

# 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



**mangrove  
action  
project**

**Healthy Mangroves Sustain Life**

*Roots and Refuge*  
Mark Kevin Badayos, Philippines

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Founded in 1992, Mangrove Action Project was created to address the rapid global loss of mangrove forests, combining scientific methods with community involvement. A pioneer in community-led conservation, MAP introduced the Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (or **CBEMR**, for short) method in 2005, restoring mangroves naturally in over 30 countries, to date. **We have consistently fought destructive practices, while empowering coastal communities to protect and regenerate their ecosystems.**

## Why do Mangroves Matter?

Mangroves are critical ecosystems that support fisheries and marine life, protect coastlines, and capture carbon. They serve as nurseries for endangered species, prevent erosion, and store more carbon than terrestrial forests. Human activities and climate change have destroyed over half of the world's mangrove forests, making **urgent conservation efforts essential.**

## Our Mission

MAP partners with communities and organizations worldwide to **conserve, manage, and restore mangrove forests.** Through science, training, and environmental education, we provide nature-based solutions for people and our planet.

## From our Executive Director

Dr. Dominic Wodehouse

Greetings from Belize,

A concern going into 2024 was that the increasing interest in mangroves over the previous few years would fade as fast as it arrived. Happily, the positive momentum persisted throughout 2024. Groups like the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA), within which MAP is a key player, have made great strides developing national chapters and helping the 'Mangrove Breakthrough' initiative to coalesce. However, we remain concerned about 'blue carbon' financing for mangrove restoration, which tries to monetise the carbon stored by mangrove ecosystems. Although the 'blue carbon' science is evolving fast, too many organisations are getting involved with misaligned expectations. Language describing projects as 'investable' or 'bankable', or indeed 'pipelines' of projects, set up inappropriate expectations. Few of these groups consider or value the opportunity cost of the time and money needed to establish 'blue carbon' projects compared to other conservation and restoration activities. And the potential return of vital co-benefits from mangrove restoration such as storm protection or increased fisheries productivity is rarely appreciated or valued.

Despite these concerns, I am feeling hugely optimistic about our future, reinforced by the positive relationships we have with our funders, donors and GMA partners. MAP's expanding global impact was vividly demonstrated at Abu Dhabi's "First International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference," where we co-managed two events, but had two of our films shown at the gala dinner, and hosted a two-month exhibition of the best submissions to our 2024 Mangrove Photography Awards competition. Our financial strength continues to be strong, as shared by our Chief Operating Officer, Nick Hardigg, on page 18.

We are all very proud of what MAP has achieved in a short amount of time, thanks to our supporters.

Your Sincerely,

*Dominic Wodehouse*

Executive Director



# 2024

## Year in Review

This year marks 32 years since Mangrove Action Project was founded. From humble beginnings, our nimble and committed team has grown its global reach - working alongside communities across Central and South America, Asia, and Africa to improve mangrove restoration through hands-on training and education.

Our impact is only possible thanks to the passion and support of people like you. Every time we partner with a new coastal community, we carry that support with us. Your contributions - whether big or small - help us protect these vital ecosystems and the lives they sustain.

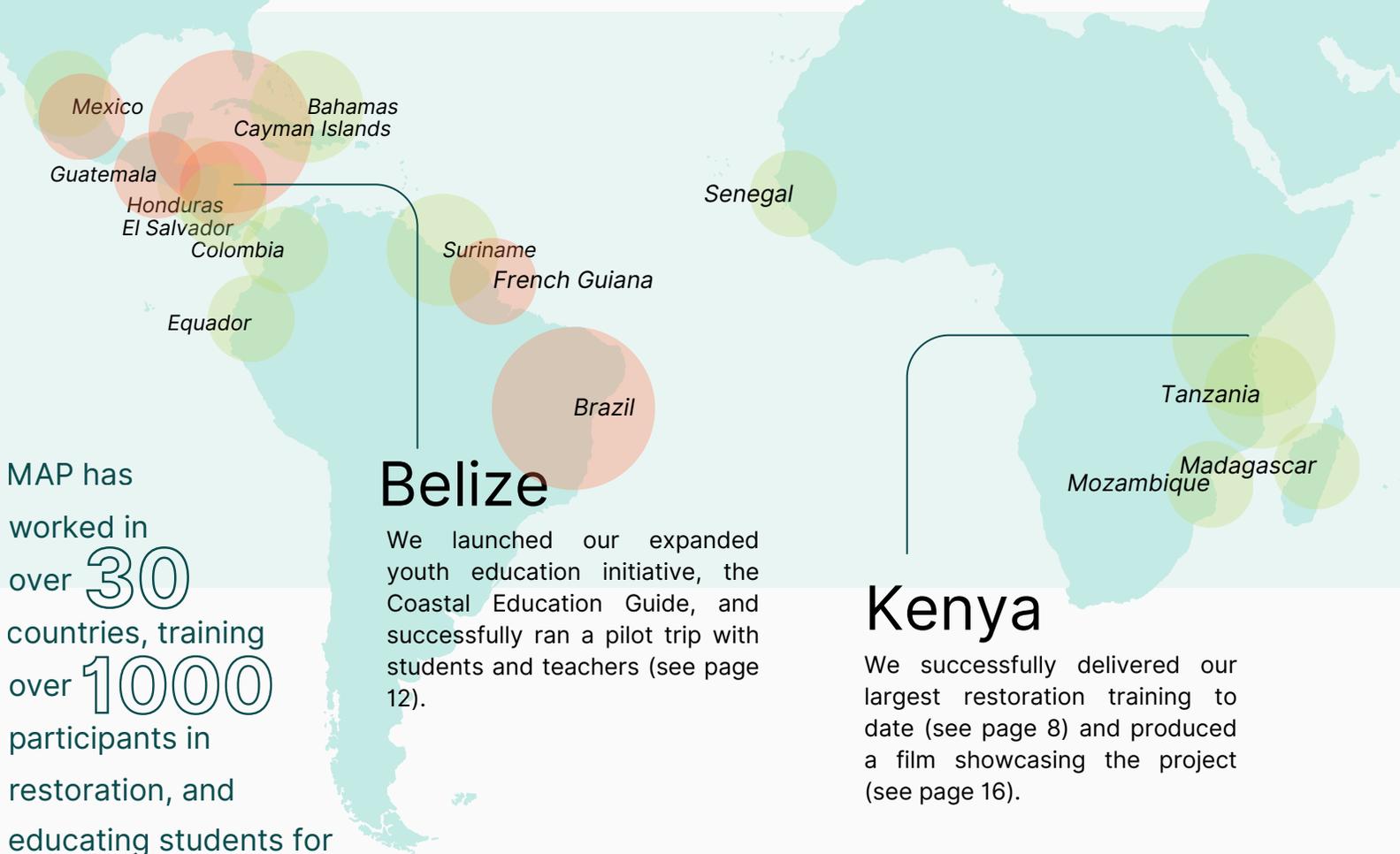
**Thank you for being part of this journey.** With your continued support, we're excited for what's to come!





# Our Impact

Mangrove Action Project partners with more than **30 organizations** - **from grassroots groups to global NGOs** - allowing us to connect with communities across the world. This year, **our team spent 10 weeks in the field** supporting on-the-ground restoration efforts. For those we can't reach in person - and for those who want to stay connected to the latest in the mangrove world - we've built a growing restorationist network. **This cohort expanded by 15% this year**, helping us broaden our reach in mangrove conservation.



MAP has worked in over **30** countries, training over **10000** participants in restoration, and educating students for **32** years -

And our impact doesn't end there - it grows through the communities they support, rippling outward like the points on our map.

## Belize

We launched our expanded youth education initiative, the Coastal Education Guide, and successfully ran a pilot trip with students and teachers (see page 12).

## Kenya

We successfully delivered our largest restoration training to date (see page 8) and produced a film showcasing the project (see page 16).

MAP has reached

# 24%

 of countries with mangrove forests

In 2024, MAP expanded its reach, bringing our **mangrove restoration approach to new countries and communities, including Madagascar and Mozambique**. We've made great progress, but there's still much work ahead to restore vital ecosystems, support coastal communities, and strengthen global mangrove conservation efforts.



# Bringing Mangrove News to the World

MAP's **Global Mangrove News** publication is world's longest-running news digest focused exclusively on mangroves, **reaching over 2,200 readers**. It reinforces our role as a trusted leader in sharing critical updates on mangrove conservation and restoration.

[Explore our entire 600+ issue archive here.](#)

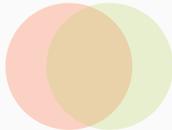
## Global Impact

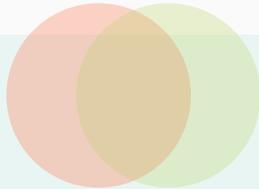
2003-2024

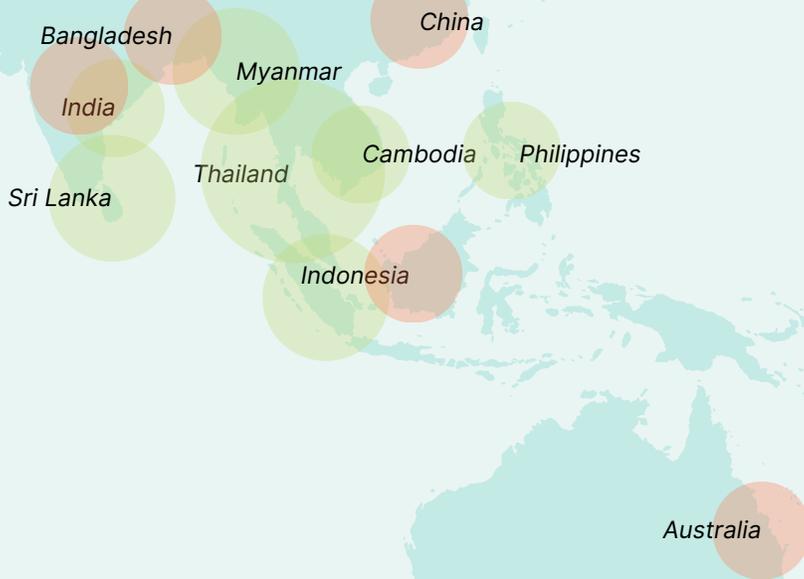
 Restoration Training

 Youth Education

 < 50 people engaged

 50-200 people engaged

 > 200 people engaged



Mangroves thrive in tropical and subtropical regions, primarily between 25° North and South latitude. The majority are found in Asia (41%), with coverage in the Americas and Caribbean (28%), Africa (20%), and Oceania (11%).

## A Global Voice for Mangroves: **Jim Enright**



Jim joined MAP in 1999 and has been key to developing our restoration program, leading trainings in more than a dozen countries. His expertise and collaborative approach have helped shape MAP's global impact.

### Looking back, how has MAP's international work evolved since you joined?

MAP's focus was on creating awareness regarding the importance of mangroves, campaigning on threats of aquaculture to mangroves, lobbying governments, creating consumer awareness and building an international network among NGOs, academics, researchers, and anyone with an interest in protecting mangroves. MAP saw the need to switch focus to teaching community-based ecological restoration in order to have the best possible impact on mangrove recovery.

### What do you think sets MAP apart in the global mangrove restoration movement?

One factor that really sets us apart is our emphasis on promoting natural regeneration rather than the typical plantation approach, often a mono-culture. For natural regeneration to be successful we need to ensure all the bio-physical and social economic parameters are conducive and the social aspects can be the most challenging, especially when it involves removing or reducing human pressure. Anytime one tries to change human behavior you must be prepared for a long-term approach.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

## COMMUNITY-BASED ECOLOGICAL MANGROVE RESTORATION TAKING ROOT IN **KENYA**

# 60%

Of Kenya's mangroves  
are found in Lamu County

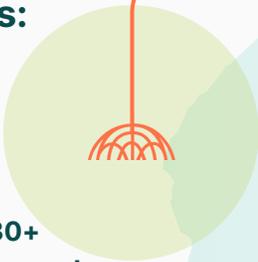
MAP trained

# 75

participants in  
mangrove restoration

### Project Outcomes:

- 1 Increase knowledge on CBEMR practices
- 2 Develop a community of 30+ members to advance and promote best practices
- 3 Rehabilitate 15 ha of degraded mangrove



In Kenya's Lamu Archipelago, mangroves have long sustained coastal communities, but deforestation, unsustainable livelihoods, and climate change now threaten these vital ecosystems. Despite ongoing restoration efforts, many projects have focused on planting without addressing the basic causes of mangrove loss.

Partnering with the Global Mangrove Alliance Kenya Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, and the Kenya Forest Service, **we led our largest-ever workshop**, bringing together community groups, government agencies, and conservation organizations. This collaborative effort not only challenged traditional approaches but also introduced a **science-based methodology that prioritizes understanding mangrove loss before restoration**.



As a result of this workshop and our broader work in Kenya, the country now has the **highest number of CBEMR-trained individuals** - especially government officials—paving the way for more effective, lasting mangrove restoration.



Mozambique's 300,000 hectares of mangroves form Africa's 3rd largest mangrove area

PARTNERING WITH CHAMPIONS OF MANGROVE CONSERVATION IN

**MOZAMBIQUE**

MAP trained 40 participants in both theoretical and practical mangrove restoration techniques

Mangroves are vital to Mozambique, supporting fisheries, protecting coastlines, and aiding climate mitigation. Recognizing their importance, the government, conservation groups, and local communities are working to restore these ecosystems.

MAP partnered with the *Save Our Mangroves Now!* initiative, which is driving mangrove conservation across the Western Indian Ocean, to provide training on our Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) approach, equipping local stakeholders in Maputo, Mozambique with the skills to restore mangroves effectively.

## Project Objectives

Introduce participants to the SOMN program, ongoing restoration in Mozambique, and related challenges.



Enhance participants' mangrove knowledge and restoration skills through CBEMR training

“The content really addresses the technical aspects of mangrove restoration and serves as a reference for decision-making in conducting technical mangrove management activities. The use of photos helps us observe a multitude of concrete cases, allowing us to sharpen our observation and interpretation skills.”

~ anonymous training participant

Provide an opportunity for sharing knowledge, ideas and networking among participants



Establish ongoing communication to strengthen collaboration in mangrove conservation

[See all our project highlights on the Our Impact page.](#)





# Rooted in Impact

Dr. Laura Michie, Restoration Program Director

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for all that we have achieved together at Mangrove Action Project. From coastal towns in East Africa to virtual classrooms spanning continents, our shared commitment to community-led mangrove restoration has never been stronger.

This year, our CBEMR program reached new milestones, both on the ground and online. We were honoured to lead hands-on CBEMR workshops in Kenya, Mozambique, and other coastal communities, working side-by-side with local stakeholders who are the true custodians of these vital ecosystems. Our workshop in Kenya was particularly special; it marked our largest-ever in-person training, bringing together over 75 participants from across the region for a collaborative week of learning and field work.

We also expanded our virtual workshops, conducting online Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) trainings with inspiring groups in El Salvador, Madagascar and beyond. The success of these sessions shows the power of remote learning in scaling up effective, community-centered restoration.

We strive not only to deliver meaningful capacity-building experiences but also to measure our impact, learn from our partners, and ensure that the knowledge we share is translating into effective, community-led restoration. This year, we returned to Kenya and Madagascar to visit local groups on the ground—part of our ongoing effort to follow up, strengthen partnerships, and assess how our training is making a difference.

Throughout the year, our team has continued to support a broad network of practitioners by providing tailored technical guidance on restoration strategy, project design, outreach, and networking. We've focused on connecting people, facilitating knowledge exchange, and amplifying local stories, recognizing that effective mangrove restoration goes beyond ecology. It is deeply rooted in equity, culture, and community resilience.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Whether you've joined us in the field, participated in a training, or supported our mission in other ways - your contributions make this work possible. I look forward to another year of **impact**, growth, and collaboration.

Your Sincerely,

Restoration Program Director



# From Assessment to Action:

## Prequel & Follow-up Trips in Mangrove Restoration

In 2024, we worked with partners across seven countries to support mangrove restoration efforts. These partnerships included pre-training site visits and post-training follow-up trips—key steps that help ensure long-term success by assessing sites, refining restoration strategies, and building local capacity.

### MADAGASCAR

The MAP team traveled to northern and western Madagascar to visit mangrove restoration sites, hosted by WWF and sponsored by the Levine Family Foundation. The trip provided **valuable insights into local restoration challenges and opportunities**, with discussions on future collaboration. The journey showcased Madagascar's diverse landscapes, from baobab trees to striking rock formations, while highlighting the urgent need for sustainable mangrove management.



### KENYA

MAP conducted a coastal road trip across Kenya, visiting and supporting several NGOs we had previously engaged with or were recommended by partners. This provided valuable firsthand insight into the challenges on-the-ground restoration groups face while allowing us to offer real-time guidance. We exchanged knowledge, **learned as much as we taught**, and gained a deeper understanding of the local restoration landscape.



# Rooting for the Future

## Piloting MAP's Coastal Education Program in Belize



We launched our 'Coastal Education Program' (CEP) in Dangriga, Belize, engaging local schools and teachers in hands-on mangrove education. This initiative expanded our 'Marvellous Mangroves' program, aligning with Belize's curriculum and fostering community involvement in conservation.

### Hands-On Learning for Students

Students from several schools participated in interactive activities designed to deepen their understanding of mangrove ecosystems. From examining mangrove soil composition to exploring saltwater density, students gained firsthand experience with the science behind these critical coastal habitats. Field lessons provided a unique opportunity for students to see mangroves in action and learn about their role in coastal resilience.

### Empowering Teachers Through Training

A key component of the pilot was teacher training, equipping local educators with knowledge about mangrove ecology and effective ways to incorporate it into their lesson plans. Through workshops and field excursions, teachers provided valuable feedback, helping refine the program to better fit Belize's curriculum standards.

This pilot marks the beginning of an expanded effort to integrate mangrove education into schools across coastal regions worldwide. By educating and inspiring the next generation, MAP continues to build local capacity for conservation, ensuring that communities remain resilient in the face of environmental challenges.



# Bringing Mangroves to the Next Generation

We believe that fostering a love for mangroves starts with education—whether in the classroom, out in the field, or through creative expression.

## In 2024, Mangrove Action Project:

Educated  
**445**  
students

Worked with  
**11**  
schools

Taught  
**11**  
class lessons

Conducted  
**9**  
field trips

Our youth education work has always been rooted in the Cayman Islands, home to the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the Caribbean, which supports rich biodiversity and coastal resilience. This year, we engaged students both in the classroom and in the field, taking them beyond textbooks and into the heart of the mangroves. Through guided field trips and interactive lessons, they gained a hands-on understanding of why these coastal forests matter - not just for wildlife, but for their communities and the planet.

[View our online education resource library here](#)



## Mangroves

### Through the Eyes of Young Artists

For over 20 years, MAP's **Children's Mangrove Art Contest** has connected young artists worldwide - whether they live near mangroves or not - to the beauty and importance of these ecosystems. This year, 350 artists from 34 countries shared their creative visions, reflecting their journeys of discovery through field trips, classroom lessons, or independent study. Their artwork, featured in our annual calendar, highlights why mangroves matter and the challenges they face, inspiring global awareness and action. [View our contest winners here.](#)



Artwork by Ooi Qian Ni  
Malaysia, Age 10



# Celebrating Mangroves

## Exhibitions & Global Conferences

In 2024, MAP participated in several key international conferences, strengthening our global advocacy for mangrove conservation and restoration. Some highlights include the **2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona** where Dr. Laura Michie contributed as a panelist, sharing insights on mangrove restoration and conservation strategies. Dr. Michie also presented research on the impacts of marine plastic pollution at the **South-East Asia Plastics Programme in London**.

MAP played a leading role at the **International Partnership for Blue Carbon** annual dialogue in Cairns, Australia, where we moderated a panel discussion advocating for greater consideration of socioeconomic impacts in blue carbon projects. Dr. Wodehouse also represented MAP at the **Global Mangrove Alliance National Chapter Leaders' Workshop in Senegal**, contributing as co-lead of the Global Team Implementation Group.

One of MAP's biggest highlights this year was the launch of a **major mangrove photography exhibition at Manarat Al Saadiyat as part of the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative**. Organized in collaboration with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, DCT Abu Dhabi, and UNESCO, the exhibition ran from December 5, 2024, to February 28, 2025, and attracted over **41,000 visitors**. It featured 120 stunning images from MAP's Mangrove Photography Awards and UNESCO's mangrove collection, using storytelling to inspire conservation action.

With 62 guided tours and an immersive visual experience, the exhibition highlighted the beauty, biodiversity, and ecological importance of mangroves. It reinforced the power of visual storytelling in conservation and brought global attention to these vital ecosystems.



MAP exhibition at Manarat Al Saadiyat as part of Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative

# A Decade of Mangrove Photography Awards

In 2024, we proudly celebrated the **10th Mangrove Photography Awards**, marking a decade of powerful storytelling about mangrove ecosystems. This landmark year saw **2,554 submissions from 74 countries**, including first-time entries from **six new nations**, and introduced our **first-ever People's Choice Award** through a global social media campaign.

With participation from 99 mangrove countries and judging by three world-renowned photographers, the Awards continue to raise awareness of the importance and vulnerability of mangroves. **Endorsed by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, the Awards received **widespread media coverage** - from BBC, CNN, and The Guardian to UNESCO exhibitions like Manarat Al Saadiyat under the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative (see page 13).

[Explore the 2024 winners here.](#)



*Sinking Sundarbans*  
Supratim Bhattacharjee, India

## The story behind the winning image of our 10th Mangrove Photography Awards

Photographer Supratim Bhattacharjee captures a girl standing in front of the ruins of her tea shop and livelihood, destroyed by flooding in the Sundarbans—flooding that healthy mangroves could have helped prevent.

*After Cyclone Aila hit the Sundarbans, it became clear that increasingly frequent cyclones could force many residents to become climate refugees.*

This year's Mangrove Photography Awards amplifies vital stories like this.

These images make the climate crisis personal, showing the real people on the frontlines. In the Sundarbans and beyond, rising seas and storms are forcing communities from their homes.

**By sharing these stories, we highlight why protecting mangroves - our best natural defense - is more urgent than ever.**

# The Success of *Return of the Mangroves*

El Salvador

MAP's documentary short *Return of the Mangroves* has made waves on the international film circuit. Since its release in late 2023, the film has been selected by **17 festivals worldwide** and honored with multiple awards. It received **Best Documentary at both the Wildsound Festival and the Environmental Film & Screenplay Festival**, and earned the Community Impact Award at the Trees & Seas Film Festival. It also received Honorable Mentions at the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival and the MY HERO International Short Film Festival, and was named a finalist at Films for the Forest.



The film follows the MAP team as they return to the Bay of Jiquilisco, El Salvador - 12 years after launching a mangrove restoration initiative. With support from our local partner Asociación Mangle, the film captures the long-term success of community-based efforts in one of Central America's largest and most threatened mangrove forests.

This global recognition not only celebrates the film, but also shines a spotlight on the power of **MAP's enduring restoration model and grassroots partnerships.**

## New Stories from the Field: Films Released in 2024



### *Reimagining Mangrove Restoration in Kenya*

MAP released new film spotlighting the Global Mangroves Alliance's (GMA) ambitious goal to halt mangrove loss and restore half of the world's restorable mangroves. The video features a GMA-Kenya training on Faza Island (see page 8), where community members, academics, NGOs, businesses, and government officials came together to learn the CBEMR approach.



### *A Global Mangrove Alliance in Indonesia*

After leading a workshop for GMA Indonesia's National Chapter, MAP released two new films. One, created for GMA, showcases the workshop's focus on strengthening restoration skills, sharing knowledge, and building a network for sustainable mangrove projects. The other is an instructional CBEMR film that explores MAP's approach - why we teach what we teach, and how it leads to lasting restoration success.



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

# The Mangrove Action Project team

**Nick Hardigg**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Dr. Dominic Wodehouse**  
Executive Director

**Dr. Laura Michie**  
Restoration Program  
Director

**Cassie MacDowell**  
Education Program  
Manager

**Alfredo Quarto**  
Co-founder &  
Advocacy Director

**Jim Enright**  
CBEMR Trainer

**Leo Thom**  
MAP's film producer &  
MPA Manager

**Ali Egging**  
Grants and Operations  
Manager

**Hesper Kohler**  
Development  
Assistant

**Monica Quarto**  
Youth Art Program  
Coordinator

**Sam Nugent**  
Editor in Chief



Together  
Raj Hassanaly, Madagascar



## OUR LEADERSHIP MAP's Board of Directors

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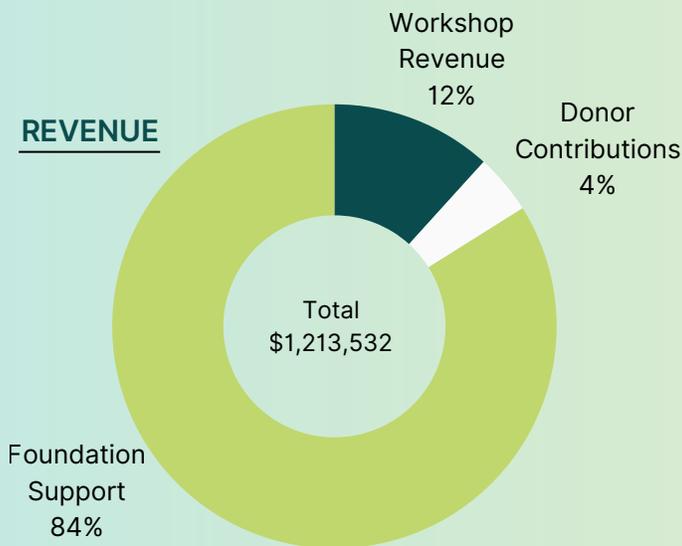
**Mike Johns**  
Board Member

# 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

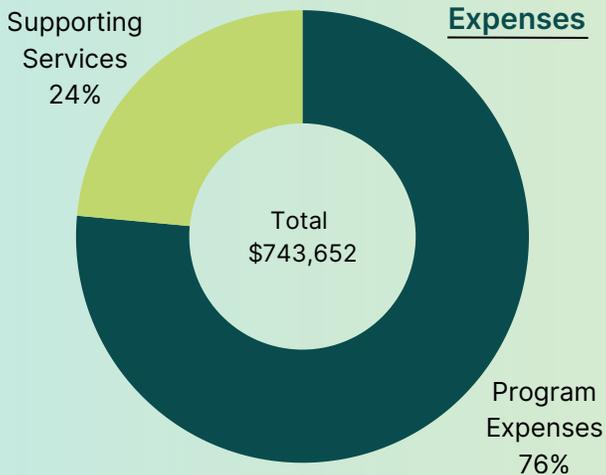
2024 was an outstanding year for MAP, not only for advancing our mission, but for improving fiscal health as well. As we close the books on 2024, MAP's asset reserves equal nearly a full year's worth of core operating expenses. 2024 was also a record year in fundraising– the greatest in our 32-year history– thanks to our expanding role as the world's leading trainer in mangrove forest restoration.

Nick Hardigg  
Chief Operating Officer

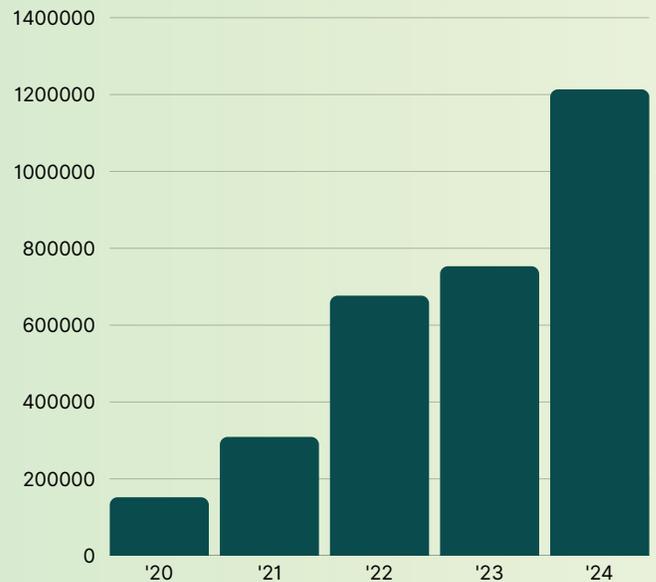
## REVENUE



## Functional Expenses



## Operating Revenue Growth



2020	\$152,090
2021	\$309,144
2022	\$676,725
2023	\$753,284
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$1,213,532*</b>

\*Revenue in 2024 reflects our accounting of multi-year restricted grants on an accrual basis, rather than funds currently available.



# Statement of Activities

Fiscal year operating revenues and expenses	2024 Total	2023 Total
<b>Revenues</b>		
Donor Contributions	\$ 52,820	\$64,212
Foundation Support	\$1,018,441	\$482,554
Workshop Revenue	\$142,231	\$206,206
Misc. Income	\$41	\$311
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>\$1,213,532</i>	<i>\$753,284</i>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Staffing	\$513,161	\$484,959
Professional Services	\$69,946	\$81,886
Advertising & Marketing	\$3,384	\$2,600
Office and Administration	\$37,144	\$39,177
Field Programs (Travel)	\$67,027	\$109,173
Insurance	\$5,971	\$5,661
Interest Expense	\$1,709	\$1,798
Grants & Awards Issued	\$40,641	\$12,012
Other	\$4,671	\$1,798
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$743,652</i>	<i>\$703,012</i>
Net Operating Income	\$469,880	\$50,272
<b>Statement of Functional Expenses</b>		
Program Expenses	\$568,647	
Supporting Services	\$175,005	
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$743,652</i>	
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	\$195,500	
Restricted	\$658,195	

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our major donors, without whom our work would not be possible. **THANK YOU** for your generous support.

### **Major Foundations & Companies**

Woka Foundation  
Becht Family Charitable Trust  
Green Park Foundation  
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WRLD Foundation  
Rx4 LLC  
Ma'at Environmental Fund

### **Major Individual Donors**

Cochran Family  
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James Resor  
Jan Dijs  
Stephanie Burnett  
Thompson Family



# OUR STORY CONTINUES

Over the past 32 years, Mangrove Action Project has remained deeply rooted in one belief: that **effective, lasting mangrove restoration starts with people**. From the coasts of Southeast Asia to the shores of Latin America and Africa, our work continues to grow - supported by a global network of people like you who believe in a healthier, more resilient future.

The story of mangrove restoration is far from finished. Each training, each project, each collaboration adds another chapter - written alongside local leaders, fishers, educators, and youth. And standing with them is a growing community of supporters who make this work possible.

**Your support isn't just funding projects. It's investing in skills, in local knowledge, and in long-term change.** It's helping build a global foundation for mangrove protection that is inclusive, grounded, and effective.

Thank you for being part of this story. Together, **we're not only restoring mangroves - we're restoring hope, resilience, and opportunity in coastal communities around the world.** Let's keep growing, **together**.



**mangrove  
action  
project**

*Roots and Refuge*  
Mark Kevin Badayos, Philippines

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[www.mangroveactionproject.org](http://www.mangroveactionproject.org)

MAP is a registered 501c(3) non-profit charity organisation