2025 IMPACT REPORT



mangrove action project

Healthy Mangroves Sustain Life

Mangrove Photography Awards
Protector of Childhood, Jumelito S. Capilot



Photographs captioned “Mangrove Photography Awards” throughout this report are from MAP’s own photography program, learn more on page 15.

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 and restoration 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.

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Mangrove Photography Awards
Fisherman, Dimpal Kumar Indravadan Pancholi

2025

Building the Future of Mangrove Restoration

In 2025, MAP's supporters and partners helped turn shared purpose into real progress for mangrove forests and the people who depend on them. Together, we trained over **150 participants through six trainings and advanced mangrove restoration through technical support, partnerships, and global engagement across 12 countries**, strengthening local knowledge and laying the foundation for lasting impact.

This year was about more than projects. It was about investing in the relationships, expertise, and local leadership that will **shape the future of mangrove restoration**. Through training, technical support, communications, and partnership, MAP continued equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to restore mangroves in ways that are practical, durable, and locally led—creating a ripple effect as participants share what they learn with others.

Thank you for believing in this work. Because of your support, **MAP and our partners are building a future where mangroves, coastlines, and communities can thrive together.**



Mangrove Photography Awards
Home, Valentin Giebel

From our Executive Director

Dr. Dominic Wodehouse

2025 was another cracking year for MAP. Remaining within the heart of the Global Mangrove Alliance, we were thrilled to hire Dr. Diana Cisneros de la Cruz from Mexico, an experienced, Spanish speaking trainer; increased not only the number of mangrove restoration workshops but also our consulting work; developed a more focused strategic direction; bolstered the board and had the rare pleasure of all getting together in Seattle.

With the changes in many governments' funding, there was a noticeable shift of support for mangroves from philanthropic to groups looking for 'investible' projects. The most obvious example of this shift is to so-called 'blue carbon' projects that monetizes the prodigious carbon that mangroves sequester and permanently store. While this idea seems intuitively sensible, in reality these projects are challenging to run effectively, not least because successful project teams need to be comprised of many different skills-sets, often outside the range of a normal NGO or project developer; and the requirement for significant front-loaded funding.

However, it's encouraging that groups that would otherwise not be interested in mangroves are supporting conservation and restoration via 'blue carbon' projects. With others, we are encouraging the inclusion of the GMA's 'High-Quality Blue Carbon' principles into these projects and transparent benefit sharing with local communities. We work hard to develop project teams' awareness of how mangrove ecosystems work and the vital ecosystem services beyond carbon storage that restored mangroves provide – central to coastal communities' sustainable living. Consulting and advising these organisations is therefore becoming an exciting area of growth for MAP.

So, I remain hopeful for mangroves, concerned about funding, deeply grateful to our supporters and incredibly proud of MAP's achievements. A huge thank you to a fantastic team.

Yours Sincerely,

Dominic Wodehouse

Executive Director



Growing Global Restoration Capacity

MAP's restoration trainings are designed to create lasting impact that extends far beyond the classroom. Every participant leaves with practical skills, new professional connections, and ongoing access to technical support. As they apply, adapt, and share what they've learned, restoration knowledge spreads across organizations, communities, and countries—**building capacity long after a workshop ends**.



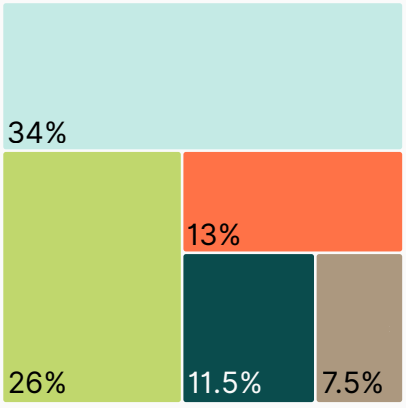
Our Year in the Field

We spent over **165** days on the ground,
leading trainings in **6** countries,
consulting on **4** restoration projects,
building partnerships for future trainings in **4** countries,
presenting at **5** international conferences,
and participating in **2** Global Mangrove Alliance meetings.



Learning Doesn't End When the Training Does

MAP's CBEMR Group is a **global network of 800+ restoration practitioners from 200+ organizations**. For more than 20 years, it has connected practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers to share knowledge, solve restoration challenges, and spread best practices across countries and organizations.



- Regional / Local NGOs
- International NGOs
- Private Sector / Foundations
- Universities / Research
- Government

India Bangladesh

Building Restoration Capacity in the Sundarbans

The Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, supports millions of coastal livelihoods, protects communities from climate impacts, and provides a critical refuge for biodiversity.

Combining Mangrove Restoration with Sustainable Aquaculture



20,000+ ha
Potential for mangrove restoration

1
Integrated approach, connecting aquaculture, mangrove restoration, and community benefits

MAP partnered with Imperative in West Bengal, India, to support a new initiative combining mangrove restoration with sustainable aquaculture practices, restoring degraded mangroves, improving aquaculture systems, and creating benefits for coastal communities through sustainable livelihoods and carbon finance. Through site visits, community engagement, and a restoration training, MAP worked with local partners to build the skills needed to **restore mangroves while supporting aquaculture production.**

This project demonstrates how degraded aquaculture areas can become opportunities for ecosystem recovery, stronger communities, and a new model for restoration in the Sundarbans and beyond.

Strengthening Local Leadership for Mangrove Restoration

10+ years
Of partnership with BEDS, leading to on-the-ground collaboration

30 participants
Trained in mangrove restoration



MAP partnered with the Bangladesh Environment and Development Society to deliver a restoration training in Khulna, Bangladesh. Through classroom sessions, field assessments, and hands-on activities, local practitioners, students, and community leaders learned how to assess restoration sites, understand mangrove ecology, engage communities, and **develop restoration plans that consider both environmental and local needs.**

Restoring Island Coastlines

Our team traveled to Indonesia and Fiji to support local partners working to conserve and restore mangroves in island communities on the front lines of climate change. By sharing practical restoration skills and strengthening local leadership, these trainings are helping build more resilient coastlines where healthy mangroves are needed most.

In Indonesia, MAP partnered with Planète Urgence to support practitioners leading mangrove projects across Southeast Asia and Africa. The training focused on practical restoration approaches, including hydrology, monitoring, nursery management, and community engagement, that are now informing restoration efforts across Planète Urgence's global programs.



> "Our group now understands that restoration is not about the number of trees planted but rather **understanding the ecology**."
>
> ***~ training participant***

1,300+ Ha
Influenced by CBEMR approaches

3 countries
Applying lessons from this training

In Fiji, MAP partnered with the World Wildlife Fund to introduce staff, local community groups, and other key stakeholders to the CBEMR approach. Through classroom sessions and field visits, participants built the knowledge and confidence needed to plan and lead future mangrove restoration projects.

Indonesia

In a follow-up survey 9 months after the training

75% of participants

reported sharing CBEMR approaches with others





Fiji

USA

Expanding Our Reach to the Americas

As demand for community-based mangrove restoration grows across the Americas, MAP is expanding its reach to support new partners and countries. This year marked two major milestones with our first trainings in both the United States and Belize.



Belize

35 global practitioners
introduced to community-based ecological mangrove restoration

At the 2025 Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) World Conference in Denver, MAP partnered with the Global Mangrove Alliance, Conservation International, and the World Wildlife Fund to deliver its **first-ever CBEMR training in the United States**, bringing together restoration practitioners from around the world. The workshop combined mangrove ecology, restoration best practices, and digital tools with real-world case studies, giving participants practical skills to improve restoration projects in their own regions.

The training also introduced CBEMR to audiences beyond the mangrove restoration community, creating opportunities for practitioners working in other ecosystems to compare approaches, share experiences, and explore how ecological restoration principles can be applied across landscapes. By expanding these conversations, **MAP is helping bring mangrove restoration knowledge to new audiences and build stronger connections across the global restoration community.**

In Belize, MAP partnered with the World Wildlife Fund to deliver its first-ever training in the country, bringing together community groups, government agencies, NGOs, researchers, and conservation practitioners. As a *training-of-trainers* program, participants gained the knowledge and practical skills to assess restoration sites, identify the causes of mangrove loss, and apply the CBEMR approach to future restoration projects. The workshop also helped strengthen a national network of practitioners committed to improving mangrove conservation and restoration across Belize.





Women Shaping the Future of Mangrove Restoration

Around the world, women are central to coastal communities and mangrove conservation, yet their knowledge and leadership have too often been overlooked. **In 2025, MAP strengthened its commitment to women in restoration by creating more inclusive trainings, educational resources, and opportunities for women to connect and lead.**

Welcoming Dr. Diana Cisneros to MAP's restoration team was an important step forward. Diana brings new expertise to our trainings and is helping expand partnerships across Latin America, strengthening the growing team of women shaping how MAP teaches, listens, and works alongside communities.

> *"Joining MAP has been an exciting opportunity to help expand our impact across Latin America and the Spanish-speaking world, while also contributing to trainings delivered in English and reaching an even broader audience. I am especially inspired by the opportunity to begin integrating a gender perspective into our workshops and to create spaces where women can strengthen their skills, confidence, and leadership within their communities. I hope this work can support more women in taking active and visible roles in mangrove conservation and restoration, while strengthening community-led efforts across the region."*
>
> ***~ Dr. Diana Cisneros***

Women are also taking on increasingly important leadership roles within MAP, helping shape the organization's programs, partnerships, and future direction. As MAP's Restoration Project Director, Laura Michie helps lead our growing restoration team, strengthen relationships with partners and practitioners, and advance MAP's approach to community-led mangrove restoration around the world.

> *"It's wonderful to see more women have the opportunity to share their knowledge, take on leadership roles and shape the future of mangrove restoration. Having Diana join our restoration team in 2025 has been fantastic. It feels like we're building something really positive, with a growing team of women bringing different perspectives to how MAP works with communities around the world."*
>
> ***~ Dr. Laura Michie***



Mangrove Photography Awards
Rooted in Care, Alex Arcos

Planting the Seeds for Future Restoration

Successful mangrove restoration starts with listening, understanding local ecology, community priorities, cultural contexts, and restoration challenges before any restoration activities begin. In 2025, **MAP dedicated significant time to pre-training site visits** because we believe they are essential to successful restoration. By meeting directly with local stakeholders, we build the trust, relationships, and shared understanding needed to support restoration efforts that are locally led, scientifically informed, and built for long-term success.

Traveled to **4** countries

Partnered with **7** organizations

Visited **20+** restoration sites



Women Leading the Way in Tanzania

In partnership with Community Forests International and Community Forests Pemba, MAP traveled to Pemba and Zanzibar to co-design future restoration trainings with women at the center. **Engaging more than 120 women from eight communities across the two islands**, we gathered insights to help shape more inclusive restoration efforts. By elevating women's voices and leadership, these trainings will help strengthen mangrove restoration across Tanzania.

Expanding Across the Caribbean and Central America

In Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and Panama, MAP worked with local and international partners to assess opportunities for mangrove restoration, conservation, and training. Meetings with communities and organizations revealed a strong need for restoration training across the region. The relationships and insights gained during these visits will help guide future programs and reflect MAP's **expanding support for community-led mangrove restoration throughout the Caribbean and Central America.**



Growing the Next Generation of Mangrove Stewards

Indonesia is home to nearly one-quarter of the world's mangroves, yet many of these critical ecosystems continue to face pressure from development, aquaculture, pollution, and climate change. **Protecting them requires more than restoration—it requires education.**

In partnership with Planète Urgence Indonesia, **MAP trained teachers from coastal communities across the country**, providing the knowledge, tools, and hands-on teaching techniques needed to inspire the next generation of mangrove stewards. The training also included a classroom session in a local school, allowing teachers to experience MAP's lesson plans in practice and see how they translate into real-world learning.

21 teachers trained

20 schools reached

600+ students impacted



Learning by Doing

MAP's teaching approach emphasizes hands-on learning that helps learners connect directly with the ecosystems around them. During the training, participants explored mangrove forests, identified species, used microscopes and magnifying glasses, and practiced activities they can adapt for use in classrooms and broader educational contexts.

One Teacher, Hundreds of Students

Rather than reaching a single classroom, training teachers create a lasting ripple effect. By equipping educators with practical tools, lesson plans, and field activities, MAP helps ensure that environmental education continues long after the workshop ends, reaching students year after year.



> "The most beneficial aspect of this training was the deeper understanding I gained of mangroves in the learning process, as well as my ability to apply more creative and student-centered teaching strategies in the classroom."
>
> *~ training participant*


Emrul Kayes Rafsan, Bangladesh

Celebrating 25 Years of Mangrove Creativity

MAP's Children's Mangrove Art Contest continues to inspire young people around the world to learn about and advocate for mangrove conservation. **In 2025, a record 512 students from 40 countries** explored topics including mangrove ecology, environmental threats, and marine debris through creative expression.

Their artwork reflects a deeper understanding of these vital ecosystems and provides a **powerful platform for raising awareness among families, schools, and communities.** Featured in MAP's annual calendar, the winning entries demonstrate how art can foster environmental stewardship and connect the next generation to mangrove conservation.

Explore the full 2025 gallery here.

Together in Seattle: Building MAP's Future

This year, the entire MAP team came together in Seattle for the first time ever. **For many team members, it was the first chance to meet colleagues in person after years of working virtually.**

Staff and Board members joined for strategic planning, organizational discussions, and a workshop on diversity, equity, and inclusion and inclusive communication. The retreat gave us time to reflect on where MAP is headed, strengthen how we work together, and plan for the future.

We also made time to enjoy being together, from a polar plunge in Puget Sound to cheering on the Seattle Mariners.





Mangroves on the Global Stage
Exhibitions & International Conferences

MAP advanced global mangrove advocacy through participation in key international conferences, technical forums, and exhibitions highlighting the role of mangroves in climate resilience, aquaculture, and coastal restoration. The team participated in panels at **The Economist's World Ocean Summit** in Tokyo, the **UN Ocean Conference** in Nice, and the **Society for Ecological Restoration Conference** in Denver (where MAP also hosted its first U.S.-based CBEMR training; see page 9), and presented at the **World Aquaculture Society conference** in New Orleans and the **International Conference on Marine Science** in Aruba.



A major highlight of the year was the "Mangroves: A Vital Lifeline" **Mangrove Photography Awards exhibition at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi**. Curated in collaboration with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and the Abu Dhabi Mangrove Initiative, the exhibit brought together 100 photographs from around the world. MAP also produced **a short film for the Mangrove Breakthrough Ministerial event at COP30**, featuring winning images from the 2025 Awards to highlight the importance of mangroves for climate, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Together, these works offered a compelling narrative of mangrove forests—capturing their wonder, fragility, and significance while inviting global audiences to reflect on their protection and future.


Mangrove Photography Awards
Claws of Power, Javier Aznar Gonzalez de Rueda

MAP continued its active leadership within the **Global Mangrove Alliance**, helping shape global restoration standards and promote our approach as a best practice. As co-lead of the Learning and Training Working Group and coordinator of four national chapters, MAP's Executive Director, Dominic, supports capacity building and knowledge exchange across the network, ensuring restoration practices remain globally aligned.

The Mangrove Photography Awards

Inspiring Conservation Through Storytelling

The Mangrove Photography Awards use photography to bring global attention to the beauty, importance, and vulnerability of mangrove ecosystems. The 2025 Awards marked the competition's largest year yet, **attracting a record-breaking 3,303 submissions from 78 countries—a 65% increase in entries over the past two years.** From disappearing habitats and threatened species to communities on the frontlines of climate change, this year's images highlighted both what is at stake and what can still be protected. Endorsed by the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, the Awards reached global audiences through exhibitions (page 15), international media coverage, and social media engagement that generated over **361,000 impressions across platforms**. Together, these images continue to inspire greater appreciation for mangroves and the urgent need to conserve them.

Explore all of the 2025 winners here.



Mangrove Photography Awards
A Bird's-Eye View of the Everglades, Mark Cook

The story behind this year's winning image

A Bird's-Eye View of the Everglades

Photographer Mark Cook captures an extraordinary moment above the mangrove-lined waters of Florida Bay, where a flock of Roseate Spoonbills glides over a young lemon shark hunting below. More than a striking wildlife scene, the image reveals the rich web of life supported by healthy mangrove ecosystems.

For Roseate Spoonbills, mangrove wetlands provide critical feeding habitat needed to survive and raise their young. As rising seas and changing water conditions alter these habitats, species that depend on them face increasing challenges. Through a single image, Cook highlights both the beauty of the Everglades and the importance of protecting the mangrove ecosystems that sustain it.

The People Behind the Mangroves

Films from the Sundarbans

Behind every restored mangrove forest is a story of the people who depend on it. In 2025, MAP released two short films from the Sundarbans of Bangladesh that celebrate the communities leading restoration and demonstrate why community-based conservation is at the heart of our work.

The first film, *Rita of the Sundarbans*, follows Rita—a fisher, mother, and community leader whose life is deeply connected to the mangroves. After participating in restoration efforts led by MAP and the Bangladesh Environment and Development Society (BEDS), Rita has seen fish return to local waters as newly restored mangroves bring life back to the riverbanks. Today, she proudly leads restoration efforts in her community, reminding us that lasting conservation begins by supporting local people.



"I have become a community leader. I planted trees last year, and I feel so proud seeing them grow healthy and beautiful."
~ Rita

The second film, *Mangrove Restoration and Livelihoods in the Sundarbans*, tells the broader story of how communities across coastal Bangladesh are restoring degraded mangroves while strengthening livelihoods, education, and climate resilience. Working alongside BEDS, MAP provides the restoration training that equips local leaders with the knowledge and skills to restore ecosystems in ways that benefit both people and nature.



Together, these films capture something at the heart of MAP's mission: **mangrove restoration is ultimately about people.** When communities have the knowledge, support, and opportunity to lead restoration themselves, healthier mangroves—and more resilient futures—can grow together.

Meet the people that makes it possible

The **MANGROVE ACTION PROJECT** team

Dr. Dominic Wodehouse
Executive Director

Dr. Laura Michie
Restoration Program Director

Nick Hardigg
Chief Operating Officer

Dr. Diana Cisneros
Restoration Workshop Leader

Alfredo Quarto
Co-founder & Advocacy Director

Jim Enright
CBEMR Trainer

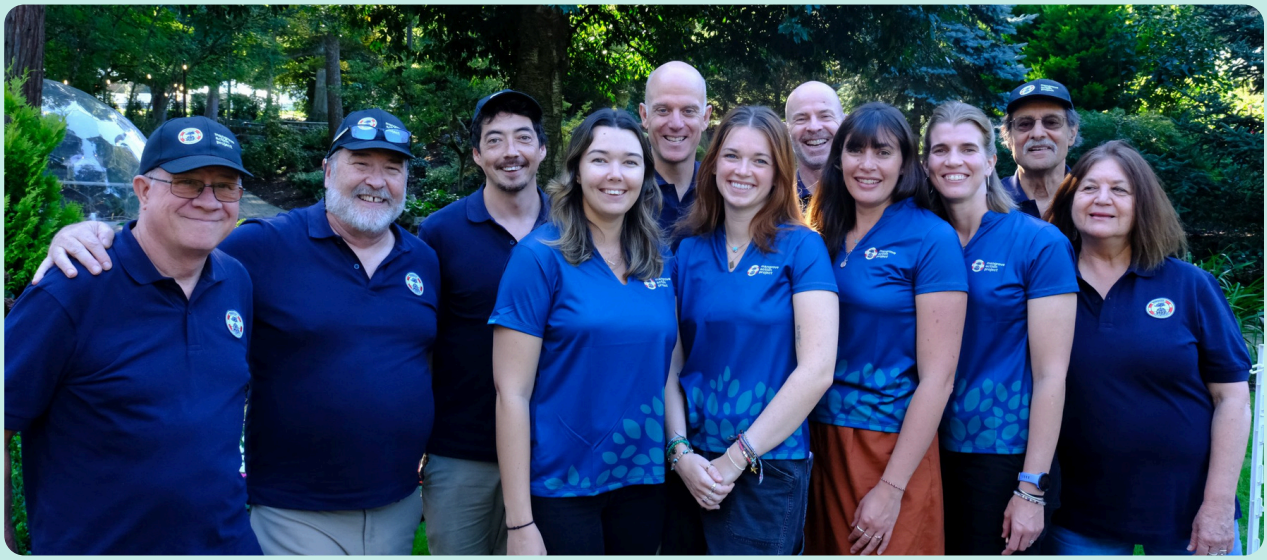
Leo Thom
MAP's film producer & MPA Manager

Ali Eggling
Grants & Operations Manager

Hesper Kohler
Development & Finance Lead

Monica Quarto
Youth Art Program Coordinator

Sam Nugent
Editor in Chief



MANGROVE ACTION PROJECT'S

Board of Directors,

as of September, 2026

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Sherry Manning
Vice President

Charly Hunter
Treasurer

Delli Mireskandari
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Dr. Mike Johns
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Chris Ward
Board Member

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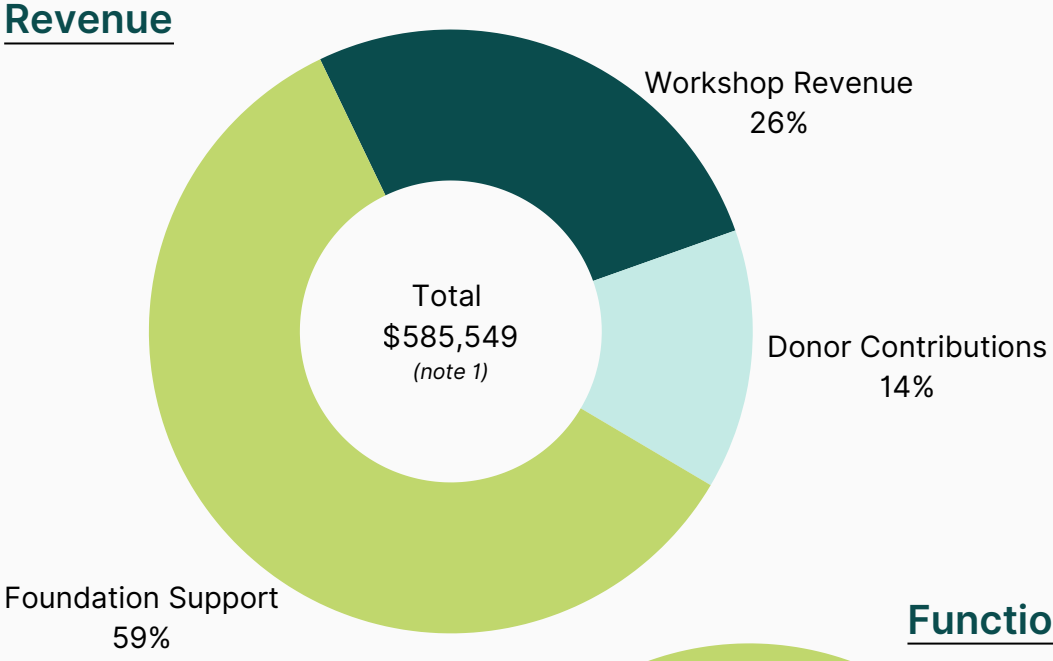
Roger de Freitas
Immediate Past President

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 was a more balanced year financially than our accrual-based Statement of Activities may initially suggest. Several of MAP's largest funders awarded multi-year grants in 2024 that were restricted for use in 2025. Because that revenue was recognized in 2024 while the corresponding program expenses were incurred in 2025, the Statement of Activities shows a substantial deficit for the year. In practice, 2025 spending was consistent with MAP's budget and the planned use of these previously received funds. One particularly strong area was workshop and instruction revenue, which grew 10% as demand for MAP's services continued to increase around the globe.

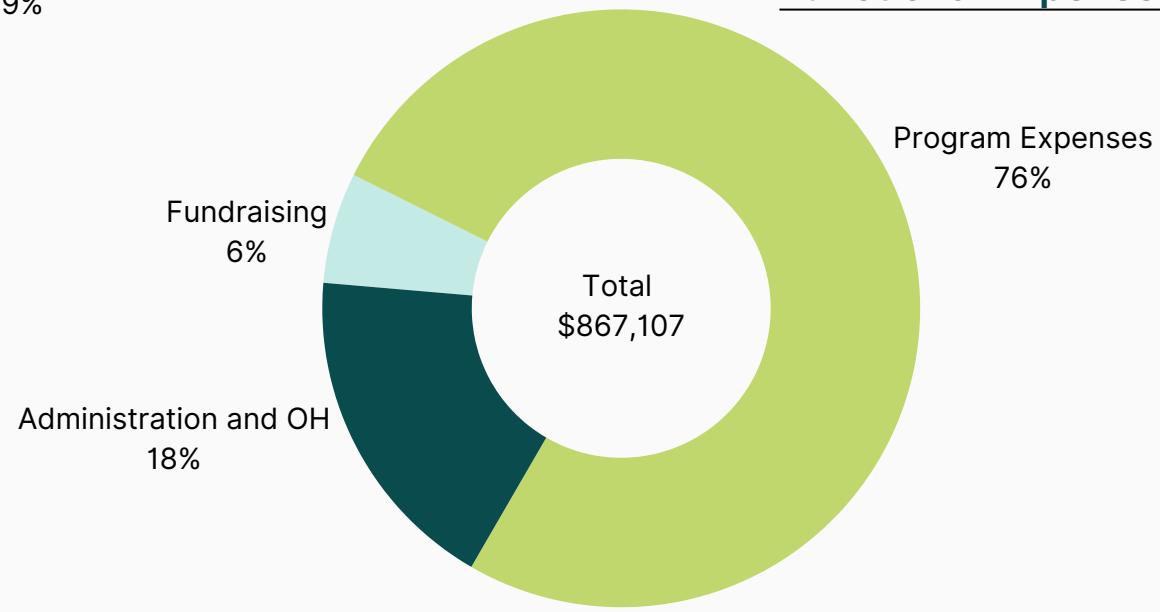
Nick Hardigg
Chief Operating Officer

Revenue



Platinum Transparency 2025
Candid.

Functional Expenses



Statement of Activites

Fiscal year operating revenues and expenses	2025	2024
Revenues		
Donor Contributions	$81,566	$52,820
Foundation Support *(note 1)*	$347,615	$1,018,441
Workshop Revenue	$156,301	$142,231
Misc. Income	$66	$41
Total Revenues	$585,549	$1,213,532
Expenses		
Staffing	$570,419	$513,161
Professional Services	$67,956	$69,946
Advertising & Marketing	$3,332	$3,384
Office and Administration	$39,470	$37,144
Field Programs (Travel)	$141,326	$67,027
Insurance	$11,179	$5,971
Interest Expense	$1,571	$1,709
Grants & Awards Issued	$27,366	$40,641
Other	$4,489	$4,671
Total Expenses	$867,107	$743,652
Net Operating Income *(note 2)*	$-281,558	$469,880
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$346,563	$372,650
Accounts receivable	$311,818	$554,716
Other current assets	$6,754	$5,300
Total Assets	$665,134	$932,667
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	$35,182	$18,972
Long-term debt	$59,820	$60,000
Total Liabilities	$95,002	$78,972
Net Assets	$570,132	$853,694
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	$665,134	$932,667

Note 1: Foundation Support excludes $240,000 received in 2024 for use in 2025.
Note 2: Deficit results from restricted funds received in 2024 for use in 2025.

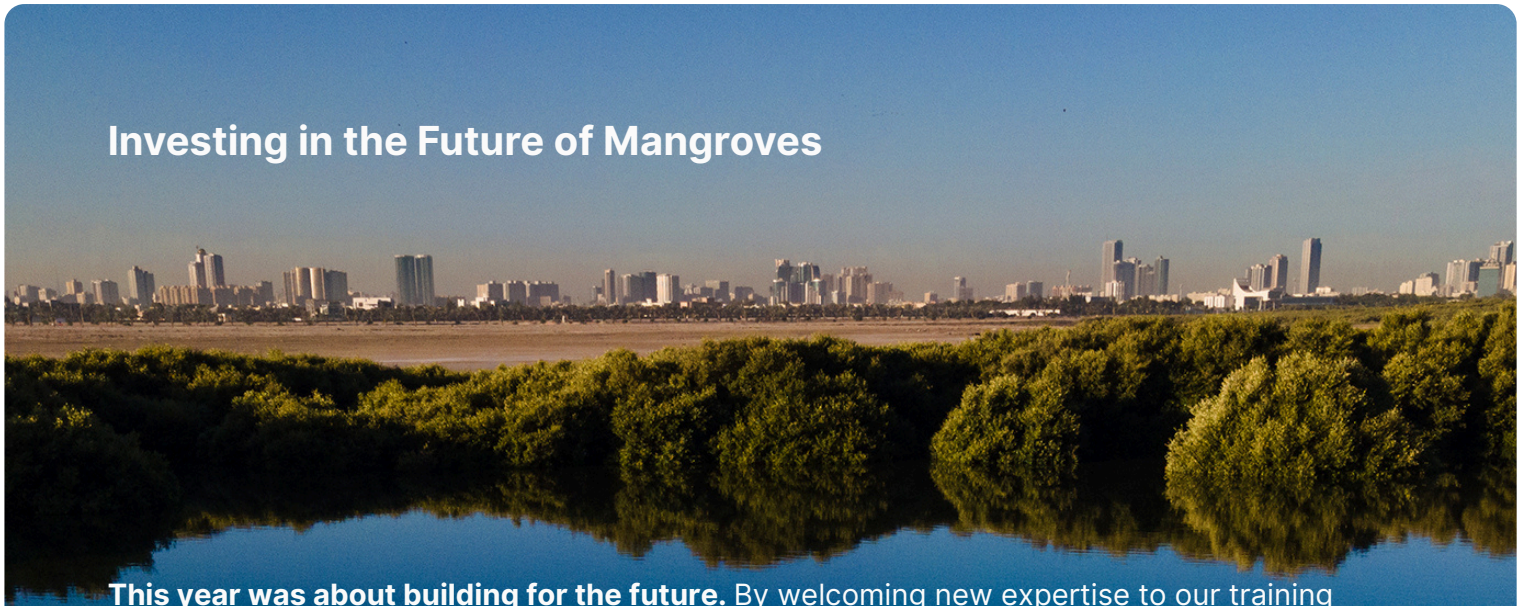
We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our major donors, without whom our work would not be possible. **THANK YOU** for your generous support.

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Van Oord
Jan Dijs
Stephanie Burnett



Mangrove Photography Awards
Crocodile Galaxy, Nicholas Hess

Investing in the Future of Mangroves



This year was about building for the future. By welcoming new expertise to our training team, establishing a stronger focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, and strengthening global partnerships, MAP invested in the relationships, knowledge, and local leadership that make lasting mangrove restoration possible.

These efforts have positioned MAP for an exciting year ahead. In 2026, many of the partnerships, trainings, and initiatives highlighted throughout this report will grow into long-term collaborations, reaching new communities and equipping more practitioners with the skills to restore and protect mangrove ecosystems.

None of this happens alone. Every training delivered, every partnership formed, and every community supported is **made possible by the people who believe in our mission**. Your support helps build local capacity, strengthen global collaboration, and ensure that mangrove restoration remains community-led, science-based, and built to endure.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are creating the foundation for healthier coastlines, stronger communities, and a future where mangroves—and the people who depend on them—can thrive.

Mangrove Photography Awards
Grace in Formation, Shyjith Onden Cheriyath

info@mangroveactionproject.org
www.mangroveactionproject.org
MAP is a registered 501c(3) non-profit charity organisation



mangrove action project

Mangrove Photography Awards
Protector of Childhood, Jumelito S. Capilot