

2022

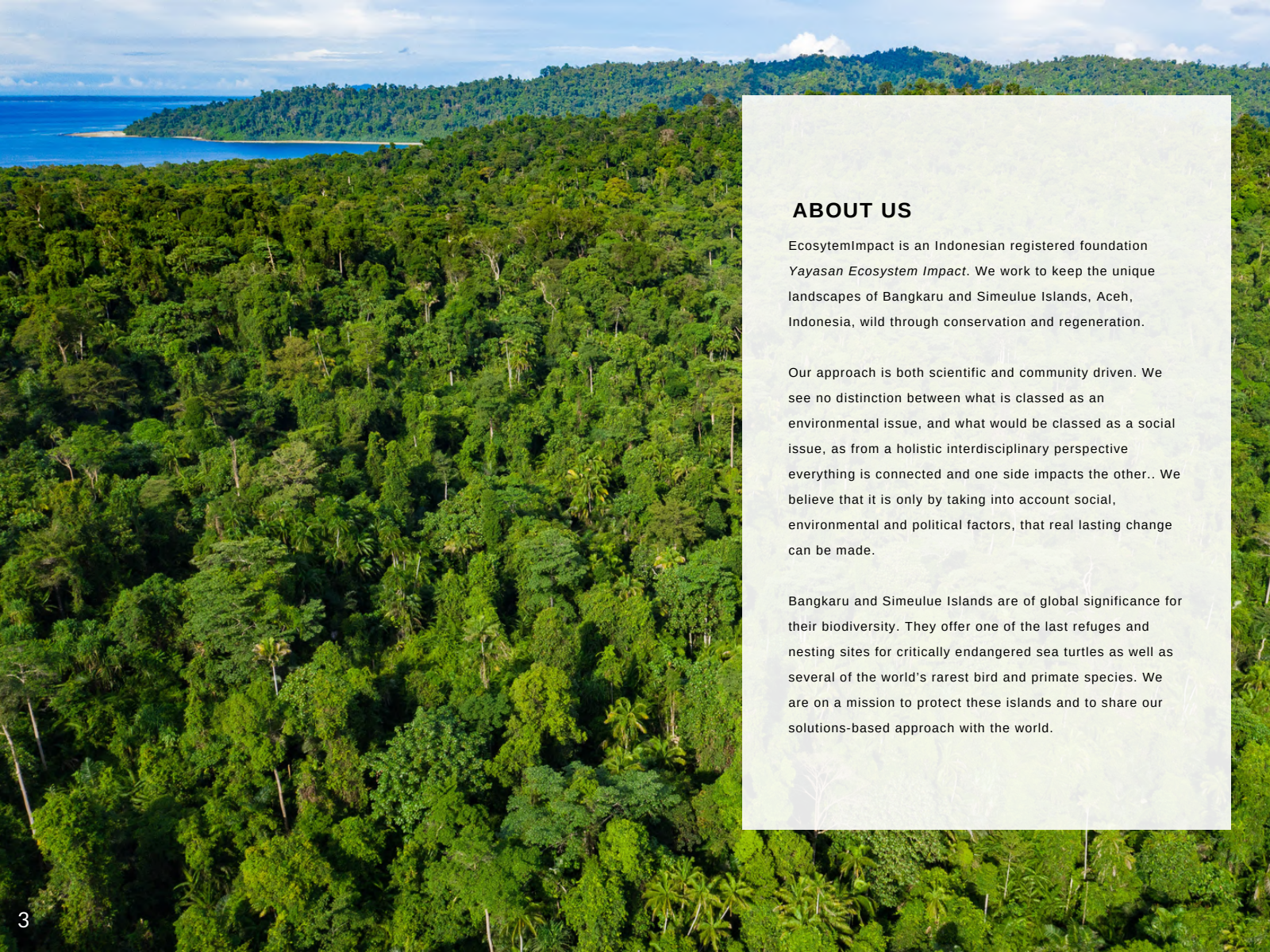
ANNUAL REPORT



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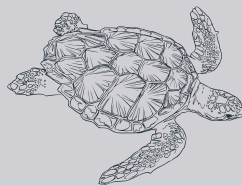
ABOUT US

EcosystemImpact is an Indonesian registered foundation *Yayasan Ecosystem Impact*. We work to keep the unique landscapes of Bangkaru and Simeulue Islands, Aceh, Indonesia, wild through conservation and regeneration.

Our approach is both scientific and community driven. We see no distinction between what is classed as an environmental issue, and what would be classed as a social issue, as from a holistic interdisciplinary perspective everything is connected and one side impacts the other.. We believe that it is only by taking into account social, environmental and political factors, that real lasting change can be made.

Bangkaru and Simeulue Islands are of global significance for their biodiversity. They offer one of the last refuges and nesting sites for critically endangered sea turtles as well as several of the world's rarest bird and primate species. We are on a mission to protect these islands and to share our solutions-based approach with the world.

Selaut Ranger Project



0 14 28 42

kilometers

Scale 1:1180916

Created by: EcosystemImpact



Linggam Island Songbird Reintroduction

Mahi-Mahi Resort



āluān organic coconut oil

Locally Managed Marine Area

EcosystemImpact
Songbird Breeding,
Office & Garden



Coral Restoration

Babi and Lasia Community
Rangers

Bangkaru Ranger Project



- EcosystemImpact Project Site
- Mahi-Mahi ResortPoint
- āluān

BANGKARU RANGER PROJECT

At 6,400 hectares Bangkaru maintains 100% primary old growth rainforest cover, making it one of Indonesia's largest remaining entirely primary rainforest islands. The island's beaches are home to Western Indonesia's largest green sea turtle rookery and an important nesting site for leatherback sea turtles; along with being home to Critically Endangered bird species. Bangkaru is the last remaining stronghold for Nias hill myna, which are now extinct throughout much of their historical range, including Nias Island.

Although all sea turtle species have been protected by law in Indonesia since 1990, the economic opportunities of the turtle egg trade in combination with the remoteness of the island make it necessary to deploy rangers on the island in order to protect the nests. Before the implementation of the project, close to 100% of nests were poached. In 2022 we estimate 73,760 sea turtles hatchlings were protected from poaching.

Bird conservation in Indonesia is now a recognised as a global conservation concern, with many species and subspecies in serious decline along with multiple regional extinctions due to poaching. In 2022 we have worked to maintain a highly reduced level of poaching and community conflict through community ranger, scientific monitoring, law enforcement, education, eco-tourism and community engagement.



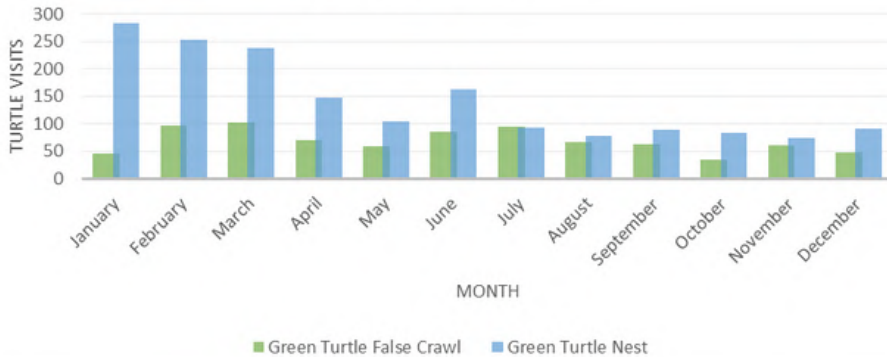


In 2022 we increased community engagement and environmental education in Haloban, the closest community to Bangkaru Island. Due to its close proximity, Haloban community regularly fish Bangkaru's waters, and it is Haloban's community members which pose the main threat to turtle eggs and songbirds through poaching activities. A key component of ensuring a reduced level of poaching and community support is through community engagement, access and environmental education.

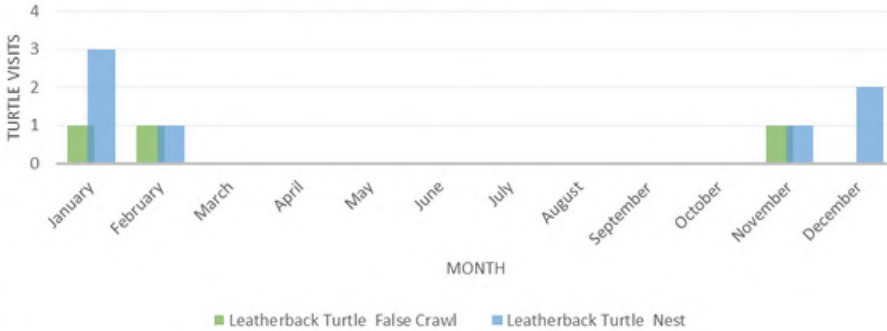
By increasing the local access to environmental education and experiences, in 2022 we have further installed an awareness of environmental issues within the community, in particular the younger members. As part of the project, we run the Local Ranger community involvement programme, which provides an immersive experience and salary for local community members to build positive conservation ethic through engaging in the project. The Local Ranger scheme is one of the elements of the project that we are most proud. It has led to very real positive changes in the way local communities act towards bird and turtle species and conservation issues.

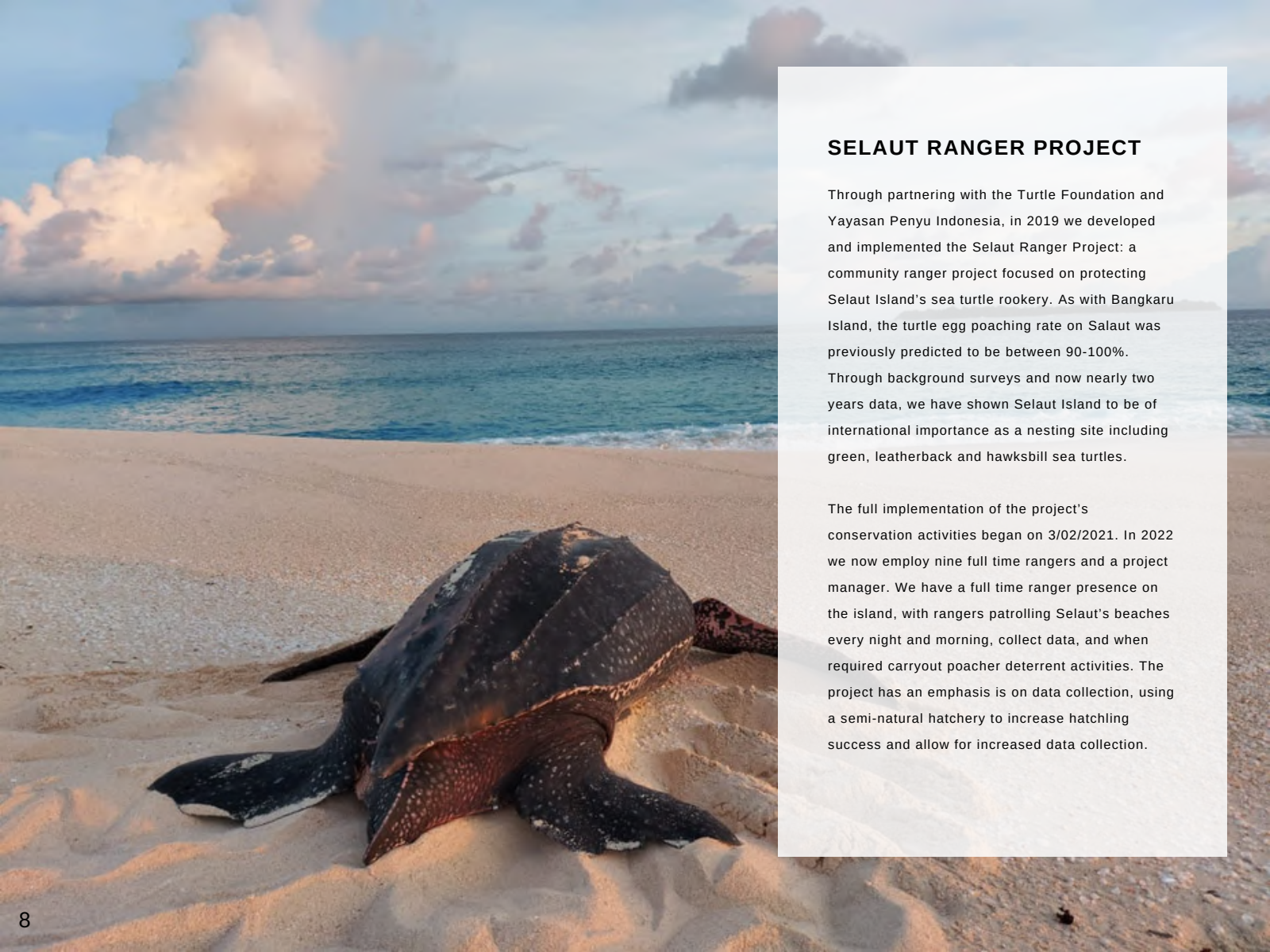
2022 has seen us focusing on developing our data collection methodology. In Q1 2023, in partnership with Zoo Liberec, we will implement SMART Patrol to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our data collection and analysis. Given data represented in the graphs below, we estimate between 98,080 and 122,600 hatchlings were released during 2022.

Green Turtle 2022



Leatherback Turtle 2022





SELAUT RANGER PROJECT

Through partnering with the Turtle Foundation and Yayasan Penyu Indonesia, in 2019 we developed and implemented the Selaut Ranger Project: a community ranger project focused on protecting Selaut Island's sea turtle rookery. As with Bangkaru Island, the turtle egg poaching rate on Selaut was previously predicted to be between 90-100%. Through background surveys and now nearly two years data, we have shown Selaut Island to be of international importance as a nesting site including green, leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles.

The full implementation of the project's conservation activities began on 3/02/2021. In 2022 we now employ nine full time rangers and a project manager. We have a full time ranger presence on the island, with rangers patrolling Selaut's beaches every night and morning, collect data, and when required carryout poacher deterrent activities. The project has an emphasis is on data collection, using a semi-natural hatchery to increase hatchling success and allow for increased data collection.



The project has an emphasis is on data collection, using a semi-natural hatchery to increase hatchling success and allow for increased access to data collection. Each nest is analysed for egg count, hatchling success rate / failure, with hatchlings being weighed and checked before release.



SIMEULUE SONGBIRD PROJECTS

Indonesia has the highest number of threatened bird species in Asia and the second highest in the world. Birds are the most common pets in Indonesia, and therefore poaching (often illegally) and trading of birds is a very common practice, with many species and subspecies being driven to the edge of complete or regional extinction.

Simeulue and surrounding islands are home to high levels of endemic, endangered and critically endangered bird species that are seriously affected by illegal and unsustainable trade.

Our songbird conservation projects aim to reestablish wild populations of Simeulue's most endangered songbirds, through where necessary captive breeding projects; translocation and reintroduction; community monitoring and ranger projects; and environmental education to raise local awareness of the Asian songbird crisis.

SONGBIRD BREEDING

White-rumped shama are one of the most highly prized and therefore heavily targeted songbirds in Indonesia. Barusan shama are subspecies of white-rumped shama, endemic to the West Sumatran or Barusan Archipelago which are variably classed as a separate species. Barusan shama are classed by the IUCN Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (ASTSG) and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Silent Forest Campaign as near-extinct subspecies.

Our conservation songbird breeding project is the only project focusing on Barusan shama, and is therefore saving this unique subspecies from extinction in the wild.

With continued breeding success in 2021, in 2022 we increased our capacity through the development of two new aviary blocks. This doubled our housing and breeding capacity from eight aviary rooms to 16. The third and largest aviary block has been purposely designed for Simeulue hill myna, an equally threatened subspecies of hill myna endemic to Simeulue. In 2023, EcosystemImpact aims to gain permits - as hill myna are a protected species under Indonesian law - to house and breed Simeulue hill myna.



LINGGAM ISLAND SONGBIRD REINTRODUCTION

Linggam Island is a small island located 1.2 kilometers off mainland Simeulue, and is included in the Nasreuhe Village area, Central Simeulue. The island consists of secondary forest and a semi-natural coconut plantation leased and managed by āluān, and is therefore a secondary forest vegetation community. Through an EcosystemImpact led bird survey in June 2021, Linggam was highlighted as one of the most promising potential release sites for Barusan shama.

Linggam island is known to have been within the historical range of both Simeulue hill myna and Simeulue Barusan shama. Islands are considerably easier to guard than mainland forest locations greatly reducing the poaching threat and, as Linggam is currently leased by āluān, there is a team of āluān staff constantly posted on the island. We are in the process of developing a community ranger project, employing members of local communities as conservation rangers and law enforcement agents to monitor and collect data on the released birds.





ĀLUĀN PARTNERSHIP

EcosystemImpact and āluān were established alongside each other. Together, the two organisations utilise regenerative business and traditional conservation tools in the Simeulue and Banyak Islands to save ecosystems and wildlife from extinction.

Āluān produces some of the world's highest quality organic certified coconut oil at our processing facility on Simeulue Island and sells direct to food and cosmetics manufacturers globally. Direct relationships and regenerative farmer support with farmers means higher quality produce, higher and more stable farmer incomes, and reduced farmer-driven deforestation.

Together we work with communities within chosen coconut replanting locations to develop community engagement and environmental ranger projects alongside regenerative agriculture with āluān.

EcosystemImpact and āluān are working with 400 farming families in 2126 ha to build a regenerative organic coconut supply web with four integrated components:

1. Conservation of Critically Endangered Wildlife and Forest
2. Investing in smallholder coconuts farms and farmers, including revitalisation and replanting and appropriate technology and traceability systems. We are piloting a data and traceability systems app called Barefoot.
3. Prioritising Women, Job-Creation and Production at Origin through āluān's production facility on Simeulue Island.
4. Direct to Buyer Traceability and Certification through āluān sales.



MAHI-MAHI RESORT

Founded alongside EcosystemImpact, Mahi-Mahi Resort is an ecologically conscious resort based on Simeulue. We share a base, with our office, garden and songbird breeding project being within Mahi-Mahi's grounds.

Mahi-Mahi is Simeulue's most luxurious resort and provides all inclusive holidays, with a percentage of Mahi-Mahi's profits going directly back into EcosystemImpact's conservation work.

BABI AND LASIA COMMUNITY RANGER PROJECT

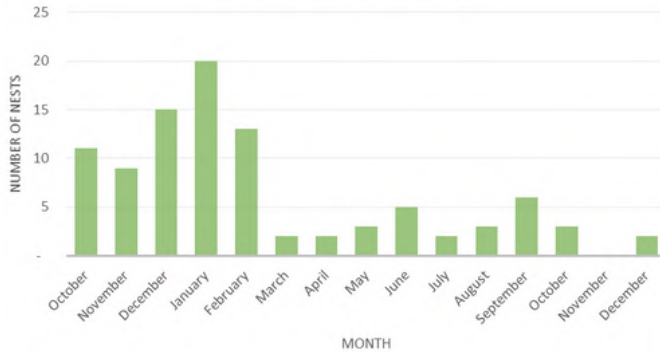
Babi and Lasia are two uninhabited neighbouring rainforest islands of which both maintain close to 100% primary forest cover. As two deep sea islands that have never been connected to mainland Sumatra, Babi and Lasia are home to high levels of high levels of endemism, with two endemic mammal subspecies, the Lasia long-tailed macaque and Lasia lesser false vampire bat; and four endemic bird subspecies, Babi black-naped monarch, Lasia Barusan shama, Babi green imperial pigeon, and Babi red-breasted parakeet. The Islands are also one of the last remaining places to have extant populations of IUCN Critically Endangered Nias hill myna and silvery pigeon.

Through the Babi and Lasia Community Ranger Project, we have piloted an innovative sustainable fishing enterprise which supports local fishing teams to increase the sustainability of their fishing methods, whilst concurrently supporting on-going data collection and monitoring work for conservation. During 2022, chosen fishing teams have been provided with a subsidy to cover their fishing trips costs if they fill in data sheets whilst fishing and patrolling the project area.

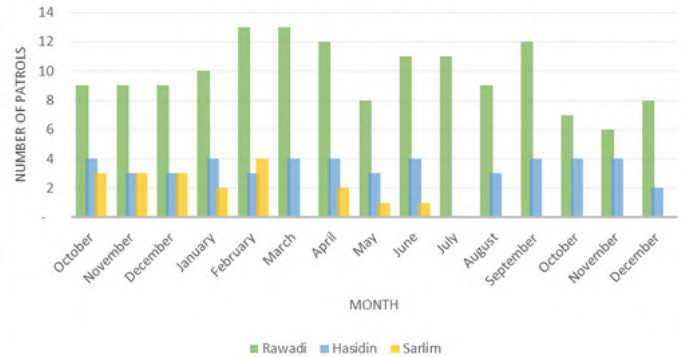


With 2022 being the project's first full year, our focus was on gaining as much data as possible to build an understanding of how best to further develop the project in 2023. Our focus was on learning about the activities which directly or indirectly threatened Babi and Lasia's threatened and endemic species. In 2023, we will develop a full ranger camp and presence on the islands, further contributing to the protection of these unique islands.

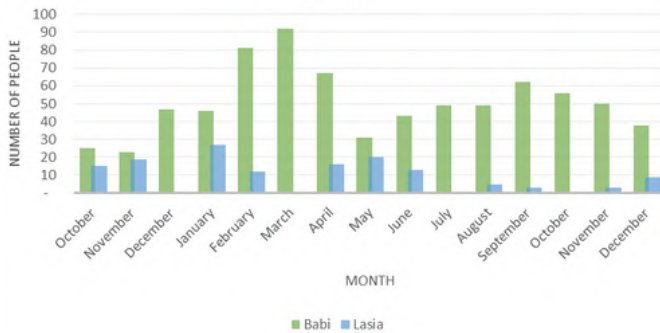
Turtle Nesting Activity



Community Patrols

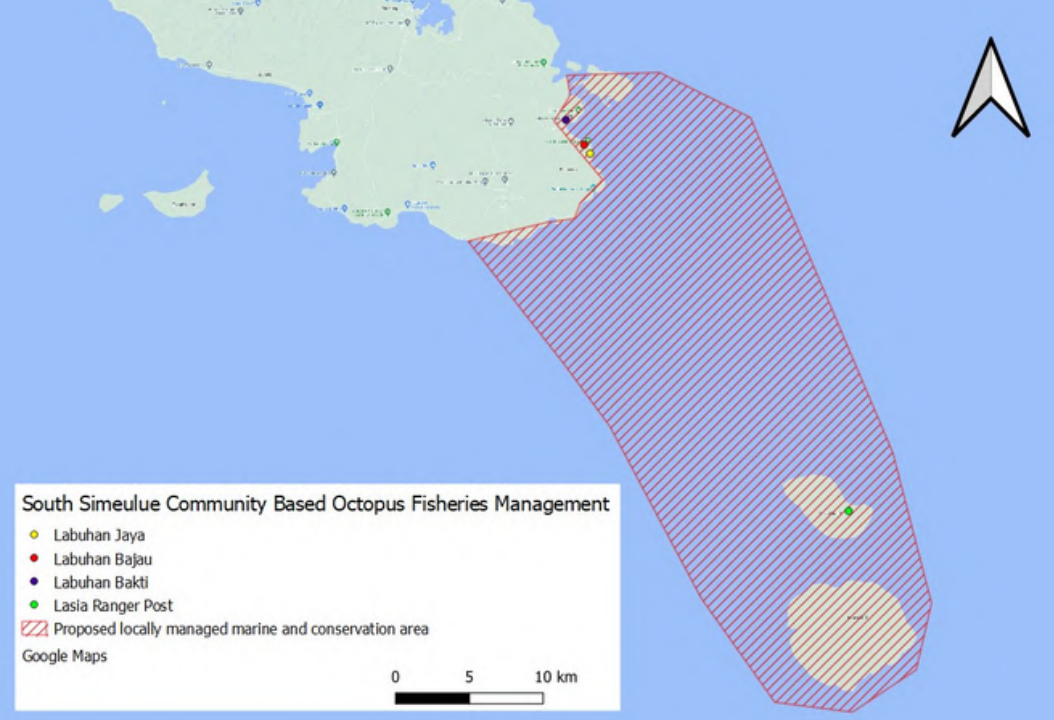


People Visits



Birds Poached





SOUTH SIMEULUE LOCALLY MANAGED MARINE AREA

In Q4 2021 / 2022, in partnership with Blue Venture and sister organisation Yayasan Pesisir Lestari, we started developing a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) in South Simeulue.

This project will work with local communities to sustainably manage local fish stocks, whilst creating temporary no catch zones, based on data collected by local fishers. As an initial indicator species, the project utilises octopus to work to collect data on the effectiveness of temporary closure areas. This data is then presented back to local communities through data feedback sessions and community engagement.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

During 2022 we increased our focus on community engagement and environmental activities. We acknowledge that a focus on community engagement is crucial to having as lasting impact, as it is only through installing within local community a sense of pride and passion for the species we work to protect, that they will work with us to achieve our conservation goals. Through cooperating and collaborating with local communities, people are also brought into our project and able to benefit from them, for example through alternative livelihood creation and eco-tourism.

CORAL RESTORATION

Through employing members of the local community, and providing training and education, we facilitate the protection of Simeulue's reefs by Simeulue's fishing communities.

In 2022 we have identified secure locations and are in the process of building coral nurseries.

Government agreement and the required permits for the project have now been granted at both the local village, Simeulue Island and provincial level. Simeulue and local level support and permits have been gained through government and community engagement activities and events, with communities having played a key role in the project's development.

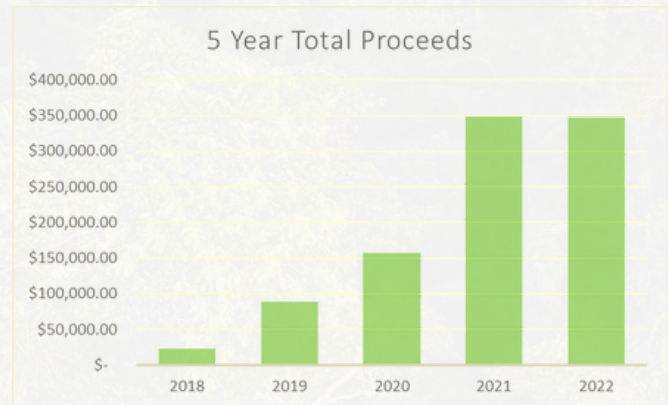
Replanting work is scheduled to start in Q1 2023, with an initial government supported event to create awareness of the project.



GROWTH AND FUTURE

The last five years has been an exciting time for us, we have grown from an organisation employing three people, assisting with the management of one joint project, to 41 staff employed across eight different projects. Although the last two years have brought new challenges with the rise and fall of COVID, we are proud to have made a positive difference to the protection of Simeulue and Bangkaru Island's threatened and endemic species.

In 2023 we plan to continue to develop and grow our projects, with a particular focus on reintroducing our conservation bred Barusan shama, the implementation of a full terrestrial based ranger team on Babi and Lasia, improving the Bangkaru Ranger Project's data collection and analysis methodology, and the continued growth of our partnerships with Mahi-Mahi Resort and aluan.



TOGETHER WE HEAL OUR PLANET

A special thank you to Paul Hilton, Alex Westover and Maxime Champigneulle for providing the photos used within this report.

We could not do any of the work we do without the generous support of all our partners:





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