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# IMPACT REPORT



SCUBA JUNKIE  
S.H.A.S



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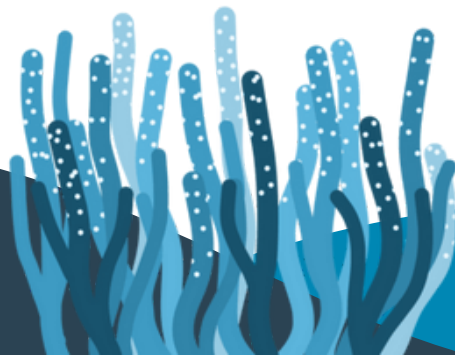


# Foreward

Conservation on Mabul Island is built through consistent action, collaboration, and long-term commitment. In 2024, SEAS continued to strengthen its impact across turtle conservation, coral restoration, marine debris management, and citizen science, while deepening partnerships with the local community, volunteers, and conservation partners.

This report highlights the progress made throughout the year — from protecting vulnerable species to supporting sustainable practices that help safeguard Mabul's marine ecosystems for the future. None of this work happens in isolation, and every achievement reflects the shared effort of those who care for this island.

Thank you for being part of our journey.



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# About SEAS

## Who We Are

Scuba Junkie SEAS is a not-for-profit marine conservation organisation based in Malaysia. It serves as the conservation arm of Scuba Junkie, an award-winning 5-star PADI dive centre. Established in 2009, Scuba Junkie SEAS operates as a registered NGO dedicated to marine preservation, with its main operational base located on Mabul Island, off the coast of Semporna in Borneo.

## Our Vision

To foster thriving, resilient marine ecosystems that endure for generations, while ensuring their sustainable use supports and enhances local community livelihoods.



# Our Purpose

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## Protect marine biodiversity

through surveying populations, habitat restoration, and informed advocacy. This includes key focus areas such as sharks, turtles, corals, and marine debris management.

## Empower Communities

through education, outreach, and collaboration –engaging local residents, schools, tourists, and other stakeholders to instill care and stewardship for the marine environment.

## Promote responsible tourism

embedding eco-friendly practices within Scuba Junkie resorts (solar energy, recycling, zero single-use plastics, and sustainable seafood policies) and extending these principles to dive operations.



# Our Areas of Work

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## Shark Conservation

As the founding conservation initiative of Scuba Junkie SEAS, we aim to protect sharks through maintaining a sightings database, research, public awareness, and promoting sustainable tourism practices that do not harm shark populations.

## Turtle Conservation

We contribute to protecting endangered sea turtles through citizen science engagement via a turtle ID database, maintaining a turtle hatchery for the protection of nests and safe release of hatchlings. Additionally we have the Mabul Turtle Rehabilitation centre where sick and injured turtles can be treated.

## Coral Health & Restoration

Our objective is to promote sustainable dive practices that support long-term reef resilience. This includes ongoing reef health monitoring across our dive sites and expanding our coral restoration programme, where corals of opportunity are grown on coral trees to give them the best possible chance of survival once outplanted.

## Marine Debris Management

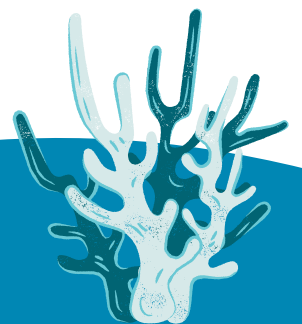
We work with visitors, the local community and organisations to manage and record marine debris through regular cleanups and education. We are passionate in exploring upcycling solutions, including through our planned plastic project, to address the devastating impact of debris on marine ecosystems.

## Outreach

Appreciation for marine ecosystems is the first step to their protection. We offer outreach programs to educate the local community and conservation groups on marine life and the impact of human activities on reef health.

## Eco-Resort Practices

Scuba Junkie is committed to sustainable tourism by using eco-friendly practices in running its resort such as solar power, recycling, repurposing rainwater, going seafood free and supporting local conservation efforts. Maintaining eco-resort standards, including being awarded Green Fins gold membership with a 0 impact score making Scuba Junkie in the world's top-10 sustainable dive centres.



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# Shark Conservation

## Sipadan Sightings Data

In 2024, we continued our commitment to long-term monitoring at Sipadan by recording sightings of turtles, sharks, and rays on every dive across 52 survey days. This work builds on a SEAS initiative running since 2011—every boat, every dive, every day, every sighting—creating an incredibly rich dataset that offers rare, long-term insight into how key marine species use this globally significant marine site. With so much information now at our fingertips, our focus is shifting toward improving data collection methods and turning this long-term dataset into meaningful insights that can help protect Sipadan into the future.



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# Turtle Conservation

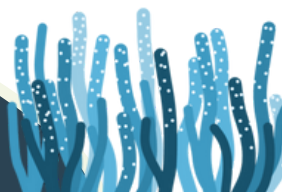
44  
Nests  
Relocated

2,170  
Hatchlings  
Released

299  
Turtles  
Adopted

## Mabul Turtle Hatchery

In 2024, our work at the Mabul Turtle Hatchery continued to strengthen both protection outcomes and scientific understanding. We successfully relocated and protected 44 nests, releasing 2,170 hatchlings into the ocean. This year also marked an important step forward in monitoring, with the introduction of nest temperature loggers to estimate hatchling sex ratios and the start of post-emergence egg inspections. Together, these efforts are improving our understanding of hatchery conditions and climate-driven impacts, while SEAS support remained strong through 299 hatchling adoptions and the licensing of one Honorary Wildlife Warden. Building on this progress, our focus is now on refurbishing the hatchery to further improve nest protection and long-term success.



# Mabul Turtle Rehabilitation Centre

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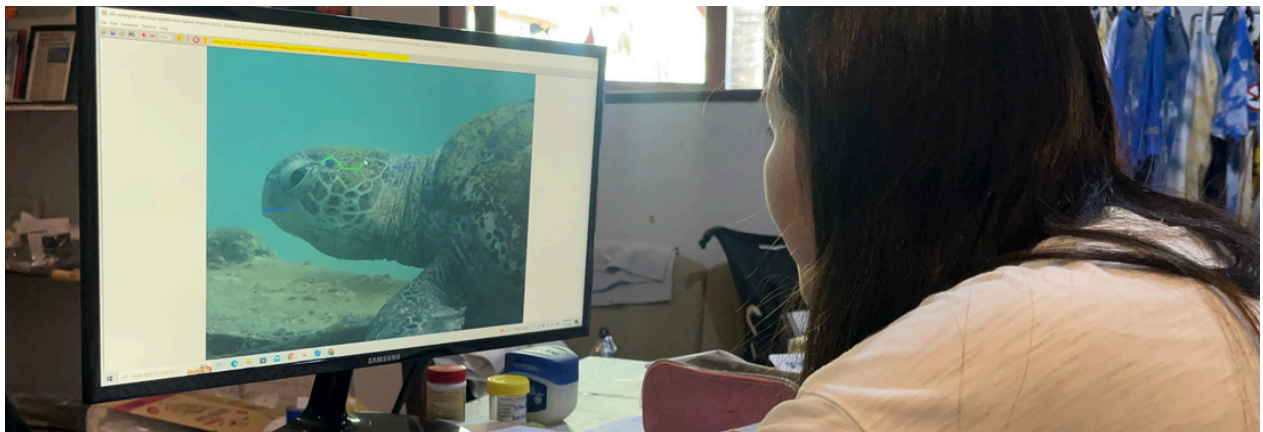


Our Turtle Rehabilitation Programme continued to provide critical care for injured and sick turtles in 2024. Five turtles were admitted for treatment, including long-term patient Barbara from 2023 and Hook, who arrived with a fishing hook embedded in his flipper. Both were successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild. Each case deepens our practical knowledge and strengthens our capacity to respond to future injuries. Looking ahead, we aim to keep improving our facilities and expertise so we can support more turtles and deliver even better rehabilitation outcomes.

## Turtle ID Database

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The Turtle ID Project continued to expand in 2024, contributing valuable insights into local turtle populations around Mabul. We added 19 newly identified turtles to the database and recorded 46 resightings, with data undergoing careful verification as we move toward a more structured study. These repeated sightings help build a clearer picture of turtle movement patterns and residency around Mabul's reefs. The next step is to develop this work into a focused study on turtle populations around Mabul Island.





**5**  
Turtles in  
Rehab

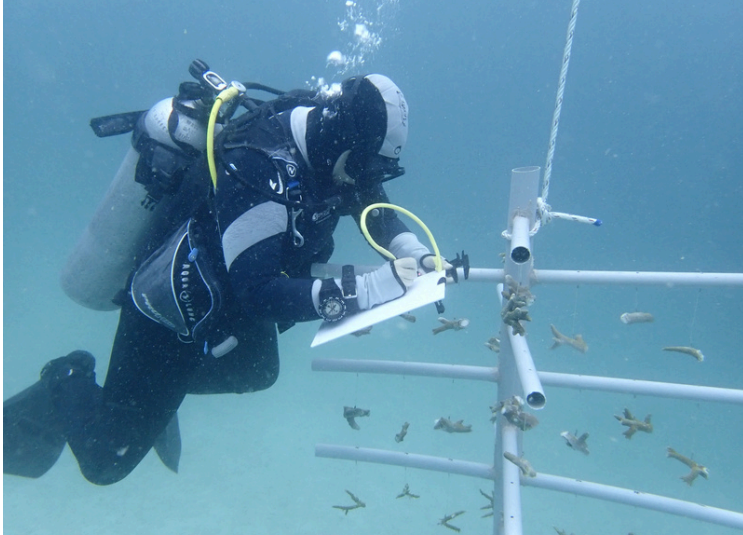
**2**  
Turtles  
Released



## Cattelaya's Second Chance

After suffering serious injuries from a boat strike, Cattelaya arrived at our Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in need of intensive care. Throughout 2024, she received dedicated treatment and monitoring before being transferred to a specialised facility for continued recovery. On New Year's Eve, Cattelaya was released back into the ocean — a powerful reminder of what collaborative conservation can achieve.

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# Coral Health & Restoration

## Mabul Coral Nursery

In 2024, we launched the Mabul Coral Nursery, marking a major step forward in our coral restoration programme. Six coral trees were constructed and installed using PVC structures anchored with custom-made concrete bases. These trees were stocked with 360 corals of opportunity, rescued fragments that would otherwise have been lost. The trees were deployed in a staggered manner over several months, allowing our team to closely monitor coral health and growth, and to establish robust baseline data to guide future restoration and out-planting efforts onto reef hives.



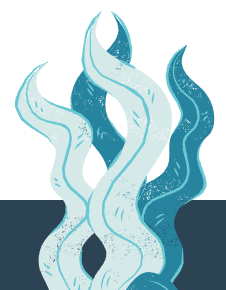
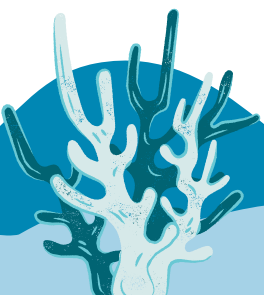
## Gaurdians of the Reef

On Mabul Island, a group of local young people took their first breaths underwater not for recreation, but for restoration. Through the Mabul Eco Youth programme, they learned to dive so they could care for coral nurseries and actively restore the reefs that surround their home. Under their regular monitoring and maintenance, the nursery corals have flourished – and with them, a new generation of reef stewards committed to protecting Mabul’s marine ecosystems.



## Coral Stars with WWF

Alongside the nursery work, we continued restoration activities using coral stars, in collaboration with WWF-Malaysia and the Mabul Eco Youth. Coral stars deployed at Froggies dive site and three additional locations showed positive coral growth, demonstrating the effectiveness of this method. Throughout the year, our team completed regular monitoring and maintenance across all sites, ensuring coral stability and long-term viability as the project progresses.



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# Marine Debris Management

## Reef Cleans

Throughout the year, our team carried out multiple reef cleans, removing debris directly from coral reef habitats and reducing risks to marine life. These clean-ups helped protect reef health while highlighting the need to address pollution below the surface. Moving forward, we aim to conduct more regular reef cleans and improve data collection and analysis to better understand the types and sources of debris impacting local reefs.



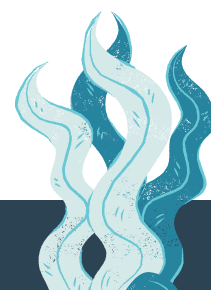


## A Shared Commitment to a Clean Coastline

For the first time in 15 years, the beach at Mabul is being kept clean on a regular basis through a new and deeply meaningful collaboration with members of the local Bajau community. Their involvement has transformed beach cleaning from a one-off activity into a shared, sustained commitment to protecting the island's coastline. By September 2024, the beach in front of and around Scuba Junkie's Mabul Beach Resort was once again free of years of accumulated debris – a visible reminder of what long-term, community-led action can achieve.

## Beach Cleans

In 2024, our marine debris work reached a new level of consistency through weekly beach cleans on Mabul Island. Together with staff, guests, and members of the local community, we completed 50 official beach cleans, leading to a visible reduction in debris, particularly plastic bags, along one of the island's most important turtle nesting beaches. In 2025, we will strengthen guest engagement to encourage broader participation and build shared responsibility for keeping the coastline clean.



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# Outreach

## School Programmes

In 2024, our outreach efforts reached more young people on Mabul than ever before through eight education sessions with students from four island schools. Held at Scuba Junkie, these interactive sessions introduced students to turtles, corals, and the importance of protecting their marine environment through presentations, games, and hands-on activities. Building on this momentum, we aim to develop a more consistent and structured outreach programme to strengthen long-term engagement with local schools.



# SEAS Newsletter

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Throughout 2024, we distributed 12 SEAS newsletters, achieving an average 50% view rate and providing supporters with regular updates on conservation activities and impact. The newsletter has become an important platform for sharing stories from the field and maintaining connection with our wider community. In the year ahead, we will continue refining content and presentation to make the newsletter more engaging and accessible to a growing audience.

# Social Media

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Our social media presence continued to grow in 2024, with increasing levels of engagement across platforms. Through consistent educational posts and conservation updates, we reached new audiences and strengthened awareness of SEAS' work both locally and internationally. Moving forward, we will focus on developing more compelling content to grow our follower base and extend the reach of our conservation messages.



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# Eco-Resorts

## Green Fins Membership

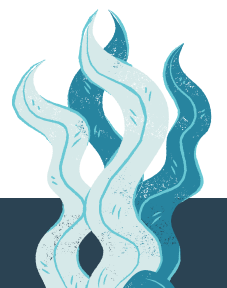
In 2024, we reached a major sustainability milestone by becoming a 0 Impact Green Fins resort, earning Gold Member status and becoming the first dive resort in Malaysia to achieve this score. This reflects years of dedicated effort to minimise our environmental footprint and operate responsibly within Mabul's fragile marine ecosystem. Building on this achievement, our focus now is on maintaining this status and continuing to lead by example in sustainable diving and resort practices.





## Leading by Example

For our team, achieving a 0 Impact score under the Green Fins assessment was more than a milestone – it was recognition of years of collective effort. Every daily decision, from dive practices to resort operations, reflects a shared commitment to protecting Mabul's fragile marine ecosystems. Reaching this standard reinforces our responsibility to lead by example, showing that sustainable diving is not just possible, but essential.











# Citizen Science Data


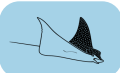

## Sipadan Island Sightings

2,637  
Recording  
Dives

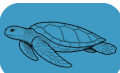
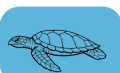
### Shark Sightings

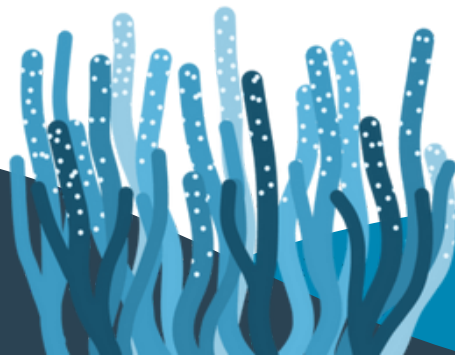
 Shark <b>White Tip Reef</b> 8,498	 Shark <b>Grey Reef</b> 9,557
 Shark <b>Black Tip Reef</b> 89	 Shark <b>Thresher</b> 4
 Shark <b>Scalloped Hammerhead</b> 1,109	 Shark <b>Great Hammerhead</b> 0
 Shark <b>Whale</b> 4	 Shark <b>Leopard</b> 113

### Ray Sightings

 Ray <b>Devil</b> 32
 Ray <b>Eagle</b> 32
 Ray <b>Manta</b> 2

### Turtle Sightings

 Turtle <b>Green</b> 23,164
 Turtle <b>Hawksbill</b> 3,243



# Si Amil Island Sightings

## Ray Sightings



Ray  
**Devil**

1,100



Ray  
**Eagle**

483

## Turtle Sightings



Turtle  
**Green**

254



Turtle  
**Hawksbill**

45

## Fish Sightings



Fish  
**Napolean  
Wrasse**

12



Fish  
**Barramundi  
Cod**

6

**548**  
Recording  
Dives

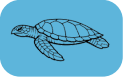
# Turtle ID Sightings

## New Sightings



Turtle  
**Green**

14



Turtle  
**Hawksbill**

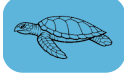
3

## Repeat Sightings



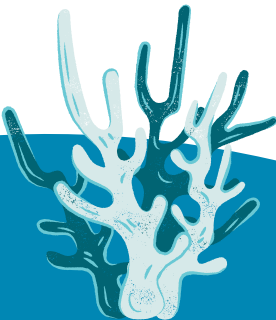
Turtle  
**Green**

43



Turtle  
**Hawksbill**

3



# Our Supporters

A huge thank you goes to Scuba Junkie for their unwavering support across every aspect of our work. Their commitment, resources, and encouragement make it possible for us to protect and restore Mabul's marine environment.

We are equally grateful to WWF-Malaysia and the Sabah Wildlife Department, whose guidance, collaboration, and consistent support underpin our conservation, research, and rehabilitation efforts.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to all the behind-the-scenes heroes at Scuba Junkie – the maintenance team, security team, all-rounders, and everyone who steps in during late-night nestings, helps move injured turtles, fixes equipment, or simply shows up when needed. Your quiet dedication is the backbone of so much of what we accomplish.

To our boat crew, kitchen, housekeeping, and the entire resort and dive team: thank you for supporting our staff, volunteers, and guests every single day.

And finally, to our guests and volunteers – thank you for getting involved, joining our beach cleans, reporting turtle sightings, sharing our message, and caring deeply about the island you visit. Your passion fuels this work, and your participation helps turn conservation into a shared responsibility.

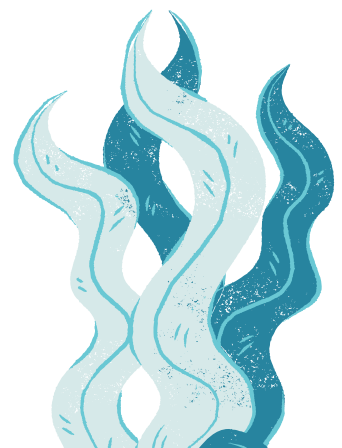
To the community of Mabul and our local partners: thank you for standing with us. Conservation only succeeds when we work together, and your involvement inspires everything we do.



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## Mabul Eco Youth

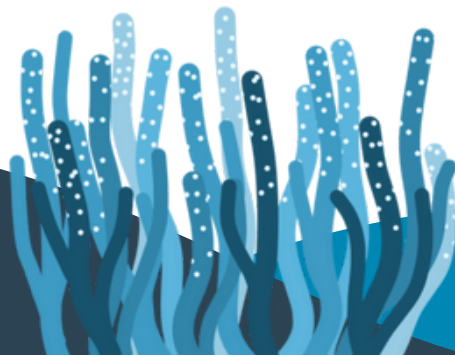
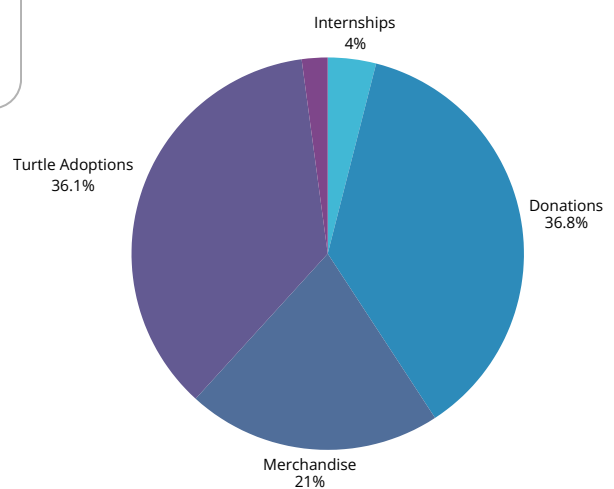
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# 2024 Financial Overview

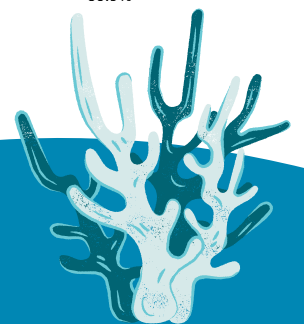
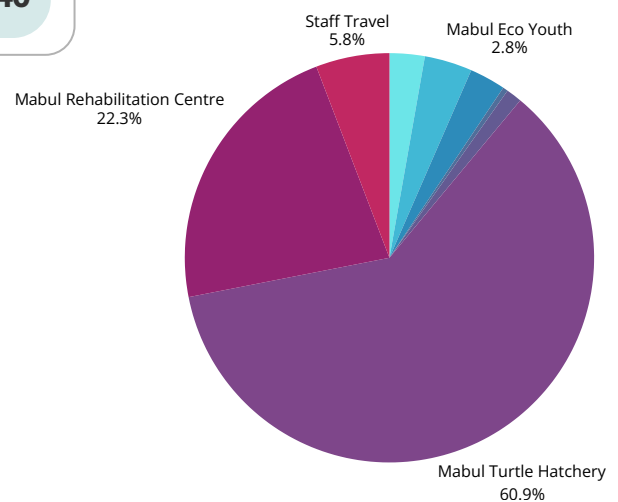
## Income

Internships	3,250.00
Donations	30,140.61
Merchandise	17,165.00
Turtle and Nest Adoptions	29,566.33
Clean-Up Sponsorships	1,741.27
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>81,863.21</b>



# Expenditure

Field Equipment	1,100.00
Marine Debris Management	1,493.90
Mabul Eco Youth	1,125.00
Community Outreach	160.00
Office Supplies	492.99
Mabul Turtle Hatchery	24,114.80
Mabul Rehabilitation Centre	8,818.61
Staff Travel	2,303.50
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>46,493.40</b>



# Balance Sheet



<b>Non-current Assets</b>	<b>10,307</b>
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## Current Assets

Other receivable	17,165.00
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Cash and cash equivalents	29,566.33
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>129,569</b>
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<b>Accumulated funds</b>	<b>103,018</b>
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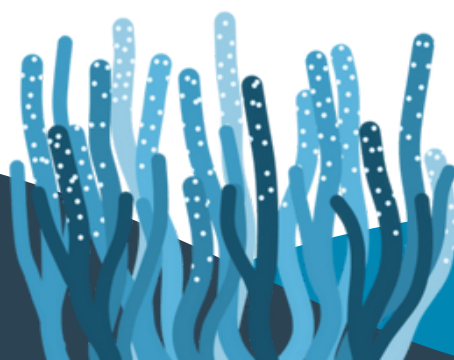
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## Current liabilities

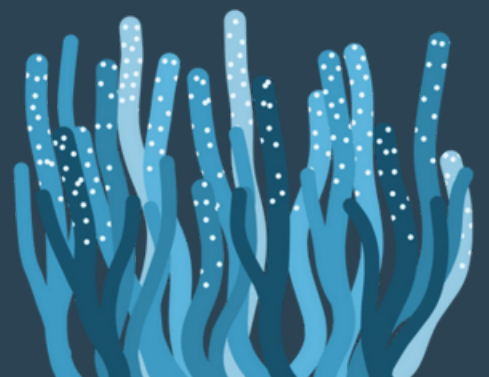
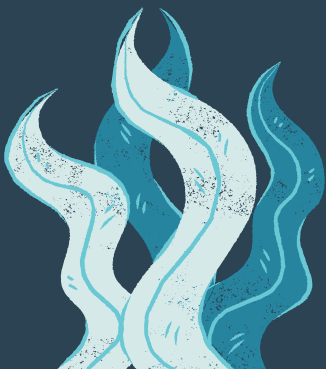
Other payables and accruals	26,551
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Current tax liabilities	-
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<b>TOTAL FUNDS &amp; LIABILITIES</b>	<b>129,569</b>
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Thank you to all our  
supporters for a  
successful 2024!



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January 2026

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### Photo Credits

SEAS Staff and Volunteers  
Scuba Junkie Staff  
WWF  
Mabul Eco Youth

