



MORE, HEALTHY MANGROVES FOR EVERYONE



MANGROVE ACTION PROJECT

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



www.mangroveactionproject.org

MAP is a registered 501c(3) non-profit charity organisation
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Letter from Executive Director

Thirty years after MAP's founding, it's hugely encouraging to observe that wetlands and mangroves are receiving increasing attention from organisations, the private sector and governments. But this optimism is tempered by a backdrop of missed environmental and climate targets and climate change-related violent weather and natural disasters. Few governments are changing their priorities, replacing development and infrastructure expansion for protection or expansion of wetlands. And too many groups are getting involved in mangroves for the sake of easy 'blue carbon' credits for emissions offsets, without first reducing their own emissions and without understanding that these projects should be centred around, and primarily benefit, local coastal communities.

To try to guide thinking and action in the right direction this year MAP joined the IUCN, the UN's Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and the World Economic Forum's 'Mangrove Advisory Group' to try to steer mangrove thinking in an appropriate direction. We remain active and vocal members of the Global Mangrove Alliance on almost all

their committees, adding sections to its 'State of the World's Mangroves' report.

It's only the generosity of our funders that has allowed us to handle this extra (unfunded) workload, strengthen the MAP team, work on our own internal processes, start work on revamping our website and initiate the development of a small donor fundraising program. And happily we have not lost roots. We were delighted to run both an online workshop for the US Forest Service covering the Caribbean and Central America, and in-field teaching in Kenya, the Bahamas and Tanzania with partners Wetlands International and Waterkeepers Bahamas. As satisfying as seeing the amazing social media output and excellent films that came from this teaching, was the feedback from NGOs and government officers - their eyes being opened to mangrove biology and ecology and understanding that they had to do things differently in the future. Let's hope their collective actions can answer the world's climate challenges.

Dominic Wadehouse



Our Mission

Greatly improve mangrove conservation, restoration and education by building capacity and raising awareness

Our Values

EXCELLENCE

We are experts in our field with techniques and programs that work, for lasting benefits.

PASSION

Our mission is urgent, and we are determined to do the best to improve your mangrove project.

RESPONSIVE & AGILE

Every project is unique and we make sure we listen to you, before responding with tailored solutions.

INTEGRITY

We put you and the needs of the mangroves first. We are honest with our opinions and transparent with our activities.

RESPECTFUL & APPROACHABLE

We pride ourselves on working with diverse coastal communities from different religions, listening to their wisdom.

OPENNESS

We work in a transparent and collaborative way to share what we learn.

2022 Highlights

Furthering the **CBEMR methodology** through online training for various organizations and individuals through workshops with WWF and US Forestry Service

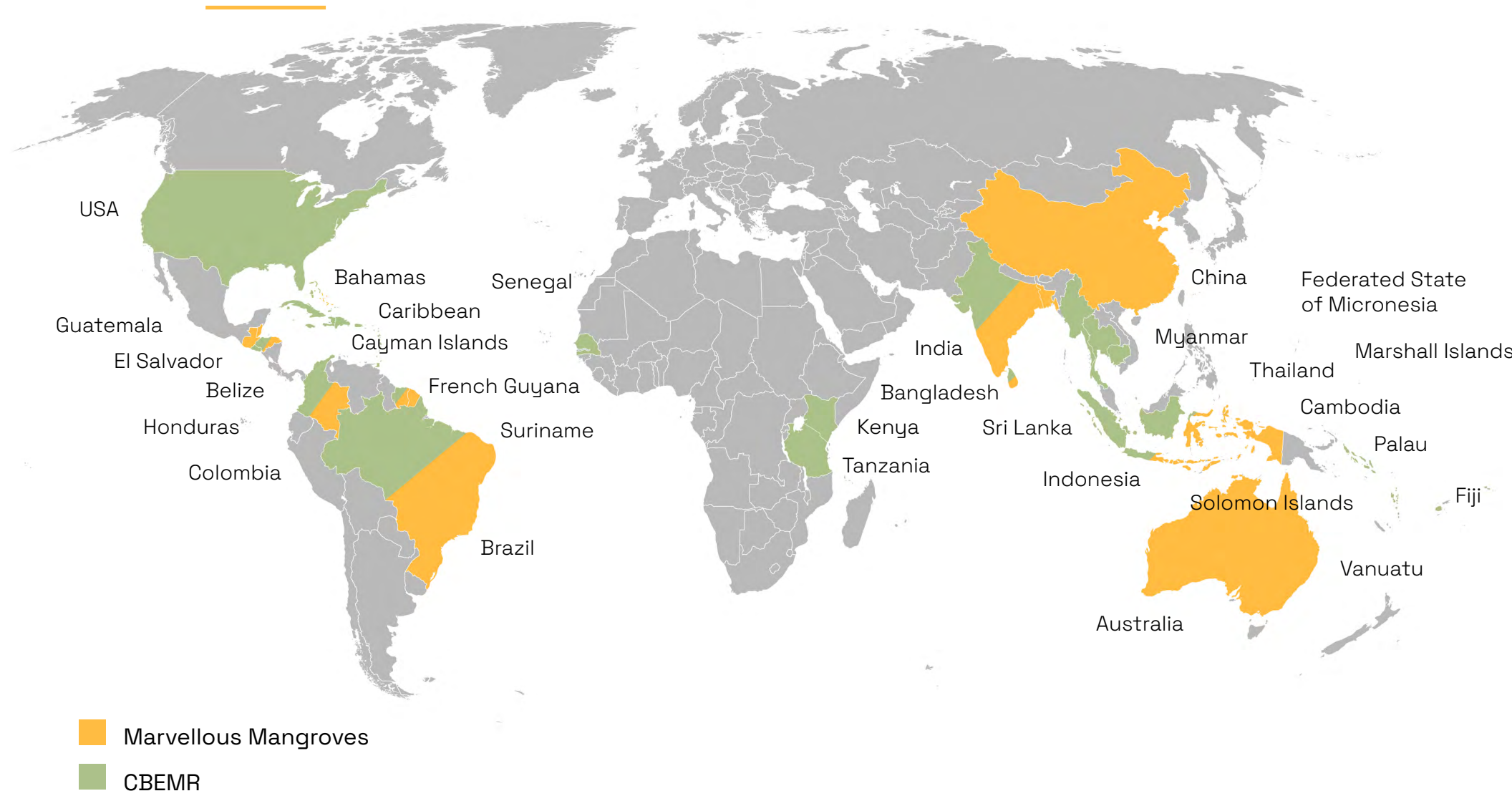
Expansion of the 'Marvellous Mangroves' curriculum in the Cayman Islands to **include seagrass and coral reefs**

Most thought-provoking Mangrove Photography Awards to date
– with **2,188 submissions from 68 countries**

Celebrated 20 years of the **Children's Mangrove Art project**, receiving 600 submissions from 45 countries

An average **growth rate of 44.95%** across our social media platforms

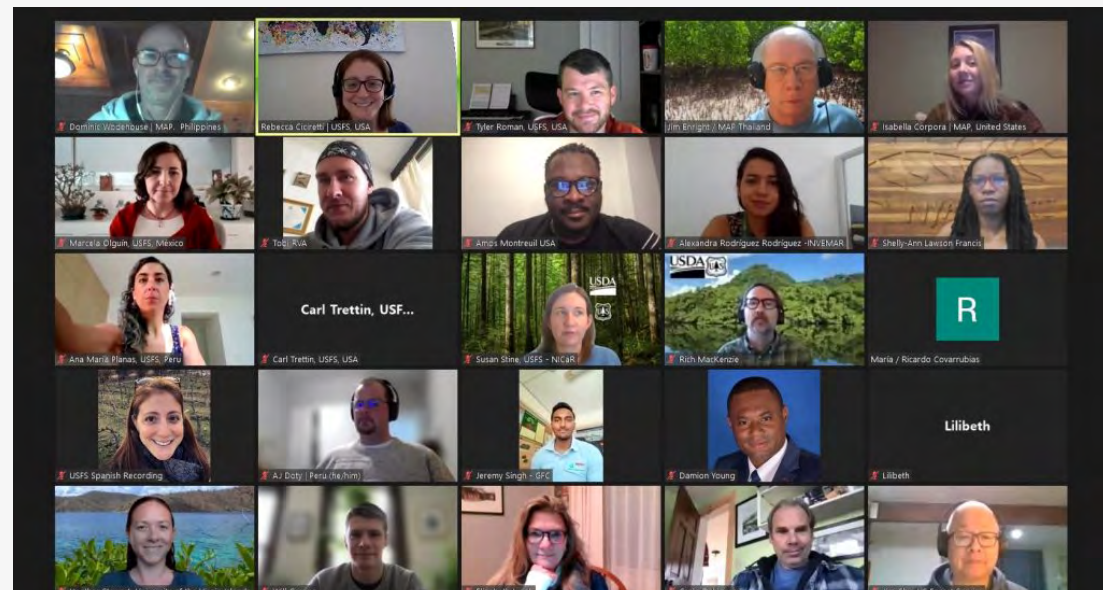
MAP's Impact



CBEMR Online Training with USFS LAC

CBEMR workshop participants - 40
Total Length - 6 days

Learning from and building on our experience from our US Forest Service's online PIFRI workshop across the Pacific in 2021, we ran another full online workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean team at the start of 2022. This was no small commitment on the part of the attendees - two hours a day for six days, spread over two weeks, and included small research projects and offline work they had to complete in teams between sessions. The workshop greatly benefitted from a diversity of participants from places as far afield as Panama, Guyana, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Mexico and St Kitts & Nevis, who brought very different mangrove challenges to the workshop. However, central to the discussions was the recurring issue of hurricane damage and how to recover from events such as Hurricane Dorian (2019) which devastated The Bahamas, destroying mangrove stands and filling in hydrological channels. A great learning experience for everyone.



CBEMR Training Eastern Africa with Wetlands International

Participants - 61
Total length - 20 days

In 2022, the MAP team worked with Wetlands International East Africa to teach mangrove restoration workshops in Lamu, Kenya, and Tanga, Tanzania. The mangroves are directly tied to the culture and heritage of the region with many structures, boats and other amenities being built with mangrove wood. As well as harvesting, the East Africa region is also losing hundreds of hectares of mangrove forest to urban development and conversion to other land uses. These in-depth mangrove restoration workshops were conducted to build the capacity of local community associations, NGOs, forestry officers and government staff. The training encouraged participants to reduce mangrove stressors and work with nature to produce a sustainable, biodiverse mangrove forest. To follow-up on this workshop, the MAP team visited Lamu six months after the initial training to further work with local community members and assist in restoration activities. The community has continued this work to improve hydrology and restore mangroves forests that had been degraded.



CBEMR Training Bahamas with Waterkeepers Bahamas

CBEMR workshop participants - 19
Kids Art Mangrove Workshop participants - 21
Total length - 5 days

In April 2022, the MAP team worked with Waterkeepers Bahamas and Earthcare Bahamas to teach a mangrove restoration workshop on Grand Bahama. Mangroves are incredibly important in the Bahamas due to their ability to protect against coastal erosion and provide a buffer against storms. Hurricane Dorian caused huge devastation in Grand Bahama in 2019, destroying over 70% of the mangrove forests on the island. Many community groups, including Waterkeepers and Earthcare, are trying to restore these vital ecosystems, and this workshop aimed to enhance understanding of mangrove ecology and stakeholder needs to improve project outcomes for mangroves and communities. The training encouraged participants to work with nature to produce a resilient and biodiverse mangrove forest. Alongside the restoration workshop, MAP team member Monica Gutierrez-Quarto collaborated with artist Marie Louis Hayward to run a Kids Art Mangrove Workshop to educate young people about the mangrove ecosystem via an integrated art curriculum.



Marvellous Mangroves

Coastal Education Guide

MAP continued its liaison with the Cayman Islands-based Mangrove Education Project with a series of programs featuring new training programs for the Cayman Islands Mangrove Rangers and Junior Mangrove Rangers. Each of these involved in-depth, practical education for both Rangers and Junior Rangers. The training programs consisted of a multi-day field and classroom experience for all participants. The field portion of the training included a guided walking and snorkeling tour of Cayman's Central Mangrove Wetlands whilst the classroom lesson hosted presentations on basic mangrove ecology, carbon sequestration, and laws surrounding mangroves in the Cayman Islands.

Under a Darwin Plus grant from the UK, the Coastal Lagoon Ecosystem (CLE) teachers guide and website neared completion – both including MAP's highly successful Marvellous Mangroves program now linking with seagrass and coral reefs. Launch of the website and CLE curriculum guide were scheduled for early 2023. The Marvellous Mangroves program was highlighted during school visits and field trips throughout the year by MAP education manager Cassandra MacDowell in the Cayman Islands with over 300 participating students.

The Cayman Mangrove Festival – celebrating World Mangrove Day – attracted more than 150 attendees to George Town's Parcel 110 on Saturday July 30th in celebration of the islands' wetlands. 10 students from Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, alongside invited professional artists, contributed their mangrove-inspired art to the event aimed at raising awareness and education about the wetlands. Student artist, Shrubbhavi Choudary's piece was also featured in MAP's 2023 Children's Art Calendar. Other notable activities at the festival included a mangrove investigation and learning station as well as storytelling in the 50 foot inflatable shark.



Livelihoods Documentary in Thailand

Creative Director, Leo Thom, has been on the island of Koh Klang in Southern Thailand capturing a story of how coastal people are living with stingless bees. Stingless bees are one of the best pollinators of mangrove forests and people are adapting their lives so that they can harvest valuable honey and at the same time enhance the environment.

Their main character is the brilliant Khun Nit who has recently come across stingless bees, and their importance to mangroves forests. She believes that her friends could gain an income from the honey and help them out of poverty.

“The best part about the whole project was that we genuinely brought positive conservation impact to the people that we collaborated with. The long-term relationship built up through MAP was really key to the trust that everyone had for us and the project” says Leo.

The project is currently in the post production process and you can [view a character introduction here](#).

Listen to the filmmaking process in this [Conservation Heroes radio episode](#).



CBEMR Films

in Lamu, Kenya

The lives of Lamu's communities are closely intertwined with mangroves with about 60% of these magnificent and carbon rich ecosystems found in this historically and culturally rich archipelago. As the degraded areas grow due to various causes and drivers, there have been concerted efforts to restore mangroves. What is crucial in these efforts is that the coastal communities remain the key to managing, conserving and restoring these precious natural resources.

[Watch Life within Lamu's Mangroves.](#)

Lamu hosts some 60% of Kenya's mangroves. These forests are biologically diverse, harbouring intertidal flats and seagrass meadows that are rich in fisheries resources. Lamu's communities rely on mangroves for food, poles for houses, wood fuel, traditional medicine, and more. However, there is pressure on these forests and the need to conserve what remains and restore what's been lost is urgent. The film illustrates how Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration is being implemented across the region.

[Watch Restoring Lamu's Mangroves.](#)



Mangrove Photography Awards 2022

The Mangrove Photography Awards has become a platform to intrigue people about the magnificent ecological role mangroves play in all of our lives. A curious crocodile close up, scientists restoring lost balances, a crab fishing in a cave, and a water monitor navigating plastic waste are some of the intriguing winners from this year's awards.

Over 450 photographers submitted across 68 countries this year, revealing fascinating insights into the world of mangroves. The photos are a compelling reminder of the importance of mangroves and the need to protect them as photographers captured unique relationships and moments from coastal ecosystems both above, and below the water line. The competition received 2,188 submissions, and was picked up by various major media outlets including [BBC News](#), [Guardian](#), and [The Times](#).

"The images from this year captivated our imagination....giving us hope and illuminating a positive future for mangrove ecosystems", said judge Octavio Aburto.

[Click here to view all the winners.](#)



Overall Winner
Mangrove Guardian
©TANYA HOUPPERMANS



Winner - Mangroves & Underwater
Blue Crab

©MARTIN BROEN



Winner - Mangroves & Conservation Stories
Mangrove Restoration in Bonaire

©LORENZO MITTIGA

Children's Calendar

Mangrove Art Contest

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

For the third year the competition was opened to include all children globally, rather than just children from mangrove nations. The art contest had around 350 entries from 36 countries and included some outstanding artwork depicting mangrove forests and wildlife, underwater scenes, and mangrove villages.

Students learned also about mangrove ecosystem and sent us answers to the following questions. "What are the threats to the mangroves today?" and "How does garbage and marine debris affect mangroves?"

For the 21st consecutive year of the Children's Mangrove Art Contest, it was again an inspiration to see the willingness of so many young people to take an interest in mangroves and to take part in the art competition.

[Click here to see the art gallery.](#)



"In my artwork I want to show the beauty of the mangrove forest and the connection with animals, birds, and humans.

I learned that mangroves are very important to balance the ecosystem.

So, let's save the beauty!"

Divyanshi Singhal, 9 years old / India

Advocacy & Outreach

Expanding Connections

Effective communication plays a pivotal role in the dissemination of MAP's mission of global mangrove conservation and restoration. Our outreach encompasses diverse platforms, including social media, blogs, conferences, and podcasts. We maintain a consistent presence on our social media channels, regularly sharing mangrove-related news and updates stemming from our restoration workshops. Additionally, our visually captivating photography award images serve as a compelling medium to convey significant narratives about mangroves. The year 2022 witnessed substantial growth in our social media followers, marked by heightened engagement and reach across all platforms.

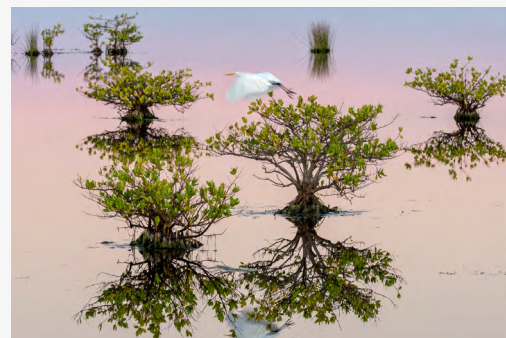
In parallel, strategic collaborations with external partners and organizations amplify our impact on a global scale, enhancing the resonance of our message. MAPs Program Manager, Dr Laura Michie, attended the UN Ocean conference in Lisbon to join an expert panel discussion on Blue Carbon at the

UN Ocean Conference in collaboration with Conservation International, Edinburgh Napier University, Blue Ventures, and the Gallifrey Foundation. This panel and workshop sought to collaboratively address the challenges in the blue carbon sector and discuss solutions to scale project development. MAPs Executive Director, Dr Dominic Wodehouse, presented at the World Forestry Congress in South Korea to speak about restoration best practices. Under the theme of building a green, healthy and resilient future with forests, the Congress showcased the essential role of forests in the global sustainable development agenda.

MAPs biweekly newsletter, reaching an audience of 2000 dedicated followers, raises awareness and fosters a sense of community around mangrove conservation. By delivering timely updates, insightful articles, and success stories, the newsletter serves as a catalyst for informed action, empowering individuals worldwide to contribute to the preservation of these vital ecosystems.



The MAP team contributed to and featured in an article in Yale Environment 360 titled [Phantom Forests: Why Ambitious Tree Planting Projects Are Failing](#). This article highlighted the failing initiatives to plant millions of mangrove trees around the world and what can be done to improve outcomes.



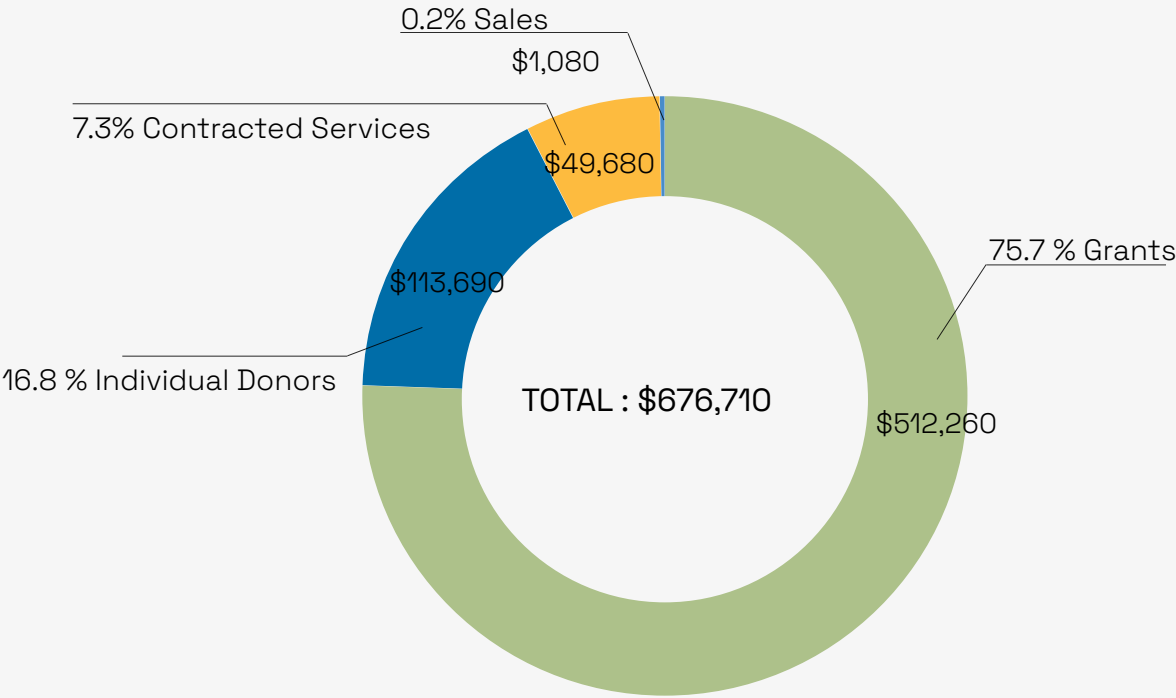
In March 2022, Alfredo Quarto featured on the podcast [Mongabay Newscast](#) to discuss the ongoing destruction of mangrove forests around the world, why it's so important to restore them, and what makes for successful mangrove restoration projects.

In October 2022, Cassie MacDowell, featured on the podcast [Protecting Paradise](#) to discuss the mangroves in the Cayman Islands, the important role they play in protecting the islands and their biodiversity, and how we can work together to conserve them.

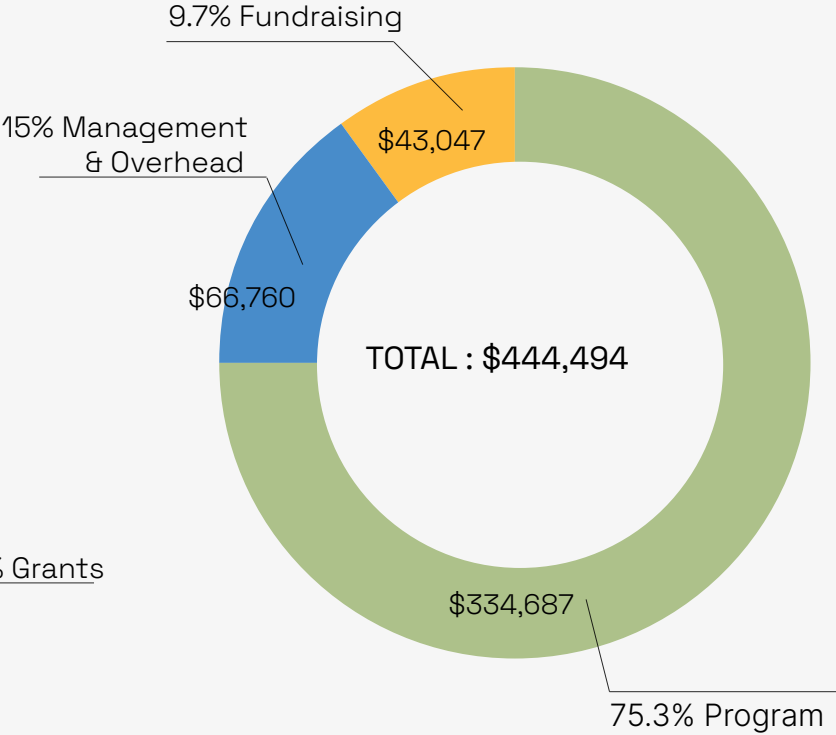
Financial Overview

2022

Breakdown of MAP Income



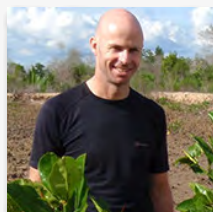
Breakdown of MAP Expenses



MAP forward balance - Jan 1, 2022- \$165,296
end balance - Dec 31, 2022 - \$410,443

Team

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



**Dominic Wodehouse, PhD
Executive Director**

Dominic continues to teach CBEMR while taking on the Executive Director role from the start of 2020. He is a member of the IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group and is based in the Philippines.



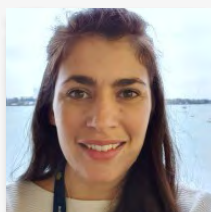
**Alfredo Quarto
International Program Director**

Alfredo is the co-founder of MAP (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 three years, both as Executive Director, and as General Manager since the beginning of 2020, in addition to working with other international NGOs.



**Laura Michie, PhD
Program Manager/CBEMR Trainer**

Laura has over 10 years' experience in mangroves and coastal wetlands, specializing in ecosystem services, plant/animal interactions, and invertebrate ecology. She holds a PhD from the University of Portsmouth on the role of fiddler crabs in Indonesian mangrove ecosystems.



**Jim Enright
CBEMR trainer**

Though semi-retired, Jim continues to assist MAP with Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) training workshops around the globe.



**Martin Keeley
Education Director**

Martin brings 25 years' teaching experience and over 35 years in environmental education to his work developing and implementing MAP's Mangrove Curriculum. With over 55 years' experience in communications and education, he has developed award-winning environmental education programs on wetlands.



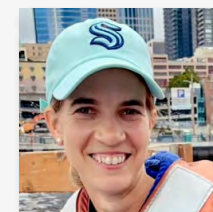
**Leo Thom
Creative Director**

Leo is an Emmy-nominated filmmaker, creating multiplatform content to improve the visibility of the organization and its projects. He founded and runs the annual Photography Awards. Leo has completed an MA in Wildlife Filmmaking at UWE, in association with the BBC's Natural History Unit.



**Cassandra MacDowell
Education Program Manager**

Cass is a young environmentalist from the island of Cayman Brac who has a passion for education and environmental conservation. Cass gained a unique appreciation for wildlife and flora at a young age and volunteered extensively with various environmental nonprofits in the Cayman Islands.



**Hesper Kohler
Development Assistant**

Hesper is a science communicator and naturalist. After working summers as a fisheries biologist in Alaska, she later realized her interests lay in scientific outreach and spent several years working in environmental education before joining MAP in 2021.



**Monica Gutierrez-Quarto
Calendar Coordinator**

Monica is a Chilean artist and printmaker who is passionate about environmental conservation. For the last 22 years, she has helped coordinate the MAP International Children's Art Calendar contest – beautiful calendars that are becoming increasingly popular each year.



**Sam Nugent
News Editor**

Sam is MAP's part-time news editor, with years of experience in graphic design and marketing. Sam has been an active member of MAP since its inception in 1992, serving as financial director, grant writer and other roles over the past three decades.

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
Board Vice President

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
Board Treasurer

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. Currently he is also President of Blacker F/CS, a financial consulting firm for nonprofit and government entities, and is a professor of accounting at Olympic College.



Graham Andrews
Board Secretary

Graham holds a Masters of Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, and has 8 years combined experience in scientific programming and software project management. Formerly a software designer and program manager for Microsoft, Graham has brought his talents to considering MAP's financial situation and helped design a framework for evaluating the CBEMR program.



John Cowan
Board Member

John has over 3 decades of experience in water resources management, environmental restoration and international development. Over the last 20 years his focus has been on working with marginalized communities around the world to give them a voice at the table and learn ways to effect change. John has a BS in Ecology and a Masters in Transformational Leadership, and believes that the regeneration of our soils, forests, and marine coastal environments are the keys to the restoration of our health and well-being.

Thank You

Major Donors

Thank you to the following Major Foundations / companies:

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