseverance and good humour of the team. Thank you, one and all.

Dylan Skeffington, PhD
Executive Director



Our Mission

Over half of the world's mangrove forests – one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet – have been degraded or destroyed. **Mangrove Action Project (MAP)** is on a mission to reverse that trend.

Working with all types of stakeholders from communities, to scientists, NGOs, governments, and international bodies, we aim to help restore our world's vital mangrove forests through action, education, training, and advocacy.

2020 Highlights

- MAP named as one of 10 **Winners of the 2020 .ORG Awards**, winning the Advancing Environmental Sustainability category
- Conducted most successful Mangrove Photography Awards to date – with **1,122 submissions from 68 countries**
- On-the-ground programs in **3 countries**, with virtual programs reaching many more
- Expansion, with assistance from the UK government, of the 'Marvellous Mangroves' curriculum in the Cayman Islands to **include seagrass and coral reefs**
- Expansion of the **Nai Nang apiculture project**, in new partnership with OnlyOne
- **Over 2.4 million social media impressions**, hundreds of thousands of new audience members reached through online content and articles

CBEMR Training in Tanzania

In 2019 MAP ran a 'community-based ecological mangrove restoration' (CBEMR) workshop in the Rufiji Delta, southern Tanzania. We were delighted to be able to return in February 2020, with the IUCN and WWF Germany's 'Save Our Mangroves Now!' team, this time to the northern mangroves of Tanga. Our goal was to build the capacity of the Tanzania Forest Service staff, both from their staff college and field offices.

It was hugely satisfying to help participants better understand how this ecosystem works and why some of their previous mangrove projects had fallen short. Subsequent Covid grounding and online teaching has also made us fully appreciate the value of combining the theory of mangrove biology, ecology, species zoning and hydrology in a classroom, with getting participants to explain features to each other in the field.

Sadly, Tanga's mangroves are now under threat due to proposed construction of an oil pipeline by oil major Total and China National Offshore Oil Corporation. Nevertheless, we hope that the forestry officers and local groups will now be able to preserve this valuable stretch of coastline.



© D. Wodehouse, MAP; Anouk Neuhaus WWF



Sustainable Livelihoods at Nai Nang Village

As part of a new partnership with OnlyOne, MAP has received a grant to help the Nai Nang Apiculture Group in Southern Thailand to step up their mangrove conservation efforts. The funds will go towards gaining further knowledge of endemic species of stingless bees and training other communities in apiculture as an alternative livelihood.

4 out of the 10 species of stingless bees live within mangrove forests and greatly improves biodiversity through pollination. Nai Nang see the new collaboration with the stingless bees as a way of giving back to their regenerating mangroves. Mangrove Action Project accompanied Nai Nang to Chanthaburi on a study visit so they could learn about new techniques in stingless beekeeping from experts at the Agricultural Occupation and Development Centre. There were also visits to local beekeeping groups to exchange apiculture and bee box knowledge while the women's group were taught how to make new honey based related products.

Nai Nang have started to train other villages and the women's group are working on new recipes for new honey related products.



CBEMR Online for WWF

In the summer of 2020 MAP's Executive Director and lead CBEMR trainer, Dr. Dominic Wodehouse, ran a six-week online workshop for various field staff of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), with the aim of building their capacity to restore mangrove ecosystems.

The workshop included at least 35 of WWF's staff from more than 10 offices around the globe (including Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, PNG, Kenya, Tanzania, UAE, Vietnam, Mozambique, Cambodia, Malaysia, and India), focusing on a variety of topics ranging from mangrove benefits (both obvious and obscure), to the underlying science of mangrove biology and ecology, to an overview of proper restoration techniques.

While MAP has previously run CBEMR training workshops in a dozen countries for various groups and entities, the COVID-19 pandemic forced things to move online, opening up a new avenue of possibilities. While on-the-ground and site-specific demonstrations are preferable for a deeper understanding of local mangrove ecology and community needs, introductory online trainings open up possibilities for including more management and field staff in various locations simultaneously, along with fewer carbon emissions and without the expense and time spent travelling. WWF, which is a partner along with MAP in the Global Mangrove Alliance, will now have an increased capacity to better implement mangrove restoration techniques in their various countries and sites, with participants in the workshop saying that the knowledge gained will impact and improve their future mangrove projects.



Marvellous Mangroves

curriculum expansion

Due to Covid-19, the Marvellous Mangroves educational program focused primarily on the expansion of the curriculum in the Cayman Islands, where case counts remained low, enabling people in the islands to move around freely.

With support from the UK government's Darwin Plus Initiative, MAP's Education Director, Martin Keeley, and Cayman-based NGO, the Mangrove Education Project expanded the Marvellous Mangroves curriculum to include associated seagrass and coral reef ecosystems. The updated Coastal Education Guide has included a shift to include many more online resources to satisfy the educational demands of lockdown. Several pilots were carried out with the new materials in 2020, while full scale launch of the project is planned for fall of 2021..

Additionally, the spring of 2020 saw the publication of the French version of Merveilleuses Mangroves de Guyane for use in French Guyana and the French Caribbean islands – accomplished in conjunction with our French Guyana partner Lucile Dudoignon of local NGO Koté Forêt.



MERVEILLEUSES MANGROVES DE GUYANE - TOME 1



Classeur pédagogique
à destination des animateurs et enseignants de Guyane.



"The kids showed great interest and participated enthusiastically in both the activities and the field trip. It's encouraging to see such excitement as it is vital that we teach current and future generations the value of our world's mangrove forests"

- Martin Keeley, MAP Education Director

Mangrove Rangers

Cayman Island

The second major project in Cayman was the establishment of the Cayman Islands Mangrove Rangers – a group of young Caymanians whose primary task is to monitor the ecological health of the islands' mangrove ecosystems. This includes collecting data on the state of the mangroves through research and observation then reporting to the CI Department of Environment, as well as educating the islands' communities on the value of their mangrove ecosystems.

The Rangers have been able to monitor and challenge illegal clearing and development, and have also distributed copies of the Mangrove Species Conservation law to all landscapers, contractors and developers in the islands as a means of educating them on the requirements they have to meet. The Rangers will also be vital in implementing the updated version of the Coastal Education Guide, helping to teach and run field trips for the curriculum in the coming years.

MAP is planning for the CI Mangrove Rangers concept to be used as a template for introduction to other countries starting with the remaining UK Caribbean Overseas Territories.



“When I was growing up in Cayman, I was surrounded by mangroves, but I did not know what they were or what benefits they provided us.”

- *Dinara Perera*, Mangrove Ranger

Advocacy

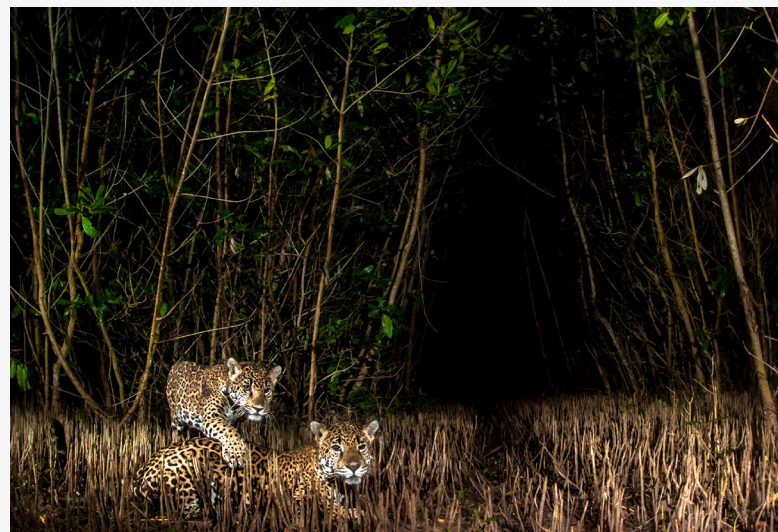
Mangrove Photography Awards

The Mangrove Photography Awards 2020 has given us a fascinating insight into the world of mangroves from all corners of the earth. Jaguars in mangroves, grinning crocodiles, dancing trees and thousands of flamingos reclaiming a lost habitat are just some of the compelling and intriguing images from this year's competition.

The 6th year of the competition has been the most exciting to date with new categories and four special judges; Cristina Mittermeier, Steve Winter, Octavio Aburto, and Jennifer Hayes. The intimate relationships between wildlife, coastal communities and mangrove forests were captured by amateur and professional photographers from nearly 70 countries, as well as the fragility of these unique ecosystems from both above, and below, the water line. The competition received 1,122 submissions, was picked up by various media outlets including BBC News, and some of the photos were used as part of the World Mangrove Atlas Poster Series by UNESCO.

Cristina Mittermeier saw it as, "a chance for photographers to raise their voices for the protection of one of the most critical and threatened ecosystems".

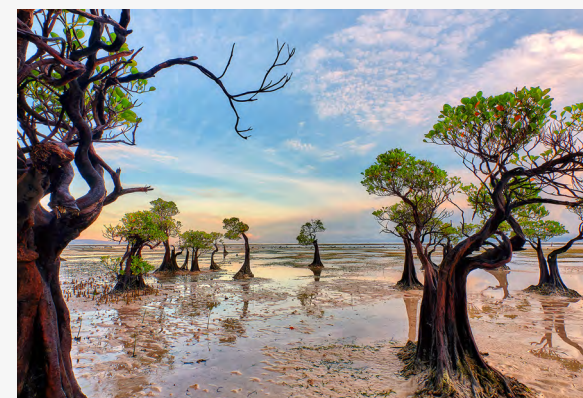
[Click here to see the full list of winners](#)



Overall Winner
©Victor Hugo Luja



Winner - Mangroves & People
©Morgan Bennett-Smith



Winner - Mangroves & Landscape
©Harry Pieters

Remote Consultancy in the Maldives

In 2020, MAP worked closely with our friends at Save Maldives to conserve and restore the mangroves in the Maldives. MAP continued to try to move the Ministry of Environment to take proactive steps to save the island's mangroves, and through the continued assistance of Save Maldives, MAP also made contact with the Ministry of Education.

Our friends at Save Maldives advised MAP to start work with the schools on the island of Neykurendhoo, whose island council was very active in conservation measures to protect their mangroves. In the process of turning attention to work in Neykurendhoo, MAP discovered a new and troubling phenomenon occurring there; since March, a slow but worsening mangrove die-off was leaving the trees yellowed and dried up.

MAP began working remotely with Save Maldives volunteers and the Island Council of Neykurendhoo to try to uncover the reason for this troubling die-off. MAP enlisted the help of mangrove ecologists from the Mangrove Specialist Group and together we tried to assess the problem of die-off.



Children's Calendar 2021

19th Mangrove Art Contest

MAP's annual Children's Mangrove Art Contest connects children from all corners of the Earth to mangrove forests, through an educational and creative competition. It is an opportunity for the younger generation to feel a connection with the natural world and to learn about the vital role mangroves play to both communities, and our environment

This year's competition, our 19th, saw a necessary adaptation to the rules and outreach because of the COVID pandemic. By announcing a completely digital submission, MAP was still able to hold the competition whilst keeping within social distancing and safety guidelines. And for the first time, the competition was opened to include all children globally, rather than just children from mangrove nations. This year's competition had 350 entries from 34 countries and includes some brilliant artwork of mangrove trees and wildlife, underwater scenes and mangrove villages.

Partner organizations such as Save Maldives, CINVESTAV-Mexico, BEDS-Bangladesh and CMCN-China, helped make this year a big success. We also reached a new audience through our growing social network and by publicizing the event online.

[Click to see the more winners & entries](#)



"My Grandma tells me stories about the Sundarbans, a huge mangrove forest in West Bengal, India. It's a beautiful place where humans respect the jungle and its animals. I have made this drawing taking inspiration from my Grandma's stories"

- Aldi Sen, art contest participant



General Outreach

Social Channels

During the move online during 2020, MAP continued to enact general outreach and public awareness, in addition to general awareness-raising campaigns, all in an effort to educate the general public on the importance of mangroves and encourage more conservation globally.

2020 saw an exceptional increase in social media followers across all channels, with an amazing 2.4 million-plus individual impressions across our platforms. Our platforms helped bring new people into the mangrove conversation the past year as well, with the growth in followers ranging from a 34% increase on Twitter, 49% on Facebook, 220% on Instagram, and 42% on YouTube – combining to reach tens of thousands worldwide.

We also continued to run our bi-weekly newsletter, bringing the latest mangrove news from around the world to our dedicated subscribers.

Poster Series for UNESCO Bangkok

As a result of the 2020 Global Mangrove Photography Awards, MAP also worked closely with UNESCO Bangkok and the Thai National Science Museum to develop a series of posters in support of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites, and Global Geoparks, for the new Rama IX Museum. Twelve countries from the Photo Awards were selected for the poster series, including countries from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, Asia and the Pacific. The posters demonstrate the international dimension of mangrove biogeography and consist of beautiful photos and statistical information on mangroves each country. They also provide basic information on UNESCO sites in these countries, as of December 2020.

[Click to see full poster series](#)



Expanding Connections

MAP has continued working with and within various international organizations to raise awareness of mangrove issues and solutions, ranging from the Global Mangrove Alliance, to the IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group, and has taken advantage of the transition to remote work to speak at several conferences, including ones hosted by KEW Royal Botanical Gardens, Oceankind, and a forum for Mangrove issues for the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

.ORG IMPACT AWARDS

winner in Advancing Environmental Sustainability

Public Interest Registry (PIR), the People behind .ORG, named Mangrove Action Project as one of the 10 winners of the 2nd annual .ORG Impact Awards. MAP was honored in the Advancing Environmental Sustainability category for its work to protect the world's mangrove forests. As part of the award, MAP received a \$5,000 USD donation and was honored as part of the "10 Days of .ORG" online experience that celebrates the range of achievements that have healed, inspired, transformed and connected communities over the past year. More than 500 organizations and individuals submitted entries to the 2020 .ORG Impact Awards. Submissions were reviewed and scored by a panel of judges who are leaders in the Internet, non-profit and marketing sectors.

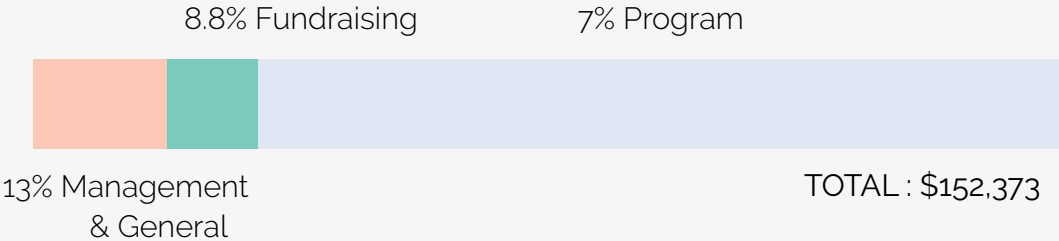
[Click to read more](#)



Financial Overview

2020

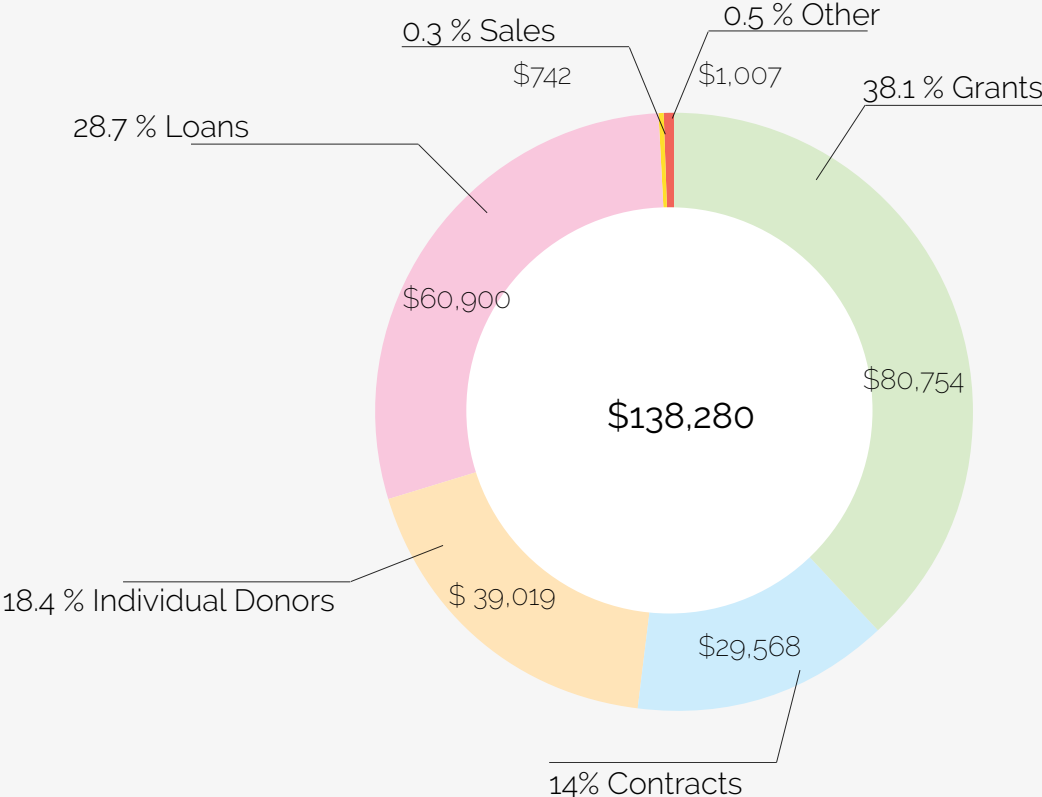
Breakdown of MAP Expenses



Financial Overview

2020

Breakdown of MAP Income



Team

Saving the world's mangrove forests and raising awareness of their importance is a passion for all our dedicated team



Dominic Wodehouse
Executive Director

Dominic teaches CBEMR in various countries while completing a PhD at Bangor University, looking at community mangrove management and restoration. He will become the new Executive Director.



Alfredo Quarto
International Program Director

Alfredo is the co-founder of Mangrove Action Project (1992), its former ED and currently serves as MAP's International Program Director. His experiences of organizing and writing on environmental and human rights issues, range over many countries and organizations.



Dylan Skeffington
General Manager

Dylan has worked with MAP for two years as its Executive Director, as well as previous work with other international NGOs. He also enjoys traveling and exploring outdoors, and pretending to be an adventure photographer.



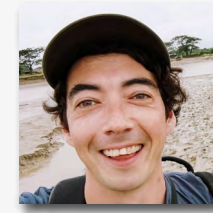
Jim Enright
CBEMR trainer

Jim is based in Trang, overseeing every stage of MAP's projects in Thailand. Though semi-retire, he continues to assist MAP with CBEMR training workshops around the globe.



Martin Keeley
Education Director

Martin teaches wetlands ecology to students, teachers and communities. His MM program is adapted and translated for use in 16 countries. His latest venture is monitoring illegal mangrove destruction.



Leo Thom
Creative Director

Leo is a filmmaker and digital content creator based in the UK, with a passion for visual storytelling. Currently finishing off another postgraduate Masters, in Wildlife Filmmaking, in partnership with the BBC Natural History Unit, in Bristol.



Jaruwan Kaewmahanin
Field Project Manager

Ning is a specialist in project management and coordination of action research related to mangrove and community-based natural resource management and networking among communities.



Monica Gutierrez-Quarto
Calendar Coordinator

Monica is a Chilean artist and printmaker who has helped coordinate the MAP International Children's Art Calendar contest for the last 19 years.



Sam Nugent
News Editor

Sam is a graphic designer and editor of the MAP News. He also manages the graphic arts department for several small newspapers in the region around Port Angeles, WA where he is based.

Board Members



Roger de Freitas
Chair of the Board

Roger is a British philanthropist who often works directly with local NGOs to develop their capacity to deal with a broad range of challenges.



Sherry Manning

Sherry has worked as a development specialist for more than 20 years, providing planning and procurement support for nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. She joined the MAP Board of Directors in 2018 and supports the board and staff in grant and development planning.

Roan Blacker

Roan has been financially advising, raising capital and monitoring finances for nonprofit corporations and government organizations for nearly 30 years. As Treasurer, Roan oversees MAP's finances and monitors the corporation's reporting and fiscal policies.

Graham Andrews

John Cowan

Thank You

Thank you to the following individual
Major Donors:

Celeste Botha

Sharon Caulfield

Roger de Freitas

Jáchym Hercher

Melissa Hicks

Sue Hilton

Maiya Holliday

Sherry Manning

Tom Quarto

Stephanie Ross

Margy Stewart



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