

2020 & 2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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Our team

Please visit www.maralliance.org/team for a full list of our team members

Acknowledgements

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Photo credits

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Rachel Graham: Inside cover, pages 4, 8, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, back cover
Rick Miskiv: page 18, 19

The past two years, a unique chapter in our collective life's journey, have provided us with much to reflect on. The excitement of starting a new decade in January 2020 rapidly morphed into great uncertainty as we navigated changes and loss during the pandemic. We mourn those who were unable to continue the journey with us, and for the socio-economic and environmental impacts most of us have had to bear.



Yet we also had much to gain during this two-year period. In the face of adversity, we developed and strengthened our adaptability, innovation, and ultimately our resilience. Once permitted back at sea, fishers we work with led our long-term monitoring work of marine wildlife to assess changes in abundance due to the pandemic pause and, very importantly, these conservation jobs provided much needed income and demonstrated the power of investing in building capacities locally and on the frontlines of conservation. With in-person meetings and outreach prohibited by authorities, we pivoted to virtual formats and many of our students adapted as best they could to online educational offerings, made easier with the provision of new technologies and training. Indigenous women from the autonomous Guna Yala province of Panama, turned their artisanal skills to making delicate appliqué masks with emblems of our iconic marine wildlife that were purchased by our supporters worldwide, providing earnings that supported their communities with food, PPE and simple fishing gears. And while we sat on our sofas, we had the good fortune to travel vicariously through sharks and turtles that we had satellite tagged directly prior to the pandemic's onset or during periods of relaxation of restrictions. These animals travelled the Eastern Tropical Pacific and the Eastern Atlantic oceans during a period of considerably reduced fishing and shipping traffic, revealing novel movement behaviours and site preferences, key elements to targeting conservation efforts. And the crowning gem of our monitoring work was celebrated globally in 2021 when our local blended science and fisher team in Panama released, unharmed, the first sawfish captured in over 20 years in Central America. This act demonstrated the power of inclusive and locally-engaged or-led monitoring, that gives us the needed hope to keep afloat this lifeboat population of largetooth sawfish.

We may have lost some freedoms during this chapter of our lives, but we also gained a new sense of community spirit and altruism, and in some sites, clear indications of how nature can rebound when we give it a pause from our activities. With so many stories and aspects to our programs that we want to share with you in what we have dubbed "The Pandemic Years", we hope that you enjoy our selection that illustrates our work in 2020 and 2021.

My final note to you is that adversity also revealed great generosity from our partners and supporters. We would not have managed this journey without you. Thank you.

Rachel

Dr. Rachel Graham
Founder and Executive Director

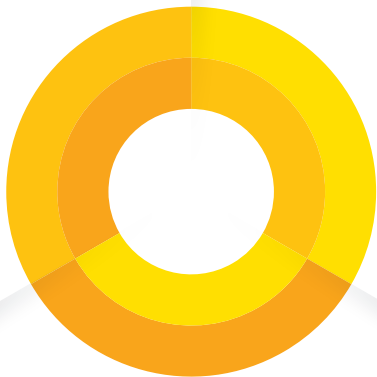


Mission

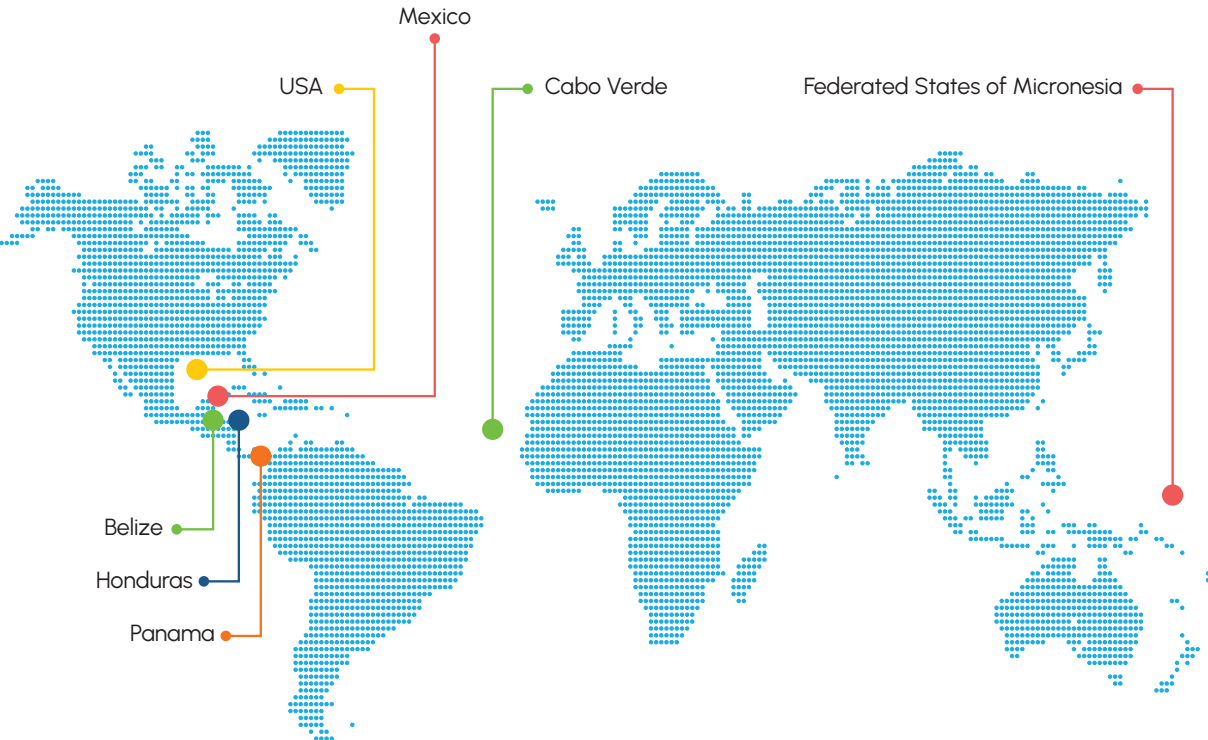
We explore, enable, and inspire conservation action for threatened marine wildlife and their critical habitats with the support of coastal communities.

Vision

Threatened marine wildlife thriving throughout the world's tropical seas with local stewardship.



Where we work



Explore



Stories from the field

At MarAlliance, we aim to generate key data pertinent to effective fisheries management and the conservation of threatened marine megafauna. Our work is conducted globally, with primary sites in Panama, Belize, Honduras, Mexico, Cabo Verde, and Micronesia. As COVID-19 halted life as we know it in early 2020, MarAlliance and our partners continued to find ways to safely conduct our work and support the dedicated fishers and local communities who are critical to achieving MarAlliance's goals. Here are just a few of the questions we explored this year:



How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect sharks and dependent communities?

With the onset of the global pandemic, access to coastal fishing sites was restricted in many tropical countries due to government-mediated precautionary measures. This left many of our traditional small-scale fisher partners in need of alternative sources of income to support themselves and their families. Traditional fishers are situated on the front lines of a rapidly changing seascape and play a vital role in our work, providing invaluable knowledge on past and present population trends, fishing efforts, and community priorities. Fisher partners at all sites regularly contribute to and lead monitoring activities, blending their knowledge with sound science. These mutual relationships cultivate community trust by directing mindful, locally-driven action and stewardship. With the help of many committed donors, MarAlliance supported 22 fishing families for up to five months through the most challenging period of the pandemic.

When we resumed fieldwork mid-2021, our researchers and fisher partners were eager to return to work. A main question of interest was how fish, including sharks, fared following the relatively short absence of fishing pressure. This question was analyzed at two key monitoring sites, Turneffe and Lighthouse Reef Atolls of Belize. Results revealed a tenfold increase in the number of sharks caught, tagged, and released in Turneffe and a 300% increase in catch per unit effort at Lighthouse Reef since 2016. These astonishing recovery rates are believed to be attributed to a reduction of foreign fishing due to pandemic-based transboundary travel restrictions for two fishing seasons and increased enforcement at both atolls. The evidence of this remarkable rebound has inspired and reinvigorated our team and institutional partners as it demonstrates the positive impact of fisheries management upon both biodiversity and human livelihoods.

Rediscovery of sawfish in Central America

"Sawfish are Critically Endangered. The locals have stories that in the 1960s and 1970s there were a lot of sightings in the rivers, 'Subgur nabe' means 'abundance of sawfish'"

Hayro Cunampio, MarAlliance Community Officer



'Aba' means "one" in the Emberá language spoken by the Indigenous Embera people of the remote Darien province in eastern Panama. Named by our team of fishers and Hayro Cunampio, Aba is also the first sawfish to be captured by a research team in Central America in over 20 years. Critically Endangered, these rare rays have seemingly disappeared from all but a few sites of their historic range across the coastal waters of tropical countries. MarAlliance began researching threats to sawfish survival in 2019 with the guidance of local knowledge and collaborative community participation. Of the 247 surveys conducted across 60 communities, only 48 individuals reported encounters with sawfish since 2015. Aba, a 130cm-long male largetooth sawfish,

represents hope for recovery of this global lifeboat population. Thanks to Hayro's development of a network of local fishers in the Darien region, we have received information of six additional sawfish captures/releases since December 2020. This is especially exciting as it exhibits a behavioral change key to species preservation. Instead of keeping sawfish for consumption or sale of their tooth-lined rostrum, fishers are actively collecting data imperative to conservation management. MarAlliance will continue to support this work in combination with assessments of riverine fisheries, educational and alternative income initiatives that reduce reliance on fisheries, and generating local pride and awareness for this unique species.

Tracking marine wildlife through the pandemic

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, we traveled the seas virtually through the continued tracking of marine megafauna. Although travel and field work were mostly restricted in the Americas, we satellite-tagged several whale sharks and continued tracking their movement from our homes. Sharing their perambulations publicly, we lived vicariously through them as they traversed the Eastern Tropical Pacific, crisscrossing some of the world's busiest shipping lanes while managing to avoid large commercial fleets. Meanwhile, our team in remote Cabo Verde was able to return to the field in June 2020 in search of male loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*). Poaching of adult males off the coasts of the world's third largest rookery for loggerhead turtles poses a serious threat to their persistence. Climate change and subsequent rising temperatures of nesting sites are leading to an increase in the percentage of female hatchlings.

It is now imperative to understand male loggerhead spatial ecology in relation to fisheries, poaching threats and protective measures such as managed marine protected areas. To address this concern, in collaboration with the Turtle Foundation, we tag male loggerheads with satellite tags to find, monitor, and develop protective measures for male turtles along their migratory routes.

In 2020, we successfully tagged four male loggerheads in partnership with trained local fishers. Once tagged, researchers, fishers, and members of the public could follow the turtles' journeys via social media and maintain their connection to the marine world virtually. This work continues to deliver novel intelligence of their movements through the Eastern Atlantic and guides national and regional fisheries management seeking to abate threats to loggerhead populations.

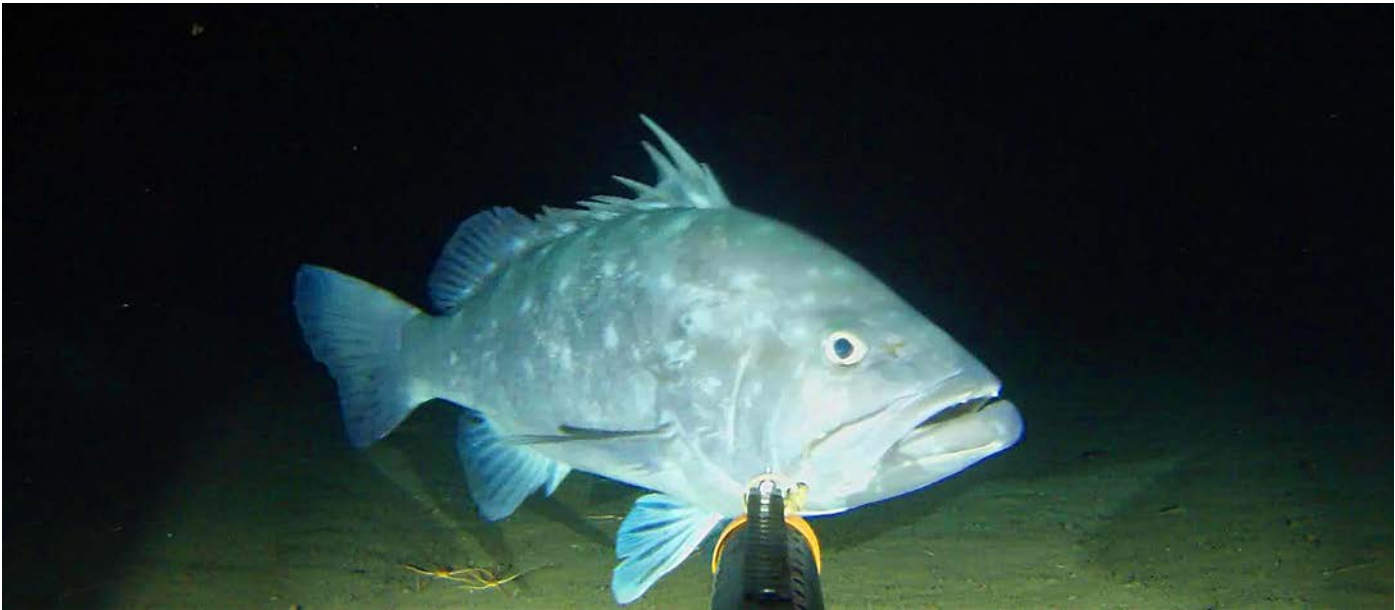


A series of firsts

Large-scale study of deep-sea fisheries throughout the MesoAmerican Reef (MAR)

Led the first large-scale study of deep-sea fisheries throughout the MesoAmerican Reef (MAR) to assess fisher perceptions, historical data, and monitor species vulnerable to overfishing. Study results spanning the MAR found deep-sea fisheries in the region to have been established during the 1970s, primarily targeting snapper species in Mexico, Belize and Honduras, and shark and grouper species in Guatemala. Fishers largely sold directly

to consumers. Honduras is currently the only country with a strong export market for deepwater fish. As threats of larger-scale exploitation of deep water fish and habitat loom with coastal fisheries decline and fishing effort moving deeper into the sea, these baselines will serve to monitor and manage fish and fisheries and mitigate emerging threats.



National assessment of the protected nurse shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) population in Belize

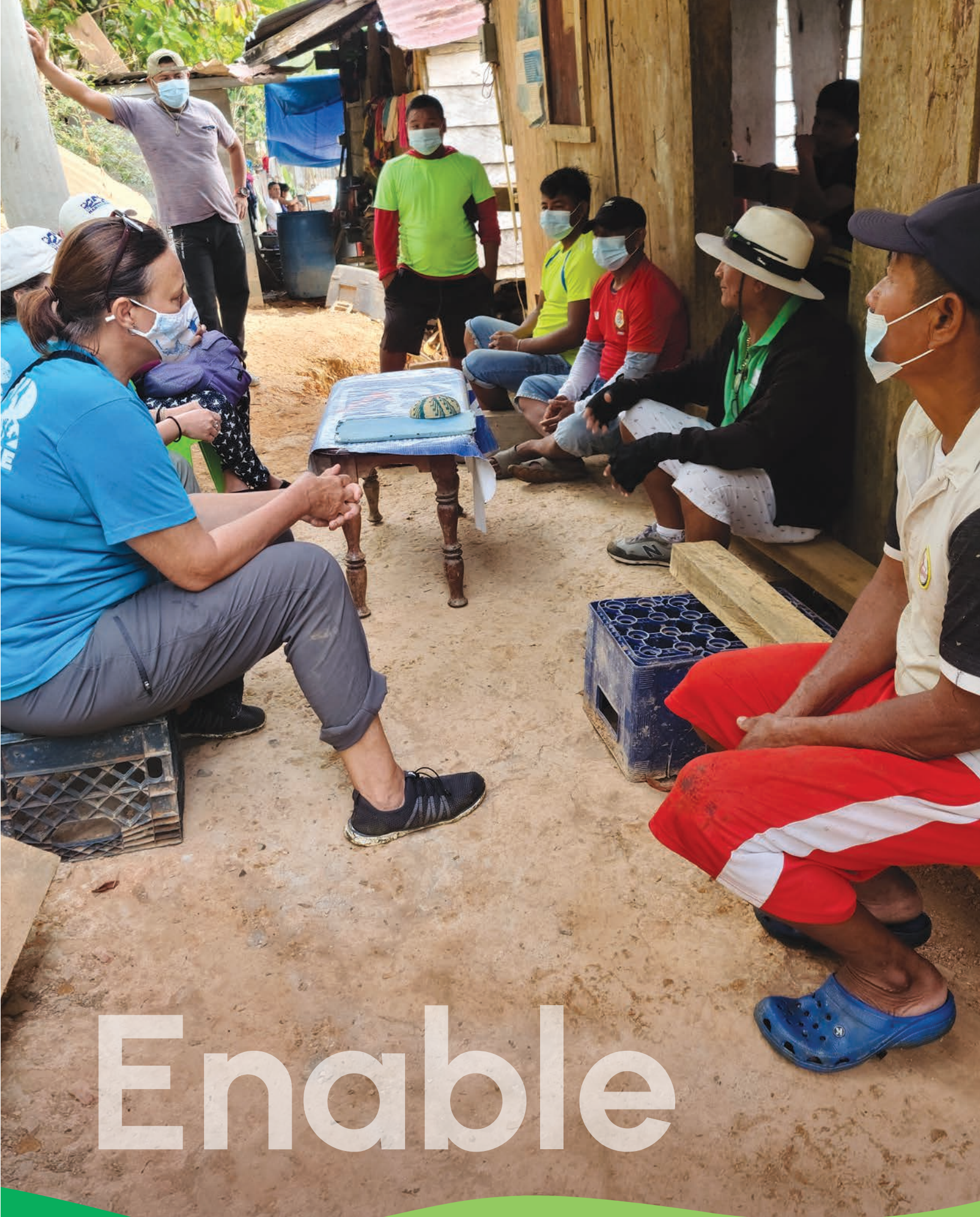


Estimated nurse shark population size in Belize

Conducted the first national assessment of the protected nurse shark population in Belize. Results estimate the population to range between 3,858 to 14,375 nurse sharks. This data provides a baseline to guide and monitor the success of future safeguarding efforts.

Highly comprehensive study monitoring marine life inhabiting the protected areas of Panama

With restricted field work, our team had ample time to analyze data, including the first highly comprehensive study monitoring marine life inhabiting the protected areas of Panama. Study sites included the Guna Yala Comarca, Coiba National Park, Bocas del Toro, and the remote Darien province. Our researchers working with trained traditional fishers and local university students assessed the diversity, abundance, and distribution of several threatened taxa including sharks, rays, marine turtles, and large finfish. We used a range of tools including Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs), snorkeling transects, side-scanning sonars, and fisheries catch landings. Tools utilized were dependent on field conditions and water visibility. Special focus was given to migratory corridors between protected areas that strongly contribute to the survival of species.



Enable

Building local capacities

Creating a large cohort of marine stakeholders empowered to conduct sound science is critical to sustained, local, and scalable conservation initiatives. We accomplish this by training students, traditional fishers, and partners in standardized scientific field methods, and then facilitate their horizontal transfer of knowledge to train subsequent groups. Coastal communities in developing nations rely heavily on fisheries to support livelihoods. Participation in our monitoring research further reduces fisher dependence on fishing through supplemented income, promotes peer-to-peer training, improves knowledge of science and monitoring strategies, and fosters important dialogue concerning fishery health and management. Through long-term

investment in local communities, we build relationships and trust conducive to the mutual exchange of knowledge and a stronger understanding of the many socio-economic and environmental drivers of wildlife loss and fisheries declines. This cultivates win-win scenarios, incorporating valuable traditional knowledge into our research to generate primary data and long-term monitoring of fish and fisheries for community-driven fisheries management.

Over the course of 2020 and 2021, we put our organizational ethos into action through several initiatives outside of our standard marine megafauna monitoring training conducted with more than 325 fishers to date.



Initiatives

Supporting our fisher partners through the pandemic

With the pandemic-related interruption of fieldwork and restrictions imposed on fishing, our fisher partners were unable to provide for their families. With the support of our generous donors, we sprung into action and provided support to 22 fisher partner families representing nearly 100 individuals in Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Panama, and Cape Verde for the most restrictive five months of the pandemic. Additionally, we employed 18 of our fisher and captain partners when field-based monitoring resumed. Our fisher partners are often established leaders within their communities with profound knowledge of the sea and have a strong desire to better understand and protect their marine ecosystems.

These traits allow a powerful partnership to flourish, as fishers help us explore questions that often form the basis of scientific hypotheses, share their traditional knowledge, and direct our theoretical expertise and resources to meet community needs. Partnerships ensure conservation initiatives' relevance, success, and longevity. Ours is a longstanding relationship that we look forward to strengthening over the decades to come.



Championing legislation to save species

In late 2020 and 2021, Belize welcomed the passing of two significant laws into legislation for sustainable fisheries and the protection of threatened species. On November 5, 2020 national legislation in Belize was passed to ban the use and possession of gillnets in territorial waters. This is the result of a 20-year conscious effort by local fishers, the Belizean government, NGO partners, and the Coalition for Sustainable Fisheries. As a founding member of the Coalition, we contributed expertise and years of monitoring data supporting the urgent need for the ban. Gillnets are long, microfilament nets suspended vertically in the water column, creating an entangling wall that indiscriminately captures fish and marine megafauna. These nets impose severe threats due to their sheer size and often irresponsible use, resulting in significant reductions in the abundance and diversity of sharks, and continued threats to protected species such as marine turtles and manatees. Gillnets also cause the loss of fishes of significant ecological and non-consumptive economic value to recreational sea anglers such as the protected bonefish, tarpon and permit. The benefits of this ban are extensive, primarily to the restoration of depleted fisheries, enabling fairer and more equitable fishing effort, enhanced ecotourism, improved food security, and

conservation of threatened species and protected areas. Adoption of this law also sets an important precedent for other nations to follow as it demonstrates that a well-coordinated stakeholder-driven approach to a ban on destructive fishing gear is achievable. Another exciting new legislation for Belize was the ban on shark fishing at Lighthouse Reef, Glover's Reef, and Turneffe Atolls, originally proposed by us in 2012. The ban extends two miles of the atolls' reef crest protecting 1,500 square miles of critical shark nursery habitat. Sharks are long-lived, slow growing, with low reproductive rates; thus even minimal fishing can greatly impact population numbers. With the help of several dedicated fisher partners, our research team has collected over 19 combined years of baseline data for populations at Lighthouse Reef and Turneffe Atolls, the second-longest series of such data collection throughout the Caribbean. Project results contributed to the legislation and will be used to measure post-ban impact on shark populations. Surprisingly, we have already witnessed an increase in numbers following the COVID-19-enforced fishing restrictions and look forward to monitoring how the trend continues. This illustrates that when we give nature a break, it can come back.



Adding value to fish to give reefs a break

Micronesia's inshore fisheries are overfished due to an undervaluation of marine resources and the use of unsustainable gear. Local communities have expressed widespread interest in addressing this issue to ensure the sustainability of their fisheries and strengthen economic health. In a new venture, we are collaborating with fishers, fisher associations, fisheries managers and market fish sellers to improve the value of wild-caught fish in Pohnpei, Micronesia. Our main goal is to increase the incomes of fishing families and support the management and conservation of fish spawning aggregations. The project will reduce pressure on overfished inshore stocks and establish socio-economic processes scalable to other coastal communities and research sites.

Community-based fisheries management

Artisanal fisheries form an important economic sector in the southern Azuero Peninsula. Guided by both need and requests from the local community, we developed local capacities for managing and conserving Pedasí's coastal marine and fisheries resources. Together with local fishermen, captains, and monitors, we headed into the field to monitor fisheries catches in the ports of Playa Arenal, El Ciruelo, and Punta Mala. We also conducted fisheries-independent monitoring using Baited Remote Underwater Videos (BRUVs). Monitoring efforts collected data on over 7,246 fish of the 35 species sampled, noting high instances of yellow snapper and blue snapper. Most fish captured did not meet reproductive size, suggesting an unsustainable fishery. The study results were presented to the public in a final meeting with the Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP) and Azuero Sostenible. The meeting also provided a platform to receive community feedback and discuss future priorities for the area's fisheries and marine resources. This formative work provided the local community with a clear baseline assessment of their fishery and is the basis for their community-based fisheries management plan currently in development.

Strengthening foundations for marine tourism and conservation

When travel restrictions were lifted, we resumed capacity-building workshops with tourism guides, educators, and biologists in the Independent Indigenous region of Guna Yala, Panama. Marine tourism is an important source of revenue for Guna communities in the Narganá region. With best practices in place, its large archipelago of paradisiacal islands and fringing coral reefs have incredible potential as a sustainable economic alternative to extractive activities such as fishing and can be an added impetus for conserving habitats and biodiversity. These workshops aimed to improve wildlife encounter tourism practices, share wildlife biology and conservation information and best practices, and train a new cohort of community-based sea turtle monitors. Arcadio Castillo, MarAlliance's Community Officer, considers these informal workshops to be "of the utmost importance, since they are a way to transfer knowledge and so that people become aware of and sensitized to protect and conserve the sea and its resources, which offer us their services for free." Participants have expressed appreciation for the workshops and have even requested an expansion to include other marine tourism groups. We are proud to support the community's autonomous efforts in the mindful preservation of their valuable marine resources.



Inspire

Outreach

At the edges of our world are oceans swirling with awe-inspiring marine flora, fauna and fungi. These invaluable seascapes are under critical threat from the impacts of unsustainable fisheries, climate change, pollution, unregulated development, and more. To mitigate these challenges, we work to inform, educate and inspire individuals to connect with the oceans and champion marine life and conservation action. Programming takes the form of events, engaging activities, and social media campaigns targeting diverse audiences of youth, students, stakeholders, and the public in local and international communities. To meet these aims under the multiple constraints imposed by COVID-19, MarAlliance implemented a series of innovative, globally accessible outreach initiatives.



Public and community engagement

The future of our marine world rests in the hands of generations to come. Our team is committed to inspiring passion and motivating innovation in local youth across our sites. With the onset of COVID-19, accessibility to technology has become more necessary than ever. In 2020 with grant funding, we pivoted from in-person work with schools and students and initiated a pilot program aimed at supporting distance learning for our partnering communities and designing practical, marine-oriented lesson plans. Thirty tablets (ten per country) were distributed to students from rural and marginalized communities disproportionately affected by the global pandemic in Panama, Honduras and Belize to improve education access and connectivity.

The program received widespread positive feedback from students, educators and parents alike. “I have noticed she has gained a lot of knowledge about technology. I am amazed to see all the work she can now do,” reported one parent regarding their daughter’s ability to complete school work. This work was complemented by the development of short, interactive, marine-oriented lesson plans designed to align with the

national teaching curricula and inspire both discussion and a conservation ethic among local students and teachers. These lessons will be piloted in Panama in 2022. Shortly before the global pandemic, our teams reached thousands of students, educators, fishers, and the public through in-person seminars, training and workshops. Initiatives also included an ad campaign in Honduras, a shark sanctuary, that initially reached 1,230,000 individuals in public spaces fostering empathy for sharks, and the first shark museum exhibit in Honduras. Both of which were unfortunately interrupted by the pandemic. To accommodate restrictions, we shifted into virtual avenues of education, hosting several webinars and interviews across Belize, Honduras and Panama through our social media platforms. These events were open to the public and discussed several topics ranging from how communities were experiencing and responding to the impacts of COVID-19 to how we may maintain our connection to the marine world despite present limitations. The success of these initiatives will influence our future educational programming to ensure the utmost efficacy in supporting and inspiring local and international communities as advocates of the sea.

Building the next generation of marine conservationists

When Leyson Navarro and Hannah Martin recollect their experiences with MarAlliance, they are quick to highlight the supportive environment and inspiring leaders they encountered. As an undergraduate at the University of Panama, Leyson conducted the first fisheries’ assessment in his home of Guna Yala. Hannah collaborated with our team as part of her Master’s thesis with the University of Exeter, where we conducted the first Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) study of Coiba National Park, Panama to establish marine megafauna population baseline data. Leyson and Hannah gained key field skills, and their thesis results have helped to inform the next steps for conservation and management. In 2020 and 2021, we proudly supported four local undergraduate students completing their theses in Honduras and Panama, and four masters level students undertaking thesis projects remotely (using the data generated by local teams) within Belize, Honduras and Panama. Several of our team members also made measurable progress in their academic pursuits. Argelia Bustillo, our Research Officer in Honduras, received the prestigious Erasmus scholarship for 2 years of support for Master’s studies in France. Francesco Garzon (Research Officer in Cabo Verde) received a UK NERC scholarship to begin his Ph.D. studying shark populations at the University of Exeter. In the second year of her Ph.D., MarAlliance Technical Coordinator Ivy Baremore continues her influential work on deep-sea fisheries and their impacts on shark and fish populations. Monika Szymurska, Development Coordinator, also juggles her duties with the second year of her Ph.D. Our founder and Executive Director, Dr. Rachel Graham was awarded the Pew Marine Fellowship to support her work in developing information essential to both the preservation of shark populations and strengthened engagement of coastal fishing communities in shark research and conservation. By supporting students, we strive to foster the talents of the next generation of marine scientists and decision-makers. We are grateful for their commitment and contributions to marine science and look forward to following their journeys.



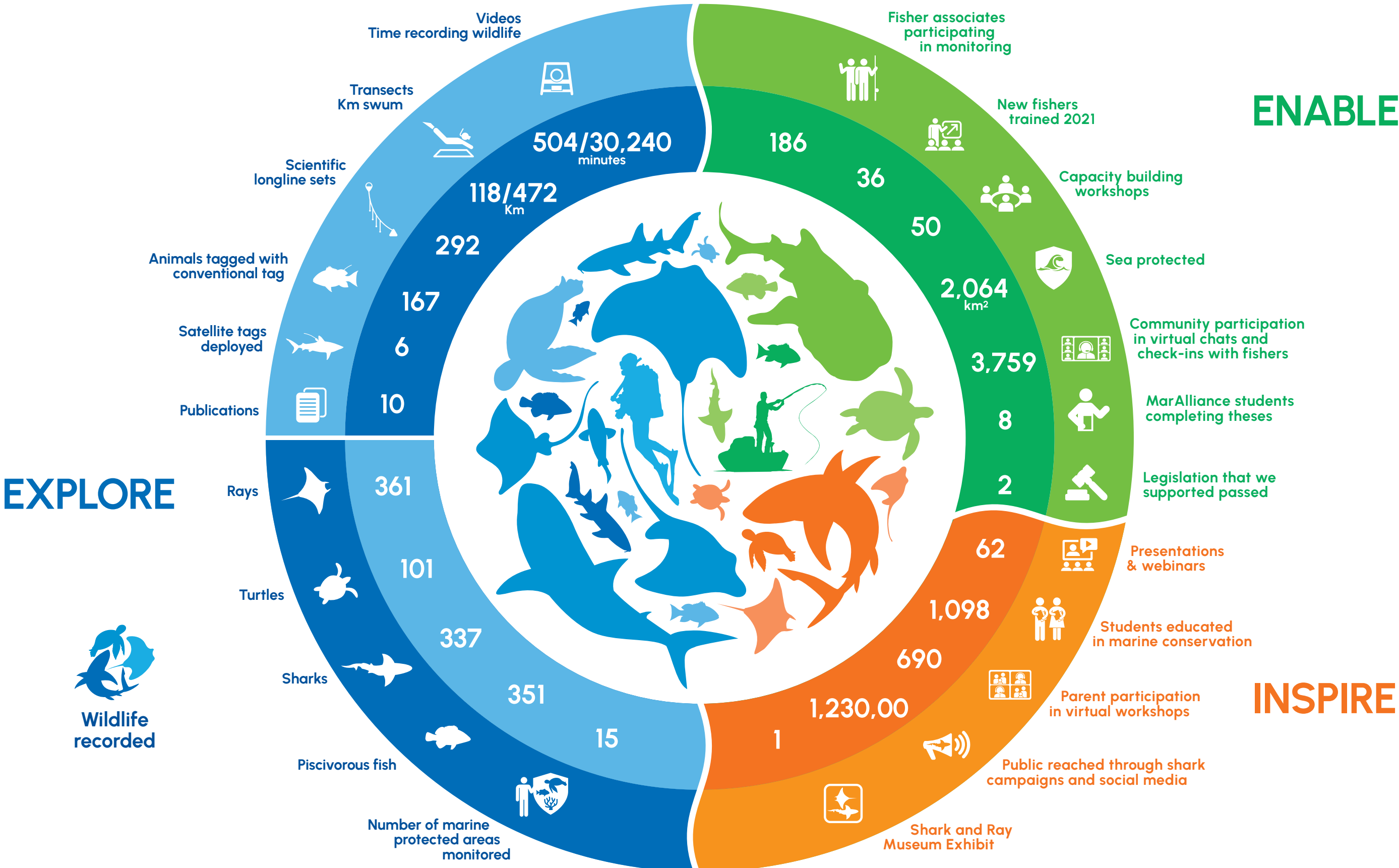
Community-led conservation

To address unprecedented socio-economic challenges presented by the global pandemic, the residents of Belize’s Caye Caulker, banded together with MarAlliance to form the Caye Caulker Strong (CCS) organization to support their community. Initial objectives were to source, mobilize and deliver food supplies and PPE to families most in need, sustaining up to 697 people over six months. As demand for food decreased, the group turned its focus to the creation of conservation-oriented jobs for island residents. Following consultations with the community and the village council, primary goals were identified and facilitated to target the improvement of coastal habitat through garbage clean-up, pollution mitigation, and a pilot mangrove replanting initiative.



The Caye Caulker Strong: Project Mangrove division planted 1,327 red mangrove propagules across 22 sites covering 1,480 square meters. Mangroves provide natural seawater filtration and host a wealth of biodiversity that significantly contributes to healthy fisheries. Mangroves also support climate change mitigation by absorbing significant amounts of carbon from the atmosphere and trapping sediment conducive to coastal erosion protection with their dense root networks. The project further engaged hundreds of the island’s residents through interactive mangrove education and stewardship activities. Residents were invited to visit planting sites and nurseries, as well as participate in the “pet mangrove” initiative, where residents and businesses adopted over 586 mangrove propagules with proper care guides to plant and nurture their own mangroves. The Caye Caulker Strong (CCS) initiative successfully accomplished its goals through a participatory and local ownership approach to coastal habitat conservation and community assistance. These objectives not only provided aid and employment for residents in need, but further strengthened coastal resilience, fishery health, and community advocacy for conservation.

OUR ACTIONS IN NUMBERS





Pivoting during the pandemic

The past two years have presented many challenges to the implementation of our work and conservation action, and placed into stark relief the necessity for adaptation. Bolstered by our devoted team, our determined partners and vested donors, we approached this novel landscape as an opportunity for growth and exploration beyond our accustomed practices and sectors. We pivoted to accommodate our partnering communities' arising needs and innovated our conservation efforts within the

considerable constraints to travel, field work and meetings imposed in our programmatic countries. The impacts of these adjustments ripple beyond the immediate needs to influence future methodology and mechanisms of support. Growth cannot occur without change; we will remain responsive to feedback to safeguard the relevancy and impact of our work. As we look back on our efforts, we fondly recount stories of resilience and hope for the future of our marine world.

Stories of hope

EXPLORE · Patience pays off

Have you ever seen a shark smile? Perhaps not, but they certainly brought much-needed joy to our team of researchers and fisher partners in Belize. After over a year of COVID-19 imposed restrictions, we were able to return to fieldwork and check in on marine megafauna populations. Jamal Andrewin-Bohn, our Country Coordinator for Belize, described the day as "high energy" as the small crew of MarAlliance researchers and partnering fishers headed out to Turneffe and Lighthouse Reef Atolls. Their patience over the course of the pandemic paid off with the gift of discovering thriving shark populations. This was especially rewarding after a period of disheartening reductions in shark abundances prior to the pandemic, and fueled greater motivation to protect our seas. We will continue to monitor these populations and provide support for their conservation.

ENABLE · Diving for our corals

The Guna Yala region is home to some of Panama's healthiest and most extensive coral reefs. As part of their commitment to maintaining this ecological wealth, the indigenous Guna communities enlisted the support of MarAlliance to conduct the first coral reef census in the comarca in over 20 years. As part of this initiative, we were keen to increase the scuba diving capacities of our Guna partners and supported training for community members and an exchange to another MAR site, Coiba National Park, to ensure ownership in the monitoring of their reefs. Data will be used to assess the impacts of climate change on reef health and stability when compared to baseline data collected two decades previous by an external institution. We are excited to be facilitating these capacity-building and timely monitoring initiatives and hope to secure funding to undertake large-scale reef monitoring in 2022.

INSPIRE · Art for communities and oceans

When the COVID-19 pandemic restricted tourism, the communities of Guna Yala, Panama lost a main source of revenue. The indigenous women of Guna Yala met this challenge with creative resilience. To support their community, 20 women working with our Community Coordinator Arcadio Castillo and National Coordinator Megan Chevis were hired to craft intricate needlepoint masks displaying traditional Molas artwork depicting the region's threatened megafauna including rays, sawfish, and turtles. The masks were sold worldwide providing several fishing communities of the Guna Yala autonomous indigenous region with much needed PPE, food, and fishing gear. In 2021, at the request of the community, proceeds from sales funded several workshops on marine tourism and best practices to ensure the sustainability of their fisheries and tourism trade. We will continue to collaborate with local leaders, women artisans, and communities to support these locally-led activities and conservation goals.



Our allies

We could not do our conservation work without the support of our amazing supporters and partners. Thank you!

Partners

Belize

- Fishers and tour guides
- Belize Audubon Society
- Belize Fisheries Department
- Hol Chan Marine Reserve
- Sarteneja Association for Conservation and Development
- Southern Environmental Association
- Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association
- University of Belize / Environmental Research Institute

Cabo Verde

- Fishers and tour guides
- Associação de Pescadores e Pecheras de Boavista
- Direcção Nacional do Ambiente
- Fundação Tartaruga

Honduras

- Fishers and tour guides
- Bay Islands National Marine Park
- Bay Islands Conservation Association
- Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura – DIGEPESCA
- Instituto de Conservación Forestal (ICF)
- Instituto Hondureño de Turismo
- Roatán Marine Park
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras

Mexico

- Fishers and tour guides
- Colegio de la Frontera Sur (Ecosur)
- Comisión de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)
- Cooperativa de Pesca Cozumel
- Fisher Cooperatives José María Azcorra
- Langosteros del Caribe
- Sociedad Cooperativa Banco Chinchorro

Micronesia FSM

- Fishers and tour guides
- Conservation Society of Pohnpei
- Micronesia Conservation Trust
- Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Panama

- Fishers and tour guides
- Asociación de Estudiantes Kunas Universitarios (AEKU)
- Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá (ARAP)
- Azuero Sostenible
- Bocas Hope Spot
- Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Humano (CENDAH)
- Coiba AIP
- Instituto de Investigación y Desarrollo de Kuna Yala (IIDKY)
- MarViva
- MiAmbiente
- The Darklands Foundation

UK & Europe

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- University of Amsterdam
- University of Exeter
- Wild Nature Press

USA

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- NOAA Fisheries
- Texas A&M
- The Wildlife Conservation Network
- University of South Carolina Aiken

Supporters

- Acton Family
- Adventure Travel Conservation Fund
- Air Fund
- Amigos del Mar
- AmazonSmile
- Bank Of America
- Beagle Charitable Foundation
- Belize Aggressor
- Belize Dive Haven
- Blackbird Caye
- Canada Embassy
- Central American Marine Conservation
- Chevron
- Coiba Dive Center
- Conservation Food and Health Foundation
- Denver Foundation
- Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
- Disney Conservation Fund
- Fondation Ensemble
- Grober Foundation
- Harvey Family Foundation
- Just Giving
- Lapidus Foundation
- Leiden Foundation
- Maagoo's
- MAR Fund
- McDuck Foundation
- Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation

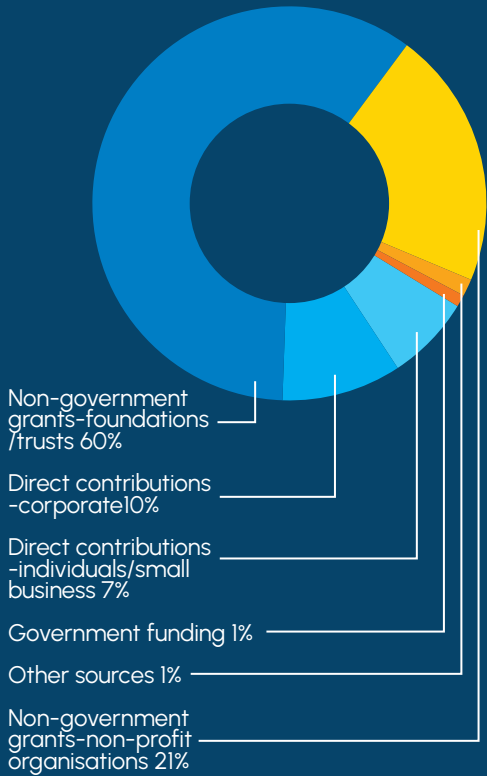
- Nature Trust of The Americas
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Network for Good
- New England Biolabs Foundation
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trust
- Ramon's Dive Center
- RF&G Insurance
- Roblox Match Gift Program
- Salesforce Match Gift Program
- SBB Charitable Foundation
- SEE Turtles
- Senacyt
- Sidney E. Frank Foundation
- Signature Travel Network
- The Houston Zoo
- The Oak Foundation
- The Whitley Fund for Nature
- Travel Elevates
- Turneffe Island Resort
- UNDP Small Grants Program
- University of Wisconsin La Crosse
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Treasury
- Wellsprings Foundation
- Wildlife Conservation Network
- Wildlife Tree LLC
- Winona Corporation

Financial reports

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 2020

REVENUE	
Direct contributions-individuals/small business	\$ 49,623
Direct contributions-corporate	\$ 69,585
Non-government grants-foundations/trusts	\$ 422,111
Non-government grants-non-profit organisations	\$ 149,926
Government funding	\$ 10,000
Other sources	\$ 6,968
Total Revenue	\$ 708,213
EXPENSES	
Program services	\$ 415,955
Administration and management	\$ 23,990
Fundraising	\$ 26,873
Total Expenses	\$ 466,818
Change in Net Assets	\$ 241,395

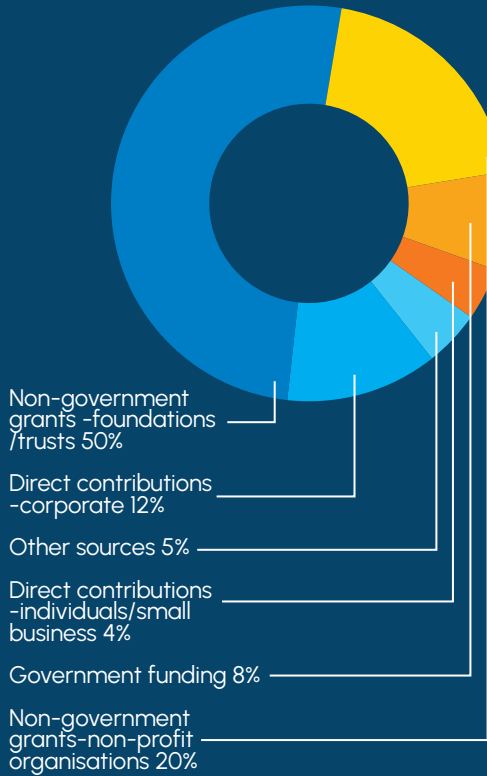
2020 TOTAL REVENUE



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES CALENDAR YEAR ENDING 2021

REVENUE	
Direct contributions-individuals/small business	\$ 35,221
Direct contributions-corporate	\$ 95,095
Non-government grants-foundations/trusts	\$ 389,701
Non-government grants-non-profit organisations	\$ 151,540
Government funding	\$ 61,350
Other sources	\$ 32,858
Total Revenue	\$ 765,765
EXPENSES	
Program services	\$ 573,824
Administration and management	\$ 36,900
Fundraising	\$ 23,686
Total Expenses	\$ 634,410
Change in Net Assets	\$ 131,355

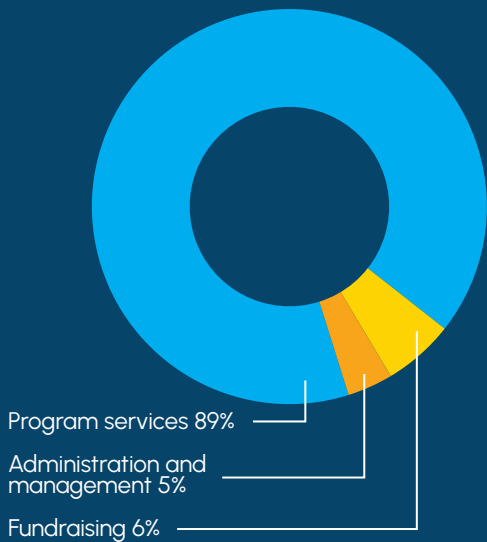
2021 TOTAL REVENUE



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 614,177
Prepayments and receivables	\$ 8,144
Property, plant and equipment	\$ 10,538
Total Assets	\$ 632,859
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total current liabilities	\$ 36,394
Beginning assets	\$ 355,070
Change in net assets	\$ 241,395
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 596,465

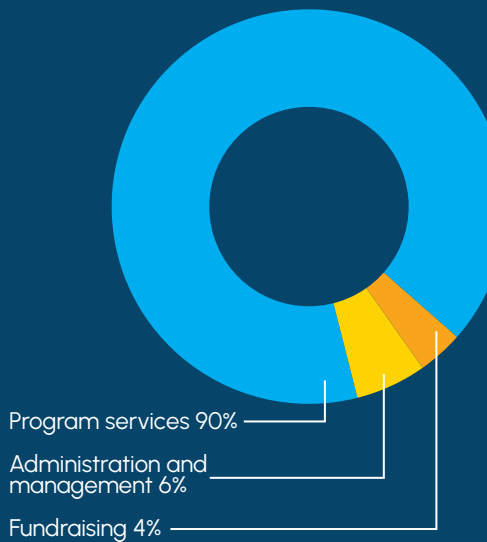
2020 TOTAL EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 729,981
Prepayments and receivables	\$ 10,324
Property, plant and equipment	\$ 8,592
Total Assets	\$ 748,897
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total current liabilities	\$ 21,077
Beginning assets	\$ 596,465
Change in net assets	\$ 131,355
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 727,820

2021 TOTAL EXPENSES



In memoriam



John Silver, Board Director

We lost one of our board members in 2021, John Silver. I was fortunate to also serve as the co-chair of the Jane Goodall Institute with John and when we rotated off that board I quickly suggested that John might be willing to bring his many skills to MarAlliance and he graciously assented. One of things I really appreciated about John was he was always willing to step in and help, even if it meant having to learn new things along the way. When it came to our board work, I think we thought of ourselves as each other's wingman and I could not have had a better one. I truly miss him.

Of course being my wingman sometimes meant John sometimes had to get out of his comfort zone. I vividly remember him on a MarAlliance field trip with his wife Gloria and son Tom in the open ocean swimming with whale sharks and manta rays. Being from Santa Fe, John was a bit of an anxious boater and ocean swimmer, but he put those concerns aside and dove in like he did whenever faced with challenges in his life.

I also echo a portion of Jane Goodall's tribute to John at a celebration of life ceremony this summer: "It is still hard for me to think that John is no longer with us on Planet Earth. He was always so alive, so healthy, such a wonderful friend...he sorted out so many problems, gave such sound advice..."

We all miss John, his contributions and support for our mission, but remember most of all the good times we shared with him!

Don Kendall, Board Director



Looking forward

We near the start of 2022 with invigorated impetus and wisdom, ready to embrace the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead. The past two years have granted us growth and shown the true strength of our team and partners in evolving through the unprecedented with tenacity and grace. The world has changed, and we have changed with it in stride.

What comes next you ask? We are excited to continue building alliances and representing MarAlliance at the UN Oceans Conference, Sharks International, and the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Panama this coming year. Our 2022 efforts will target the expansion of community-based fisheries landings, and democratization of this and other science including the continued monitoring of the spatial ecology of marine megafauna in the MesoAmerican Reef and in Panama, a full Belize Barrier Reef wide census for marine

megafauna, a 20 year post assessment of wildlife and corals in Guna Yala, further community-based work to secure a future for sawfish in Panama, fine scale assessments of small-scale fisheries in Panama's Pacific coast and commercially important fish species and impacts of net ban and shark fishing restrictions legislations in Belize.

Our accomplishments are not possible without the generous support of our donors and partners. Your investment in us has enabled our work in the protection and re-wilding of marine wildlife and their critical habitats, and collaborations with dependent human communities. We are immensely grateful to all who have accompanied us on our journey over the past seven years. We look forward to your partnership in the conservation of marine wildlife for decades to come.



Thank you for joining us in
our goal to rewild the oceans

An underwater photograph showing three sharks swimming in clear, turquoise water. The sharks are positioned in the upper half of the frame, swimming towards the right. Below them, a dense bed of green seagrass covers the ocean floor. The lighting is bright, creating a vibrant scene.

**"I feel that MarAlliance supports sustainable development and growth. Still supporting fishing while educating and protecting. Beautiful balance."
Blake M.**

**"I support MarAlliance because of their commitment to community-based marine conservation and ensuring local fishers are stakeholders in conservation outcomes."
Tommy S.**

Your gifts and donations, small and large, help us to rewild our oceans!

www.maralliance.org/donate



www.maralliance.org
info@maralliance.org



MarAlliance is registered as a non-profit in the United States (501(c)3, EIN: 46-4381820),
in Belize, Cabo Verde and Panama