



**Reef Check**  
MALAYSIA

# Annual Report

# 2022

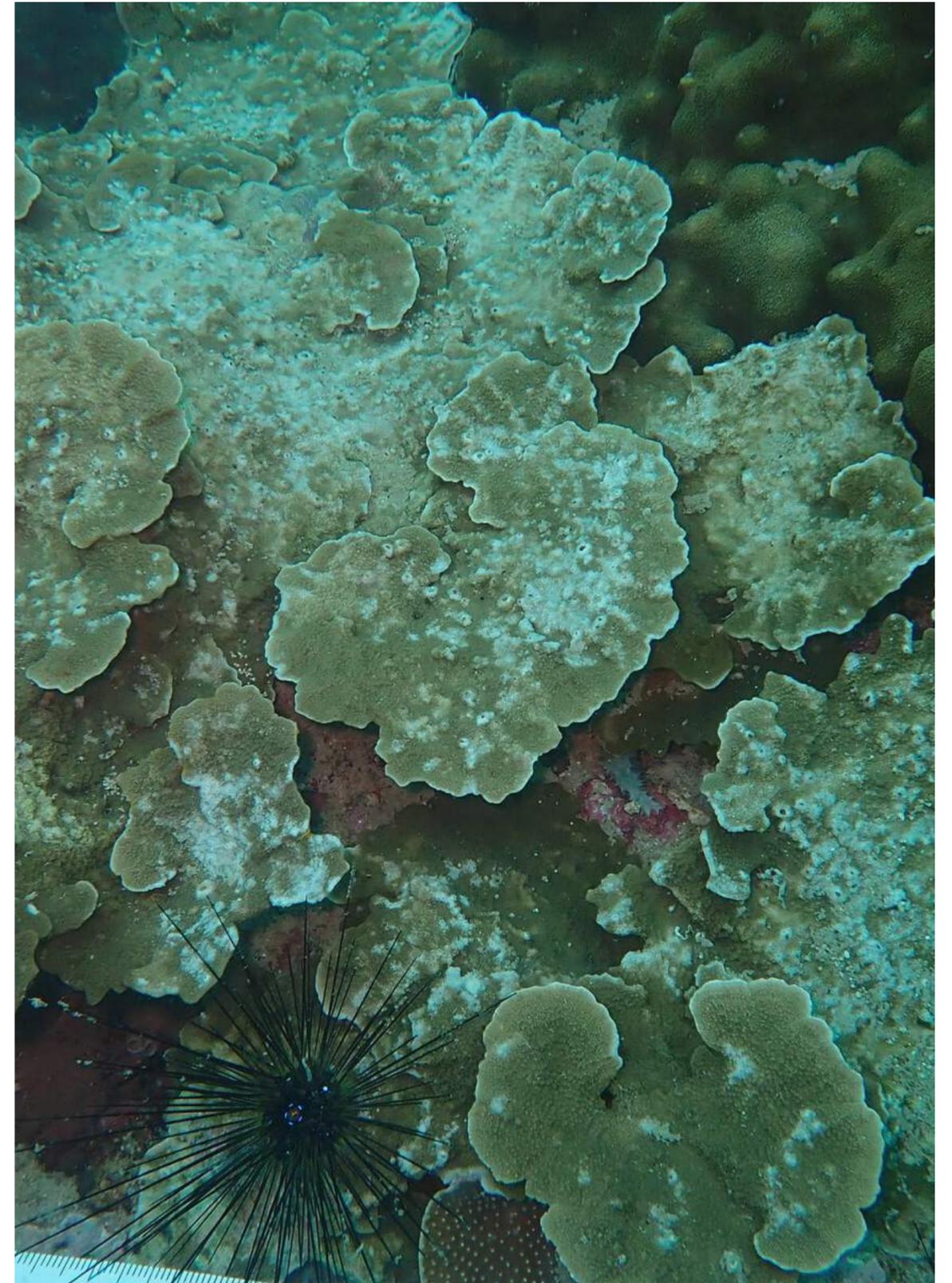


# Foreword

Welcome to our 2022 annual stakeholder report and thank you for taking the time to read it.

If 2021 was the year of Covid, 2022 has been a year of recovery – and a huge increase in the tempo of our activities, with new programmes starting in Redang island and the Semporna islands in Sabah.

In 2022 the annual survey programme covered over 300 sites around Malaysia. The apparent small improvement in coral reef health noted in the 2021 data appears to have continued into 2022, when tourism numbers continued to be limited by the pandemic. This supports the idea that fewer visitors can lead to healthier reefs and perhaps closing reef sites would be a useful management tool. Having recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Fisheries, who manage the Marine Parks in Peninsular Malaysia, I am hopeful that we will be able to work with them to look at some of these ideas in more detail.





Our community programmes go from strength to strength. The Tioman Marine Conservation Group (TMCG) is leading the way in community-based conservation. We have now trained 75 local islanders, who are regularly participating in activities including ghost net removal, coral reef restoration and reef monitoring. No more outsiders telling the islanders what's happening to their reefs – they are collecting that data themselves! We are seeing increasing support for marine protection among the islanders as more and more people start to understand how the Marine Park can benefit them. We will be replicating the success of TMCG in two other islands in Peninsular Malaysia and 3 in Sabah during 2023. The recently concluded COP 15 has set new targets for biodiversity and it's great to see local communities taking a bigger role in natural resource conservation.

Sustainability continues to be an important element of our work. From resilience-based management plans for Marine Parks through to sustainable tourism programmes for operators in Sabah, supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment (KePKAS), we are continuing to support healthy reefs – and other marine ecosystems – throughout Malaysia.

Finally, a huge thank you to our supporters, without whom our work could not continue. From individual donors to big corporations and international funding agencies – thank you.

-Julian Hyde, General Manager

# Our Vision

Sustainably managed  
coral reefs in malaysia





# Our Mission

To bring together stakeholders to collaborate on coral reef monitoring, management, research, conservation, and advocacy



## ECOACTION

We train certified divers to conduct annual Reef Check surveys of coral reefs around Malaysia. The data collected over time reflect the changing status of coral reefs and indicate what steps can be taken to conserve them.

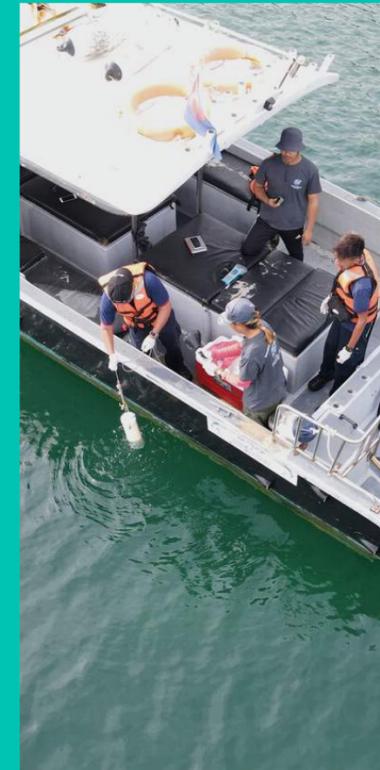


## ADVOCACY

We raise awareness of the importance of coral reefs and the valuable ecosystem services they provide. We promote sustainable marine tourism through Green Fins, Green Hotels, and Eco-Friendly Snorkel Guide programmes.



# What We Do



## SCIENCE

We conduct reef rehabilitation programmes and reef resilience surveys around various islands, the results of which are used in management plans for these islands. We also monitor for coral bleaching around Malaysia.



## MANAGEMENT

We train island communities to be marine conservation leaders. One of our goals is to involve local communities in the management and conservation of their island's resources, which contributes to its success.

# Reef Monitoring

A diver in a black wetsuit and mask is underwater, holding a clipboard and pen, recording data. A yellow line is stretched across the coral reef below.

**Coral reef health at 323  
locations surveyed with  
results showing  
47.59% of live coral  
cover**

# Reef Rehabilitation

**1917 pieces of damaged  
coral fragments rescued  
and restored**



# Beach and Underwater Clean-Ups

**36,664kg of trash removed from beaches and underwater environment, of which 7,221kg were ghost nets**



# Community Capacity Building

**300 people participated  
in skill trainings, of which  
91 were Eco-Friendly  
Snorkel Guides and  
57 were EcoDiver trainings**



# Community Consultations

A photograph of a woman sitting on a wooden porch of a light blue house. She is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and a colorful patterned sarong. The porch is surrounded by lush green plants, including a large green plant in the foreground and a hanging basket of green plants. A wooden clothesline is visible to the right of the porch. The house has a window with a dark frame and a small red hanger hanging from the clothesline.

**846 individuals were interviewed, to gauge their feedback and concerns regarding marine resource management**

# Sustainable Tourism

**30 hotels and 10 dive centres  
assessed and certified for  
eco-friendly practices, and  
11 mooring buoys installed to  
prevent boat anchoring**



# Waste Management and Recycling



**112,878kg of waste collected from island communities and 43,330kg were recycled**

A large group of children, mostly of South Asian descent, are gathered in what appears to be a school assembly or a large hall. Many of the children in the foreground and middle ground have their hands raised high in the air, suggesting an interactive activity or a Q&A session. The children are wearing school uniforms, including grey and white shirts and dark trousers or skirts. The background is filled with more children, some looking towards the camera and others looking towards the front of the room. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is one of active participation and engagement.

# Education and Awareness

**29 programmes  
conducted, of which  
19 were with schools**

# Predator Removal

A close-up photograph of a crown-of-thorns starfish on a coral reef. The starfish has a white, dotted central disk and numerous long, blue, pointed spines with orange tips. To its right is a bright green, porous sponge. The background shows other coral and reef structures.

**1641 Crown-of-Thorns  
starfish removed to  
control overpopulation  
and reduce damage to  
reefs**

# Social Media Outreach



## FACEBOOK

240 posts | 217,520 reach |  
8,018 engagements | 3.69% engagement rate



## INSTAGRAM

151 posts | 165,806 reach |  
15,561 engagements | 9.39% engagement rate



## TWITTER

253 posts | 45,593 impressions |  
1,973 engagements | 4.33% engagement rate



## LINKEDIN

103 posts | 53,861 impressions |  
6,204 engagements | 12.64% engagement rate

# PR Outreach



## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS**

60 talks, conferences, meetings and events



## **MEDIA**

9 press releases | 17 TV & radio interviews



## **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

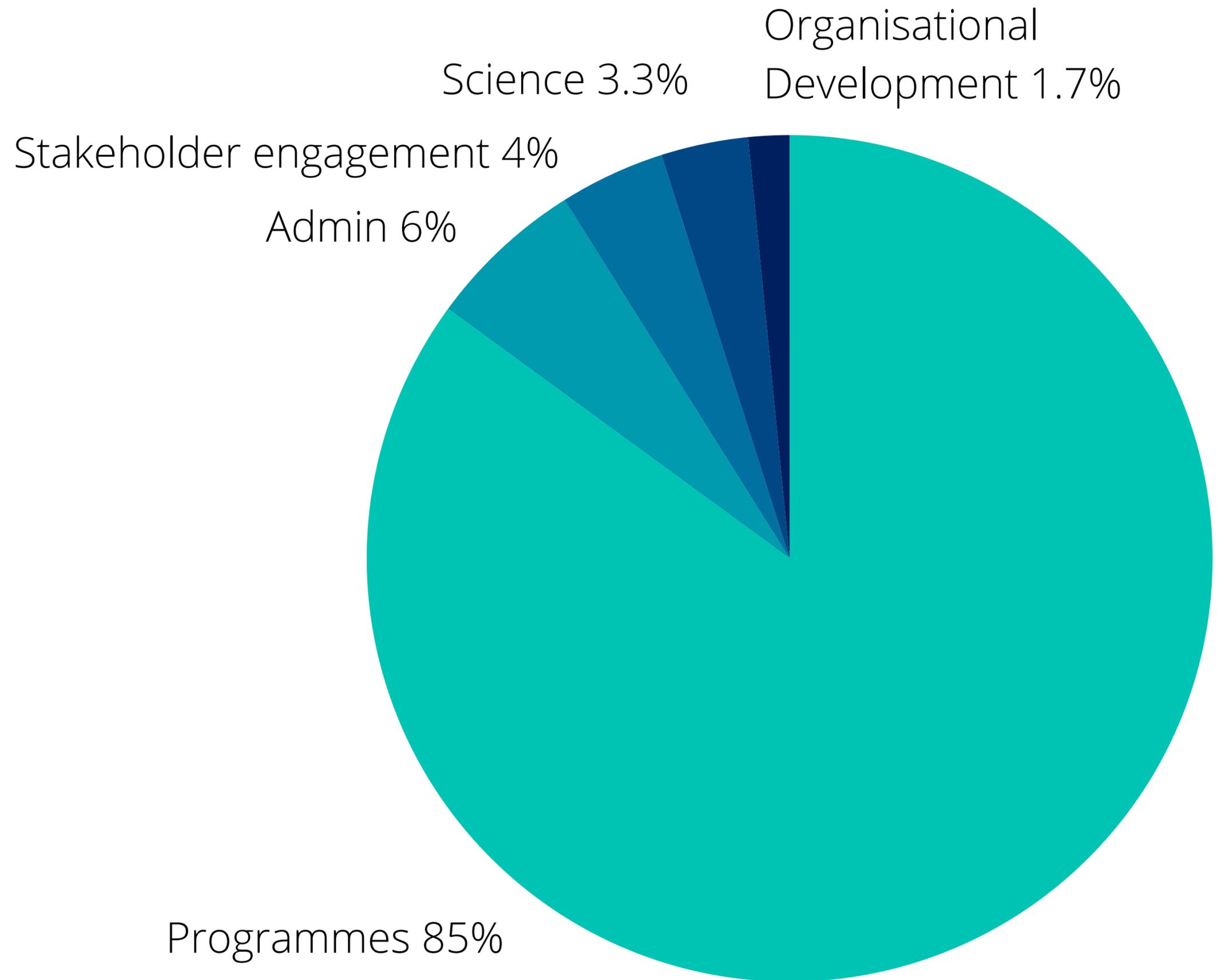
11 awards & recognitions



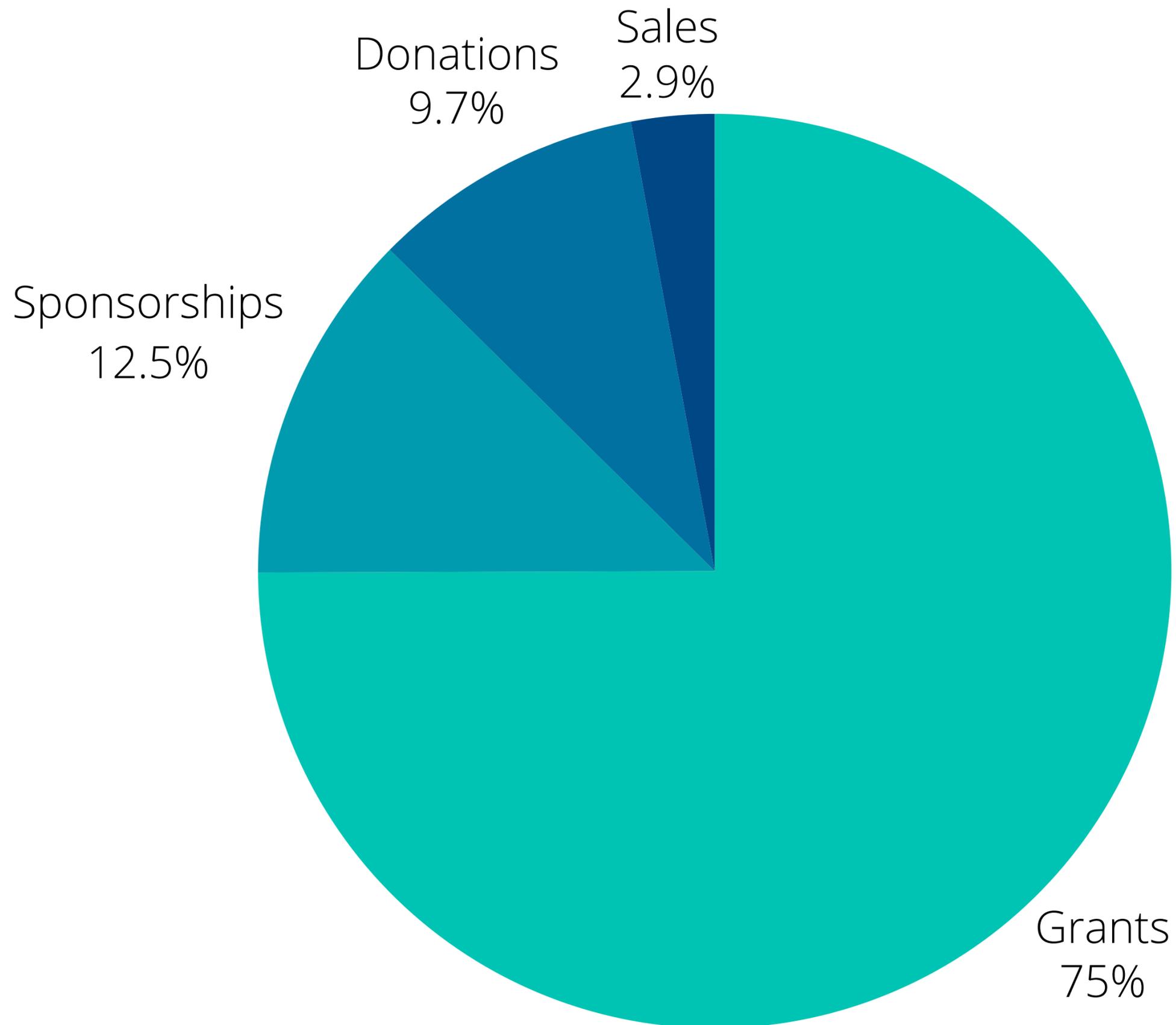
## **PUBLICATIONS**

1 scientific journal

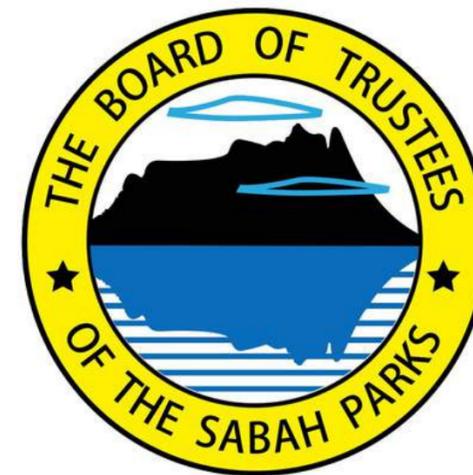
# 2022 Expenses



# 2022 Revenue



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



# Meet the Team



**ADZMIN**



**ALVIN**



**ASMA**



**BADRIAH**



**CYNTHIA**



**DIANA**



**DON**



**ELA**



**HANAH**



**IRA**



**JULIAN**



**LIYANA**



**SHAHIR**



**SUE**



**SUHAIMI**



**THERESA**



**YUN**

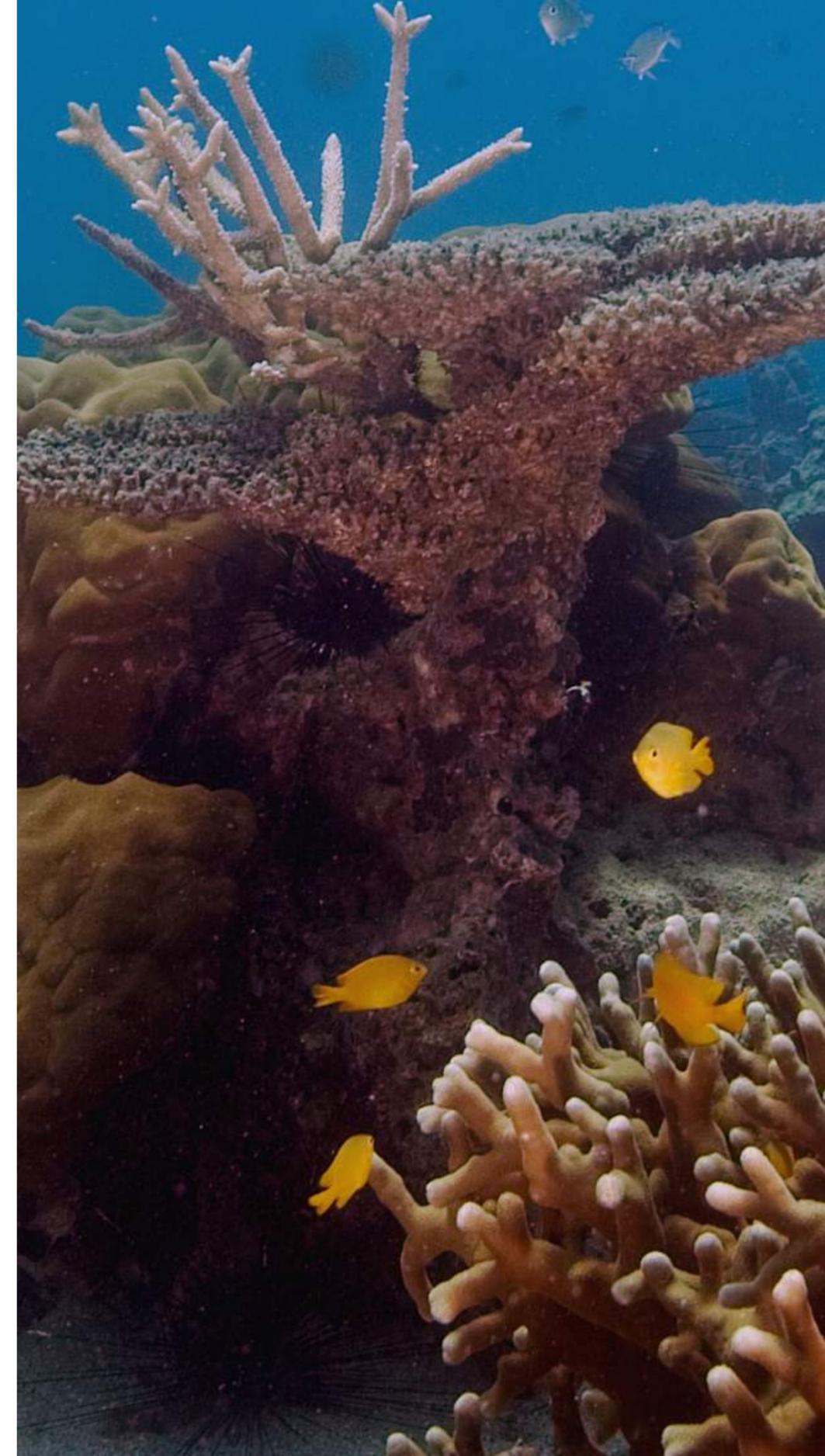
# Outlook

Looking ahead, we can see two trends that are going to dominate marine conservation efforts in the short to medium term.

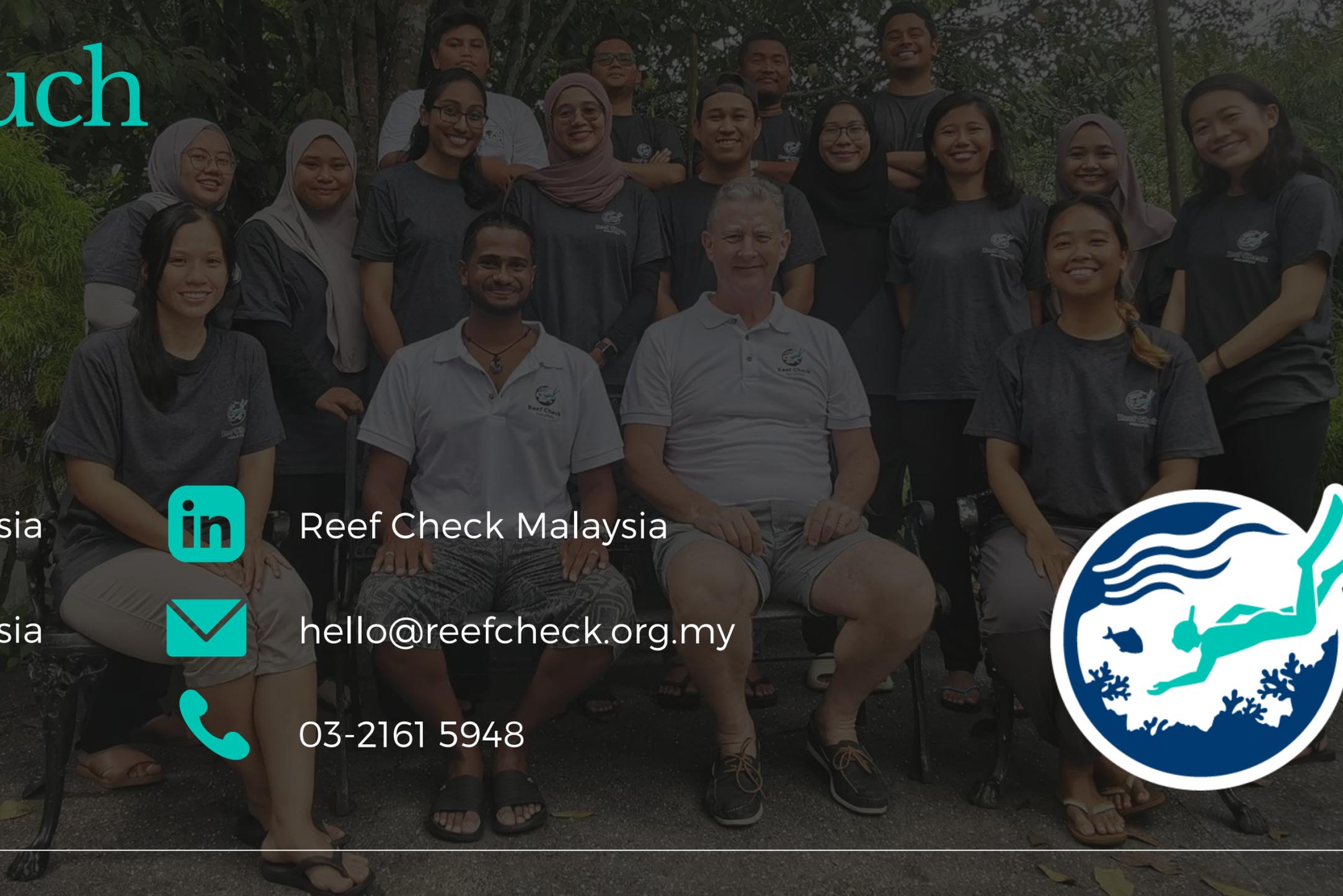
The first relates to extending and improving management of protected areas, recently agreed at COP 15 as part of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Globally we need to protect 30% of the oceans; Malaysia has a big part to play in identifying and protecting important biodiversity areas. At the same time, management of existing areas needs to be improved, with particular emphasis on the role played by IPLCs (Indigenous People and Local Communities), validating all the work we have been doing on community participation in management.

The second thing is carbon, or more accurately, Blue Carbon. Efforts to identify carbon credit schemes are starting to take off; while companies might benefit from the carbon credits generated, this could unlock huge funding for marine resource conservation. We are working with seagrass and mangrove scientists to understand how this will develop.

Healthy communities need healthy ecosystems. Help us to ensure Malaysia conserves and protects these life-supporting assets.



# Get in touch



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