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IMPACT REPORT



SCUBA JUNKIE
S.E.A.S



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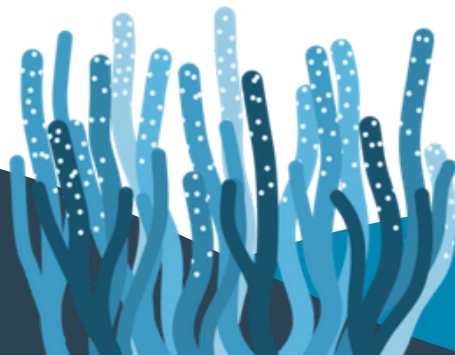


Foreward

Conservation on Mabul Island is driven by steady action, strong partnerships, and a long-term vision. Throughout 2025, SEAS continued to expand its impact – advancing turtle conservation, coral restoration, marine debris management, and citizen science, while strengthening collaboration with the local community, volunteers, Mabul Eco Youth, and conservation partners.

This report showcases the progress achieved over the year – from safeguarding vulnerable species to promoting more sustainable practices that protect Mabul’s marine ecosystems for the future. Every milestone reflects a collective effort, proving that meaningful change happens when people work together.

Thank you for being part of this shared commitment to Mabul.



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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

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

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

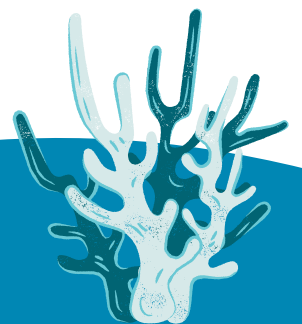
We work with visitors, the local community and organisations to manage and record marine debris through regular cleanups and education. We are passionate in exploring upcycling solutions, including through our planned plastic project, to address the devastating impact of debris on marine ecosystems.

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 2025, long-term monitoring at Sipadan continued as a core focus, with sightings of turtles, sharks, and rays recorded on every dive across 335 survey days. This ongoing effort builds on a SEAS initiative that began in 2011—every boat, every dive, every day, every sighting—creating one of the most consistent long-term marine wildlife datasets for this globally significant site.

Global FinPrint

In 2025, Scuba Junkie SEAS served as the local collaborator for WWF-Malaysia and Deakin University during the Global FinPrint surveys around Mabul, Kapalai, and Sipadan. The collaboration provided valuable hands-on experience in supporting BRUV deployments and deepened understanding of the research methodology behind large-scale shark and ray monitoring. It was demanding work — but an incredibly rewarding opportunity to contribute to global marine science.





Turtle Conservation

87
Nests
Relocated

6,643
Hatchlings
Released

438
Turtles
Adopted

13
Nests
Adopted

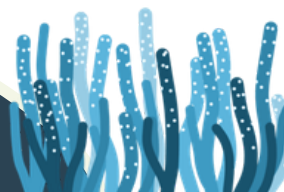
Mabul Turtle Hatchery

In 2025, the Mabul Turtle Hatchery was a big year with a new hatchery being built as well as recording its highest nesting year to date, with 87 nests protected and 6,643 hatchlings released. Among these were eight hawksbill nests—the highest number in the hatchery’s history.

The season followed an unusual pattern: after a typical start to the year, nesting activity increased from May onwards, peaking in July with 14 nests, usually a quieter month. This reinforces the need for consistent, year-round monitoring in a changing climate.

Monitoring efforts continued, with temperature loggers and post-emergence nest assessments now standard practice. A research permit has now been granted to allow us to study

Support from Scuba Junkie guests remained strong, with 438 turtle adoptions and 13 nest adoptions contributing directly to nest protection.



Mabul Turtle Rehabilitation Centre



In 2025, three turtle patients were admitted to the rehabilitation centre, each presenting with different challenges ranging from boat strike injuries to parasite-related illness. One turtle was successfully rehabilitated and released back into the ocean.

Two patients experienced critical periods where their survival was uncertain. These cases underscored both the complexity of marine turtle rehabilitation and the commitment required to see patients through recovery.

To strengthen capacity, a second rehabilitation pool was added, increasing the centre's ability to manage multiple patients and provide appropriate care during longer recovery periods.

Turtle ID Database

In 2025, a new volunteering programme was launched, incorporating three dedicated Turtle ID dives. These dives allow data to be collected across multiple sites around Mabul Island on a far more consistent basis, strengthening long-term monitoring efforts and expanding the turtle database.

Over the year, a total of 184 turtle sightings were recorded – including 53 new individuals and 131 re-sightings – providing valuable insight into the resident population around the island.





3
Turtles in
Rehab

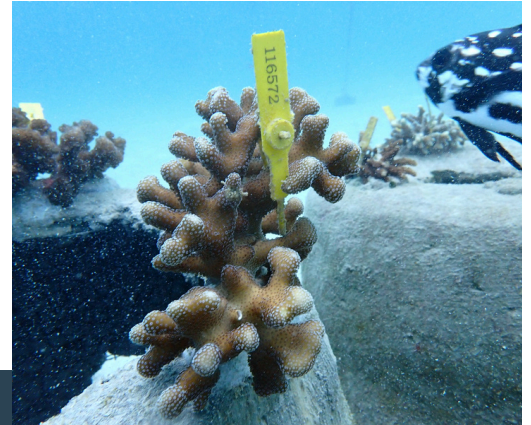
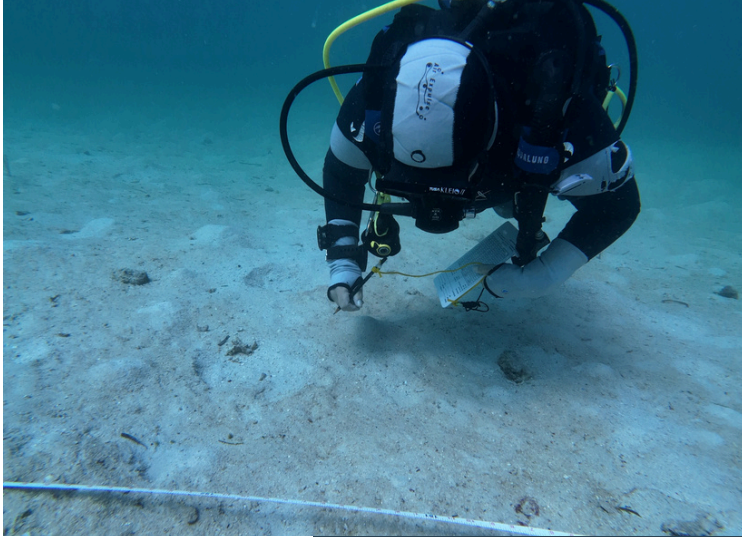
1
Turtles
Released



Lesley Leftie

Lesley Leftie, a well-known resident turtle around Mabul, was already living successfully with an old front flipper injury when she sustained a severe new wound to her rear flipper. After a period of monitoring, the depth of the injury made intervention necessary.

She was brought into the rehabilitation centre, where veterinary assessment confirmed the flipper required amputation. Lesley recovered well from surgery, adapted quickly, and was later deemed fit for release. She remains a regular sight on the house reef – a testament to her resilience and the value of timely intervention.



Coral Health & Restoration

Mabul Coral Nursery

2025 saw the outplanting of the first coral hives, with trial and error needed to deploy and place the hives as well as outplant the coral from the trees. The coral trees had a high success rate with some large and healthy corals on them, the nursery itself becoming a habitat for numerous species of fish as well as a hang out area for some baby eagle rays. The coral hives also thrived once the corals were transplanted, being home to guard crabs, frogfish, groupers and many more fish.

A new monitoring technique was also started in 2025, where detailed images of the reef are taken to record the changes over a period of time, 2026 will be the further development of this project.



Coral Nursery

A coral tree nursery is used to grow corals with a view to outplanting onto a reef or a structure, not for them to become coral reefs themselves. However our coral nursery has definitely become its own little habitat! With lots of different species living on and around the structures as well as baby eagle rays circling. This can make it incredibly distracting while trying to do monitoring on the trees!

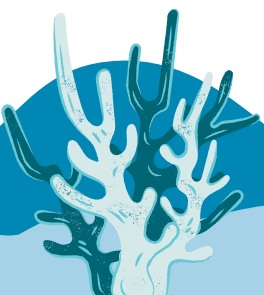


Research on Mabul

Plans are underway for our newest team member Ainni to start her PHD project Mapping Dive Related Changes in Coral Reef Complexity and Diversity Using Underwater Photogrammetry in Anthropogenically Influenced Reefs. This research project will deliver essential insights into how human activities are reshaping coral reef ecosystems across both shallow and mesophotic zones.

Using underwater photogrammetry method, it will generate high-resolution 3D maps that reveal changes in reef structure and biodiversity, including the role of mesophotic reefs as potential refuges for species under climate stress. The importance of this research lies in its direct relevance to conservation, policy, and community resilience—providing robust evidence to guide reef management, restoration, and sustainable use.

By strengthening the scientific foundation for action, the project supports the protection of coral reefs, which are critical for food security, tourism, and coastal protection worldwide



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Marine Debris Management

Reef Cleans

Numerous reef cleans were conducted throughout the year, including ones part of our volunteer program. Not only was trash collected, but it was also analysed to understand what we were seeing on the reef. With our volunteers we not only weighed the trash that was collected but also conducted a brand audit to understand what trash was being collected as well as submitting data on the manufactures of the trash. We plan to continue conducting regular reef cleans as well as collecting data to ensure we can understand what trash is ending up in the ocean and where it is coming from.





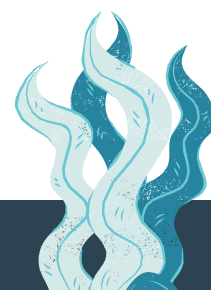
Mabul Plastic Project

The start of the Mabul No Plastic Nature Project was a huge step forward in being able to manage and process waste on Mabul Island, for the first time. This project was made possible with the support of WWF Semporna and the EU. The machine and training was supplied by the Sea Monkey Project. Training was provided to the Mabul Eco Youth who then operate the machine as well as turning the finished products into keychains, bracelets and necklaces which were then sold. This project not only provides some form of waste management, it also provides underprivileged youths with work and the opportunity to make commission from the sales of their products.

Beach Cleans

After a highly impactful 2024 tackling marine debris, the momentum continued into 2025 with regular beach cleans alongside guests and staff. The Mabul Eco Youth stepped it up even further by adding a second clean each week – doubling the impact.

With the launch of the Mabul Plastic Project, waste is now carefully segregated, with Type 2 and Type 5 plastics redirected into the project to be transformed into new, usable products.



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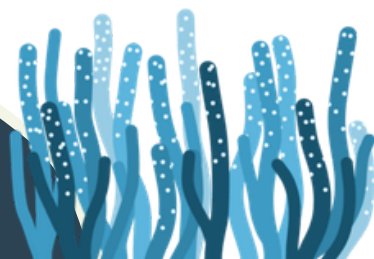


Outreach

School Programmes

The Mabul Lumaku Project was launched in July last year with the aim of educating Bajau children about marine conservation. Establishing consistent weekly Thursday classes was challenging at first – especially encouraging active participation – but persistence and passion paid off.

In 2025, the programme expanded its impact by celebrating International Coastal Cleanup with Madrasah, Mabul's only alternative secondary school. In collaboration with Mabul Eco Youth (MEY), the team organised a clean-up around the island, collecting waste and transforming it into something valuable through the Plastic Project.





SEAS Newsletter

A total of 11 newsletters were sent out in 2025, with out subscriptions reaching a level where a new platform was required. The view rate of the newsletter was 40% with continued effort to ensure the content was fun and engaging.

Social Media

Another high with over 2000 followers reached with continued increases in the number of engagement and views on our posts. We worked with a number of different social media influencers allowing us to learn new skills as well as how to improve our content.

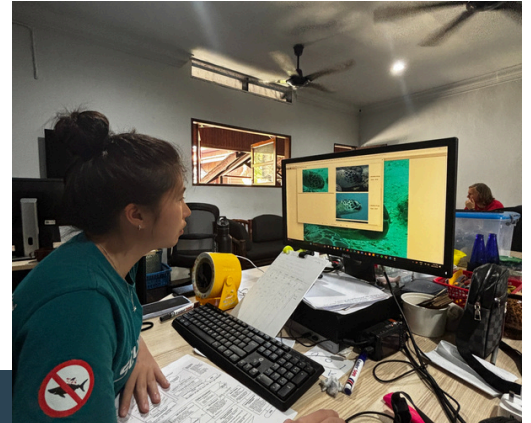
Scuba Junkie Guests

In 2025, regular presentations were introduced at the Scuba Junkie bar, with Friday nights becoming dedicated presentation evenings. Each week covers different topics – from the work being carried out to specific species and key conservation challenges.

An open house at the rehabilitation centre was also launched, giving guests the opportunity to learn more about the turtles in care and the rehabilitation process, while carefully ensuring the turtles are not disturbed or stressed.



2025



Volunteers

10

Volunteers
Welcomed

40

Dives
Conducted

20

Presentations
Given

Volunteer Program

2025 marked the launch of the newly redesigned Scuba Junkie SEAS Volunteer Programme, created to give participants the opportunity to actively contribute to conservation while developing practical field skills.

The programme combines educational presentations with structured, data-focused dives, strengthening the team's ability to consistently collect turtle ID data and monitor reef health around Mabul. Volunteers take part in Coral Watch surveys and Turtle ID dives, support reef clean-ups with detailed trash analysis, and collaborate with the Mabul Eco Youth on the Plastic Project – ensuring their experience delivers both learning and measurable impact.

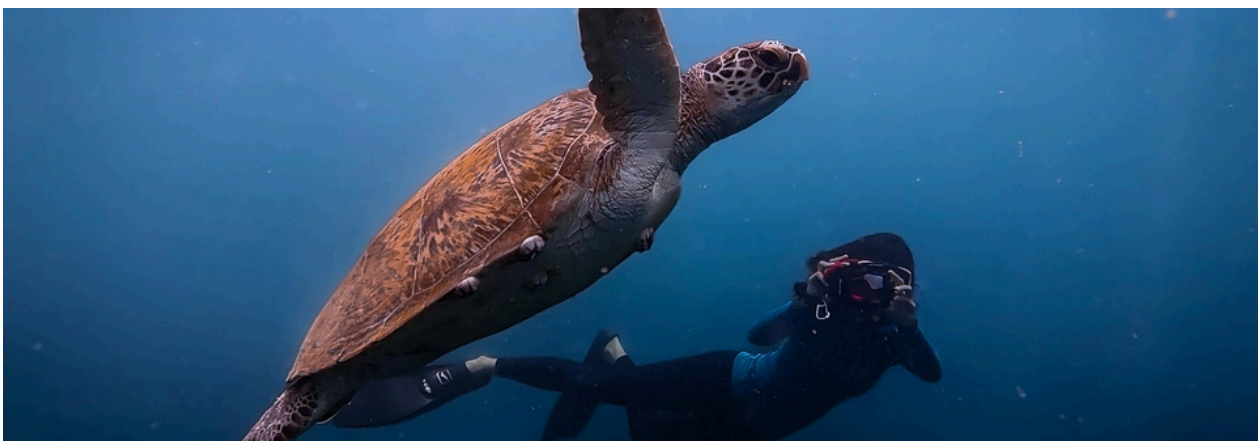




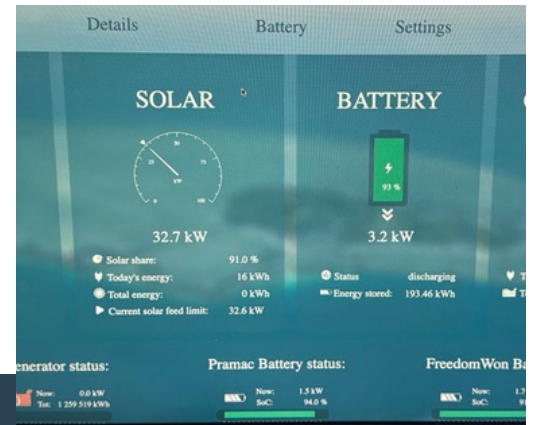
A Volunteer's Perspective

“We would honestly say the SEAS Volunteer Programme is one of the best volunteer experiences we've ever had. It felt like a once-in-a-lifetime bucket-list adventure, beautifully packed into a single programme—experiences, people, knowledge, Mabul island, new horizons, dives, amazing food, and plenty of fun. We had hands-on opportunities to be involved in real marine conservation work, including TurtleWatch and CoralWatch, turtle hatchery work, plastic projects, beach clean-ups, and even engaging with local schools through games and activities. What we really loved was that the programme never felt crowded—every volunteer felt seen, included, and genuinely part of a family by the end of it. We left with a deeper respect for the ocean, a stronger sense of responsibility, a happy heart and honestly, as better and more mindful divers. Psss...still miss the donuts!!”

Yi Thing and Yi Chen



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Eco-Resorts

Green Fins Membership

In 2025, the zero-impact Gold status under Green Fins was successfully maintained, building on the achievements of 2024.

Further educational information boards were installed around the resort, including a dedicated turtle walk at the new hatchery, helping to deepen guest awareness and understanding of marine conservation efforts.

Solar System Re-Vamp

Our solar system was given a revamp in 2025 with new batteries installed allowing the system to work better than ever. We are now having a substantial number of days where between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30pm we are running entirely on solar. Plans for the future? Add additional solar panels so we can generate more power on cloudy days and run for longer on sunny days.

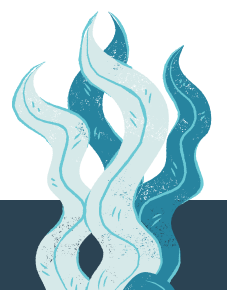




Leading by Example

Our solar system has always been innovative. Due to the island's location and harsh marine conditions, standard photovoltaic panels are not a viable option. Instead, a system designed specifically for salty, high-exposure environments – similar to those used in the Maldives – was installed.

The goal was to operate as close to off-grid as possible, and in 2025 that finally became a reality. Seeing the system fully operational – and the significant reduction in fuel use – marked a major milestone.











Citizen Science Data


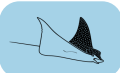

Sipadan Island Sightings

1356
Recording
Dives



Shark Sightings

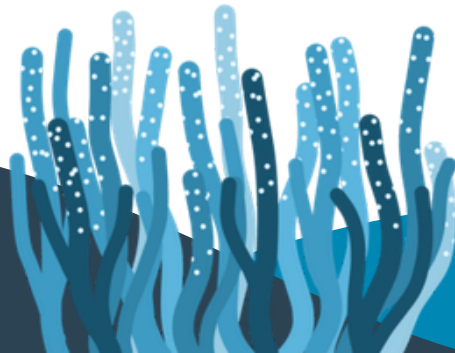
 Shark White Tip Reef 7,751	 Shark Grey Reef 11,534
 Shark Black Tip Reef 43	 Shark Thresher 2
 Shark Scalloped Hammerhead 215	 Shark Great Hammerhead 0
 Shark Whale 6	 Shark Leopard 88

Ray Sightings

 Ray Devil 64
 Ray Eagle 45
 Ray Manta 1

Turtle Sightings

 Turtle Green 23,856
 Turtle Hawksbill 2,805



Si Amil Island Sightings

Ray Sightings



Ray
Devil

999



Ray
Eagle

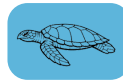
378

Turtle Sightings



Turtle
Green

200



Turtle
Hawksbill

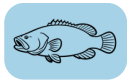
70

Fish Sightings



Fish
**Napolean
Wrasse**

7



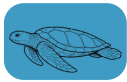
Fish
**Barramundi
Cod**

7

529
Recording
Dives

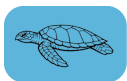
Turtle ID Sightings

New Sightings



Turtle
Green

48



Turtle
Hawksbill

3

Repeat Sightings



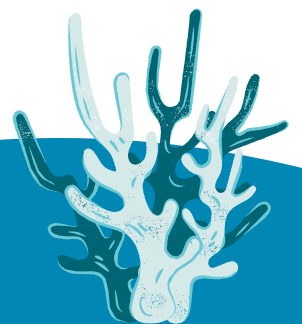
Turtle
Green

125



Turtle
Hawksbill

6



Our Supporters

A sincere thank you to Scuba Junkie for the continued support that makes this work possible. From providing resources and space to championing environmental responsibility across the resort and dive operations, that backing allows real, lasting impact on Mabul.

Gratitude also goes to WWF-Malaysia and the Sabah Wildlife Department for their guidance and collaboration, which strengthen conservation, research, and rehabilitation efforts year after year.

The work would not be possible without the incredible people behind the scenes – maintenance, security, all-rounders, and everyone who steps up during late-night nestings, turtle rescues, equipment fixes, and the countless unseen tasks in between. That steady commitment keeps everything moving.

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

A special mention goes to the Mabul Eco Youth, whose energy and leadership continue to inspire positive change within the local community. From beach cleans to outreach initiatives, their involvement shows the power of youth-led conservation.

And finally, to every guest and volunteer who joins a clean-up, reports a turtle sighting, attends a presentation, or simply chooses to care – thank you. Conservation becomes meaningful when it is shared.

To the Mabul community and local partners, appreciation runs deep. Protecting this island's marine environment is only possible through collaboration – and together, that collective effort creates real change.

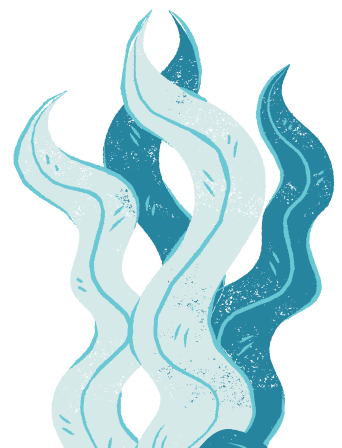


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Mabul Eco Youth

In 2025, the partnership with Mabul Eco Youth grew even stronger with the launch of the Mabul No Plastic in Nature Project. The team received hands-on training in operating the machine, as well as in collecting, sorting, and cleaning plastic to prepare it for processing.

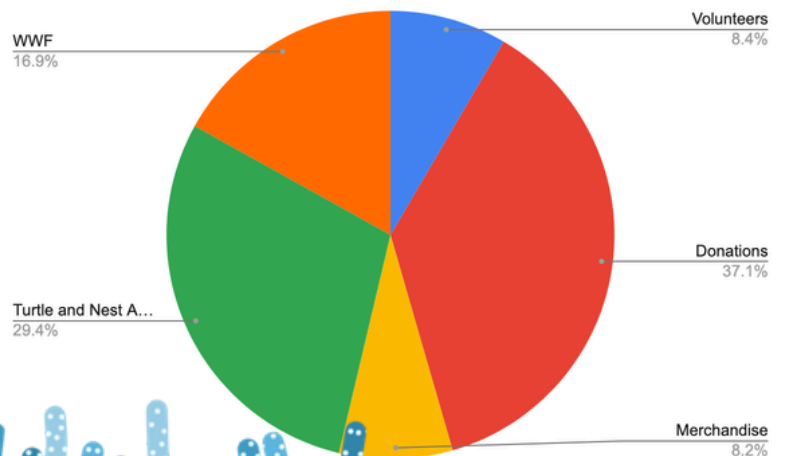
The machine now runs twice a week, with four youth members involved each session, receiving an allowance for their work. Beyond processing, they also create products – including bracelets, keychains, and necklaces – earning commission from every item sold, turning waste into both opportunity and impact.



2025 Financial Overview

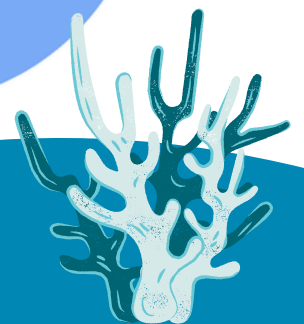
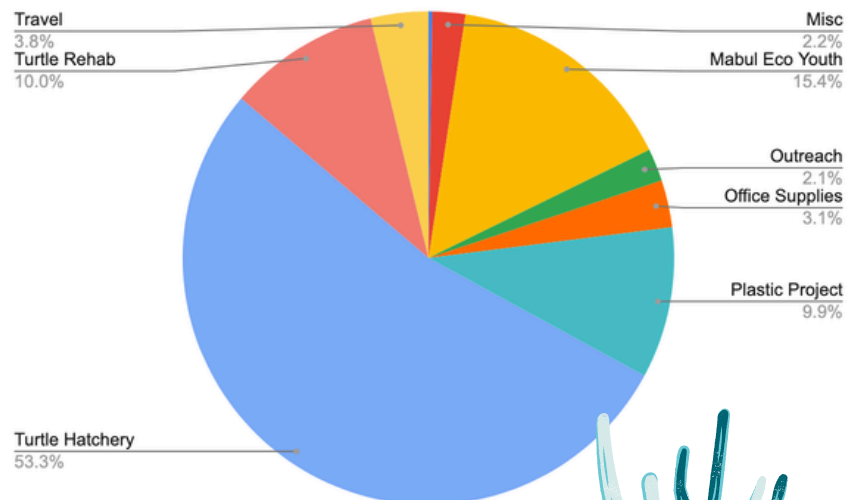
Income

Volunteers	14,080
Donations	61,874.24
Merchandise	13,650
Turtle and Nest Adoptions	49,015.27
WWF	28,240
GRAND TOTAL	166,859.51



Expenditure

Plastic Project	8,553.50
Misc	2,085.74
Mabul Eco Youth	13,240
Community Outreach	1,836.13
Office Supplies	2,669.26
Mabul Turtle Hatchery	45,938.73
Mabul Rehabilitation Centre	8628.18
Staff Travel	3,270.28
GRAND TOTAL	86221.82

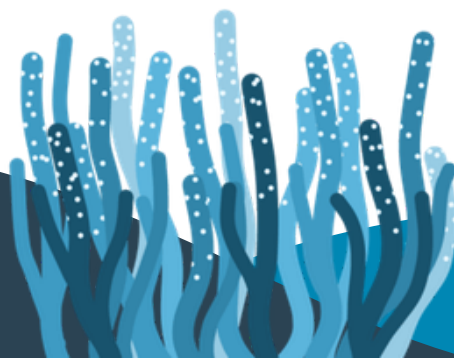


Balance Sheet

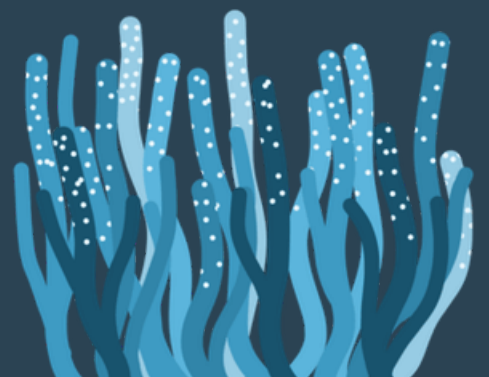
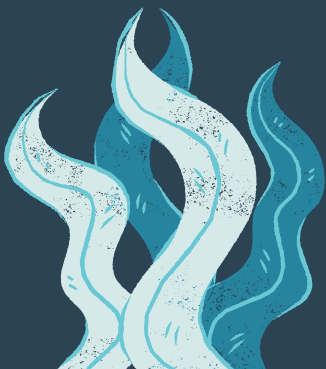
Non-current Assets	10,307
<hr/>	
Current Assets	
<hr/>	
Other receivable	17,165.00
<hr/>	
Cash and cash equivalents	29,566.33
TOTAL ASSETS	129,569



Accumulated funds	103,018
<hr/>	
Current liabilities	
<hr/>	
Other payables and accruals	26,551
<hr/>	
Current tax liabilities	-
TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES	129,569



Thank you to all our
supporters for a
successful 2025!



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January 2026

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Photo Credits

SEAS Staff and Volunteers
Scuba Junkie Staff
WWF
Mabul Eco Youth

