PROJECT SEAGRASS

England & Wales · Charity number 1162824

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2015-07-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Project Seagrass Unit 1 Garth Drive Brackla Industrial Estate Bridgend Mid Glamorgan CF31 2AQ
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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE TO ADVANCE THE CONSERVATION OF SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH EDUCATION, INFLUENCE, RESEARCH AND ACTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WIDER PUBLIC BOTH NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE.

Activities: Project Seagrass is committed to saving the worlds seagrass. Project Seagrass works towards the conservation of seagrass ecosystems through community, research, and action, both in the UK and globally.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Australia
- France
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Scotland
- Spain
- Thailand
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,825,775	£1,360,208	£1,222,184	22
2024-03-31	£1,290,305	£1,270,587	£756,617	20
2023-03-31	£932,638	£866,237	£738,508	17
2022-03-31	£826,826	£371,989	£672,107	8
2021-03-31	£365,622	£174,484	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rosslyn Barr	Chair	2020-12-15
David King		2023-06-09
Dr BEVIS MATTHEW Watts		2022-12-14
Dr Sarah Pilgrim-Morrison		2021-03-10
Laura Audrey Evans		2024-09-09
Michael David Furness		2020-12-15
Robert Christian Raimes		2023-06-09

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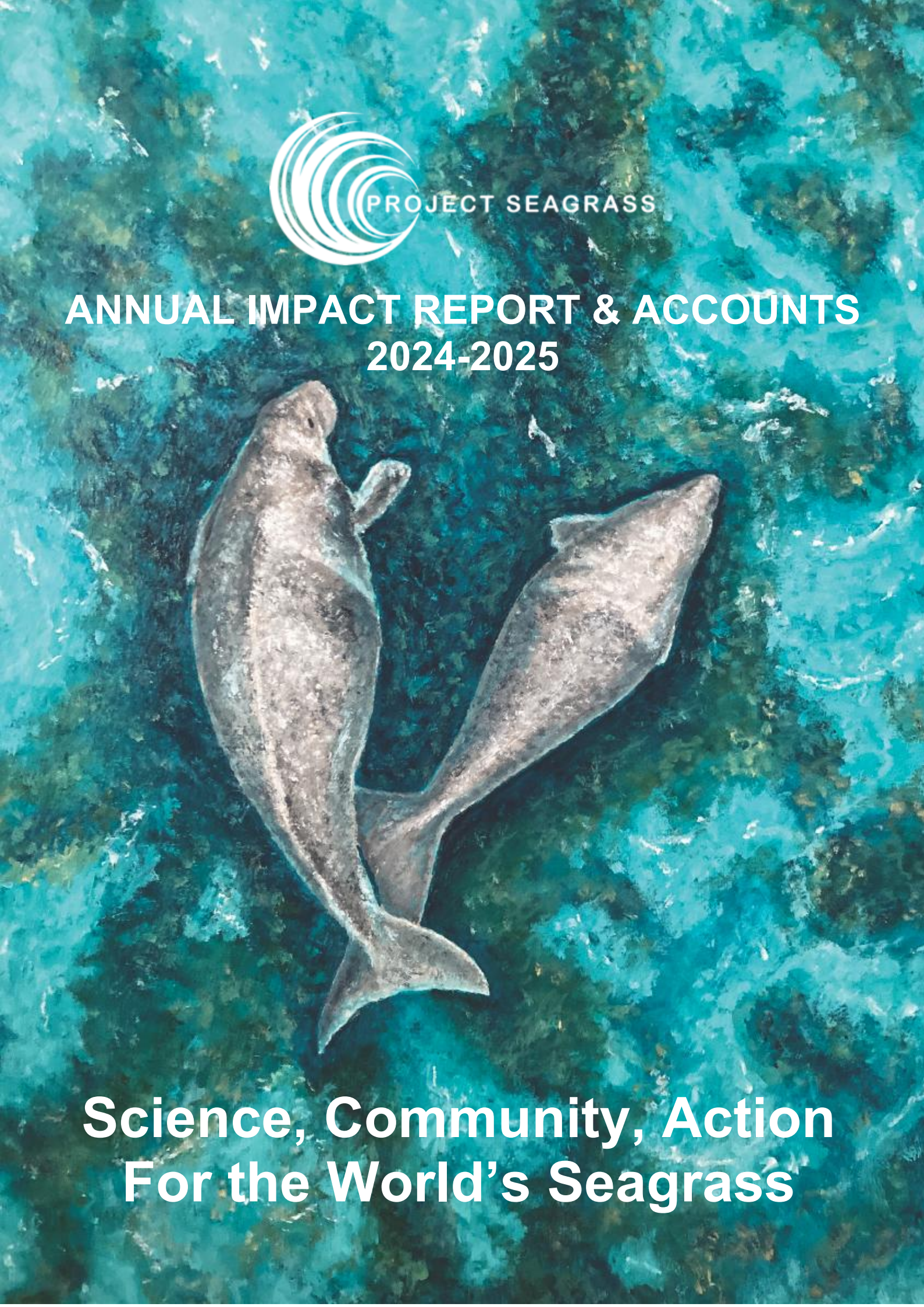
PROJECT SEAGRASS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162824

Accounts

PROJECT SEAGRASS

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2024-2025



Science, Community, Action For the World's Seagrass

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Message from our CEO

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
CEO

The period from April 2024 to March 2025 has been one of significant progress for Project Seagrass. Over these twelve months, our team, partners and supporters have continued to advance the science, innovation and community engagement needed to secure the future of this critical ocean ecosystem.

This year, I was proud to be part of Universities UK's *100 Faces* campaign, which celebrates first-generation students and the power of accessible education. Sharing my story was a reminder of the barriers many still face, and of how vital it is that higher education remains open to all. My own path into environmental science was made possible by these opportunities, and it continues to shape my commitment to supporting the next generation of ocean stewards.

A major highlight of the year was Project Seagrass' participation in the global ocean-policy arena. I was honoured to attend the Our Ocean Conference, where we had the opportunity to share our work, strengthen international partnerships and contribute to global discussions on nature recovery.

Here in the UK, we continued to deepen our research programmes, expand restoration and monitoring efforts and contributed to strengthening the Welsh National Seagrass Action Plan as a unifying framework for action. Interest from international partners in this coordinated approach has continued to grow, demonstrating the value of science-led strategy and strong collaboration.

We have also invested in improving the tools and data platforms that support open-access data and collaborative science, ensuring that researchers, practitioners and communities have access to the information needed to deliver effective action on the ground.

This report captures the progress made across all areas of our mission. None of it would have been possible without the remarkable commitment of our team and the support of our partners, funders and volunteers. I am grateful for everyone who contributed their expertise, energy and passion throughout the year.

As we look ahead, Project Seagrass remains steadfast in its commitment to evidence-based conservation, community-focused innovation and the partnerships needed to drive seagrass recovery at scale across the globe. We will continue to work towards the aims outlined in our 10-year strategy, focusing on the widely accepted global challenges for seagrass and look forward to sharing a halfway review and an evolving theme-based approach to achieving these aims in 2025-26.

Thank you for your continued support.

L. Cullen-Unsworth

Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
CEO, Project Seagrass

2024-25
Our year in numbers

£286K
in total donations received

7 seagrass conservation and restoration programmes

2.5m+
social media impressions

73%
of spend directly on achieving our mission

6 scientific research projects

Seagrass Recognition

100+
media articles

40k school children learned about seagrass

>1500
people engaged at public events

837 volunteers assisting with our work

Seagrass Mapping

223
citizen scientists helped map seagrass

1059
data points uploaded into seagrassSpotter

Conservation & Restoration

Completed the full life cycle growth of multiple generations of Zostera marina at our nursery

We fostered relationships with **159** individuals from **100** organisations through the Global Seagrass Nursery Network

200+ fishers engaged in our work to shape seagrass conservation

3 long term seagrass monitoring programmes

Seagrass Science & Leadership

15 academic publications & reports

19 students supported

10 events as keynote, expert panel or lead

Developed and led **1** major Europe-wide seagrass restoration research initiative

contributed to **3** major national or international strategic plans

Our year in science

Our experts led and contributed to **13** academic publications. Publications **led** by the Project Seagrass team are shown in bold.

- Societal value of seagrass from historical to contemporary perspectives. Foster et al., *Ambio* 2025 http://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02167-z
- **The road to seagrass restoration at scale using engineering. Unsworth & Rees, *Ecological Engineering* 2025 http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoleng.2025.107607**
- Conserving seagrass ecosystems to meet global biodiversity and climate goals. Duarte et al., *Nature Reviews Biodiversity* 2025 http://doi.org/10.1038/s44358-025-00028-x
- **Risks of habitat loss from seaweed cultivation within seagrass. Jones et al., *PNAS* 2025 http://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2426971122**
- **Stakeholder diversity matters: employing the wisdom of crowds for data-poor fisheries assessments. Jones et al., *Scientific Reports* 2025 http://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-84970-4**
- **Seagrass-Associated Biodiversity Influences Organic Carbon in a Temperate Meadow. O'Neill et al., Oceans 2024 http://doi.org/10.3390/oceans5040050**
- Co-benefits of and trade-offs between natural climate solutions and Sustainable Development Goals. Mariani et al., *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2807
- A Latitudinal Cline in the Taxonomic Structure of Eelgrass Epifaunal Communities is Associated With Plant Genetic Diversity. Gross et al., *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1111/geb.13918
- When fishers ask for more protection: Co-produced spatial management recommendations to protect seagrass meadows from leisure boating. Boucek et al, *Marine Policy* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106227
- **Ten golden rules for restoration to secure resilient and just seagrass social-ecological systems. Unsworth et al., *Plants People Planet* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1002/ppp3.10560**
- Rapid seagrass meadow expansion in an Indian Ocean bright spot. Floyd et al., *Scientific Reports* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-61088-1
- **Map and protect seagrass for biodiversity. Unsworth & Jones, *Science* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1126/science.adp0937**
- **New directions for Indigenous and local knowledge research and application in fisheries science: Lessons from a systematic review. Jones et al., *Fish and Fisheries* 2024 http://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12831**

scientific reports

www.nature.com/scientificreports

OPEN

Stakeholder diversity matters: employing the wisdom of crowds for data-poor fisheries assessments

Benjamin L. H. Jones, Rolando O. Santos, W. Ryan James, Samuel Shephard, Aaron J. Adams, Ross E. Boucek, Lucy Coals, Sophia V. Costa, Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth & Jennifer S. Rehage

Embracing local knowledge is vital to conserve and manage biodiversity, yet frameworks to do so are lacking. We need to understand which, and how many knowledge holders are needed to ensure that management recommendations arising from local knowledge are not skewed towards the most vocal individuals. Here, we apply a Wisdom of Crowds framework to a data-poor recreational catch-and-release fishery, where individuals interact with natural resources in different ways. We aim to test whether estimates of fishing quality from diverse groups (multiple ages and ... were better than estimates provided by homogeneous groups and wheth... number of individuals needed to capture estimates. We found ... subsampling combined with saturation principles ... sample size captured 75% of unique re... outperformed most estimat... as effective as la... holde...

Received: 27 February 2024 | Revised: 28 June 2024 | Accepted: 10 July 2024

DOI: 10.1002/ppp3.10560

Plants People Planet PPP

REVIEW

Ten golden rules for restoration to secure resilient and just seagrass social-ecological systems

Richard K. F. Unsworth[1,2] | Benjamin L. H. Jones[2,3] | Chiara M. Bertelli[1,2] | Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth[1,2] | Anouska F. Mendzil[1,2] | Lucy Coals[2,4] | Flo Taylor[2] | Bettina Walter[1,2] | Ally J. Evans[1,2] | Samuel C. Rees[1,2]

[1]Seagrass Ecosystem Research Group, Swansea University, Swansea, UK
[2]Project Seagrass, Bridgend, UK
[3]Department of Earth and Environment, Institute of Environment, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA
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Correspondence
Richard K. F. Unsworth, Seagrass Ecosystem ... Swansea University

Societal Impact Statement

Seagrass meadows are a globally important habitat subject to significant loss. As efforts to restore these sensitive habitats are hampered by their high cost and low levels of reliability, rigorous guidance is required to improve effectiveness and ensure they are cost-effective. Here, we define 10 golden rules for how we can undertake seagrass restoration. We do this by considering that for seagrass restoration to be successful, it needs to take place with people and not against people. The framework we present aims to direct efforts for seagrass restoration that are holistic and achieve broad goals for people, biodiversity and the planet.

Received: 31 August 2023 | Revised: 12 January 2024 | Accepted: 6 April 2024

DOI: 10.1111/faf.12831

WILEY

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

New directions for Indigenous and local knowledge research and application in fisheries science: Lessons from a systematic review

Benjamin L. H. Jones[1,2,3] | Rolando O. Santos[4] | W. Ryan James[2,4] | Lucy Coals[1,3,7] | Sophia V. Costa[2] | Aaron J. Adams[5,6] | Ross E. Boucek[2,5] | Jennifer S. Rehage[2] | Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth[1,3] | Samuel Shephard[8,9]

[1]Project Seagrass, Bridgend, UK
[2]Department of Earth and Environment, Florida Institute of Environment, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, USA
[3]Seagrass Ecosystem Research Group, ... of Biosciences, Swansea ...

Abstract

Social-ecological systems like fisheries provide food, livelihoods and recreation. However, lack of data and its integration into governance hinders their conservation and management. Stakeholders possess site-specific knowledge crucial for confronting these challenges. There is increasing recognition that Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) is valuable, but structural differences between ILK and quantitative ... assimilation of ILK into fisheries management, despite ... Conducting a systematic ...

10.1126/science.adp0432

Map and protect seagrass for biodiversity

Seagrass meadows—marine ecosystems that support biodiversity and provide a range of other ecosystem services—are globally in decline (*1*). Many species use seagrass meadows as foraging grounds, spawning grounds, and shelter, including migratory species such as brant geese, the dugong, and the green turtle (*2, 3*). Conserving these valuable ecosystems will require comprehensive global maps of their locations (*4*) and a better understanding of the species that depend on them (*3*).

At the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in February, parties passed a resolution that, for the first time globally, recognizes the role that seagrasses play in supporting migratory species and places the onus upon signatory states to ensure their conservation (*5*). Given that no other global convention explicitly considers the value of seagrass for supportin...

... and although glimmers of ... and equitable manner (*8*) for people and the planet, guided by evidence-based conservation and strong regulation. Complex interactions between local communities and nature (social-ecological systems) often take place in seagrass meadows ecosystems (*6*). Conservation finance solutions must benefit these communities directly rather than channelling funding to businesses or third parties.

The effectiveness of strategies such as ecosystem service credits depends on the availability of comprehensive seagrass maps. Although satellite remote sensing and underwater vehicles are improving, creating reliable maps will require multiple stakeholders, including the public. Indigenous people with local knowledge, citizen scientists, and researchers can all contribute information to the resolution's mapping goals. By developing partnerships that facilitate a transdisciplinary approach to conservation, the governments of COP14's signatory states can put seagrass on a path to global net gain (*6*).

R. K. F. Unsworth[1,2]* and B. L. H. Jones[2,3]

[1]Seagrass Ecosystem Research Group, Swansea University ...

Ambio 2025, 54:1289–1305

https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02167-x

KUNGL. VETENSKAPS AKADEMIEN

REVIEW

Societal value of seagrass from historical to contemporary perspectives

Nicole R. Foster, Eugenia T. Apostolaki, Katelyn DiBenedetto, Carlos M. Duarte, David Gregory, Karina Inostroza, Dorte Krause-Jensen, Benjamin L. H. Jones, Eduard Serrano, Rym Zakhama-Sraieb, Oscar Serrano

Received: 9 October 2024 / Revised: 23 February 2025 / Accepted: 3 March 2025 / Published online: 24 March 2025

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Abstract Seagrasses have been entwined with human culture for millennia, constituting a natural resource that has supported humanity throughout this history. Understanding the societal value of seagrass fosters appreciation of these ecosystems, encouraging conservation and restoration actions to counteract historic and predicted losses. This study overviews the plethora of seagrass use in h... ranging from spiritual and ... indirect food ...

2016; de los Santos et al. 2020). There are 72 spec... seagrass worldwide, covering subpolar to tropical ha... (Short et al. 2011). Their distribution enco... tered coastal environment... support exte...

PNAS · LETTER

Risks of habitat loss from seaweed cultivation within seagrass

Benjamin L. H. Jones, Johan S. Eklöf, Richard K. F. Unsworth, Lucy Coals, Marjolijn J. A. Christianen, Julian Clifton, Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth, Maricela de la Torre-Castro, Nicole Esteban, Mark Huxham, Narriman S. Jiddawi, Len J. McKenzie, Masahiro Nakaoka, Lina M. Nordlund, Jillian L. S. Ooi, and Anchana Prathep

Seagrass meadows are thought to reduce water column marine bacterial pathogens, with new data from Fiorenza et al. (1) suggesting that this function extends to reducing disease in seaweed cultivation by 75%. As a result, Fiorenza et al. (1) advocate scaling seaweed production within seagrass meadows globally, highlighting benefits to local livelihoods. We argue that this is premature and dangerous for ... and wider ecosystem functioning across ... area. Fiorenza et al. (1) do ... they aim ...

Some evidence suggests that the activity worsens important development identifiers such as income and health, particularly for women (9, 10), and where it has been implemented to reduce fishing pressure, seaweed cultivation has instead increased (and often just displaced) fishing activity.

Understanding what trade-offs exist before advocating for large-scale expansion of this and other coastal industries is fundamental. Learning from the past, premature calls to scale oil palm production as a "vehicle to eradicate rural poverty" have been devastating for biodiversity and ... communities. Given the rapidly increasing threats faced ... habitats and their need to support ... the risks posed by ... This

Ecological Engineering 215 (2025) 107607

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Ecological Engineering

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ecoleng

ELSEVIER

The road to seagrass restoration at scale using engineering

Richard K.F. Unsworth[a,b,*], Samuel C. Rees[a,b]

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

1. Introduction

Marine Policy 167 (2024) 106227

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Marine Policy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpol

ELSEVIER

When fishers ask for more protection: Co-produced spatial management recommendations to protect seagrass meadows from leisure boating

Ross E. Boucek[a,b,*], Kristin A. Anderson[a], Benjamin L. Jones[b,c], Jennifer S. Rehage[a,b]

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

1. Introduction

Communicating for impact

As Project Seagrass continues to grow, the 2024-25 financial year saw development of the organisation's first Communications Strategy, a key part of delivering on the ambitions of the 2022-2031 Strategic Plan. The Communications Strategy has four objectives which are aligned with and aim to support the achievement of the 6 aims of the Strategic Plan:

- To raise awareness of the importance of seagrass for people and planet and advocate for its protection and restoration To promote the use of SeagrassSpotter and the role that citizen science can play in supporting seagrass ecosystems
- To profile seagrass research and contribute to wider collaborative community working to save the world's seagrass
- To facilitate wider team involvement in the Communications function

As growing interest in seagrass continues, remaining true to the science and our values will be essential to maintain brand integrity.

Other communication milestones in 2024-25:

- We re-launched and grew the audience for our regular Project Seagrass newsletter
- We had over 200 entries for our Coldplay Creative competition (submitted artwork dotted throughout this report!)
- 12.5% growth in Instagram audience
- 8.9% growth in Facebook audience
- 45% growth in LinkedIn audience
- Over 2.5 million impressions across channels
- Six new British Sign Language signs developed for seagrass with Aram Atkinson (GreenGrass) and the Scottish Sensory Centre.
- Features in National press including The Guardian, ITV Cymru, and BBC.
- 61 blog articles uploaded to the Project Seagrass website.

Scientists restore vital seagrass but poor water quality threatens habitat

Green, green seagrass of home: Welsh nursery growing to save marine habitat

Two species grown in ponds in large-scale attempt to restore UK seagrass meadows, 90% of which have been lost

Wales at Six: A biodiversity special

Our aims

As we reflect on the period from April 2024 to March 2025, our work has remained firmly rooted in the ten-year strategy we launched as we entered our second decade as an organisation. That strategy defines the pathway toward our vision of a world in which seagrass meadows are thriving, abundant, and well managed for people and planet. At its heart sit six aims that guide how Project Seagrass carries out its mission—driving scientific excellence, empowering communities, informing policy, and championing the sustainable use and restoration of seagrass ecosystems.

These aims continue to be shaped by the Global Challenges for Seagrass Conservation, which serve as a global blueprint for the actions needed to secure the future of seagrass and protect the essential ecosystem services it provides. They remind us that progress requires evidence-led action, strong partnerships, and a commitment to balancing the needs of nature and society in a rapidly changing climate.

Over the past year, we have advanced each of these aims through research, restoration, monitoring, community engagement and policy contributions at local, national and international scales. The following pages outline that progress in detail, demonstrating how our work is responding to the global challenges and strengthening the foundations for long-term impact.

As we look ahead to 2025–26, we will continue to evolve how we report on our progress. With five years remaining to 2030—an internationally significant milestone for climate, nature recovery, and sustainable development—we will be restructuring our annual reporting to align even more closely with our strategic themes and the wider global context. This shift will help frame Project Seagrass within the international movement for ocean and climate action, making clear how our work contributes to global targets and how our impact extends far beyond the UK.

Championing seagrass locally, nationally and globally

Our achievements

Project Seagrass is committed to being a global champion for seagrass—advancing the science, strengthening communities, and providing a credible, influential voice for its protection. This year, we continued to expand our presence from local to international levels, ensuring seagrass is recognised, represented and prioritised where it matters most.

In Wales, we played a central role in progressing the Government's commitment to developing a national seagrass scheme. This work has been bolstered by the continued development of Seagrass Network Cymru (SNC), which unites all seagrass stakeholders across Wales and has helped shape the Welsh National Seagrass Action Plan (a world first), now endorsed by the Welsh Government. Our interactions with Welsh politics also expanded, with Project Seagrass invited to contribute to national discussions—including a Senedd-hosted roundtable on Net Zero and a deep dive into Welsh biodiversity —reflecting our growing role as a trusted voice in policy.

Globally, we continued empowering communities to become champions of their own seagrass meadows. This year, we supported partners in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Wales and Scotland—strengthening local capacity through training, knowledge exchange and hands-on support.

Our international influence also grew significantly. Our CEO was invited to provide expert opinion at the UNEP "From Gaps to Impactful Action" regional dialogue in Bangkok, contributing insights from two decades of social-ecological research across Asia. She was further invited by the Greek Prime Minister's Envoy to the 2024 Our Ocean Conference in Athens, reinforcing Project Seagrass's role in global ocean policy. Our CCO completed a second year as President of the World Seagrass Association and played a leadership role at ISBW15 and the World Seagrass Conference 2024, while our team contributed as keynote speakers, panellists and session leads at four major international events. Our CCO also played an active role in shaping the emerging UN 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough as chair of the scientific expert group supporting its delivery. In addition, our CSO gave an invited plenary to a major conference of the Estuarine and Coastal Science Association in Hangzhou, China.

This year saw the publication of the influential "Halting and Reversing the Loss of Nature by 2030" report, where seagrass was highlighted as a priority ecosystem for recovery. Our CSO served on the high-level advisory committee, reinforcing our contribution to national policy development.

Citizen engagement remained a cornerstone of our global influence through our expanding Seagrass Toolkit, including SeagrassSpotter—tools that connect people to seagrass science worldwide.

Our CEO also took part in Protecting Our Planet Day (POP), the national live-streamed schools event delivered by ESERO-UK, STEM Learning, the European Space Agency and the UK Space Agency. She spoke about seagrass and its importance to more than 150,000 children and teachers across the UK.

Finally, our visibility reached unprecedented levels through our Patrons, Coldplay. Their world tour—the most attended in history—has showcased seagrass and Project Seagrass at more than 160 shows, reaching over 13 million people. This unique platform has elevated awareness of seagrass on a truly global scale.

Supporting well mapped, thriving seagrass ecosystems

Seagrass ecosystems remain one of the least well-understood marine habitats, especially when it comes to their global distribution and condition. To ensure these ecosystems can thrive, we need up-to-date information on their status from local to global scales

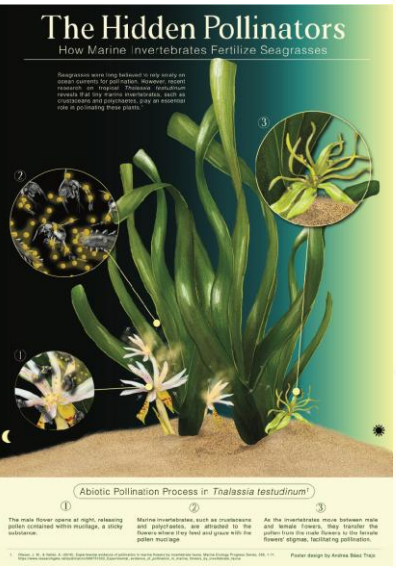
Our achievements

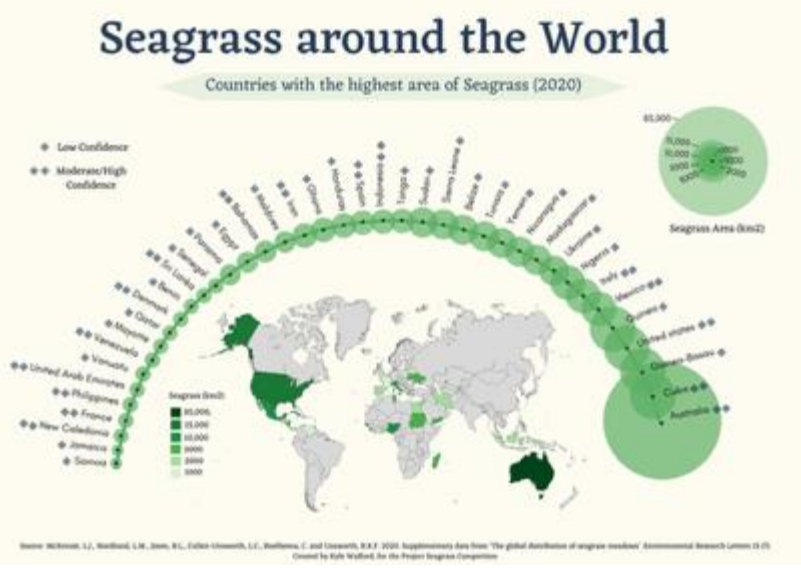
One of the major challenges for seagrass conservation globally is the poor mapping of its extent and health; as a result, this remains a major activity for Project Seagrass from the local to global scale. Understanding where seagrass exists, and how it's changing, depends on generating large volumes of accurate, georeferenced data. SeagrassSpotter remains one of the most powerful tools in the world for achieving exactly that. Over the past year, we strengthened the capability within the platform, expanded user engagement, and advanced the integration of SeagrassSpotter data into global distribution datasets. The data is now becoming more widely used in scientific studies and conservation activities. This includes a tale of seagrass optimism from the Maldives, where our team was involved in a major study that demonstrated a 20-year, threefold increase in seagrass extent across the archipelago.

By March 2025, SeagrassSpotter had captured 8,471 verified datapoints, with 1,059 new records added this year alone—making 2024–25 our third-strongest year on record. Citizen participation surged again, with nearly 700 new users joining the platform, our second-largest annual increase, bringing us to 5,041 registered contributors worldwide. Looking forward we are aiming for 10,000 records in 2025-26 for SeagrassSpotters tenth birthday – please keep spotting!

At the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP14 in Samarkand in February 2024, governments took a historic step: for the first time, seagrasses were globally recognised for their critical role in supporting migratory species. Project Seagrass played a central role in securing this breakthrough, with the new resolution placing a clear expectation on signatory states to map and safeguard their seagrass meadows. To highlight the significance and importance of this, our CSO and CCO published a letter in the journal *Science*, calling on governments to map and protect seagrass for biodiversity.

Across our team, we have continued to improve our seagrass mapping capability, including ongoing investments in drones and remotely operated marine vehicles and the investment in new staffing to deliver this capability, including the use of satellite-based mapping. Additionally, our CSO and CCO were invited to serve as advisory committee members for an ambitious 2-year project run by The Nature Conservancy and Earth Genome to create a blueprint for scalable seagrass mapping.





Facilitating pervasive recognition of seagrass ecosystems for people and planet

People and seagrass are intertwined by reciprocal interactions that act in tandem. These include the flow of ecosystem services to communities, and communities modifying actions on the environment. We believe that communities can have positive modifying actions on the environment as well as negatives and seek to balance the needs of people and planet.

Our achievements

From on-the-ground community events to international academic publications, our team continue to be at the forefront of communicating the importance of seagrass to people and planet. For example, CCO led an international team of 15 authors in publishing an open letter in PNAS calling for stronger global recognition of the coastal communities that depend on seagrass meadows—and highlighting the growing threat posed to these communities by the rapid expansion of large-scale seaweed farming. Alongside this, our team has attended school and festival events, led major international webinars, and contributed to traditional media outputs. All these actions continue to help improve societal recognition of the importance of seagrass by reaching new groups and people excited to learn about these amazing habitats.

Building on this momentum, our team spearheaded two influential academic papers emphasising the critical importance of inclusive governance in seagrass fisheries. These publications highlighted the need to engage diverse stakeholder groups and to centre Indigenous and local knowledge in decision-making, helping shift seagrass management towards more just and community-centred approaches. We also contributed to a major global review titled '*Conserving seagrass to meet global biodiversity and climate goals*.'

Our work in the Florida Keys demonstrated this principle in action. Through engagement with the local fishing community, we co-produced management recommendations that *doubled* the area of seagrass meadows that fishers themselves advocated for protecting—surpassing the ambitions of management agencies. This unique case illustrates that when fishers are empowered and informed, they become strong champions for the habitats that sustain their livelihoods.

Our team also played a leading role in shaping the global seagrass research agenda by making major contributions to the 15th International Seagrass Biology Workshop and the 2024 World Seagrass Conference. This included leading sessions on "*Securing Robust and Resilient Seagrass Social-Ecological Systems*," and presenting global and UK work on the provision of seagrass ecosystem services. Our work continues to strengthen knowledge about the inseparable link between humans and seagrass.

Our commitment to understanding seagrass meadows as interconnected social-ecological systems also expanded through a new three-year project in Kenya and Tanzania. In collaboration with partners from Sweden, Kenya, and Tanzania, the 2023–24 financial year marked the launch of an ambitious effort to examine how low-income coastal households rely on seagrass fisheries in densely populated and polluted urban environments—and how these relationships shape food security and safety. This work is helping to elevate the voices and experiences of some of the most vulnerable coastal communities in the Western Indian Ocean.

Conducting and facilitating scientific research openly and widely sharing results to support conservation and restoration action

Project Seagrass exists to turn leading research into real-world conservation. Guided by world-renowned seagrass scientists, we protect and restore seagrass while supporting wider marine conservation.

Our achievements

During 2024–2025, Project Seagrass strengthened the scientific foundations of its work while expanding capacity for large-scale restoration. A major focus was upskilling and expanding our science team, with targeted recruitment of senior scientists to enhance research, analytical expertise, and programme leadership. Alongside this, we invested in training our own staff, ensuring the team has the skills and experience needed to deliver cutting-edge research and restoration at scale. Development of our new laboratory continued, creating a dedicated space for experimental work, sample processing, and innovation, enabling more advanced in-house research and higher-quality scientific outputs.

Progress in mechanisation—critical for scalable restoration—accelerated this year. Engineering and testing of our seed harvester and planting systems advanced significantly, laying the technological groundwork for more efficient, precise, and large-scale restoration.

Our seagrass nursery reached new milestones in 2024–25. As the first UK facility to host three of the four native seagrass species—*Zostera marina*, *Nanozostera noltii*, and *Ruppia maritima*—we supported extensive restoration trials, preparing 2,700 *Z. marina* fragments for planting across North Wales and the Isle of Wight, England and delivering over 800 additional transplants to sites in Cardiff, Llanelli, and Dale in Wales. Inside the seagrass nursery, our seagrass flowered and produced seeds, alongside the first pollen release from both *Z. marina* and *N. noltii*. In 2024, we also achieved a world first, producing reproductive shoots grown from nursery-produced seeds. We also recorded germination in external ponds for the first time and observed flowering in *N. noltii* fragments. Biosecurity trials for *N. noltii* cores further strengthened safe handling practices for donor sediment. In addition, we commenced the growth of a third species, *Ruppia maritima*.

The year featured our first public open days, a knowledge-exchange visit from Dalhousie University (Canada), and continued growth of the Global Seagrass Nursery Network (GSNN), now connecting 158 members from 100 institutions in 24 countries. Our team also led and contributed to 13 academic publications, reinforcing the scientific rigour underpinning our work.

Throughout 2024–25, we continued to grow the global seagrass research community, supporting and supervising more than 10 PhD and MSc students from around the world, while training the next generation of scientists through undergraduate sandwich-year placements. By combining staff development, student mentorship, cutting-edge research, and innovative restoration approaches, Project Seagrass is building the expertise, technology, and global networks needed to accelerate seagrass conservation and restoration at scale.

Supporting and delivering conservation and restoration action in an era of climate change

Seagrass is in global decline, and with it go the vital ecosystem services it provides. We must protect what remains, and actively restore what has been lost, to improve social-ecological resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

Our achievements

In 2024–25, Project Seagrass focused on reversing the long-term decline of UK seagrass through targeted research focused on seagrass lifecycles, restoration methodologies and strategies and opportunities to scale recovery. UK seagrass losses are severe, with estimates ranging from 44% to as high as 92%, and natural recovery has often proved insufficient, making passive and active restoration essential. Our major projects span North Wales, South and West Wales, Essex, the Thames Estuary, the Solent, and the Firth of Forth, delivering on ambitious funder goals while advancing the science of seagrass restoration—a field still in its infancy, with high global failure rates and critical knowledge gaps. Despite the many challenges of seagrass restoration, our team is beginning to see recovery across most of our projects. Our site in Dale in West Wales now has seagrass on a strong positive upward trajectory. Whilst targeted experiments on restoration methods in the Solent are revealing the need for local refinement, this science-led approach is showing early signs of success. However, some of the sites within these projects remain problematic, with next to no success, highlighting many of the knowledge gaps to achieving wider seagrass recovery

Over the past year, we have refined restoration methodologies, investigated the environmental conditions needed for successful planting, and explored social-ecological factors affecting scale-up, including barriers and opportunities for UK restoration. We have also continued in our collaboration with the European Seagrass Consortium, which includes leading a major Europe-wide experiment to identify optimal restoration methods for *Zostera marina* and *Nanozostera noltii*. In October 2024, Project Seagrass hosted our Seagrass Consortium partners at our HQ in Bridgend, with contributing scientists from five European countries.

Given the many lessons we as a team are learning from the successes and failures of seagrass restoration, we created a major academic output titled ‘Ten golden rules for seagrass restoration to secure resilient and just social ecological systems.’

As a founding member of the Global Seagrass Nursery Network, we continued to share the knowledge generated by the fantastic work done at our nursery sites to refine marine horticulture methods. For example, this is contributing to a long-term initiative to develop a handbook on establishing and running seagrass nurseries.

Our restoration work is supported by increasingly sophisticated science and nursery facilities. Over the past year, our bespoke systems have delivered highly efficient, scalable restoration capabilities, while our external seagrass ponds, enhanced seed storage, and polytunnel facilities developed in 2023–24 have become fully operational, underpinning both experimental research and practical restoration at scale.

Providing strong, sustainable, international leadership

To remain a leading voice for seagrass, Project Seagrass is building strong foundations—resilient staff and volunteers, sound governance, and secure finances—to grow its reach and impact for decades to come.

Our achievements

In 2024–25, Project Seagrass continued to demonstrate strong and sustainable international leadership, advancing global seagrass science, policy, and public engagement while strengthening the foundations of our own organisation. This year, we made significant strides in building the resilience and capacity of our team. With the UK's cost-of-living crisis placing increasing pressure on conservation roles, we remained firmly committed to supporting, motivating, and fairly compensating our staff, ensuring that our people—our greatest asset—are equipped to lead seagrass recovery at home and abroad.

Our global scientific and policy influence grew further, with senior staff contributing to high-level forums shaping the future of ocean conservation. Our CEO was invited to UNEP's *From Gaps to Impactful Action* dialogue in Bangkok and to the 2024 Our Ocean Conference in Athens by the Greek Prime Minister's Envoy, reflecting the value of our long-standing social-ecological expertise. Our CCO completed a second year as President of the World Seagrass Association, led scientific engagement at ISBW15 and the World Seagrass Conference, and led the scientific expert group guiding the emerging UN 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough. Across the year, our team contributed as keynote speakers, panellists, and session leads at major international events.

Our scientific leadership also shaped major policy outputs. The high-impact *Halting and Reversing the Loss of Nature by 2030* report identified seagrass as a priority ecosystem for recovery, with our CSO serving on its advisory committee. Collaborative research across borders continued to drive influential publications and shared methodologies. In March, we celebrated World Seagrass Day by hosting our second international webinar, uniting scientists from around the globe to discuss the growing challenges of declining water quality—a key threat to seagrass ecosystems.

Together, these achievements and those outlined in this report reinforce Project Seagrass's leadership in global seagrass conservation—rooted in scientific excellence, strong organisational foundations, and an ever-expanding international community committed to protecting and restoring this vital ecosystem.

Financial review

In 2024–25, Project Seagrass built on the strong financial foundation established in recent years, further reinforcing our position as the organisation grows in scale and ambition. **Total income reached £1.82m — a 41% increase on last year —** driven by continued diversification of income, new funding streams, and the consolidation of multi-year projects that strengthen long-term planning and delivery.

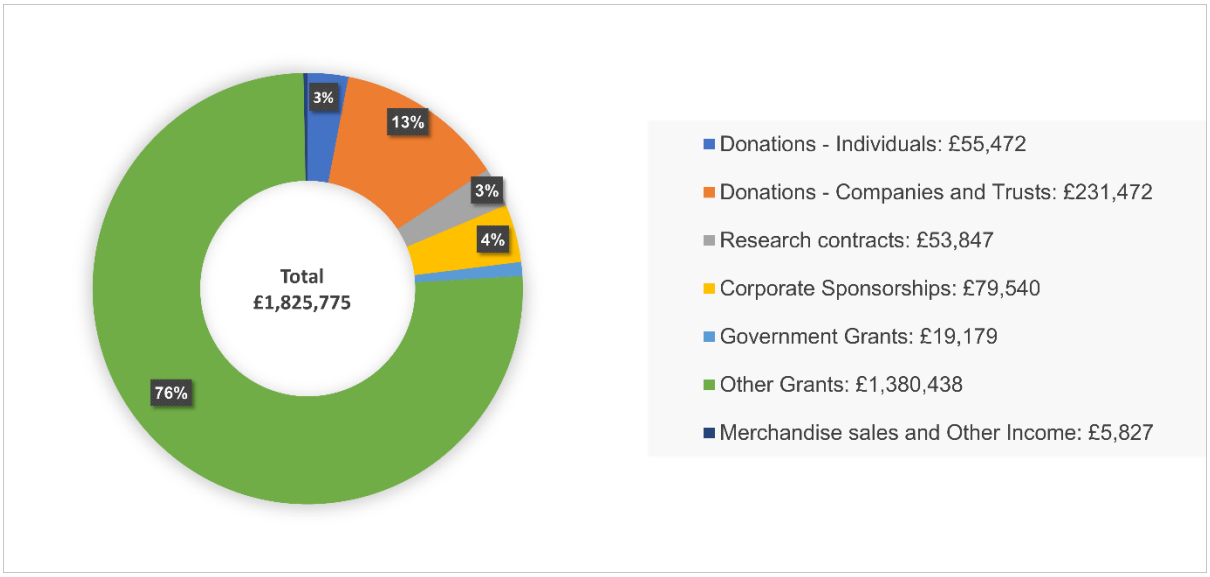
Project-specific grants accounted for three-quarters of all income, rising by 61%, demonstrating strong confidence in our scientific leadership and conservation expertise, but also a growing risk in the need to gain continued project-specific funding. Public donations grew by 16%, and corporate sponsorship increased by 8%, despite ongoing financial pressures amidst a cost-of-living crisis. Funding from companies and charitable trusts totalled £231,472, a 17% decrease, reflecting broader economic challenges across the charity sector.

Following major improvements to our financial management systems in 2023–24, this year we focused on embedding those processes, enhancing internal reporting, and ensuring our practices remain robust, transparent, and aligned with best practice. These systems have strengthened our ability to manage growth responsibly, safeguard resources, and invest confidently in our strategic aims.

Our expanded Board of Trustees—now with strengthened financial and legal expertise—has provided vital oversight and guidance during this period of development, ensuring a governance approach that is both responsible and forward-looking.

Income

Research and Conservation Grants contributed a significant £1,399,617

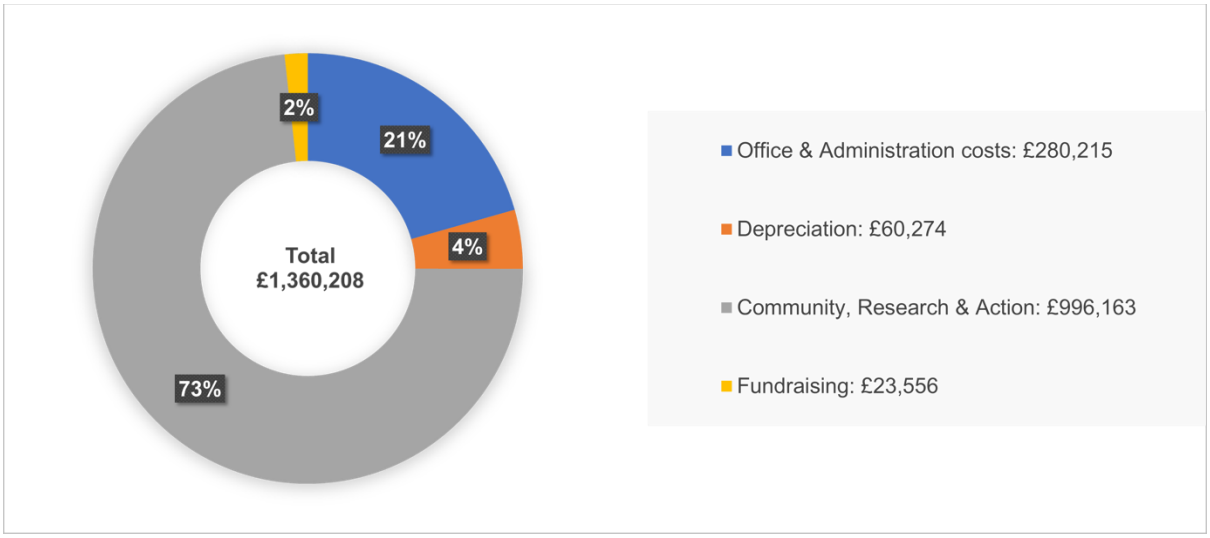


As we look ahead, Project Seagrass will aim to grow its financial resilience beyond project-specific funding in order to seize emerging opportunities, scale our work, and deliver even greater impact for seagrass ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

- **We generated £1,825,775 in income this year — a 41% increase on last year**, marking one of the most significant periods of growth in Project Seagrass' history.
- **Three-quarters of our total income came from project-specific research and conservation grants**, representing a **61% increase** from the previous year and reflecting growing global confidence in our scientific leadership.
- **Partnerships with companies and charitable trusts contributed £231,472**, a **17% decrease**, highlighting the continued pressure of the economic climate and the importance of rebuilding and diversifying this funding stream.
- **Our public supporters contributed £55,472**, a **16% increase**, demonstrating strong grassroots commitment to our mission despite wider cost-of-living challenges.
- **We secured major grants** to advance sustainable seagrass fisheries management in the Florida Keys, expand our capacity-building programmes with national partners across Southeast Asia, and strengthen the science underpinning the UK's seagrass restoration efforts.
- **Corporate sponsorships totaled £79,540**, an **8% increase**, underscoring growing private-sector recognition of seagrass as a climate, biodiversity, and coastal-community priority.

Expenditure

Overall, £1,336,652 was spent directly on charitable activities over the year.



- We spent £23,556 raising funds, representing less than 2% of spending for the year.
- Dedication to our pillars of community, research and action are clear in our annual spend. We spent roughly £1 million directly supporting activities to conserve seagrass meadows across the globe. This means that over 73p of every £1 spent in the year went directly towards our three pillars of community, research and action.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Project Seagrass is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), incorporated on and registered as a charity on 24 July 2015 in England and Wales and 17 August 2016 in Scotland. Our constitution was reviewed in 2024 and changed to better reflect our model of operation. On 5th December 2024 our constitution was signed off as a 'Foundation' Model Constitution, having been amended following approval by our board of trustees at our December 2024 AGM. Our only voting members are our charity trustees.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, as defined by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Act 2011, and are collectively referred to as "The Trustees".

Trustees may serve two consecutive periods of four years. After serving these periods they must stand down for a minimum of two years before offering themselves for election again. A register of trustees' interests is held and regularly updated by the charity.

Trustee induction and management training

All trustees are given a formal familiarisation with the organisations business, Charitable Board structure and responsibilities by the Chair of the Board of trustees and the Senior Executives as part of an induction process.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees, which administers the Charity, meets regularly and on not less than four occasions per annum.

To set the pay and remuneration of personnel, the Chair will make a recommendation for approval by the Board of the Charity. This recommendation follows a meeting with the Senior Executives. It is based on a senior management team review of annual performance against certain targets and what the organisation can afford to pay.

The Senior Executives, who are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day administration and running of the Charity, act as the link with external stakeholders. To facilitate effective operations, the Senior Executives have delegated authority – within terms of delegation approved by the trustees – for operational matters. These include finance, employment and developing related activities.

Strategic relationships

Insofar as it is complementary to its objects, the Charity is guided by both local, national and global policy. The Charity works in close partnership with other organisations to help achieve common and strategic goals in marine education, conservation, and restoration.

Objectives and activities

Our work continues to be guided by three core pillars—**Research, Community, and Action**—which remain central to how we deliver impact. In 2025–26, we will undertake a full mid-term review of our ten-year strategy, assessing our progress at this crucial halfway point and sharpening our focus for the remaining five years as we work toward national and global 2030 targets.
We also recognise the rapidly increasing importance of digital engagement in communicating marine conservation and education. As we grow, we are committed to strengthening our online presence and ensuring Project Seagrass remains a globally connected, outward-facing organisation with a strong alignment to sustainable development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

Central to the ethos of Project Seagrass is our determination to *live our values*, and we remain firmly committed to building a culture of belonging. We strive for a workplace where every team member is valued for who they are and has equal opportunity to grow and succeed—free from discrimination based on race, colour, gender identity or expression, religion, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic background, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, or identification with any marginalised community in the countries where we work.

We have spoken before about our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we continue to recognise that this work is ongoing. We acknowledge that fully realising the organisation we aspire to be requires sustained effort, honest reflection, and continued action.

Project Seagrass remains committed to strengthening diversity within our team:

- We will continue to develop inclusive position descriptions that welcome candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and educational pathways.
- We will ensure our teams actively foster equity, inclusion and belonging, and that diverse perspectives are central to decision-making.
- We will intentionally coach and mentor emerging talent from underrepresented groups.
- We will support the growth of internal communities and networks that elevate the voices of underrepresented colleagues.

We are equally committed to embedding inclusion across our work:

- We will ensure our team consistently adheres to our Code of Conduct for all events.
- We will work to advertise events and volunteering opportunities as widely as possible, ensuring they are accessible to all members of society.
- We will continue transforming our online platforms to use inclusive language and imagery, helping to build a more diverse and representative marine conservation community.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees maintains oversight of the key risks facing the charity. A formal risk register is managed by the Executive Team and reviewed by Trustees on a quarterly basis. The primary residual risks and our mitigation strategies are as follows:

Insufficient income generation

Senior Executives and the Fundraising Manager will continue to pursue diversified funding streams to support programmes, projects, and core operational costs.

Inadequate unrestricted fundraising

Ensuring sufficient unrestricted income to cover the full costs of our conservation, education, and restoration work remains a priority. We will address this through strengthening our supporter offer, cultivating new partnerships, and clearly demonstrating the value and impact of our activities to secure greater corporate support.

Asset development

Our current assets have increased substantially, however, sustained investment is essential to build long term organisational resilience and capacity. This includes maintaining our vessel/expanding our fleet, upgrading essential equipment, and enhancing our digital infrastructure to meet the growing demand for a stronger online presence.

Succession planning

We will continue to refine role descriptions and standard operating procedures to ensure clarity of responsibilities and alignment with the delivery of the Project Seagrass Strategy. Effective succession planning will support continuity, reduce risk, and ensure organisational stability.

Reserves Policy

The Board has identified a target minimum reserve requirement equivalent to three months' operating costs, which will enable the charity to meet commitments as they fall due. We set a planned upper limit of 12 months' worth of operating costs on the targeted reserve level so that we do not hold funds back from delivering our charitable activities unnecessarily.

The Charity is successfully managing our reserves within the upper and lower reserve limits, or 'reserves corridor'. We monitor our short and medium forecast position to identify risks that could cause us to fall outside of this corridor, and what corrective actions would be required to bring us back into the corridor over a rolling three-year period.

It is essential that our minimum reserve requirement is met by the 'liquid' assets so we can be confident we would have the funds at any given point in time should we need them. Liquid Assets are readily accessible assets, such as investments and cash.

At 31st March 2025, the organisation had total net assets of 1,202,308 (£756,617 at 31st March 2023). However, within this balance are restricted funds of £920,927 (£588,939 at 31st March 2023) relating to operational programmes. These restricted funds are not available for the general purposes and reserves of the charity.

Unrestricted reserves were £281,381 at 31st March 2025 (£167,678 at 31st March 2024). Improvements are clear and the trustees aim to maintain this position.

Future Plans

Calls for a green recovery continue to intensify as the world confronts the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. While economic pressures remain a challenge across the conservation sector, the growing appetite for meaningful environmental action provides a strong platform for Project Seagrass to expand its impact. We will continue to champion the importance of healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and equip communities, practitioners and decision-makers with the knowledge, tools and evidence they need to protect and restore these vital habitats.

Looking ahead, our focus remains firmly rooted in the long-term vision articulated in our ten-year strategy. Reviewed annually, this strategy ensures our work stays relevant, resilient and responsive to emerging opportunities and risks. It continues to be guided by the six global challenges for seagrass—identified by an international panel of experts—which remain as urgent and unresolved today as when they were first agreed. These challenges shape our priorities across research, community engagement and restoration, ensuring we remain aligned with global best practice and the latest scientific understanding.

Over the coming years, we will:

- ***Strengthen scientific leadership***, advancing research that supports effective conservation and restoration at scale.
- ***Expand community participation*** through accessible digital tools, citizen science and targeted education programmes.
- ***Grow our restoration capacity***, building the infrastructure, partnerships and expertise needed to deliver larger, more effective projects.
- ***Invest in organisational resilience***, ensuring our team, systems and governance remain robust in a changing economic landscape.
- ***Champion seagrass within national and international policy,*** contributing evidence and expertise to drive meaningful change.

With strong foundations, a growing global network and clear strategic direction, Project Seagrass is well positioned to play a leading role in accelerating seagrass recovery—and in doing so, contribute to a healthier, more resilient ocean for all.

Statement of public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4, Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit.

Project Seagrass exists to protect seagrass systems and, through them, advance marine conservation more broadly. As a team of dedicated scientists and practitioners, we focus on safeguarding coastal habitats, promoting sustainable use of marine resources, and ensuring the benefits of a healthy ocean are realised by society.

All our programmes are designed to improve the condition and resilience of the marine environment. When coastal ecosystems thrive, they deliver a wide range of public benefits—often described as *ecosystem services*. The United Nations Millennium Ecosystem Assessment identifies three core categories of these services, all of which are directly supported by seagrass meadows:

- **Provisioning services**: Seagrass habitats are nurseries for many wild-caught and farmed fish species contributing to global food security.
- **Regulating services**: Seagrass plays an important role in climate regulation by capturing and storing carbon—part of the "blue carbon" system critical to mitigating climate change.
- **Cultural services**: Healthy coastal ecosystems enhance recreation, tourism, wellbeing, and the appreciation of our natural heritage across the UK and internationally. In many regions, seagrass also directly underpins livelihoods and human wellbeing.

Project Seagrass works both to **increase the extent of these benefits** and to **ensure they remain accessible to the public**, now and in the future.

Throughout 2024/25, we inspired learning, action and stewardship by engaging communities across the UK and internationally. Through research, citizen science, digital tools, education, and hands-on conservation, we continued to deepen public understanding of the marine environment and empower people to protect and restore it.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees would like to once again extend their sincere thanks to all our volunteers, members and supporters—including individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, public bodies and corporate partners—whose generosity makes our work possible. We know that it is through collaboration and strong partnerships, both formal and informal, that we can confidently meet the challenges ahead, supported by our loyal and dedicated team of trustees and volunteers.

Approval of the trustees' report

At the time of approving this report, the Trustees are aware of no relevant audit information of which the group and charity's auditors are unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, as trustees, to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group and charitable charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The report was approved by the Board on 5th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Rosslyn E. Barr

Mrs Rosslyn Barr

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Statement of trustees' report responsibilities

For year ended March 2025

The trustees are responsible for submitting the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the "The Act" requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the "The Act". They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Project Seagrass

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Project Seagrass (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable by law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the charity with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and review of legal and professional costs around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims, and;
- Reviewing any correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the charity's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Streets Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
Tower House
Lucy Tower Street
Lincoln
LN1 1XW

Streets Audit LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of financial activities

Income and expenditure

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	243,647	43,297	286,944	326,147
Other trading activities	3	72,874	60,574	133,448	93,915
Charitable activities	4	-	1,399,617	1,399,617	870,128
Other income		5,766	-	5,766	115
Total income		**322,287**	**1,503,488**	**1,825,775**	**1,290,305**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		23,016	540	23,556	42,954
Charitable activities	5,6,7,8	168,770	1,167,882	1,336,652	1,227,633
Total expenditure		**191,786**	**1,168,422**	**1,360,208**	**1,270,587**
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before other recognised gains and transfers		130,501	335,066	465,567	19,718
Net gains on investment assets		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		130,501	335,066	465,567	19,718
Transfers between funds	12	(10,222)	10,222	-	-
Net movement in funds	12	120,279	345,288	465,567	19,718
Other gains or losses		-	-	-	(1,609)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds carried forward from previous year		167,678	588,939	756,617	738,508
Total funds carried forward		**287,957**	**934,227**	**1,222,184**	**756,617**

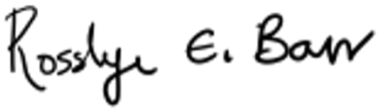
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance sheet

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025

	Note	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	230,511	161,210
Intangible assets		-	-
Total fixed assets		**230,511**	**161,210**
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	10	283,036	153,427
Cash at bank and in hand		758,266	482,931
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	11	(49,629)	(40,951)
Net assets		**1,222,184**	**756,617**
Funds			
Restricted funds	12,13	934,227	588,939
Unrestricted funds	12,13	287,957	167,678
Total funds		**1,222,184**	**756,617**

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 5th December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Rosslyn Barr

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Statement of cash flows

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash flows generated from operations	14		375,145		40,027
Investing activities					
Purchase of fixed assets		(138,082)		(30,594)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		32,506		2,834	
Investment income received		5,766		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			(99,810)		(27,760)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			275,335		12,267
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			482,931		470,664
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			**758,266**		**482,931**

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Project Seagrass is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1 Garth Drive, Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 2AQ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment:	20-25% on cost
Computers:	25% on cost
Motor vehicles:	16.67% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Donations – individuals	51,737	3,735	55,472	47,733
Donations – companies and trusts	191,910	39,562	231,472	278,414
Other fundraising income	-	-	-	-
Total income from donations and legacies	**243,647**	**43,297**	**286,944**	**326,147**

Donations from trusts and companies do not include any donated services or goods. These have not been included in the financial statements as we are unable to measure reliably the value of the services received in the year.

3. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Contracts	53,847	-	53,847	20,172
Merchandise	61	-	61	92
Corporate sponsorships	18,966	60,574	79,540	73,651
Total income from other trading activities	**72,874**	**60,574**	**133,448**	**93,915**

4. Income from charity activities

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Government grants	-	19,179	19,179	-
Other grants	-	1,380,438	1,380,438	870,128
Total income from charity activities	**-**	**1,399,617**	**1,399,617**	**870,128**

In the year, other grants received included amounts received from the following institutions:

- Climate Impact Partners - £453,588
- WWF - £347,537

5. Analysis of charity activities

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Accountancy fees	600	-	600	2,640
Auditors Remuneration	9,600	-	9,600	9,540
Bank fees	273	-	273	486
Cleaning and sundry	5,023	855	5,878	3,203
Community engagement costs	618	8,312	8,930	20,087
Consulting	3,501	175,694	179,195	122,443
Depreciation	2,751	57,523	60,274	55,679
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(32,007)	8,007	(24,000)	4,580
Field, lab and drone expenses	1,709	99,590	101,299	115,321
Governance costs	4,050	-	4,050	3,550
Light and heat	6,777	4,785	11,562	15,269
IT, subscriptions and insurance	24,498	9,277	33,775	20,352
Printing, postage and stationery	806	6,058	6,864	12,926
Professional fees	4,312	17,824	22,136	32,281
Rent and repair costs	18,485	59,629	78,114	71,853
Staff costs	105,058	643,118	748,176	662,147
Telephone	877	359	1,236	1,510
Travel and subsistence	11,839	76,851	88,690	73,766
Total expenditure on charity activities	**168,770**	**1,167,882**	**1,336,652**	**1,227,633**

6. Staff costs

	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Salaries and wages	661,606	580,614
Employer's national insurance contributions	55,000	51,708
Pension contributions	23,924	25,233
Staffing costs	7,646	4,592
Total costs of employing staff (charitable activities)	**748,176**	**662,147**
Total costs of employing staff (fundraising)	**19,372**	**40,600**
	767,548	**702,747**

One employee received emoluments in the band £50,000 to £60,000 (2024: 1) and one in the band £40,000 to £50,000 (2024: 1).

The total employee benefits (including employer's national insurance and pension contributions) paid to key management personnel during the year were £121,131 (2024: £162,137). No other employee benefits or termination payments were paid to key management personnel in the year.

Two trustees claimed expenses during the year for travel, subsistence and for expenditure incurred on behalf of the Charity £316 (2024: £880). Two trustees were paid for services to the Charity £5,250 (2024: £4,425). No trustee received remuneration (salary) during the year (2024: nil).

Additional staffing costs of £7,623 (2024: £4,592) were incurred in training and £23 incurred in ancillary costs.

7. Staff numbers

	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Community	3	3
Research	4	4
Action	11	10
Governance and administration	4	3
Total staff	**22**	**20**

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2024	266,051	31,215	-	297,266
Additions	134,182	3,900	-	138,082
Disposals	(29,176)	(300)	-	(29,476)
At 31 March 2025	**371,057**	**34,815**	**-**	**405,872**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2024	119,742	16,314	-	136,056
Depreciation charge for the year	52,542	7,733	-	60,275
Eliminated on disposal	(20,814)	(156)	-	(20,970)
At 31 March 2025	151,470	23,891	-	175,361
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2025	**219,587**	**10,924**	**-**	**230,511**
At 31 March 2024	146,309	14,901	-	161,210

9. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts receivable	119,024	42,251
Other debtors	113,612	86,893
Prepayments	50,400	24,283
Total debtors	**283,036**	**153,427**

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts payable	12,823	16,341
Other taxation and social security	-	-
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	36,806	24,610
Total Creditors	**49,629**	**40,951**

11. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which falls due as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	42,000	42,000
Between two and five years	84,000	126,000
Total Lease Commitments	**126,000**	**168,000**

12. Movements in funds (2025)

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	167,678	322,287	(191,786)	(10,222)	287,957
Restricted funds	588,939	1,503,488	(1,168,422)	10,222	934,227
Total funds	**756,617**	**1,825,775**	**(1,360,208)**	**-**	**1,222,184**

Funds have been transferred from the unrestricted fund to cover expenditure, incurred in the year, on projects in excess of their restricted fund.

Restricted funds comprise of the following:

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Affinity Water	595	-	(595)	-	-
Aviva Community Fund	2,507	-	(1,342)	-	1,165
Aviva Community Fund (Community	1,493	-	(938)	-	555
Aviva Community Fund (Research)	1,117	-	(1,117)	-	-
Bridgend County Borough Council	-	50,000	(25,000)	(25,000)	-
Whitehead Ross Education	-	11,793	(11,793)	-	-
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust	1,258	63,814	(60,956)	-	4,116
Climate Impact Partners	-	453,588	(91,829)	25,000	386,759
Coastal Capacities	1,902	-	(394)	-	1,508
Coldplay	360	-	(97)	(262)	-
CSM Live	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
Dale AMS	855	544	(180)	-	1,219
Deakin University	5,606	-	(5,606)	-	-
Dinswade Trust	16,877	25,000	(16,877)	-	25,000
DIO	9,955	-	(9,487)	-	468
ERM	-	7,879	(4,676)	(2,003)	1,200
Nature Network Fund (NLHF)	-	88,070	(87,116)	-	954
Feel Good Drinks	20,116	-	(20,116)	-	-
Florida International University	-	1,254	(1,254)	-	-
WWF (Restoration Forth)	54,951	53,730	(53,489)	-	55,192
Furthr Earth	5,110	1,020	(4,893)	-	1,237
Hartswood Trust	10,000	10,000	(9,993)	-	10,007
Highland Park	15,812	15,000	(15,577)	-	15,235
IKI	3,460	-	(1,683)	-	1,777
International	21,353	125	(15,923)	-	5,555
Natural England (IoS)	11,854	7,500	(6,043)	-	13,311
Languages United	500	-	(500)	-	-
Art for Our Sea (Margate)	11,257	442	(2,498)	-	9,201
Marshall Wace	16,043	-	(5,919)	-	10,124
Mechanisation	29,765	-	(17,420)	-	12,345
N2K	83,377	-	(35,393)	-	47,984
Natural England	9,109	-	(9,109)	-	-
Newby Trust	2,498	-	(1,200)	-	1,298
Next Energy	20	-	-	-	20
Welsh Government (NSAP)	-	19,179	(9,762)	-	9,417
Nursery (Storm Darragh) Appeal	-	163	(163)	-	-
Ocean Infinity	15,295	55,000	(45,667)	-	24,628
Ozone	37,250	50,000	(37,534)	-	49,716
Purina Consult	4,048	13,750	(17,798)	-	-
Rebel Restoration	104	5,574	(8,086)	2,407	-
Rebel Restoration NW	750	2,000	(1,750)	-	1,000
Rebel Restoration SW	13,917	30,043	(7,246)	-	36,714
Rotary Club Westminster	803	-	(293)	-	510
Royal Haskoning	9,644	-	(4,261)	7,290	12,673
Salix	-	8,879	(8,879)	-	-
Salzwasser EV	7,094	-	(3,650)	-	3,444
ScotGov	11,253	-	(5,871)	-	5,382
Seacology	25,664	6,638	(19,089)	-	13,213
Seagrass Restorations	432	3,172	(2,553)	-	1,051
Sealife	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
The Sea Ranger Service	-	844	(844)	-	-
Seawilding	538	-	(538)	-	-
Solent Seascape Project	-	87,069	(75,390)	(2,179)	9,500
WWF (Seagrass Ocean North Wales)	44,082	293,807	(253,389)	-	84,500
SOR North Wales	408	-	(408)	-	-
WWF (Seagrass Ocean Solent)	-	40,279	(40,279)	-	-
Swire	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Synchronicity Earth	10,560	-	(15,529)	4,969	-
Synchronicity Earth (NP)	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
The Big Give	2,487	-	(987)	-	1,500
The Botanist Foundation	-	7,500	(6,453)	-	1,047
Tandem Ventures	-	27,832	(26,584)	-	1,248
Waterloo Foundation	14,697	27,000	(25,648)	-	16,049
Catalyst Cymru	373	-	(373)	-	-
William Grant Foundation	21,790	-	(20,385)	-	1,405
Total restricted funds	**588,939**	**1,503,488**	**(1,168,422)**	**10,222**	**934,227**

Restricted funds

All restricted funds were for specific projects which directly support work towards our mission targeted through our pillars of community, research and action in the UK and internationally. Restricted funds are recorded and managed at project level but are grouped here under our broader strategic aims.

To be a global champion for seagrass ecosystems

Our international programme of work allows us to remain at the forefront of advancing seagrass science, collaboration and knowledge sharing. Funding was provided for our international programme in this year by Synchronicity Earth and Coldplay.

Funding was also received in the year from the Sea Ranger Service to help fund our place on The Seagrass Consortium – facilitating large scale restoration across Europe.

To support well mapped, thriving seagrass ecosystems

Seagrass Spotter received vital funding from Synchronicity Earth to support and update the digital spotter programme.

Maintenance of our research vessel Gwenhidw was funded by Rebel Restoration.

Our seagrass mapping work continued during the year with funding from Climate Impact Partners, National Lottery Heritage Fund (Nature Networks Fund), WWF. Funding from Seacology and Marshall Wace enabled us to expand our mapping and assessment equipment with the acquisition of a BlueBoat Unmanned Surface Vessel and BlueROV Underwater Robot.

To facilitate pervasive recognition of seagrass ecosystems for people and planet

ERM provided funding for environmental education through the creation of a virtual reality experience, making seagrass accessible to a much wider community. This was supported by funding from the Aviva Community Fund.

Catalyst Cymru funded water-based ware to provide engagement opportunities to explore seagrass in our seas.

As part of our drive to improve accessibility to the sector we are developing a zero-barriers internship programme as a longer-term commitment. In this financial year we received funding from Merlin Attractions, Operations (Sealife), and the Hartswood Trust contributing towards the significant funds required.

Funding from Whitehead Ross Education (Bridgend County Borough Council Quickstart Scheme) enabled us to provide employment opportunities for two local job seekers.

Languages United funding enabled us to produce multilingual educational materials, broadening the reach of our messaging.

Synchronicity Earth supported development of our international programme of work.

Part of our work to protect seagrass meadows and facilitate restoration has been to advocate for advanced mooring systems (AMS) in strategic locations. Funding was provided by Seacology for AMS in the Solent, in addition to a fund to cover maintenance of existing AMS situated in Dale, west Wales.

To conduct and facilitate scientific research openly and widely sharing results to support conservation and restoration action

Our Seagrass Ocean Rescue programme delivered across North Wales, South Wales and the Solent (Southern England). This work directly connects research (restoration trials) with extensive programmes of community and volunteer engagement. Funding for these programmes was gratefully received from National Lotter Heritage Fund, Rebel Restoration, WWF, Blue Marine Foundation (Solent Seascape Project), Climate Impact Partners, CSM live, Furthr Earth, Deakin University and Seacology (Dale and AMS).

Funding from Climate Impact Partners has enabled us to fund a PhD research opportunity at Swansea University to assess overall gas emissions from seagrass under differing environmental conditions.

Our habitat assessment and monitoring programmes were supported by Natural England (seagrass health assessments and Isles of Scilly report), Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) (Essex), The Big Give (Essex), Salzwasser EV (Wales), The Botanist Foundation (Scotland), and Highland Park (Orkney, Scotland).

The William Grant Foundation provided funding to support the salary and work of our Marine Science Lead in Scotland with a focus on habitat mapping, biodiversity assessment and community engagement.

Our mechanisation project, conducting innovative research to scale restoration through mechanised processes was supported by WWF in this financial year. Our mechanisation was also supported by the team from Tandem Ventures as they developed a new design for the seagrass harvester (financed through crowdfunding).

Ocean Infinity provided funding for our Senior Science Officer: Scaling Seagrass Recovery Salary in this year.

The Bonefish & Tarpon Trust funded salary for our CCO and research costs for innovative bone fishing assessments in South Florida, with additional funding from Florida International University to support publishing costs.

Additional funding from the Aviva Community Fund furthered our nutrient and microbiome research.

Funding from Bridgend County Borough Council in the form of a Business Feasibility Grant (expanding opportunities at the Nursery site) and Business Development Grant (funding for key scientific equipment to research seagrass gas emissions) was received during the year.

Funding from the Hartswood Trust and Suggett Family enabled us to complete the laboratory build at our headquarters in Bridgend.

To support and deliver conservation and restoration action in an era of Climate Change

As we develop capacity to scale restoration efforts we rely on experimental work and pilot scaling at our nursery as well as advancing approaches and methods in the field. We need significant and long-term support towards this aim and multiple funders continued to support elements of a more broadly coordinated programme of work.

First roll out to trial external seagrass ponds at our nursery and improve our seed storage and polytunnel facilities was funded by Aviva, Affinity Water, Royal Haskoning and the Waterloo Foundation. Other nursery costs were funded by Salix, Ozone, Climate Impact Partners and the Waterloo Foundation.

Exploration and trials to facilitate scaling restoration work were conducted in Milford Haven, the Firth of Forth, the Isle of Wight, Essex Estuaries, and North and South Wales, funded by Restoration Forth (WWF) Affinity Water, Rebel Restoration, Marshal Wace and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (Nature Networks Fund). Margate restoration feasibility study was funded though Art for Our Sea.

In July 2024 we supported the launch of a National Seagrass Action Plan for Wales (NSAP) as chair of Seagrass Network Cymru, the plan provides a strategic long-term program of seagrass recovery in Wales. Initial funding for a NSAP coordinator was provided by Welsh Government.

To provide strong, sustainable, international leadership

Restricted budget used for senior management team salaries directly supports work on the ground and sustains a strong leadership with connection to project-based work in the UK and overseas. This included funding from the Dinswade Trust during the year.

13. Movements in funds (2024)

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	39,497	3223,699	(232,137)	36,619	167,678
Restricted funds	699,011	966,606	(1,040,059)	(36,619)	588,939
Total funds	**738,508**	**1,290,305**	**(1,272,196)**	-	**756,617**

Funds have been transferred from the unrestricted fund to cover expenditure, incurred in the year, on projects in excess of their restricted fund.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,917	224,594	230,511	3,237	157,120	161,210
Current assets / (liabilities)	282,040	709,633	991,673	164,441	431,819	595,407
Total funds	**287,957**	**934,227**	**1,222,184**	**167,678**	**588,939**	**756,617**

15. Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	465,567	18,109
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	60,275	53,589
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(24,000)	4,508
Investment income received	(5,766)	-
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(129,609)	(15,563)
Increase in creditors	8,678	(20,688)
Cash generated from operations	**375,145**	**40,027**

Thank you

To all our individual donors, supporters and those who have taken on personal fundraising challenges this year, your generosity and commitment continue to inspire us. These contributions—large and small—provide vital support for our work and are a powerful source of motivation for the entire Project Seagrass team.
We also extend our sincere thanks to our partners, collaborators and communities across the UK and around the world. Your shared values, expertise and dedication are central to our mission, and our progress this year reflects the strength of those relationships. Finally, we are grateful to every individual, organisation and institution whose support has made our work in 2024–25 possible. Thank you for standing with us as we work to secure a thriving future for the world's seagrass.

Government agencies and statutory bodies

Welsh Government
Scottish Government
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
Nature Scot
Coastal Capacity Scheme
Bridgend County Borough Council

Charities, trusts, foundations, and companies contributing £500 or more

Blair Foundation
Bloomin Fund
Blue Marine Foundation
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
CGI IT UK
Cobb Charitable Trust
Coldplay
Consano Earth
Dinswade Trust
Edith Cowan University
Eyespace Eyewear
Finisterre
Florida International University
Hartswood Trust
Highland Distillers Ltd
Ian Mactaggart Trust
International Climate Initative
Kaluza Ltd
Languages United
Lucille Foundation
Marshall Wace
Merton College
Newby Trust
Next Energy
Feel Good Drinks
Ocean Infinity
Ozone Group
Pinwheel
Ragus Sugars Manufacturing Ltd
Rebel Restoration
Redcompass Ltd
Royal Haskoning
Salix River & Wetland Service Ltd
Salzwasser e.V
Sea-changers
Seacology
Special Source Ltd
Suggett Family
Swansea University
Synchronicity Earth
The Botanist Foundation
The Golden Bottle Trust
The Guitarwrist
The Waterloo Foundation
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
William Grant Foundation
Working Planet
WWF-UK

We would especially like to thank our Patrons, **Coldplay**, for their continued belief in our work and their ongoing support for global seagrass recovery. Their advocacy has helped shine a light on the importance of seagrass ecosystems and the communities working to protect them.

We are also deeply grateful to our Ambassadors, **Miranda Krestovnikoff** and **Jake Davies**, whose passion, advocacy and ongoing support have helped amplify our message and connect new audiences with the story of seagrass.

We also extend our sincere thanks to those who have generously provided pro bono support and equipment this year, including **Deloitte**, **CGI IT UK**, **Mermaid Gin**, **Finisterre**, and **Trademark Tonic**. Your contributions have strengthened our work and enabled our team to deliver impact more effectively.

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name
Project Seagrass

Charity Number
1162824 (England and Wales)
SC046788 (Scotland)

Principal Address
Project Seagrass
Unit 1 Garth Drive
Brackla Industrial Estate
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Trustees
Rosslyn Barr Chair
Dr Sarah Pilgrim-Morrison Board Secretary
Michael David Furness
Jake Davies (Resigned 9th September 2024)
Dr Bevis Matthew Watts
David King
Robert Christian Raimes
Laura Audrey Evans (Appointed 9th September 2024)

Executive Team
The members of the executive suite were in post for the whole of the year ended 31 March 2024 and until the date of this report unless stated otherwise:

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Richard Unsworth
Chief Scientific Officer

Dr Benjamin Jones
Chief Conservation Officer

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PROJECT SEAGRASS

PROJECT SEAGRASS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162824

Accounts

10 YEARS OF SECURING A FUTURE FOR SEAGRASS

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2023-2024

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Message from our CEO

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
CEO

This year Project Seagrass celebrated its 10th birthday, which in and of itself is mind-blowing. So, this year I want to start with a **huge and heartfelt thank you** to our co-founders, amazing seagrass team, and all the people who have been behind us and encouraged us over the past ten years. This year also marks twenty years (!) since my own first immersion in a seagrass meadow shortly after which I started to explore the relationship between this (then) little known habitat, and people. Seagrass is, for me, the ideal example of a habitat that can clearly demonstrate human-nature compatibility, because we're not something separate from nature, we are a part of it. People are part of the ecosystem, and we must acknowledge that and find solutions to the rapid loss of our planet's biodiversity, climate change and increasing inequality and poverty that support both people and planet.

I look forward to a future in which seagrass thrives within a connected and healthy seascape and in harmony with people. But there is still a lot of work to do to secure this future and that remains at the heart of the Project Seagrass mission.

Over 2023-24 we have continued to develop and deliver the science, collaboration and action needed to save the world's seagrass. We remained committed to education and outreach to bring people on this journey with us and advocated for the changes needed to halt loss and revive seagrass meadows globally.

We'll keep doing our best to inspire science, learning and action, and ensure our strategy is relevant and active. As Sir David Attenborough said in 'Saving our Wild Isles' (as well as the words "Project Seagrass"); "T*he truth is, every one of us, no matter who we are or where we live, can and must play a part in restoring nature…we have the solutions* (which we do)... *now is the time for action (which it has to be), and together we can save it* (which we can)."

L. Cullen-Unsworth.

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth

Our year in numbers

Seagrass planted in

FOUR

major regional projects

2

major scientific datasets created

1258

NEW DATA POINTS IN SEAGRASSSPOTTER

>1200

VOLUNTEERS

INVOLVED IN SAVING SEAGRASS

FOUR NEW OUTSIDE SEAGRASS PONDS AT OUR NURSERY

1 SCHOOL SUBMITTED A PETITION SIGNED BY 2275 PEOPLE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT (ALONGSIDE A SEAGRASS RAP)

FOUR ACADEMIC RESEARCH PAPERS

&

THREE MAJOR REPORTS PUBLISHED

8

PhD students supported

TWO

Major Awards

TWO NEW NOVEL SEED PLANTING MACHINES

2134*

CHOCOLATE BISCUITS EATEN ON COLD WINTER FIELD TRIPS

* Exact numbers an estimate, but we did eat a lot as it was very cold.

Our Aims

Last year, we looked towards our second decade as an organization and launched our ten-year strategy towards securing a future for seagrass. We assembled six key aims outlining the high-level approach and ambitions of Project Seagrass for the decade 2022 – 2031. This approach is how we will go about our mission to achieve our vision of a world in which seagrass meadows are thriving, abundant and well managed for people and planet whilst holding true to our core values. Everyone at Project Seagrass is focused on delivering real change to save the world's seagrass, as well as promoting the sustainable use of seagrass ecosystems, and improving the sustainability of our team and individual actions. We are committed to collaboration for achieving sustainable futures.

Our aims derive in response to the Global Challenges for Seagrass Conservation which serve as a blueprint for the actions that are needed to secure the future of the world's seagrass ecosystems and maintain the vital services which they supply. These global challenges are:

- Challenge 1: Societal recognition of seagrass importance
- Challenge 2: Up-to-date information on status & condition
- Challenge 3: Identifying threatening activities at local scales to target management actions accordingly
- Challenge 4: Balancing the needs of people and planet
- Challenge 5: Generating scientific research to support conservation actions
- Challenge 6: Conservation action in an era of Climate change

© Benjamin Jones / Project Seagrass

Aim 1: To be a global champion for seagrass ecosystems

A global champion for seagrass requires being both a voice and a leader to improve the societal recognition for seagrass ecosystems.

Our achievements

Project Seagrass is committed to being a global champion for seagrass, which requires being both a voice and a leader to improve the societal recognition of seagrass ecosystems. Achieving this role requires working at local to global scales; as a team, we're playing important roles at all of these levels. In Wales and Scotland, we have ongoing strong working relationships across government, from the level of the regulator to the members of the government. This has provided significant opportunities during this year for advocacy, and being a champion for seagrass in Wales, particularly with the Welsh Government and their 'Programme for Government' commitment to developing a seagrass scheme. This advocacy has been strengthened this year by the continued development and official launch of Seagrass Network Cymru (Wales), where all stakeholders involved with seagrass science, conservation and restoration come together to collaborate as a wider team. On the back of the Seagrass Network Cymru, we've been pleased to develop a strong working relationship with Wales's first Senedd (parliament) government species champion for seagrass (Joel James MS). At local levels this year we have also worked with community groups to enable them to be champions of their seagrass in their locality. Examples of this included Yapeka in Indonesia, the Save Andamen Network in Thailand, Maricet in Malaysia, C3 in the Philippines, and the Coastal Communities Network in Scotland, where we have supported training and empowerment.

At Project Seagrass we continued this year to play a major role in improving the global societal and legal recognition of seagrass. We were very proud to have our Chief Conservation Officer (CCO) contribute to ensuring the inclusion of seagrass in the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) during the 28th Conference of the Parties. This is a major step forward for seagrasses as for the first time it explicitly links the value of these habitats in supporting many species of international conservation value. Through our Citizen Science programme SeagrassSpotter, we have also continued to provide a platform for people from all walks of life to engage with seagrass conservation, not just locally but globally. During the 2023-24 financial year, nearly 1,000 people from across the globe signed up to the programme, and total registered users reached 4,323 by the end of the year. This reflects our biggest increase in registered users ever, and our mobile app has continued to enable professional scientists and members of the public to participate in scientific research. New features, including a "*meadows near me*" feature released for the mobile app in 2023, now provide opportunities for people to engage with seagrass meadows local to them.

A landmark moment for our aim of being a champion for seagrass meadows globally has been through the interaction with our Patrons, the rock/pop band Coldplay. Coldplay embarked on the world's biggest-ever music tour last year; this will run until 2025 and has sold over 9.6 million tickets and occurred across 164 shows. At every one of those shows, seagrass and Project Seagrass generally have been highlighted in major video displays in the build-up to the show.

Aim 2: To support well mapped, thriving seagrass ecosystems

Seagrass ecosystems are among the most poorly understood ocean habitats in terms of their global distribution and status. For thriving seagrass ecosystems, we need up to date information on their status and condition at the local to global scale.

Our achievements

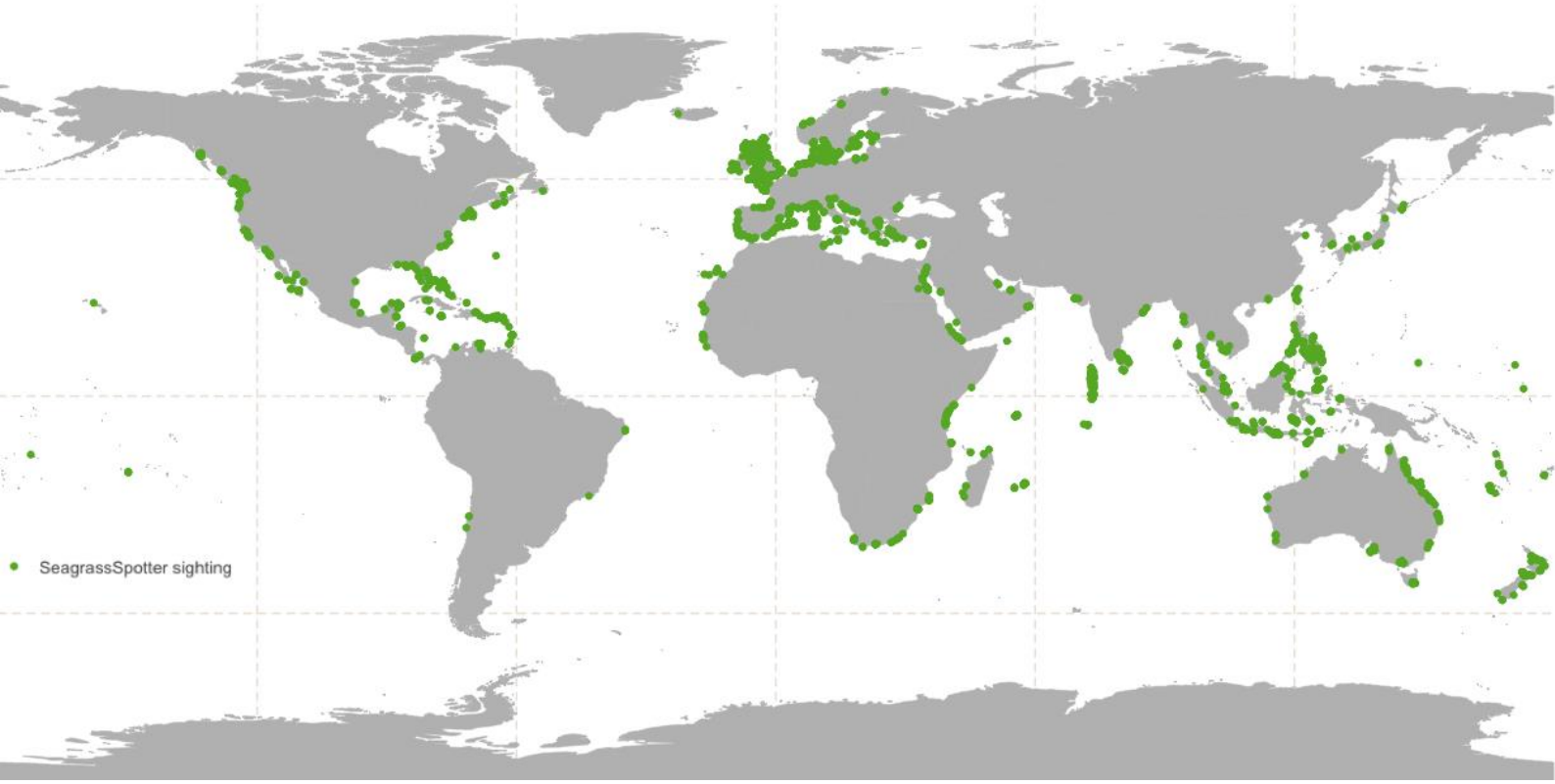
Over the last year, we have continued making significant progress toward achieving well-mapped and thriving seagrass ecosystems. One of our major contributions has been advancing the understanding of seagrass health in the British Isles through extensive and specific mapping efforts. This work, the culmination of a decade-long effort by the Project Seagrass team, highlights the poor environmental condition of seagrass meadows in the British Isles caused by degraded water quality, particularly from excess nitrogen and phosphorus. On the second-ever World Seagrass Day, Project Seagrass partnered with the Blue Marine Foundation and Surfers Against Sewage to present this critical data in a comprehensive report. This report served as a call to action for the UK Government, urging improvements in water quality not only to safeguard human health but also to protect our fragile marine ecosystems.

Our work also ties into broader global efforts. Members of our team have contributed to the international development of a concise description of seagrass as an Essential Ocean Variable (EOV), further reinforcing the importance of seagrass ecosystems in global ocean health initiatives. These efforts underline our commitment to both local and international actions to secure a sustainable future for seagrasses and the biodiversity they support.

We have an ongoing project with the international technology company CGI, who provide us with *Pro Bono* support to help map the UK's seagrass meadows using remote sensing technology. Many previous attempts have used these sorts of approaches to seagrass mapping but failed to deal with many of the challenges of mapping in complex localities where depth, turbidity, algae and wave conditions restrict the reliability of observations. This partnership with CGI is attempting to use high-resolution ground validation to accurately resolve seagrass distribution in satellite imagery through the use of a combined spectral and artificial intelligence approach. Progress has been significant, but many complex challenges remain in achieving the aims of this partnership. Additional work has been completed to target mapping in

explicit locations using drone imagery, this includes sites in the Isle of Wight, Orkney and the Firth of Forth. The analyses are contributing the creation of an improved data layer for seagrass in the UK.

A key part of understanding the location and extent of the worlds seagrass is to have high numbers of georeferenced data. A major way that we're working to achieve this is through our SeagrassSpotter programme. We have continued to make progress towards contributing to and supporting publicly available global seagrass distribution resources through such SeagrassSpotter data collection. By the end of March 2024, we had amassed 7,432 georeferenced datapoints on SeagrassSpotter, 1,258 of which were added in the current financial year by Citizen Scientists from around the globe. Based on uploads alone, 2023-24 was our second-best performing year for SeagrassSpotter.



Aim 3: To facilitate pervasive recognition of seagrass ecosystems for people and planet

People and seagrass are intertwined by reciprocal interactions that act in tandem. These include the flow of ecosystem services to communities, and communities modifying actions on the environment. We believe that communities can have positive modifying actions on the environment as well as negatives and seek to balance the needs of people and planet.

Our achievements

We continued to empower communities and create change for seagrass ecosystems through the International Climate Initiative funded project "*Conservation of biodiversity, seagrass ecosystems and their services – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities in a changing climate*". We trained a total of 80 stakeholders (inc. National Partners, local government and local communities) in the use of standardized methods to assess the value of seagrass for biodiversity, fisheries and people. Through this project a total of 881 community members provided local knowledge that has helped to summarise the key uses and values that local people in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste attribute to seagrass meadows. Empowered communities identified new key fisheries associated species linked to seagrass meadows, recorded changes in local fish stocks and local connectedness to seagrass associated resources. While the project officially ended in November 2023, we have continued to engage with the National Partners we trained throughout the process and will launch a second programme of activities building on this working model in 2025 that is specifically tied to the Global Challenges for Seagrass Conservation.

Our efforts to recognise seagrass meadows as connected social-ecological systems extended to a new project in South Florida, USA. Collaborating with scientists from Florida International University and the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, the 2023-24 financial year represented year 1 of a 2-year project to interweave the local knowledge held by recreational anglers and fishing guides of seagrass associated biodiversity into monitoring programmes.

We were delighted to be invited to the fourth 'Gartmore Gathering' as Friends of the Coastal Communities Network in Scotland to discuss our role in supporting community led seagrass conservation.

© Alex Bartlett / Project Seagrass

Aim 4: To conduct and facilitate scientific research openly and widely sharing results to support conservation and restoration action

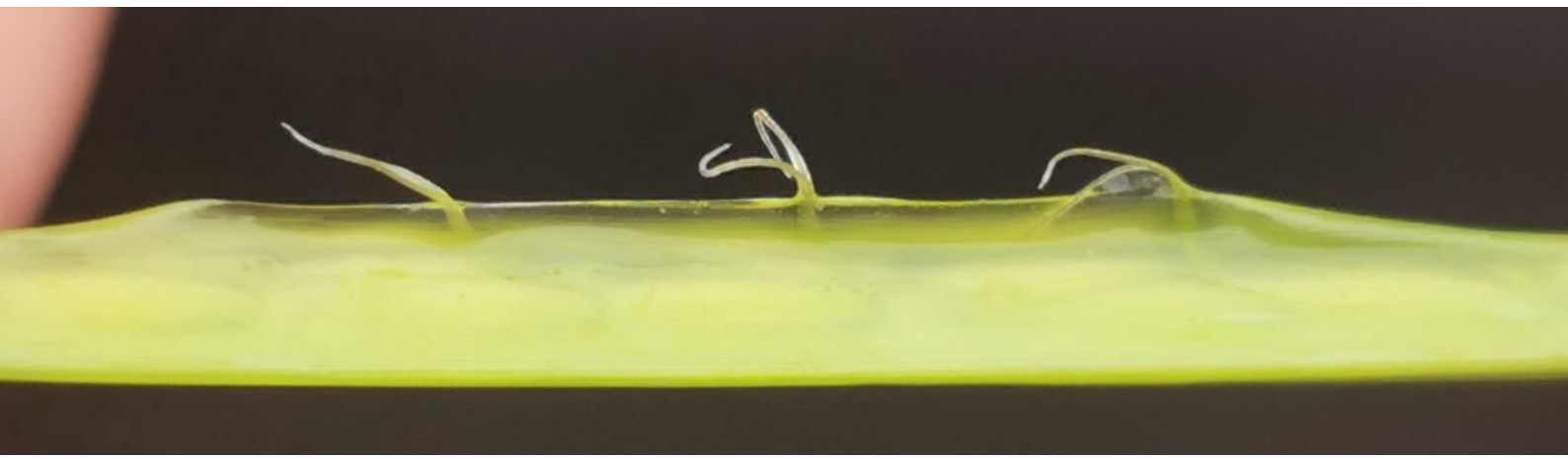
Project Seagrass was founded on the philosophy of turning cutting-edge research into effective conservation and restoration action. With a dedicated team led by world renowned seagrass scientists, we work to conserve and restore seagrass, and through seagrass, we support marine conservation more broadly.

Our achievements

Social-Ecological Systems thinking is at the heart of our research agenda. We progressed towards becoming a centre of excellence for seagrass social-ecological systems science, continuing to collaborate nationally and internationally on interdisciplinary research across multiple topics associated to seagrass. Our team led and contributed to numerous research projects, four of which produced published peer-reviewed research articles by the end of the financial year. Collaborating with scientists from Sweden, our Chief Science Officer (CSO) solicited feedback from 49 seagrass experts working across 18 countries to curate a list of one hundred priority questions for advancing seagrass conservation in Europe. Further research published by and led by the team included a list of bottlenecks to seed-based seagrass restoration, and an analysis of basic methods to overcome ecological feedbacks in seagrass restoration.

Led by our CCO, we started new research projects focusing on the role that Indigenous and local knowledge can play in conserving seagrass systems, firstly by leading a global review into how such knowledge has been used across research into fisheries in collaboration with scientists from the United States and Ireland, and later working on methods to interweave local knowledge with the needs of management agencies. We later presented our global review at a special session at the 76th Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference in the Bahamas.

We continued to make waves at our seagrass nursery, hosting numerous visits and knowledge exchange trips from the Ocean Conservation Trust, Zoological Society of London, The Fieldwork Company, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Manx Wildlife Trust, ReefGen, Botanic Gardens of Wales, Salarte, Portsmouth University and Aberystwyth University. We purchased additional equipment needed to store *Nanozostera noltii* plants at the nursery, and we are now the first UK nursery to host all three UK seagrass species (*Zostera marina*, *Nanozostera noltii* and *Ruppia maritima*).



Throughout the year, our team continued to progress towards growing the global seagrass research community by support and supervising students at local to global scales. These include over 10 PhD and MSc students from or working in the United States, Mauritius, Sweden, Kenya, Tanzania, Australia and the Maldives, as well as students in the UK. We continued to train the next generation of seagrass scientists with our sandwich-year placements for undergraduate students that last 9-12 months and are tied to the academic year (starting in September).

Aim 5: To support and deliver conservation and restoration action in an era of Climate Change

Seagrass is a widespread but globally declining ecosystem. As we lose seagrass, we lose the numerous ecosystem services that seagrass provides. We must not only conserve what we have left but we must work to restore what we have lost.

Our achievements

Our current UK project work is heavily focused on reversing the long-term decline of seagrass through restoration activities. Seagrass loss in the UK has previously been estimated at 44%, although could be as high 92%. In many cases, natural recovery has been insufficient, necessitating active restoration efforts.

We have major ongoing projects in Milford Haven Waterway, the Firth of Forth, the Isle of Wight, Essex Estuaries, and North Wales. These projects are tied to significant goals set by our funders. However, from Project Seagrass's perspective, a key aim is to use these initiatives to advance the science of seagrass restoration. This focus stems from the high failure rates of restoration projects

globally. Seagrass restoration is still a young scientific field, and basic ecological understanding is often lacking. Over the past year, our team has worked extensively to address major knowledge gaps in this area. A central element of our efforts to share the knowledge gained from our experiments is our role as a founding member of the Global Seagrass Nursery Network. Through this network, we are involved in a long-term project to develop a handbook on establishing seagrass nurseries.

In all our projects, we have conducted ongoing experiments to refine methodologies and better understand the environmental conditions necessary for planting. These efforts have resulted in recent academic publications addressing key topics such as managing feedback mechanisms (e.g., macroalgae growth and predation of seeds by crabs) and reviewing bottlenecks in seed-based seagrass restoration.

Over the past year, we have also played a leading role in initiating a Europe-wide experiment to evaluate optimal methods for transplanting the dwarf eelgrass *Nanozostera noltii*. This experiment is ongoing and includes trials at two of our sites (Essex Estuaries and the Firth of Forth) alongside others on the Thames (led by the Zoological Society of London), in the Netherlands (led by the Fieldwork Company and Groningen University), and in Arcachon, France (under the Office for Biodiversity).

Throughout the year, we have continued to expand and improve our seagrass restoration facilities. This included completing the development of innovative seed processing systems, designed collaboratively with Swansea University and WWF, and funded by the Garfield Weston Foundation. These bespoke systems are highly efficient and unique to our work. We also built a series of external seagrass ponds at our nursery and enhanced our seed storage and polytunnel facilities. As a result, we can now process and store over 1.5 million seeds with greater consistency and significantly reduced manual labour.

Aim 6: To provide strong, sustainable, international leadership

To be a leading voice for seagrass ecosystems for decades to come requires strong and resilient foundations. By nurturing a resilient and impactful workforce of staff and volunteers, maintaining strong financial foundations, and delivering sound planning and governance, Project Seagrass will continue to grow its reach and impact.

Our achievements

This year, we made significant strides in strengthening our team and enhancing our organisational capacity. Recognising the challenges posed by the cost-of-living crisis, we undertook a comprehensive independent HR evaluation, including a wellbeing and salary benchmarking review. This initiative ensured our team remains supported, motivated, and fairly compensated in a challenging economic climate. In order to further improve our internal operations, particularly around our ongoing restoration programme, we welcomed a new Operations Manager, whose role is to streamline management processes within the team and facilitate greater efficiency across the organisation.

In June, we celebrated World Ocean Day with a team swim at Ogmore, reinforcing our commitment to the oceans we work so passionately to protect. Additionally, we moved into a new 6,148 sq.ft warehouse, a critical step in expanding our infrastructure to support our growing projects and operational needs.

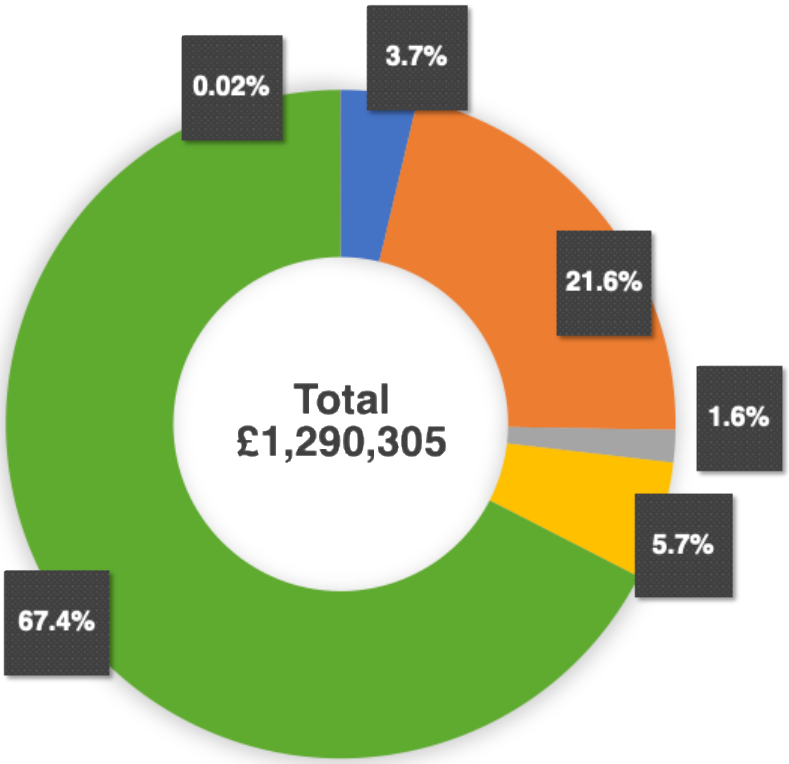
Our leadership received significant global recognition this year. Our CEO was honoured as a global leader, by being featured on the BBC's prestigious 100 Women list for 2023. This is a testament to their leadership in driving impactful change for seagrass meadows, and the environment more broadly. Alongside this, our Chief Conservation Officer continued to serve as the youngest President of the World Seagrass Association, further establishing our organisation as a respected authority in the field of seagrass conservation, and driver of positive change.

Financial review

In 2023-24 we have continued to build on the legacy of previous years and have seen an ongoing strengthening of our financial position as we continue to expand our work and see new funding streams open. During the year we have also made significant improvements in our financial management as we continue to respond to our ongoing growth. During the year, we have also increased our board of trustees to seven, adding two members and bringing specialised financial and legal expertise to support the governance of our organisation.

Income

Research and Conservation Grants contributed a significant £870,000

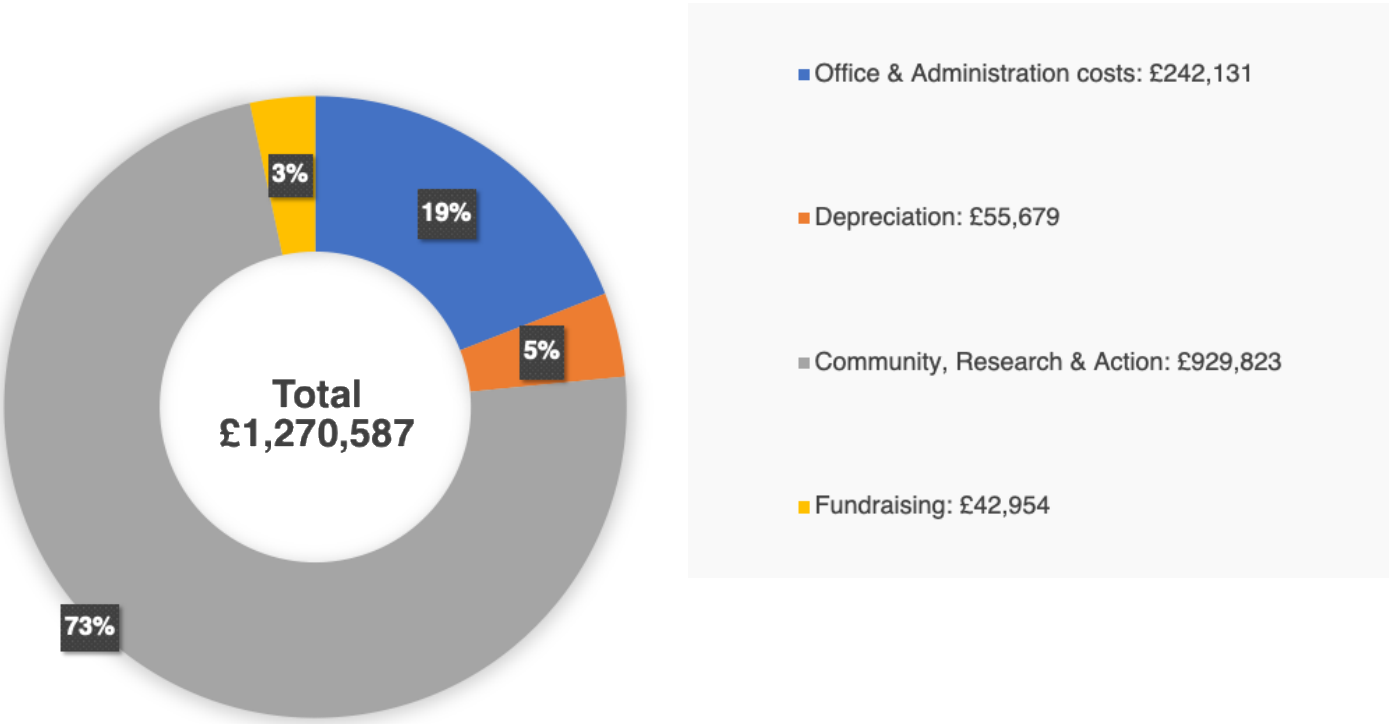


- Individual donations: £47,733
- Donations from companies and trusts: £278,414
- Government contracts: £20,172
- Corporate sponsorships: £73,651
- Conservation and research grants: £870,128
- Merchandise sales and Other Income: £207

- We raised £1,290,305 in income, reflecting approximately a 40% increase on last year.
- Two thirds of our funding was derived from project-specific grants to fund research and conservation, an increase of 46% from last year.
- We continued to strengthen our partnerships with companies and charitable trusts, raising £278,000 in funds, an increase of 91% from last year.
- We secured grants to conduct research into Indigenous and local knowledge in seagrass associated fisheries, for research into method development for seagrass restoration across the British Isles, and for experiments to scale seagrass recovery based at our nursery, amongst others.
- A change in the ways that companies chose to support us resulted in a 29% decrease in income from our Corporate Sponsorship scheme, reflected in an increase in donations.

Expenditure

Overall, £1,270,587 was spent directly on charitable activities over the year.



- In total, the cost of raising income increased by 569%, and represented 3% of spending for the year.
- Dedication to our pillars of community, research and action are clear in our annual spend. We spent nearly £1 million directly supporting activities to conserve seagrass meadows across the globe. This means that over 70p of every £1 raised in the year went directly towards our three pillars of community, research and action.
- New office premises and management teams to support our staff both Wales and Scotland resulted in an 55% increase in spending on officer and administration.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Project Seagrass is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), incorporated on and registered as a charity on 24 July 2015 in England and Wales and 17 August 2016 in Scotland. It is governed by an Association Model Constitution, having been amended following approval by members at an EGM on 2nd May 2015. The charity's structure and constitution is scheduled for review in 2024-25.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, as defined by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Act 2011, and are collectively referred to as “The Trustees”.

Trustees may serve two consecutive periods of four years. After serving these periods they must stand down for a minimum of two years before offering themselves for election again. The organisation advertises vacant trustee positions to the public. A register of trustees’ interests is held and regularly updated by the charity.

Trustee induction and management training

All trustees are given a formal familiarisation with the organisations business, Charitable Board structure and responsibilities by the Chair of the Board of trustees and the Senior Executives as part of an induction process.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees, which administers the Charity, meets regularly and on not less than four occasions per annum.

To set the pay and remuneration of personnel, the Chair will make a recommendation for approval by the Board of the Charity. This recommendation follows a meeting with the Senior Executives. It is based on a senior management team review of annual performance against certain targets and what the organisation can afford to pay.

The Senior Executives, who are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day administration and running of the Charity, act as the link with external stakeholders. To facilitate effective operations, the Senior Executives have delegated authority – within terms of delegation approved by the trustees – for operational matters. These include finance, employment and developing related activities.

Strategic relationships

Insofar as it is complementary to its objects, the Charity is guided by both local, national and global policy. The Charity works in close partnership with other organisations to help achieve common and strategic goals in marine education, conservation, and restoration.

Objectives and activities

At the heart of our operations are three pillars – Research, Community and Action all of which will guide the charity’s activities over the next decade. At Project Seagrass we also recognise the growing importance of the digital community in communicating our marine conservation and education messages. We wish to take positive action to ensure we remain a global, outward facing organisation with a key focus on sustainable development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

Central to the ethos of Project Seagrass is a determination to ‘live our values’, and we are committed to creating a work culture of belonging. A work environment where all team members are valued for who they are and given equal opportunity to grow and succeed, with no discrimination on the basis of their race, colour, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, or identification with any marginalised community in the countries where we work.

Diversity, equity and inclusion can look different in every country, and whilst we have worked to champion and celebrate our Welsh roots, we know we have work still do to if we wish to meet the ideals of the organisation we wish to become.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking clear, concerted steps to diversify our team:

We will develop inclusive position descriptions that open doors for different types of backgrounds, experiences, and education, and that use language which welcomes a more diverse group of candidates.

We will ensure our teams foster equity, inclusion, and belonging and that diverse perspectives are valued in decision-making.

We will intentionally coach and mentor diverse talent.

We will support the expansion of workplace groups to build community for underrepresented groups, and to elevate their voices within the organisation.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking steps to be more inclusive in our work:

We will ensure that our team adheres to our Code of Conduct for all events

We will endeavour to advertise events and volunteer opportunities to all members of society.

We will seek to transform our online platforms to ensure that they use inclusive language and imagery, that is needed to foster a more diverse marine conservation community.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees monitors the significant risks to which the charity is exposed. A formal risk register is maintained by the Executive Team and scrutinised by the Trustees quarterly. The main residual risks and mitigative strategies are:

Insufficient income generated – Senior Executives and Fundraising Manager to continue to source funding for programmes, projects and core costs.

Sufficient fundraising cannot be secured – securing sufficient unrestricted funds to support the full costs of our conservation, education and restoration activities will be addressed in a range of ways through developing our supporter offer, forging new partnerships and demonstrating the value of our activities for corporate support.

Asset development – whilst we only have limited assets at present, we need to continue to invest in assets for autonomy and to develop our capacity. There is a need to maintain our vessel and improve our online presence to meet the appetite for a stronger digital offer.

Succession planning – role descriptions and SOP for all roles. Roles are linked to delivery of the Project Seagrass strategy.

Reserves Policy

The Board has identified a target minimum reserve requirement equivalent to three months' operating costs, which will enable the charity to meet commitments as they fall due. We set a planned upper limit of 12 months' worth of operating costs on the targeted reserve level so that we do not hold funds back from delivering our charitable activities unnecessarily.

The Charity aims to manage our reserves within the upper and lower reserve limits, or 'reserves corridor'. We monitor our short and medium forecast position to identify risks that could cause us to fall outside of this corridor, and what corrective actions would be required to bring us back into the corridor over a rolling three-year period.

It is essential that our minimum reserve requirement is met by the 'liquid' assets so we can be confident we would have the funds at any given point in time should we need them. Liquid Assets are readily accessible assets, such as investments and cash.

At 31st March 2024, the organisation had total net assets of £756,617 (£738,508 at 31st March 2023). However, within this balance are restricted funds of £588,939 (£699,011 at 31st March 2023) relating to operational programmes. These restricted funds are not available for the general purposes and reserves of the charity.

Unrestricted reserves were £167,678 at 31st March 2023 (£39,497 at 31st March 2023). Through regular review of financial performance, open and transparent dialogue with key stakeholders and seeking to identify additional core funding, the trustees aim to continue to improve this position and further develop its reserves policy in the coming year.

Plans for the future

Calls for a green recovery continue to grow in response to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Whilst there remain economic and

financial challenges to overcome, the appetite for change provides a strong platform for our charity to play a role in helping people to understand the importance of our coastal and marine environments and to give them information on the actions that can be taken to protect and restore this resource for the future. Our ten-year strategy is reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and is underpinned by the six global challenges for seagrass identified and agreed by a panel of international seagrass experts.

Statement of public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4, Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit.

As a dedicated team of seagrass scientists, Project Seagrass works to protect seagrass, and through seagrass, we support marine conservation more broadly. The charity's main work is in promoting protection of coastal ecosystems and the promotion of sustainable marine resource use.

Each of our programmes are aimed at improving the condition of the marine environment. A healthy marine environment will supply benefits to the public; these are often referred to as marine 'ecosystem services.'

The United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognized three types of ecosystem services called provision, regulating and cultural. Each of these is relevant to the marine environment.

Provisioning refers to society's needs for our seas to supply both the wild caught and farmed fish that are an important part of our diet.

Regulating is important for climate; seagrass is a significant contributor to carbon sequestration in the form of 'blue carbon'.

Culturally, British seas and coasts are well regarded for recreation, tourism, and appreciation of natural heritage. When the coastal ecosystem is healthy, it supplies more of these benefits. Internationally, there are critical ecosystem services that Seagrass provides to directly support livelihoods and human wellbeing.

Project Seagrass works not only to increase the extent of these benefits, but also to make them publicly available.

During 2023/24 the charity promoted interest and learning about the marine environment and inspired action at local level internationally through its community engaged programmes of work.

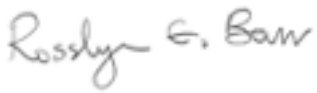
Acknowledgements

The Trustees would like to again thank all our volunteers, members, and supporters - individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, public bodies and corporate organisations who have supported our work. We know that collaborative working and partnerships (informal and formal) will enable us to confidently face the challenges ahead with our loyal and dedicated team of trustees and volunteers.

Approval of the trustees' report

At the time of approving this report, the Trustees are aware of no relevant audit information of which the group and charity's auditors are unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, as trustees, to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group and charitable charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The report was approved by the Board on 5th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Rosslyn Barr

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Statement of Trustees Report Responsibilities

For year ended March 2024

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the "The Act" requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the "The Act". They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of Project Seagrass

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Project Seagrass (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable by law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the charity with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities, the trustees, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charitable incorporated organisation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and review of legal and professional costs around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- Agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims, and;
- Reviewing any correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the charity's legal advisors.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Streets Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
Tower House
Lucy Tower Street
Lincoln
LN1 1XW

Statement of Financial Activities

Income and Expenditure

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	291,765	34,382	326,147	194,817
Other trading activities	3	31,819	62,096	93,915	141,513
Charitable activities	4	-	870,128	870,128	596,308
Other income		115	-	115	-
Total income		**323,699**	**966,606**	**1,290,305**	**932,638**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		15,289	27,665	42,954	38,660
Charitable activities	5,6,7,8	216,689	1,010,944	1,227,633	827,577
Total expenditure		**231,978**	**1,038,609**	**1,270,587**	**866,237**
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before other recognised gains and transfers		91,721	(72,003)	19,718	66,401
Net gains on investment assets		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		91,721	(72,003)	19,718	66,401
Transfers between funds	12	36,619	(36,619)	-	-
Net movement in funds	12	128,340	(108,622)	19,718	66,401
Other gains or losses		(159)	(1,450)	(1,609)	-
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds carried forward from previous year		39,497	699,011	738,508	672,107
Total funds carried forward		**167,678**	**588,939**	**756,617**	**738,508**

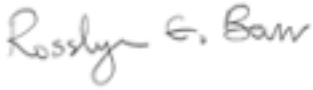
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	161,210	191,619
Intangible assets		-	-
Total fixed assets		**161,210**	**191,619**
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	10	153,427	137,864
Cash at bank and in hand		482,931	470,664
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	11	(40,951)	(61,639)
Net assets		**756,617**	**738,508**
Funds			
Restricted funds	12,13	588,939	699,011
Unrestricted funds	12,13	167,678	39,497
Total funds		**756,617**	**738,508**

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 5th December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Rosslyn Barr

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Statement of cash flows

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash flows generated from operations	14		40,027		106,799
Investing activities					
Purchase of fixed assets		(30,594)		(25,308)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		2,834		-	
Net cash used in investing activities			(27,760)		(25,308)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			12,267		81,491
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			470,664		389,173
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			**482,931**		**470,664**

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

Charity information

Project Seagrass is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1 Garth Drive, Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 2AQ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received. Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Corporate sponsorship income, not falling under donations, is recognised by reference to period of the contract elapsed at the year end.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment:	20-25% on cost
Computers:	25% on cost
Motor vehicles:	16.67% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Expenditure which is not in excess of £250 is not capitalised, but instead treated as a revenue cost within the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Donations – individuals	45,082	2,651	47,733	49,306
Donations – companies and trusts	246,683	31,731	278,414	145,511
Total income from donations and legacies	**291,765**	**34,382**	**326,147**	**194,817**

Donations from trusts and companies do not include any donated services or goods. These have not been included in the financial statements as we are unable to measure reliably the value of the services received in the year.

3. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Contracts	20,172	-	20,172	26,902
Merchandise	92	-	92	7,204
Corporate sponsorships	11,555	62,096	73,651	107,407
Total income from other trading activities	**31,819**	**62,096**	**93,915**	**141,513**

4. Income from charity activities

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Government grants	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	870,128	870,128	596,308
Total income from charity activities	**-**	**870,128**	**870,128**	**596,308**

In the year, other grants received included amounts received from the following institutions:

- Affinity Water - £144,055
- WWF - £227,008

5. Analysis of charity activities

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Accountancy fees	2,640	-	2,640	13,320
Auditors Remuneration	9,540	-	9,540	7,560
Bank fees	172	314	486	189
Cleaning and sundry	3,203	-	3,203	1,935
Community engagement costs	-	20,087	20,087	872
Consulting	12,391	110,052	122,443	59,953
Depreciation	2,310	53,369	55,679	49,114
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(2,000)	6,580	4,580	553
Field, lab and drone expenses	4,694	110,627	115,321	62,624
Governance costs	3,520	30	3,550	688
Light and heat	5,127	10,142	15,269	8,749
IT, subscriptions and insurance	13,377	6,975	20,352	17,769
Printing, postage and stationery	2,784	10,142	12,926	3,478
Professional fees	10,885	21,396	32,281	20,658
Rent and repair costs	9,989	61,864	71,853	69,636
Staff costs	127,631	534,516	662,147	465,683
Telephone	1,220	290	1,510	368
Travel and subsistence	9,206	64,560	73,766	44,428
Total expenditure on charity activities	**216,689**	**1,010,944**	**1,227,633**	**827,577**

6. Staff costs

	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Salaries and wages	580,614	409,359
Employer's national insurance contributions	51,708	37,049
Pension contributions	25,233	16,211
Staffing costs	4,592	3,064
Total costs of employing staff	**662,147**	**465,683**

One employee received emoluments in the band £50,000 to £60,000 (2023: none) and one in the band £40,000 to £50,000 (2023: 1). Three trustees claimed expenses during the year for travel, subsistence and staff training totalling £5,305 (2023: £1,779). No trustee received remuneration during the year (2023: nil). Additional staffing costs of £4,592 (2023: £3,064) were incurred in training.

In the year, key management personnel received emoluments totalling £162,137 (2023: £107,440).

7. Staff numbers

	Total Funds 2024 (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)
Community	3	3
Research	4	4
Action	10	7
Governance and administration	3	3
Total staff	**20**	**17**

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2023	244,019	25,126	5,700	274,845
Additions	24,505	6,089	-	30,594
Disposals	(5,487)	-	(5,700)	(11,187)
At 31 March 2024	**263,037**	**31,215**	**-**	**294,252**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2023	70,588	10,237	2,400	83,225
Depreciation charge for the year	47,512	6,077	-	53,589
Eliminated on disposal	(1,372)	-	(2,400)	(3,772)
At 31 March 2024	116,728	16,314	-	133,042
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2024	**146,309**	**14,901**	**-**	**161,210**
At 31 March 2023	173,431	14,888	3,300	191,619

9. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts receivable	42,251	53,697
Other debtors	86,893	68,586
Prepayments	24,283	15,581
Total debtors	**153,427**	**137,864**

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts payable	16,341	8,794
Other taxation and social security	-	7,220
Other creditors	-	6,963
Accruals and deferred income	24,610	38,662
Total Creditors	**40,951**	**61,639**

11. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which falls due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	35,000	35,000
Between two and five years	105,000	140,000
Total Lease Commitments	**140,000**	**175,000**

12. Movements in funds (2024)

	Brought forward **£**	**Income** **£**	**Expenditure** **£**	**Transfers** **£**	**Carried forward** **£**
Unrestricted funds	39,497	323,699	(232,137)	36,619	167,678
Restricted funds	699,011	966,606	(1,040,059)	(36,619)	588,939
Total funds	**738,508**	**1,290,305**	**(1,272,196)**	-	**756,617**

Funds have been transferred from the unrestricted fund to cover expenditure, incurred in the year, on projects in excess of their restricted fund.

Restricted funds

All restricted funds were for specific projects which directly support work towards our mission targeted through our pillars of community, research and action in the UK and internationally. Restricted funds are recorded and managed at project level but are grouped here under our broader strategic aims.

To be a global champion for seagrass ecosystems
Our international programme of work allows us to remain at the forefront of advancing seagrass science, collaboration and knowledge sharing.
Funding was provided for our international programme in this year by Synchronicity Earth, IKI, Hendrix and Coldplay.
Deakin University, Australia provided funding for two visiting students in this year.

To support well mapped, thriving seagrass ecosystems
Seagrass Spotter received vital funding from Synchronicity Earth to support and update the digital spotter programme.
Maintenance of our research vessel Gwenhidw was funded by Rebel Restoration.
Funding from Blue Marine supported our contribution to the 2023 Seagrass vs Water Quality Report.

To facilitate pervasive recognition of seagrass ecosystems for people and planet
We continued to empower communities and create change for seagrass ecosystems through the International Climate Initiative funded project "Conservation of biodiversity, seagrass ecosystems and their services – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities in a changing climate".
The UKs Coastal Capacities Fund supported habitat assessment and associated community engagement in the Milford Haven Waterway.
Catalyst Cymru funded an engagement opportunity with Pride Cymru, demonstrating volunteering opportunities for restoration in North Wales.
Synchronicity Earth, Swire and Coldplay supported development of our international programme of work.

To conduct and facilitate scientific research openly and widely sharing results to support conservation and restoration action
Our now extensive seagrass ocean rescue programme delivered across North Wales, South Wales and the Solent (Southern England). This work directly connects research (restoration trials) with extensive programmes of community and volunteer engagement. Funding for these programmes was gratefully received from WWF, CSM live, Furthr Earth, Seacology (Dale and AMS), Newby Trust and Next energy.
Our habitat assessment and monitoring programmes were supported by Natural England (seagrass health assessments and Isles of Scilly report), DIO (Essex), Salzwasser (Wales), The Botanist Foundation (Scotland), and Highland Park (Orkney, Scotland).
The William Grant Foundation provided funding to support the salary and work of our Scotland Marine Science Lead with a focus on habitat mapping, assessment and community engagement.
Our mechanisation project, conducting innovative research to scale restoration through mechanised processes was supported by WWF in this financial year.
Ocean Infinity provided funding for our Senior Science Officer: Scaling Seagrass Recovery Salary in this year.
The Bonefish & Tarpon Trust funded salary for our CCO and research costs for innovative bone fishing assessments in South Florida.
Our UK seagrass genetics project also received discrete restricted funding (Scot Gov, Government of Jersey).
The Hartswood Trust and Suggett Family provided funding to advance our laboratory build at our headquarters in Bridgend.

To support and deliver conservation and restoration action in an era of Climate Change
As we develop capacity to scale restoration efforts we rely on experimental work and pilot scaling at our nursery as well as advancing approaches and methods in the field. We need significant and long-term support towards this aim and multiple funders continued to support elements of a more broadly coordinated programme of work.
First roll out to trial external seagrass ponds at our nursery and improvement of our seed storage and polytunnel facilities was funded by Aviva, Affinity Water, Royal Haskoning and the Waterloo Foundation. Other nursery costs were funded by the Dinswade Trust, Feel Good Drinks, Salix, Ozone, and the Waterloo Foundation.

Exploration and trials to facilitate scaling restoration work was conducted in Milford Haven, the Firth of Forth, the Isle of Wight, Essex Estuaries, and North and South Wales and were funded by Restoration Forth (WWF) Affinity Water, Rebel Restoration and Marshal Wace.

Margate exploration was funded though Art for Our Sea.

To provide strong, sustainable, international leadership
Restricted budget used for senior management team salaries directly supports work on the ground and sustains a strong leadership with connection to project-based work. This year we were able to bring on board an Operations Manager to help lead our team and oversee/support all project based work.

Our Birthday
We were able to celebrate our birthday in style thanks again to funding provided by the Waterloo Foundation and refreshments provided by Mermaid Gin.

13. Movements in funds (2023)

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	91,242	218,275	(255,400)	(14,620)	39,497
Restricted funds	580,865	714,363	(610,837)	14,620	699,011
Total funds	**672,107**	**932,638**	**(866,237)**	-	**738,508**

Funds have been transferred from the unrestricted fund to cover expenditure, incurred in the year, on projects in excess of their restricted fund.

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	3,237	157,120	161,210	5,677	185,942	191,619
Current assets / (liabilities)	164,441	431,819	595,407	33,820	513,069	546,889
Total funds	**167,678**	**588,939**	**756,617**	**39,497**	**699,011**	**738,508**

15. Cash generated from operations

	2024 £	2023 £
Surplus for the year	18,109	66,401
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	53,589	49,666
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	4,508	-
Foreign exchange differences	-	-
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(15,563)	38,159
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	(20,688)	(47,427)
Cash generated from operations	**40,027**	**106,799**

16. Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions, other than those stated in Note 6, that took place in the year (2023:£nil).

Thank you

To all our individual donors and those raising sponsorship by tackling personal challenges to support our continued work, these personal contributions mean a huge deal and are a huge motivational boost for our team. We also wish to thank our many and diverse partners and collaborators across the globe who share our values and commitment to saving the worlds seagrass. We would like to thank all of the individuals and organisations who have made our work this year possible:

Government agencies and statutory bodies

Welsh Government
Scottish Government
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
Nature Scot
Coastal Capacity Scheme

Charities, trusts, foundations, and companies contributing £500 or more

A Mclay and Company
Acres Building
Affinity Water
AKO Foundation
Aviva Community Fund
Blair Foundation
Bloomin Fund
Blue Marine Foundation
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
Catalyst Cymru
CGI IT UK
Cobbs Charitable Trust
Consano Earth
CSM Live
Deakin University
Dinswade Trust
Edith Cowan University
European Network of Sports
Eyespace Eyewear
Finisterre
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Hartswood Trust
Hendricks
Highland Distillers Ltd
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Salzwasser e.V
Sea-changers
Seacology
Special Source Ltd
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Swansea University
Synchronicity Earth
The Botanist Foundation
The Golden Bottle Trust
The Guitarwrist
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Waterloo Foundation
William Grant Foundation
Working Planet
WWF-UK

Our patrons

Coldplay

Our first formal ambassador

Miranda Krestovnicoff

Pro bono support and gear:

CGI IT UK
Mermaid Gin
Finisterre

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name
Project Seagrass

Charity Number
1162824 (England and Wales)
SC046788 (Scotland)

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Rosslyn Barr Chair
Dr Sarah Pilgrim-Morrison Board Secretary
Mike Furness
Jake Davies
Dr Bevis Watts
David King (Appointed 9 June 2023)
Robert Christian Raimes (Appointed 9 June 2023)

Executive Team
The members of the C-suite were in post for the whole of the year ended 31 March 2024 and until the date of this report unless stated otherwise:

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Richard Lilley
Chief Development Officer *to January 2024*

Dr Richard Unsworth
Chief Scientific Officer

Dr Benjamin Jones
Chief Conservation Officer

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England & Wales - Charity number 1162824

Accounts

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT & ACCOUNTS

2022-2023

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Introduction from our new CEO

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
CEO, 2022-present

It has been another productive year for the Project Seagrass team that expanded further to increase and support our capacity to deliver on the ground across our three pillars of Research, Community and Action. In October 2022, I changed role from Director of Research to CEO. I have been with Project Seagrass from the start and was a founding director and trustee of Project Seagrass as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. I have worked on seagrass systems internationally for more than 20 years, driven initially by a realisation that these systems support human and planetary wellbeing across their near global range. Our outgoing CEO Dr Richard Lilley has moved into a role of Chief Development Officer and will be exploring development potential both nationally and internationally. This was one of several significant events for Project Seagrass in 2022-23.

This year we were instrumental in advocating for a UN recognised World Seagrass Day, and so it was with real pleasure that on 1st March 2023 we joined the international seagrass community in celebrating the first UN endorsed World Seagrass Day. This marks a significant win for the recognition of the value and importance of seagrass across the globe, it also nods to the power of collaboration and co-support to make things happen.

This year has seen so many major steps forward for Project Seagrass. At the end of this year, in March 2023 we moved premises to our first 'fit for purpose' HQ in Bridgend, South Wales. Another major leap was seeing our seagrass nursery progress from a pipedream to a reality and is one of a whole range of major projects taking shape due to the skills and passion of our fantastic team. Our Chief Conservation Officer Benjamin Jones, now Dr Jones after completing his PhD, also became President of the World Seagrass Association, which was another big moment for our team, reflecting our position as a collaborative and internationally connected science led conservation organisation.

Another significant highlight this year was COP27 where our Chief Scientific Officer Dr Richard Unsworth was able to personally deliver a letter from Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School Eco Club calling for action to fix our planet. This led on from probably one of the most poignant and emotional moments we've had as a team, taking part in the 'Running out of time world relay event', where we helped carry the baton on both a running and cycling leg of the relay. This was a celebrated international relay event taking a message from COP 26 in Glasgow, written by Sunnyside Primary School pupils, to COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh. For our part, we added the message from Llangrallo Primary school, and as our cyclists diverted past the school on their route, the whole school came out and cheered our team on. This was a key moment for all of our team. It's moments like this that motivate our mission. So, we'll keep doing our best to inspire science, learning and action in the next generations and being inspired by them to do more now.

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth

A message from our outgoing CEO

“It’s time to be bold, to be brave and to be hopeful”.

From the 7th-19th December 2022 in Montreal, Canada, governments from around the world came together to agree on a new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 to halt and reverse nature loss. We all know that Nature Recovery is critical to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. At Project Seagrass we will continue to collaborate to address both the key drivers of seagrass loss and to accelerate its recovery. Both of which are desperately needed to secure our own health and well-being alongside that of the planet. As our good friends in Cornwall keep reminding me – It’s time to be bold, to be brave and to be hopeful. It is in that spirit that we are now embarking on our next chapter as an organisation where we will seek to engage more actively with friends and colleagues across the globe to accelerate Nature Recovery. For me personally, it’s been a genuine privilege to be the CEO of such a dynamic team, and I know Project Seagrass simply could not be in better hands than those of Leanne as we chart our course into our second decade as an organisation.

In founding Project Seagrass in 2013 our strategy was underpinned by our four key aims:

- To engage the wider community on the presence and importance of seagrass ecosystems, the services they provide and current seagrass management issues,
- To support local stakeholders in the use of standardised scientific methodologies
- To promote and assist with long-term monitoring of seagrass condition.
- To assist with scientific research and conservation measures that help facilitate the long-term resilience of seagrass ecosystems.

For the last ten years we have worked to achieve these four aims through programmes of work developed across our three organizational pillars: Research, Community and Action. It is through these three pillars that we have influence as an organisation, and ultimately make progress towards our vision of *a world in which seagrass meadows are thriving, abundant and well managed for people and planet.* Whilst, we have no intention in changing our pillars any time soon we felt that we should take time to reflect on our aims and our ambition. Ambition is critical (Welsh: *Mae uchelgais yn hollbwysig*’) if we are going to save the worlds seagrass, and so it is ambition that is needed to underpin our thinking as we look to the future.

So, here's to our collective future. Let’s make sure these next 10 years are more seagrass rich than the last!

Dr Richard Lilley

Nine experiments aimed at improving knowledge of seagrass ecology and restoration

3

meadow scale restoration projects across the UK

Participated in 20 major community engagement events

New data points on SeagrassSpotter

3,796

Seeds planted

450,000

Across **four** major projects

Volunteers engaged

>500

Involved in 4 international knowledge exchange networks

Experimental sites showing seedling growth

50%

30% of sites showing high shoot density

Published 10 academic journal articles

Training and support to 7 organisations in UK and internationally

6 new staff supporting local jobs

Trialled

Three

seagrass planting methods new to Project Seagrass

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ELSEVIER

Check for updates

Dependence on seagrass fisheries governed by household income and adaptive capacity

Benjamin L.H. Jones[a,b,*], Richard K.F. Unsworth[b,c], Lina M. Nordlund[d], Johan S. Eklöf[a], Rohani Ambo-Rappe[e], Filipo Carly[f], Narriman S. Jiddawi[g], Yayu A. La Nafie[e], Susantha Udagedara[h], Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth[b,c]

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Seagrass meadows, like other tropical coastal ecosystems, are highly productive and sustain millions of people worldwide. However, the factors that govern the use of seagrass as a fishing habitat over other habitats are ... at the household scale. Using socioeconomic factors from 147 villages across four ... household dependence on seagrass. We revealed ... the countries studied, being ... how house... were less lik... ealthier house... abitats due t... ocial-ecologi... g seagrass is... sing ocean

oceans

MDPI

Article

Local Ecological Knowledge Reveals Change in Seagrass Social–Ecological Systems

Benjamin L. H. Jones [1,2,*], Richard K. F. Unsworth [2,3], Lina M. Nordlund [4], Rohani Ambo-Rappe [5], Yayu A. La Nafie [5], Mary Rose Lopez [6], Susantha Udagedara [7] and Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth [2,3]

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Abstract: It is widely recognized that humanity is currently facing multiple planetary crises, including the widespread loss of biodiversity and a rapidly changing climate. The impacts of these crises are often far reaching and threaten food security (SDG goal two: zero hunger). Small-scale fisheries are estimated to provide livelihoods for over one hundred million people and sustenance for approximately one billion people but face a plethora of th...

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Jones, B. L. H., L. C. Cullen-Unsworth, M. De la Torre-Castro, L. M. Nordlund, R. K. F. Unsworth, and J. S. Eklöf. 2022. Unintended consequences of sustainable development initiatives: risks and opportunities in seagrass social-ecological systems. Ecology and Society 27(2):10. https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-13063-270210

E&S

Research

Unintended consequences of sustainable development initiatives: risks and opportunities in seagrass social-ecological systems

Benjamin L. H. Jones[1,2], Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth[2], Maricela de la Torre-Castro[3], Lina M. Nordlund[4], Richard K.F. Unsworth[2,5] and Johan S. Eklöf[1]

ABSTRACT. Conserving biodiversity with a growing human population is a key sustainability challenge. Consequently, a vast number of development initiatives across the globe have been designed to combine social, economic, and environmental perspectives. For the most part, the development community is well acquainted with the negative experiences and unintended consequences that some projects have or may bring. However, in tropical coastal ecosystems, this aspect is not completely acknowledged, studied, or understood. Here, we use tropical seagrass meadows as a model social-ecological system to investigate how sustainable development initiatives result in unintended consequences with both positive and negative outcomes for environment and society. We analyze the initiatives and their effects in terms of a typology encompassing "flow", "addition", and "deletion" effects and investigate them across four types of sustainable development initiatives that occur within tropical coastal environments: (1) megafauna conservation, (2) alternative livelihood programs, (3) mosquito net malaria prophylaxis, and (4) marine protected areas. Using these four initiatives as examples, we show that sustainable development initiatives can produce unintended effects with major consequences. Further, we illustrate how not assessing such effects may ultimately undermine the initial goals of the sustainable development intervention. Our study suggests that acknowledging unintended effects and transitioning them so that they become sustainable is more effective than ignoring effects or viewing them as trade-offs. We strongly stress the need for an a priori process in which positive effects, negative effects, and potential uncertainties and surprises are considered when planning the development intervention, and we argue for greater social-ecological monitoring of initiatives. As such, this contribution links to contemporary approaches dealing with the sustainability of natural resources and social-ecological systems and bridges with the importance of development initiatives in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Key Words: *seagrass meadows; social-ecological system (SES); sustainable development; systems change; unintended consequences*

INTRODUCTION

Human-driven degradation of nature is responsible for the biodiversity crisis (IPBES 2019), an issue simultaneously coupled with a climate emergency (Ripple et al. 2020) that has the potential to increase the risk of food-insecurity (Hasegawa et al. 2021) and poverty at global scales (Soergel et al. 2021). The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; United Nations 2015) were conceived as a vision to ensure that humans and nature can thrive together (Mironenko et al. 2015), representing clear ambitions for societal development (e.g., SDG1 Zero Poverty, SDG3 Good Health and Well-being) and preserving nature (e.g., SDG14 Life Below Water, SDG15 Life on Land). Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are viewed as vehicles to implement sustainable development initiatives in the absence of strong, formal institutions (Brass 2016), so much so that since the release of the Brundtland Report (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987), the number of NGOs in low-income and emerging economies have exploded in number (Brass et al. 2018), size, and scope, ranging from large international NGO... Oxfam to smaller localized ... 2015). H...

Although analyses of SDG actions mostly suggest synergies between social and environmental targets, there are also indications of trade-offs (Nilsson et al. 2016, Pradhan et al. 2017). Trade-off analysis has grown steadily as a field of study, especially within terrestrial settings, but generally only concerns the known costs and benefits (e.g., Kanter et al. 2018, Scherer et al. 2018), i.e., outcomes that are planned for and anticipated. Thus, there is great need to understand and report the unknown or indirect costs and benefits, i.e., the unintended consequences, which can be numerous. In Zambia, for example, a community-based wildlife program driven by NGOs resulted in livelihood losses, food insecurity, malnutrition, and social conflicts for traditional communities for whom bushmeat was an important source of protein (Marks 2001). Moreover, Armsworth et al. (2006) noted that purchasing land for conservation initiatives could lead to greater biodiversity loss and more illegal land acquisitions if land market dynamics ... Such unintended consequ...

oceans

MDPI

Article

Effectiveness of Moorings Constructed from Rope in Reducing Impacts to Seagrass

Richard K. F. Unsworth [1,2,*], Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth [1,2], James N. Hope [3], Benjamin L. H. Jones [2], Richard J. Lilley [2], Hanna K. Nuuttila [1], Beth Williams [1] and Nicole E. Esteban [1]

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Citation: Unsworth, R.K.F.; Cullen-Unsworth, L.C.; Hope, J.N.; Jones, B.L.H.; Lilley, R.J.; Nuuttila, H.K.; Williams, B.; Esteban, N.E. Effectiveness of Moorings Constructed from Rope in Reducing Impacts to Seagrass. *Oceans* **2022**, *3*, 431–438. https://doi.org/10.3390/oceans3030029

Academic Editors: Pere Masqué, Sam Dupont, Antonio Bode, Michael ...

Abstract: Seagrass meadows commonly reside in shallow sheltered coastal environments which are typically safe havens for mooring boats. There is evidence from around the globe that the use of common swinging chain moorings leads to halos of bare sediment in otherwise productive seagrass. These halos reduce animal abundance and diversity and lead to a loss of the carbon stored within sediments. To protect and enhance seagrass ecosystem services, low-cost simple solutions are required that can solve the problems of boating-based disturbance. In the present novel study, we provide evidence that the simple replacement of mooring chains with rope can significantly reduce damage to sensitive benthic habitats such as seagrass. At three locations across a range of environmental conditions, we provide evidence that well-established moorings constructed from rope do not damage seagrass. Overall, there was a significant effect ($F_{1,756} = 299.46$, $p < 0.001$) of the mooring type and distance from the mooring base. This equates to a 44% increase in seagrass cover within areas around a rope mooring relative to a chain one. Most small boat mooring activity happens within the summer months, therefore large heavy-duty winter mooring systems are not required in many situations, opening opportunities for adapted systems that have a reduced environmental impact. The present study suggests that there is a ready-made, low-technology, low-cost solution already in existence for halting the widespread loss of seagrass from small boat mooring damage and allowing recovery and opportunity for restoration.

Keywords: boats; anchors; moorings; seagrass; sustainability; conservation

TYPE Original Research
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frontiers | Frontiers in Plant Science

Check for updates

Nutrient additions to seagrass seed planting improve seedling emergence and growth

R.K.F. Unsworth[1,2*], S.C. Rees[1,2], C.M. Bertelli[1], N.E. Esteban[1], E.J. Furness[1,2] and B. Walter[2]

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To maximize the opportunities of seagrass as a nature-based solution ... restoration to occur on a large scale. New methods and knowle... required that can solve ecological bottlenecks, improving its reliab... effectiveness. Although there is increasing interest in the use of ... seagrass restoration there exists a limited understanding of how be... them with the most knowledge on germination and seedling ... coming from laboratory studies. Here we present the results of a... study on the emergence success of seeds of the seagrass Zostera ... subjected to varied planting treatments. Seeds were planted into... according to a factorial design of three treatments (sediment... addition, and nutrient addition). By adding nutrients to natura... present study provides some evidence of seagrass shoot ... maximum shoot length doubling. The present study provid... even in heavily nutrient-rich environments, seagrass sedim... additional nutrients to improve seedling emergence an... highlights the highly variable nature of planting seagras... coastal environments. Critically this study provides i... evidence that small subtleties in the method can have ... for seagrass restoration and that for restoration to sc... ...nature-based solutions there remain ...

SPECIAL SECTION GRASS

REVIEW

The planetary role of seagrass conservation

Richard K. F. Unsworth[1,2*], Leanne C. Cullen-Unsworth[1,2], Benjamin L. H. Jones[2,3], Richard J. Lilley[2]

Seagrasses are remarkable plants that have adapted to live in a marine environment. They form extensive meadows found globally that bioengineer their local environments and preserve the coastal seascape. With the increasing realization of the planetary emergency that we face, there is growing interest in using seagrasses as a nature-based solution for greenhouse gas mitigation. However, seagrass sensitivity to stressors is acute, and in many places, the risk of loss and degradation persists. If the ecological state of seagrasses remains compromised, then their ability to contribute to nature-based solutions for the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis remains in doubt. We examine the major ecological role that seagrasses play and how rethinking their conservation is critical to understanding their part in fighting our planetary emergency.

Though commonly called grasses, seagrasses are a unique group of submarine flowering plants that belong to the monocotyledon order Alismatales, comprising four families and 72 species. Although they occupy a broad range of niches and are derived from multiple evolutionary lineages (*1*), they all share a connection to marine environments and consistently exhibit features that separate them from all other angiosperms. Seagrasses have adapted to live underwater, where light is limited, where salt and nutrients can be problematic, and where soils can become highly toxic (*2*).

Seagrass diverged from other alismatid monocots ~105 million years ago, and work by Olsen *et al.* (*3*) supports hypotheses that modern seagrass biodiversity can be linked to the materialization of multiple habitats after the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event. In the past decade, the seagrass science community has grown (*4*) and revealed the uniqueness of these plants and the importance of the ecosystems that they create (Fig. 1). Seagrasses bioengineer their environment by slowing water flow, trapping particles, and improving the environment within a positive feedback mechanism to facilitate the creation of habitat (*5*). Just like terrestrial plants, their reproduction can be supported by a diverse range of pollinators, such as cumacean crustaceans (*6*), and seed dispersers, such as fish (*7*). Their reproduction is not always sexual—...

the roots and rhizomes of seagrasses, indicating that they may play essential roles similar to those of fungal associates of terrestrial plants (*11*).

Aside from their ecological uniqueness, seagrasses are of increasing interest in a sociopolitical context owing to their potential to help combat the current climate and biodiversity crises that our planet faces. Seagrass meadows also support human well-being by virtue of their role in supporting fisheries, coastal protection, and water filtration (*12*), and action for their conservation supports the fulfilment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations in 2015. Seagrasses

> **"Compared with…terrestrial grasses and even seaweeds, the body of research within seagrass is magnitudes smaller…"**

also support many species of conservation concern, such as the dugong, green turtle, and manatee (*13*), and provide interacting ecological functioning throughout the coastal seascape (*14*).

To harness the power of seagrass as a nature-based solution to the climate emergency and the biodiversity crisis, seagrass systems must be in a resilient ...

for seagrass to contribute to the comple... of nature-based solutions remains in do... this Review, we reflect on the status of s... ecosystems, the major ecological role th... play in the coastal environment, and h... thinking their conservation is critical to al... them to play a role in reversing climate c...

Global decline, net-zero loss, and achievi... net gain

The role that seagrass can have in reversi... mitigating climate change requires cons... tion of their global biogeochemical contribu... For this, we first need a better understandi... whether seagrasses are currently in a state o... loss, stasis, or net gain globally, along with... parameters that drive their greenhouse gas... ance (Fig. 1). The global coverage of seagra... currently estimated to be 160,387 to 266,562 ... (*18*). This range reveals that we have very lim... understanding of the actual extent of seag... populations. We also do not fully understand... extent of the ecological goods and services t... seagrass provides, including to biodiversity a... coastal protection. Studies have sought to pl... estimates on seagrass loss at 1 to 7% per y... (*19*, *20*) and create global carbon storage e... mates of up to 19.9 Pg (*21*, *22*). However, if we ... not know how much we have or have had, ... cannot hypothesize very well on what has be... lost or its associated ecological relevance.

The reported trajectory of seagrass coverag... (*20*, *23*) indicates that it may be recovering i... some areas; however, this analysis is limite... because it only focuses on locations where sea... grass is mapped, monitored, and likely affecte... by some level of conservation action, and it ma... represent only a fraction of potential and un... known seagrass area. Analyses are also limited... by favoring data published in academic journals... and excluding available data in the gray litera... ture. A coordinated global effort is required to... create meaningful global estimates of seagrass... coverage and change that are validated with open... data sharing between governments, academics...

Key achievements and performance

Community

We are creating a community around seagrass by generating awareness and understanding of these critical habitats. We collaborate with governments, organisations, businesses, and individuals to save, protect and restore seagrass.

Our achievements

Throughout the year, we increased the reach and impact of our awareness raising work through strategic partnerships, delivering talks and seminars, volunteer and community days and more. While the existence of international days or observances predates the establishment of the United Nations, the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. Over the last few years we have been pivotal in advocating for official recognition of the value of seagrass to the environment and people. This advocacy culminated with the Sri Lankan government (with support from Project Seagrass) proposing an official 'World Seagrass Day' to the UN General Assembly during the 74th Plenary Meeting in May 2022. The UN General Assembly adopted this resolution, proclaiming 1 March as World Seagrass Day and highlighting the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for the conservation of seagrasses in order to contribute to their health and development. The first official World Seagrass Day was celebrated in 2023, and to mark this significant event we were invited to speak at a national event in Sri Lanka hosted by the Ministry of Environment. Alongside this we celebrated by hosting an international panel of global seagrass experts giving presentations on the theme of the Global Challenges for Seagrass Conservation that included a question and answer session with the over 200 attendees on the day. We value being part of the big conversations around ocean stewardship, and participated in the World Ocean Summit and UN Ocean Conference, these conversations are helping Project Seagrass to play a key part in ongoing international collaborations with groups in the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as more locally across the UK. In addition, we were proud to support our Chief Conservation Officer Dr Benjamin Jones becoming president of the World Seagrass Association in December 2022.

We continued to develop strategic partnerships with a number of NGOs and community groups across Southeast Asia, whom we have been providing with training and technical tools to strengthen, raise the profile and change the narratives on seagrass conservation efforts in the region. We trained 80 individuals in the use of standardised scientific methodologies for seagrass ecosystem service assessments. This work is part of our role in the International Climate Initiative (IKI) project 'Conservation seagrass ecosystems – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities'. Our work is empowering these NGOs and community groups to embrace the conservation of seagrass and work to understand its value and the future opportunities that this may create (e.g. in Blue Carbon). The Restoration Forth programme also provided community volunteer training, in how to conduct baseline biodiversity surveys, Dispenser Injection Seeding mud preparation and the set-up of seagrass restoration trials at three sites within the Firth of Forth. We did this with over 70 members from the local community participating.

Generating awareness and understanding is key to leading societal change to enable the recognition, recovery and resilience of seagrass ecosystems globally, and we were part of or led talks and discussions at over 20 events during the year to do just that. Key achievements were: presenting alongside our friends at Surfers Against Sewage on the challenges of poor water quality in the UK, presenting to a range of corporate organisations that leveraged pro bono technological assistance, and our Chief Scientific Officer, Richard Unsworth,

presented an invited seminar ‘Inspiring Optimism for Seagrass Conservation’ as part of the World Seagrass Association Seminar series. The continuing legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that online events remain popular and functional and as such these have facilitated participation in international workshops and round tables and enabled progressions of seagrass community networks such as the Wales Seagrass Network and Global Seagrass Nursery Network and seminar series all chaired by our team.

Community is central to our restoration projects, and alongside partners WWF, Scottish Power, NHLF and Ofwat we engaged over 1000 volunteers over the year. We hosted three community seagrass seed picking events, one in Porthdinllaen, North Wales as part of the Seagrass Ocean Rescue Wales, programme, one on the Isle of Wight, England, as part of the Seagrass Ocean Rescue, Solent, project and one in Orkney, Scotland, as part of the Restoration Forth programme. Internationally, over 500 community members provided key information and local knowledge that have helped to summarise the key uses and values that local people attribute to seagrass meadows, and 136 individuals contributed 3,796 sightings to our citizen science programme SeagrassSpotter.

In an effort to diversify our community base and target new audiences, we partnered with Love Tropics, an annual 48-hour Minecraft (online computer gaming platform) charity livestream event that is focused on helping people living in the Earth's tropics. Over the event weekend, hundreds of Minecraft players joined forces to play on a map of the Project Seagrass logo, learn about seagrass and come together to raise funds for our international programmes.

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Research

We lead, champion, and communicate cutting-edge scientific research which underpins everything we do. We provide and advocate for open-access data to enable effective conservation action and address the global challenges facing seagrass.

Our achievements

Targeted major research activities continued to develop in 2022, with extensive surveys conducted in preparation for large future seagrass planting efforts in 2023, particularly in the Firth of Forth, across North Wales and the Solent, Southern England. We further developed our trials in Essex, Southeast England. Principally all these areas have a reduced coverage of seagrass relative to historic levels, and as such work has focused on examining where the environmental window for recovery may exist.

Seabed and seagrass mapping work was conducted alongside numerous site visits, assessments, and environmental monitoring. Small planting experiments were laid out in North Wales and the Solent to examine potential site choices and these research efforts are helping to guide restoration planning and implementation at these locations, and improve our knowledge about how to establish successful seagrass restoration projects. We continued to improve our mechanised seed harvester following field trials in North Wales. We located seagrass meadows in the Solway Firth and collected seagrass tissue samples for both genetic and stable isotope analysis. We visited several sites in Étang de Berre, France to advise on potential seagrass restoration techniques that could be undertaken in the lagoon.

We continued to be a global leader in the science around seagrass social-ecological systems, publishing a number of articles focusing on the role of seagrass meadows as providers of food security and integrating Indigenous and local knowledge to reveal diverse and complex human interactions with seagrass meadows. Key to the continuation of this research theme was supporting on the ground data collection across Southeast Asia as part of our role as technical partners in the International Climate Initiative (IKI) project 'Conservation seagrass ecosystems – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities'. Through this project our team played a major part in empowering communities for seagrass conservation (see Community section) delivering training on a number of research methods.

We presented our research to diverse scientific audiences, including at the 15th ISBW (International Seagrass Biology Workshop) in the US, where we also hosted a workshop on the value of citizen science, the 12th WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) Scientific Symposium in South Africa, and the SMMR (Sustainable Management of UK Marine Resources) conference in Bristol.

The year ending March 2023 saw a large public expansion of our Project Seagrass research activities, with 10 academic papers published by our team across the themes of seagrass meadows and their ecology, conservation, and restoration. This included leading a paper in the journal Science titled 'The planetary role of seagrass conservation' and playing a key role in a major paper on seagrass in the Pleistocene, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. We also published three technical reports about some of our more on-the-ground local research activities.

In order to further our knowledge of seagrass meadows to facilitate improved seagrass conservation and restoration we need to better understand where our knowledge gaps lie. Our Chief Scientific Officer Richard Unsworth was invited by UNESCO to co-lead (together with Dr Lina Mtwana Nordlund) a project to define the top 100 questions to facilitate improved seagrass conservation in Europe. This project built on many years of seagrass

collaboration across Europe by the co-leads and brought together 47 seagrass scientists working in 18 European countries. The project aims to create an academic output of the questions in 2023.

Within our research stream we continue to collaborate extensively with universities, foremost with Swansea university who provide significant pro-bono support.

Action

We conserve, restore and advocate for seagrass meadows all over the world. We develop and deploy methods and tools to make saving the world's seagrass a reality.

Our achievements

We had a year of significant progress across our action programmes; a year where we were able to advance our knowledge acknowledging both our successes and failures and continuing on a pathway towards scaled up seagrass restoration and conservation action.

Regular monitoring is critical to improve our understanding of seagrass ecosystems, and from the very beginning of Project Seagrass we have been undertaking Seagrass-Watch at Porthdinllaen, North Wales. The long-term seasonal data we collect here helps both us, and others, to better understand the site and the dynamic nature of the ecosystem more broadly. Monitoring is also central to our restoration programmes, and monitoring of initial site experiments in North Wales (planted early in 2022) revealed a number of environmental challenges that must be overcome to facilitate restoration success. We faced hurdles at sites deemed potentially suitable for restoration, driven by high exposure and sand movement, but such challenges helped inform site choices for planting later in the year. As an organisation, we continue to be driven by scientific evidence and work towards following that evidence even when it presents challenges, that's how we continue to improve knowledge and restoration success rates in an area that remains, scientifically speaking, relatively young.

This year we had our first site visits within the Firth of Forth, Scotland, to explore potential restoration sites for the Restoration Forth project as our 'boots on the ground' approach directly informs our research as we iteratively improve our methods to adapt to challenges we face in the field.

We conducted major seagrass planting trials in two new locations on the Llŷn Peninsula, North Wales, and at three locations around the Isle of Wight, Southern England, exploring the use of different planting methods. In the Firth of Forth we supported community groups to follow Dispenser Injection Seeding protocols for trialling seagrass restoration at three sites, this is a method that has built on research pioneered in the US and recently adapted to sites in the Netherlands.

We also planted our first seagrass seeds at our pilot Seagrass Nursery in West Wales where we're trying to understand whether it's possible at large scale to grow propagules for restoration and to understand how we can overcome the challenges to that. For example, our nursery team began experiments to see how animals present in the environment can be prevented from consuming seagrass seeds, improving seed germination rates. At the nursery we also constructed a refrigerated seed storage unit and built and delivered a mobile Seagrass Processing Unit for use on the Restoration Forth project. This was sited at The Ecology Centre in Fife. For us to scale seagrass restoration efforts sustainably it will require knowledge exchange and capacity building at scale. To work towards this aim we have supported the setup and establishment of protocols for the mobile Seagrass Processing Unit at The Ecology Centre and have set up a small seagrass seed storage facility at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

To facilitate greater interest in seagrass mapping within France we delivered SeagrassSpotter training with staff from the Office français de la biodiversité in Bassin d'Arcachon, and with Ocean-Alive in Tróia, in Portugal. We also initiated baseline assessments and data collection using SeagrassSpotter with local volunteers to document seagrass distribution in the Firth of Forth, Scotland. SeagrassSpotter training is now integrated within our seagrass citizen science monitoring programme. In March 2022 we conducted this training to groups in North Wales and the Solent.

Seed collection was again successful during summer 2022, with collections happening at three major locations for the first time (Orkney, North Wales and the Solent). Some of these seeds are being used at the nursery whilst the majority are being used for experimental planting trials on the Llŷn Peninsula, the Isle of Wight and the Firth of Forth. The collection of the seeds at all sites required extensive collaboration with community groups as the task is highly labour intensive. It also included an unsuccessful trial in the Solent using a group of commercial divers to undertake large scale collections.

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Our strategy

Future Mission and Vision: Our Plan to Save the World's Seagrass

This year, as we look towards our second decade as an organization, we felt it was important to take time to reflect on our journey so far and chart a course for the future together. So, at the beginning of October 2022, our whole team assembled in person in Wales (with a few dialling in online) for our 'Strategy Days' in order to develop and agree on our strategic plan for the next ten years. As a result, 2022 saw the launch of our ten year strategy towards securing a future for seagrass, which outlines the high-level approach and ambitions of Project Seagrass for the decade 2022 – 2031.This approach is how we will go about our mission to achieve our vision of a world in which seagrass meadows are thriving, abundant and well managed for people and planet whilst holding true to our core values. Everyone at Project Seagrass is focused on delivering real change to save the world's seagrass, as well as promoting the sustainable use of seagrass ecosystems, and improving the sustainability of our team and individual actions.

Core Values: Science-led, integrity, fairness, inclusivity, sustainability, equitability

Our approach at Project Seagrass is to use the term 'seagrass ecosystems' to reflect the growing body of evidence positioning people as part of nature, whereby we recognise that seagrass meadows are part of a social-ecological system, and we approach the conservation and restoration of these important habitats with this view. We recognise and acknowledge that seagrass meadows form part of a connected seascape comprising multiple other habitats ranging from reefs to saltmarsh habitats.

Our six aims for the coming decade are:

Aim 1. A Global Champion for Seagrass Ecosystems

We aim to improve societal and legal recognition and protection of seagrass ecosystems, develop widespread public opportunities to engage with seagrass ecosystems, deliver external outreach and communication encompassing research and experience from across the globe, and support access to finance for seagrass ecosystem conservation and restoration, working with international bodies and corporations to develop opportunities.

Aim 2. Support for well mapped, thriving seagrass ecosystems

We aim to support and contribute to publicly available global seagrass distribution resources and improved top-down and bottom-up data collection, collaboration and reporting.

Aim 3. Facilitate widespread recognition of seagrass ecosystems for people and planet

We aim to empower communities creating change for seagrass ecosystems and for seagrass ecosystems to be formally acknowledged as connected social-ecological systems. We want seagrass ecosystems valued as sustainable providers of food and livelihoods.

Aim 4. Conduct and facilitate scientific research, openly and widely sharing results to support conservation and restoration action

We will collaborate to co-produce and disseminate knowledge and identify gaps. We aim for a centre of excellence where infrastructure for seagrass systems science is fit for purpose, with the creation of purpose-built lab facilities to support controlled experimental work in the lab and field, and all restoration associated activities. We envision a growing, global seagrass research community.

Aim 5. Support and deliver conservation and restoration action in an era of Climate change

We will work towards net gain for seagrass ecosystems through protection and restoration at scale with seagrass health used as an indicator of

change. We will develop and support infrastructure for seagrass conservation and restoration that is fit for purpose and a community of practice for seagrass conservation and restoration.

Aim 6. Provide strong, sustainable, international leadership

We will create an intra-connected and communicative team, a team with internally and internationally respected leadership as a progressive organisation, a team that is well informed and collaborative, and a team that is confident, fulfilled, and supported. As an organisation, we will be well governed, ethical, and sustainable.

Partnerships and Collaboration is Key to achieving impact at scale

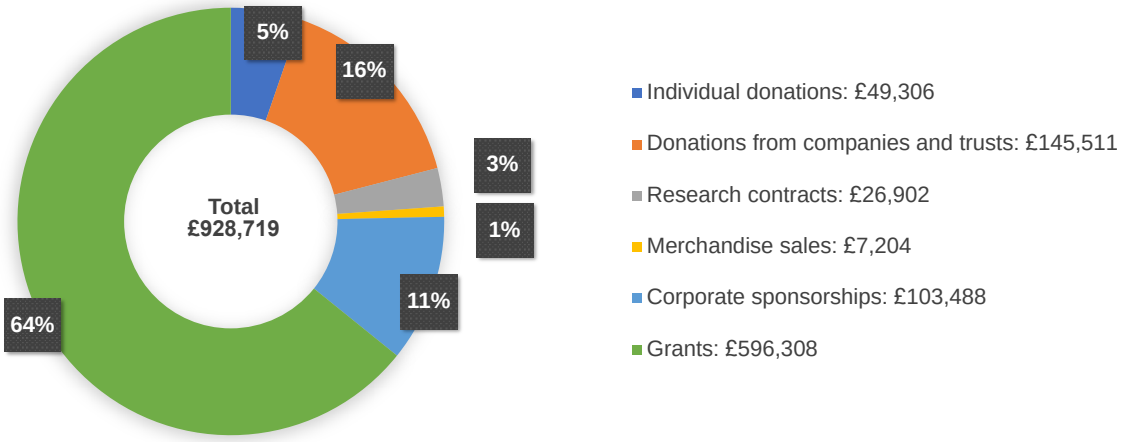
We work inclusively and collaboratively to bring together the best of commercial enterprise and technological innovation into a sphere of transdisciplinary science and local knowledge, partnering NGO's, enterprise, universities, and society to make a difference together. Using our team's scientific knowledge and experience we deliver and demonstrate current seagrass science whilst providing technical support to communities who want to lead on their own monitoring or restoration projects. We recognise the strength in partnerships, particularly as linked to SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). As acknowledged in our values, it's only by bringing together a diverse range of identities, experiences and perspectives that we can respond to global challenges.

Financial review

Building on the changing way we work, respond, and raise money in a rapidly changing world, 2022-23 has kept us in a strong position to continue and expand our work. As we have seen exceptional growth as an organisation over the past few years, this year we have implemented improvements to our auditing and governance structures to reflect and support this growth, including revision of our financial procedures and full review of our scheme of delegation. We also began to grow our board of trustees and at year close have a board of five members with varying areas of expertise. We intend to expand our board further in 2023-24, after identifying additional areas for support and guidance.

Income

This year we raised £932,638 in income, reflecting a 13% increase from last year, with almost two thirds of that amount deriving from existing or new project grants. Funding from corporate sponsorships, corporate donations and individual donations increased significantly.

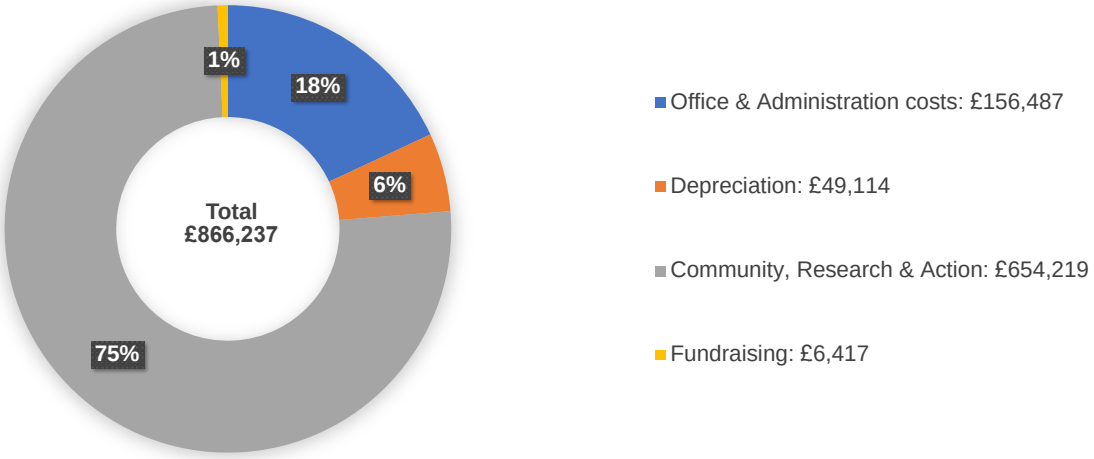


- Grants to fund specific conservation projects decreased to £596,308 (a decrease of 9% on the previous year), but many of last year's projects were multi-year.
- Donations from individuals contributed to 5% of our income, with £49,306 donated, an increase of 20% on the previous year.
- Donations from companies and trusts contributed significantly, increasing by 87% on the previous year.
- Significant interest from companies resulted in a 470% increase in income from our Corporate Sponsorship scheme.

Expenditure

Overall, £859,820 was spent directly on charitable activities over the year.

Our dedication to our pillars of community, research and action are clear in our annual spend, as always, with 75% of spend (£654,219) directly across these activities.



- Despite an increase in staff numbers, staff costs remained at 58% of total expenditure.
- We generated income from private donations of £7.68 for every £1.00 spent on fundraising, spending £6,417 on raising funds this year.

*Note: the Executive and Trustees plan to take a more in depth analysis of our expenditure for the 2023/24 report.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), incorporated on and registered as a charity on 24 July 2015 in England and Wales and 17 August 2016 in Scotland. It is governed by an Association Model Constitution, having been amended following approval by members at an EGM on 2nd May 2015.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, as defined by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Act 2011, who are also Directors under the Companies Act 2006 and are collectively referred to as "The Trustees".

Trustees may serve two consecutive periods of four years. After serving these periods they must stand down for a minimum of two years before offering themselves for election again. The organisation advertises vacant trustee positions to the public. A register of trustees' interests is held and regularly updated by the charity.

Trustee induction and management training

All new trustees are to be given a formal familiarisation with the organisations business, Charitable Board organisation and responsibilities by the Chairman and the four Senior Executives as part of an induction process.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees, which administers the Charity, meets regularly and on not less than four occasions per annum.

To set the pay and remuneration of personnel, the Chair will make a recommendation for approval by the Board of the Charity. This recommendation follows a meeting with the Senior Executives. It is based on a review of annual performance against certain targets and what the organisation can afford to pay.

Volunteers are central to the successful operation of the Charity. A core group of regular volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the organisation and should be recognised here.

The Senior Executives, who are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day administration and running of the Charity, act as the link with external stakeholders. To facilitate effective operations, the Senior Executives have delegated authority – within terms of delegation approved by the trustees – for operational matters. These include finance, employment and developing related activities.

Strategic relationships

Insofar as it is complementary to its objects, the Charity is guided by both local, national and global policy. The Charity works in close partnership with several organisations to help achieve common and strategic objectives in marine education, conservation, and restoration.

Objectives and activities

At the heart of our operations are three pillars – Research, Community and Action all of which will guide all the charity's activities over the next decade. At Project Seagrass we also recognise the growing importance of the digital community in communicating our marine conservation and education messages. We wish to take positive action to ensure we remain a global, outward facing organisation with a key focus on sustainable development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

Central to the ethos of Project Seagrass is a determination to 'live our values', and we are committed to creating a work culture of belonging. A work environment where all team members are valued for who they are and given equal opportunity to grow and succeed, with no discrimination on the basis of their race, colour, gender identity, gender

expression, religion, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, or identification with any marginalised community in the countries where we work.

Diversity, equity and inclusion can look different in every country, and whilst we have worked to champion and celebrate our Welsh roots, we know we have work still do to if we wish to meet the ideals of the organisation we wish to become.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking clear, concerted steps to diversify our team:

- We will develop inclusive position descriptions that open doors for different types of backgrounds, experiences, and education, and that use language which welcomes a more diverse group of candidates.
- We will ensure our teams foster equity, inclusion, and belonging and that diverse perspectives are valued in decision-making.
- We will intentionally coach and mentor diverse talent.
- We will support the expansion of workplace groups to build community for underrepresented groups, and to elevate their voices within the organisation.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking steps to be more inclusive in our work:

- We will ensure that our team adheres to our Code of Conduct for all events
- We will endeavour to advertise events and volunteer opportunities to all members of society.
- We will seek to transform our online platforms to ensure that they use inclusive language and imagery, that is needed to foster a more diverse marine conservation community.

Reserves policy

The Board has identified a target minimum reserve requirement equivalent to three months' operating costs, which will enable the charity to meet commitments as they fall due. At 31 March 2023, the organisation had total net assets available to reserves of £738,508 (£672,107 at 31st March 2022). However, within this balance are restricted funds of £699,011 (£580,865 at 31st March 2022) relating to operational programmes. These restricted funds are not available for the general purposes of the charity. Unrestricted reserves were £39,497 at 31st March 2023 (£91,242 at 31st March 2022). Through regular review of financial performance, open and transparent dialogue with key stakeholders and seeking to identify additional core funding, the trustees aim to improve this position.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees monitors the significant risks to which the charity is exposed. A formal risk register is maintained by the Executive Team and scrutinised by the Trustees quarterly. The main residual risks and mitigative strategies are:

1. Insufficient income generated – Senior Executives and Fundraising Manager to continue to source funding for programmes, projects and core costs.

2. Sufficient fundraising cannot be secured – securing sufficient unrestricted funds to support the full costs of our conservation, education and restoration activities will be addressed in a range of ways through developing our supporter offer, forging new partnerships and demonstrating the value of our activities for corporate support.

3. Asset development – whilst we only have limited assets at present, we need to continue to invest in assets for autonomy and to develop our capacity. There is a need to maintain our vessel and improve our online presence to meet the appetite for a stronger digital offer.

4. Succession planning – role descriptions and SOP for all roles. Roles are linked to delivery of the Project Seagrass strategy.

Plans for the future

Calls for a green recovery continue to grow in response to the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Whilst there remain economic and financial challenges to overcome, the appetite for change provides a strong platform for our charity to play a role in helping people to understand the importance of our coastal and marine environments

and to give them information on the actions that can be taken to protect and restore this resource for the future. In this financial year we launched our ten-year strategy to deliver on our mission to save the worlds seagrass. Our strategy is underpinned by the six global challenges identified and agreed by a panel of international seagrass experts.

Statement of public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4, Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit.

As a dedicated team of seagrass scientists, we work to protect seagrass, and through seagrass, we support marine conservation more broadly. The charity's main work is in promoting protection of coastal ecosystems and the promotion of sustainable marine resource use.

Each of our programmes are aimed at improving the condition of the marine environment. A healthy marine environment will supply benefits to the public; these are often referred to as marine 'ecosystem services.'

The United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognized three types of ecosystem services called provision, regulating and cultural. Each of these is relevant to the marine environment.

Provisioning refers to society's needs for our seas to supply both the wild caught and farmed fish that are an important part of our diet.

Regulating is important for climate; seagrass is a significant contributor to carbon sequestration in the form of 'blue carbon'.

Culturally, British seas and coasts are well regarded for recreation, tourism, and appreciation of natural heritage. When the coastal ecosystem is healthy, it supplies more of these benefits.

Project Seagrass works not only to increase the extent of these benefits, but also to make them publicly available.

During 2022/23 the charity promoted interest and learning about the marine environment and inspired action at the local level through its community engagement programmes.

Acknowledgements

The Trustees would like to again thank all our volunteers, members, and supporters - individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, public bodies and corporate organisations who have supported our work. We know that collaborative working and partnerships (informal and formal) will enable us to confidently face the challenges ahead with our loyal and dedicated team of trustees and volunteers.

Approval of the trustees' report

At the time of approving this report, the Trustees are aware of no relevant audit information of which the group and charity's auditors are unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, as trustees, to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group and charitable charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The report was approved by the Board on 19th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Rosslyn Barr (Chair)

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable account policies and then apply them consistently
2. Observe the methods and the principles in the Charity SORP
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring proper accounting records are maintained that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply the appropriate legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of project seagrass

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Project Seagrass (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable by law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the charity with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have

not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and review of legal and professional costs around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Bush & Co Limited
Statutory Audit
Chartered Accountants
2 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
Devon
EX1 1QT

Bush & Co Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Financial statements

Consolidated statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	115,943	78,874	194,817	118,864
Other trading activities	3	89,088	52,425	141,513	25,838
Charitable activities	4	13,244	583,064	596,308	682,124
Total income		**218,275**	**714,363**	**932,638**	**826,826**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		5,581	836	6,417	2,403
Charitable activities	5,6,7	249,819	610,001	859,820	369,586
Total expenditure		**255,400**	**610,837**	**866,237**	**371,989**
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before other recognised gains and transfers		(37,125)	103,526	66,401	454,837
Net gains on investment assets		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(37,125)	103.526	66,401	454,837
Transfers between funds	11	(14,620)	14,620	-	-
Net movement in funds	12	(51,745)	118,146	66,401	454,837
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds carried forward from previous year		91,242	580,865	672,107	217,270
Total funds carried forward	**12**	**39,497**	**699,011**	**738,508**	**672,107**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2023

Charity Number: 1162824

	Note	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	8	191,619	215,980
Intangible assets		-	-
Total fixed assets		**191,619**	**215,980**
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	9	137,863	176,019
Cash at bank and in hand		470,664	389,173
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	10	(61,638)	(109,065)
Net assets		**738,508**	**672,107**
Funds			
Restricted funds	11,12	699,011	580,865
Unrestricted funds	11,12	39,497	91,242
Total funds		**738,508**	**672,107**

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 19th December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Rosslyn Barr (chair)

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash flows generated from operations	13		106,799		410,572
Investing activities					
Purchase of fixed assets		(25,308)		(43,618)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(25,308)		(43,618)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			81,491		366,954
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			389,173		22,219
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			**470,664**		**389,173**

Notes to the financial statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

Project Seagrass is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Unit 1 Garth Drive, Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend, CF31 2AQ, Wales.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the auditors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Executive team in furtherance of their charitable objectives.
Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.
Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

- Plant and equipment: 20% and 25% on Cost
- Computers: 25% on Cost
- Motor Vehicles: 16.67% on Cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale

proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets
At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments
The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.
Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits
Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Donations – individuals	45,268	4,038	49,306	41,017
Donations – companies and trusts	70,675	74,836	145,511	77,847
Other fundraising income	-	-	-	-
Total income from donations and legacies	**115,943**	**78,874**	**194,817**	**118,864**

Donations from trusts and companies do not include any donated services or goods. These have not been included in the financial statements as we are unable to measure reliably the value of the services received in the year.

3 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Contracts	26,902	-	26,902	5,323
Merchandise	7,204	-	7,204	1,656
Corporate sponsorships	54,982	52,425	107,407	18,859
Total income from other trading activities	**89,088**	**52,425**	**141,513**	**25,838**

All income from other trading activities is unrestricted. We received income from the sale of merchandise via our online store (operated by TeeMill) over the course of the financial year. We received income from one contract related to the translation of Seagrass Spotter, and the use of the Project Seagrass research boat by Swansea University for the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project.

4 INCOME FROM CHARITY ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Government grants	-	-	-	28,430
Other grants	13,244	583,064	596,308	653,694
Total income from charity activities	**13,244**	**583,064**	**596,308**	**682,124**

5 ANALYIS OF CHARITY ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Audit and accountancy	13,320	-	13,320	11,730
Auditors Remuneration	7,560	-	7,560	7,200
Bank fees	169	20	189	27
Cleaning and sundry	1,897	38	1,935	78
Consulting	4,593	55,360	59,953	21,434
Depreciation	1,629	47,485	49,114	31,261
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	553	553	-
Field, lab and drone expenses	175	62,449	62,624	20,025
Light and heat	4,540	4,209	8,749	-
IT, subscriptions and insurance	11,330	6,439	17,769	10,907
Printing, postage and stationery	3,332	146	3,478	2,151
Professional fees	17,444	3,214	20,658	19,084
Rent and repair costs	42,954	26,682	69,636	11,970
Staff costs	135,136	364,350	499,486	216,003
Telephone	368	-	368	147
Travel and subsistence	5,372	39,056	44,428	17,569
Total expenditure on charity activities	**249,819**	**610,001**	**859,820**	**369,586**

6 STAFF COSTS	Total Funds 2023 (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)
Salaries and wages	443,162	191,369
Employer's national insurance contributions	37,049	12,687
Pension contributions	16,211	7,033
Staffing costs	3,064	4,914
Total costs of employing staff	**499,486**	**216,003**

One employee received emoluments in the band £40,000 to £50,000 (2022: 1). Three trustees claimed expenses during the year for travel, subsistence and staff training totalling £1,779 (2022: £234). No trustee received remuneration during the year (2022: nil).

Additional staffing costs of £3,064 (2022: £4,914) were incurred in training.

7 STAFF NUMBERS	No.	No.
Community	3	2
Research	4	3
Action	7	1
Governance and administration	3	2
Total staff	**17**	**8**

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Plant and equipment £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2022	223,740	20,788	5,700	250,228
Additions	20,971	4,338	-	25,309
Disposals	(692)	-	-	(692)
At 31 March 2023	**244,019**	**25,126**	**5,700**	**274,845**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2022	28,843	3,956	1,450	34,249
Depreciation charge for the year	41,883	6,282	950	49,115
Eliminated on disposal	(138)	-	-	(138)
At 31 March 2023	70,588	10,238	2,400	83,226
Carrying amount				
At 31 March 2023	**173,431**	**14,888**	**3,300**	**191,619**
At 31 March 2022	194,897	16,833	4,250	215,980

9 DEBTORS	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts receivable	53,697	138,782
Other debtors	68,586	30,605
Prepayments	15,580	6,632
Total debtors	**137,863**	**176,019**

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts payable	8,794	33,302
Other taxation and social security	7,220	-
Other creditors	6,963	372
Accruals and deferred income	38,661	75,391
Total Creditors	**61,638**	**109,065**

11 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At the reporting date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which falls due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	35,000	-
Between two and five years	140,000	-
Total Lease Commitments	**175,000**	-

12 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	91,242	218,275	(255,400)	(14,620)	39,497
Restricted funds	580,865	714,363	(610,837)	14,620	699,011
Total funds	**672,107**	**932,638**	**(866,237)**	-	**738,508**

Funds have been transferred from the unrestricted fund to cover expenditure, incurred in the year, on projects in excess of their restricted fund.

13 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,677	185,942	191,619	7,569	208,411	215,980
Current assets / (liabilities)	33,820	513,069	546,889	83,673	372,454	465,127
Total funds	**39,497**	**699,011**	**738,508**	**91,242**	**580,865**	**672,107**

14 CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS	2023 £	2022 £
Surplus for the year	66,401	454,837
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	49,666	31,261
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	38,159	(166,102)
Increase in creditors	(47,427)	90.576
Cash generated from operations	**106,799**	**410,572**

Thank you

We would like to thank all of the individuals and organisations who have made our work this year possible

Government agencies and statutory bodies

Welsh Government
Scottish Government
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
Ofwatt

Charities, trusts, and foundations contributing £1000 or more

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
Brite Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation
Dinswade Trust
Eureka ESG Foundation
Golden Bottle Trust
J Van Mars Foundation
Marine Conservation Society
Monarch Foundation
National Philanthropic Trust
Newby Trust
Salzwasser E.V.
Seacology
Swire Charitable Trust
Synchronicity Earth
William Grant Foundation
WWF-UK

Companies and individuals contributing £1000 or more

ACRES
APBmer
AquaPlanet
Arqit
Bar Buoy
Blooloop
Boat Life Events
CGI
Compufile Systems
ConsanoEarth
Deakin University
Edith Cowan University
Eyespace Eyewear
Heal Rewilding
Hendricks Gin
Kepner Tregoe
Marine Scope Taxonomy
MediPlusUK
Modern Milkman
National Oceanography Centre
New Yonder
Next Energy Group
Feel Good Drinks
Ocean Infinity
Orsted Wind Power
Patrick McCall
Radix
Ragus Sugars Manufacturing
RebelRestoration
Rockwool
Romi Murray
Salix
Swansea University
T Systems
Tomorrows Forest

We would also like to extend our thanks to our other valued donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Our patrons

Coldplay

Supporters and groups

Ark
Aviva
Glasgow Natural History Society
Love Tropics (Minecraft) community
Rotary Club of Westminster West
Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School
Sunnyside Primary School
Awel y mor Primary School

Pro bono support and gear:

Finisterre

Finally, we wish to thank the seagrass research staff at Swansea University who continue to provide extensive pro bono assistance to Project Seagrass.

Legal and administrative information

Charity Name
Project Seagrass

Charity Number
1162824 (England and Wales)
SC046788 (Scotland)

Principal Address
Project Seagrass
Unit 1 Garth Drive,
Brackla Industrial Estate,
Bridgend,
CF31 2AQ

Auditor
Bush & Co Limited
2 Barnfield Crescent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

Bankers
The Co-operative Bank
P.O. Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Trustees
Rosslyn Barr Chair
Dr Sarah Pilgrim-Morrison Board Secretary
Mike Furness
Jake Davies
Dr Bevis Watts *Appointed 14 December 2022*
David King *Appointed 9 June 2023*
Robert Christian Raimes *Appointed 9 June 2023*

Executive Team
The members of the Executive Team were in post for the whole of the year ended 31 March 2023 and until the date of this report unless stated otherwise:

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
Chief Executive Officer *from 5th October 2022*
Director of Research (role now defunct) *until 5th October 2022*

Dr Richard Lilley
Chief Development Officer *from 5th October 2022*
Chief Executive Officer *until 5th October 2022*

Dr Richard Unsworth
Chief Scientific Officer (previously Director of UK Operations)

Dr Benjamin Jones
Chief Conservation Officer (previously Director of International Operations)

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PROJECT SEAGRASS

PROJECT SEAGRASS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162824

Accounts

Annual Impact Report and Accounts 2021-2022

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INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

The first year of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) has certainly lived up to its billing. This year we have announced three full-scale seagrass restoration projects to be initiated in Wales, Scotland, and England. We have also supported the UKs first community-led seagrass restoration project in Loch Craignish in Scotland.

Then, to support the UK seagrass community's wider ambitions of taking seagrass restoration to scale, we have undertaken a 'Seagrass Nursery Pilot' in Laughanre, Wales, and are undertaking a 'Mechanisation Programme' to explore effective ways of picking, processing, and planting seagrass seeds to complement our people led activities.

This year the G7 meeting in Cornwall was a prime opportunity to shine a light on the county's vibrant seagrass meadows and at COP26 in Glasgow it felt like seagrass was centre stage in the discussions around how Nature-based Solutions can play a role in addressing both the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Whilst there has been much to celebrate this year, the fact remains that we are still a long way away from our vision of a world in which seagrass meadows are thriving and abundant.

So let me take this opportunity to issue a Call To Action.

There has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.

As individuals, businesses, and communities I ask you to join our seagrass community so we can foster together the societal change that is needed to enable the recognition, recovery, and resilience of seagrass ecosystems globally.

Seagrass meadows provide biodiversity, equitable and sustainable livelihoods, and planetary life support. Putting seagrass meadows on a trajectory of net gain can help to end poverty, help to mitigate the effects of climate change, and ultimately contribute to a sustainable future.

But it will only succeed if everyone plays a part.

Dr Richard Lilley

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy remains the same today as when we were founded in 2013, and is underpinned by our four key aims:

1. To engage and inform a wide audience on the presence and importance of seagrass ecosystems, the services they provide and current seagrass management issues.
2. To support local stakeholders in the use of standardised scientific methodologies.
3. To promote and assist with long-term monitoring of seagrass condition.
4. To assist with scientific research and conservation measures that help facilitate the long-term resilience of seagrass ecosystems.

To achieve these aims we are organising our workflows into three pillars:

Community, Research and Action.

It is through these three pillars that we influence and ultimately make progress towards our vision of:

"A world in which seagrass meadows are thriving, abundant and well managed for people and planet"

2021-2022 Pillar Highlights

Community

From Shetland to the Channel Islands

This year marks the first year we have had a truly UK wide footprint, engaging personally with individuals, communities and institutions across the United Kingdom, from Shetland to the Channel Islands.

Our digital community grew through 2021/22 ending with over 14k followers on Twitter and over 9k followers on Instagram. Our videos, Marine Meadows of Cornwall and Seawilding Scotland received over 7000 views on YouTube.

Research

8 New Peer-Reviewed Publications

Through the publication of eight new peer-reviewed publications we have continued to contribute to the global knowledge base for seagrass ecosystems.

More locally our contribution to the publication of the Seagrass Restoration Handbook provides foundational and practical guidance on the restoration and conservation of seagrass ecosystems in the UK and Ireland.

Action

Initiated 3 New Restoration Projects

Wrap up of phase one of the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project in Dale in March 2021 represented the first 'meadow scale' seagrass restoration project in the UK. We'll now work to reinforce and help this meadow thrive.

In 2021/22 we began 3 further meadow scale restoration projects in Isle of Wight, North Wales and the Firth of Forth. This highlights the growing momentum of seagrass restoration in the UK.

Community: Through both social and traditional media, in person events, and the development of free educational materials we seek to empower learners of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to address the interconnected global challenges that seagrass ecosystems are facing. These challenges include, but are not limited to, climate change, environmental degradation, and the loss of biodiversity. It is particularly important for us to shape our educational materials to ensure they are accessible to those who may otherwise be marginalised due to poverty and inequality.

Our strategy is explicitly tied to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals since we believe that learning must prepare students and learners of all ages to find solutions for the challenges we face. Education should be transformative and allow us to make informed decisions and take individual and collective action to change our societies and care for the planet.

Research: Diverse research bringing together multiple disciplines is needed to support policies to recover and sustain healthy seagrass ecosystems. As seagrass research becomes more transdisciplinary to address complex challenges, it will be critical for scientists and research funders to understand how scientists from different disciplines and regions might collaborate and strengthen the overall evidence base for the better management of seagrass ecosystems.

We will continue to advocate for and conduct the transdisciplinary research that improves our knowledge of seagrass ecosystems. As a supporting partner to the UN Ocean Decade we will respond to their CALL TO ACTION and produce – "The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want".

Action: On 1 March 2019, The United Nations General Assembly declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the aim to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity.

As partners to this call, we have an ambitious plan for 2021-2026, including the three new seagrass restoration projects we launched in 2021, in Wales, Scotland and England. We are also piloting a seagrass nursery and mechanisation programme in Wales to facilitate the scaling up of harvesting and planting seagrass seeds.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

Our Year – A Snapshot

In a year in which the UK hosted both the G7 in Cornwall, and COP26 in Glasgow, as a UK based environmental NGO we were well positioned to push seagrass right to the heart of the marine conservation conversation.

2021 was also the year that launched both the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Each of these events or initiatives helped build the momentum for what has certainly been a 'Super Year' for us at Project Seagrass.

This year has also seen the rapid growth and development of Project Seagrass. We have welcomed new members to the team to facilitate delivery of large scale projects, current science, and community engagement and outreach.

Key Take Aways

Previously mentioned meadow-scale restoration projects

The development of a Mechanisation Programme, to address bottlenecks linked to the picking, processing and planting of seagrass seeds.

The creation of a Seagrass Nursery Pilot to explore the feasibility of large-scale propagule production.

The support of the UKs first community-led seagrass restoration project in Scotland.

The facilitation of 'Seagrass Ecosystem-Service' research training to community groups and organisations across five Indo-Pacific nations: Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Timor-Leste.

The delivery of the UKs only Seagrass-Watch monitoring programme in Porthdinllaen.

Our Year: Community

2021/2022 was a big year for the growth of our seagrass community with:

- Partnerships formed to assist with seagrass mapping both in the UK and internationally.
- Continued work to communicate to groups both within the UK and internationally about the importance of seagrass.
- Ongoing activity across both social and traditional media platforms highlighting the need to protect and restore seagrass.
- Extensive creative activities conducted with sponsors to help support a range of seagrass conservation projects globally (e.g. Hendrix Neptunia launch with art installation, Portugal (insert, top right)).
- Increasing interest from groups and organisations keen to showcase our work to bigger audiences.
- The creation of two short films, 'Marine Meadows of Cornwall' and 'Seawilding Scotland' to coincide with G7 in Cornwall and COP26 in Glasgow.
- Participation in Sea7, the UK's first online ocean activist training camp.
- The provision of high quality images to the Ocean Agency to be made freely available for all in the Image Bank as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
- An award in the Climate Change category in the Blue Flag Best Practice Competition for our seagrass restoration work in Wales.
- Supported the development of seagrass educational materials.
- Increased use of our SeagrassSpotter app, with additional languages added, and many more sightings recorded.

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

- Margaret J Wheatley

Our Year: Research

At Project Seagrass we were involved in the publication of two sets of Seagrass Restoration Guidelines that are helping inform policy across the nations of the UK.

- Gamble C., Debney, A., Glover, A., Bertelli, C.,Green, B., Hendy, I., Lilley, R., Nuuttila, H., Potouroglou, M., Ragazzola, F., Unsworth, R. and Preston, J, (eds) (2021). Seagrass Restoration Handbook. Zoological Society of London, UK., London, UK

- Kent, F., Lilley, R., Unsworth, R., Cunningham, S., Begg, T., Boulcott, P., Jeorrett, C., Horsburgh, R. and Michelotti, M. Seagrass restoration in Scotland - handbook and guidance. NatureScot Research Report 1286.

These publications represent a significant milestone in disseminating seagrass restoration good practice, and significant steps towards the creation of an 'enabling environment' for citizen groups who would wish to participate in restoration activities.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development calls for "The Science We Need For the Ocean We Want." This year we have been involved with the creation of the following peer-reviewed papers:

- Anthropogenic pressures and life history predict trajectories of seagrass meadow extent at a global scale
- Seagrass ecosystem contributions to people's quality of life in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories
- Seagrass ecosystems of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories: A global bright spot
- Seagrass Meadows Provide a Significant Resource in Support of Avifauna
- Seagrass Structural Traits Drive Fish Assemblages in Small-Scale Fisheries
- Bycatch from seagrass fisheries: implication for conservation
- Citizen Science Driven Big Data Collection Requires Improved and Inclusive Societal Engagement
- Unravelling the Spatial and Temporal Plasticity of Eelgrass Meadows

"Creativity requires input, and that's what research is. You're gathering material with which to build."

- Gene Luen Yang

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Our Year: Action

2021/2022 was a big year for on the ground (or in the water!) action:

- We took final delivery of our new Research Vessel Gwenhidw named after the folklore tale of a Welsh mermaid.
- We conducted extensive survey work throughout the Solent and North Wales areas in preparation for restoration site selection.
- We commenced a project to provide technical assistance to small community groups throughout SE Asia to support on ground seagrass research and conservation action.
- We facilitated the first ever seagrass restoration project in Scotland through the provision of technical support to the charity Seawilding in Loch Craignish
- We appointed our first Seagrass Nursery Lead to commence establishment of a seagrass nursery in Pendine (West Wales). This led to a close working relationship with Salix Bioengineering and the creation of nursery infrastructure ready for planting in 2022.
- We commenced a trial to demonstrate the sustainability of a method for the mechanised collection of seagrass seeds for use in restoration.
- We launched a partnerships with the IT company CGI and the survey company Ocean Infinity to improve mapping of seagrass extent in the UK.
- We assisted with deploying our first Advanced Mooring System for use in North Wales seagrass.
- We conducted over 1000ha of drone survey flights to map seagrass across the UK.
- We conducted baseline surveys for seagrass in the Firth of Forth to establish the viability of a seagrass restoration project in the estuary.
- We supported the collection of Blue Carbon cores from seagrass meadows in Argyll and in Orkney.
- We continued with our partnership with Natural England to conduct the Isle of Scilly Seagrass Monitoring Survey.
- We continued with our Seagrass-Watch Survey in Porthdinllaen.

"No research without action,
no action without research"

- Kurt Lewin

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD 2021/22

The period from the 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 marks 8 years since Project Seagrass was founded, 7 years since it became a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1162824) and 5 years since it became a registered charity in Scotland (No. SC046788).

Our key achievements for this year are broken down below; first by pillar (Community, Research, Action), and then chronologically by Quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: COMMUNITY

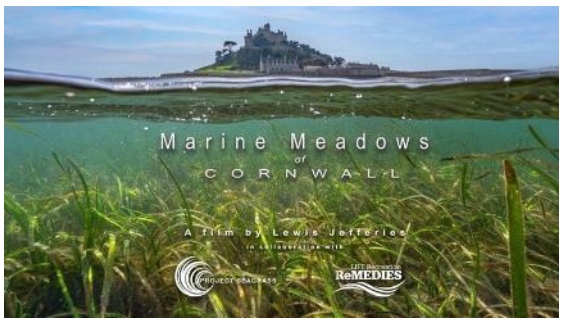
Q1. April 2021. The year began in much the same way the last one ended - in lockdown. Therefore our Indo-Pacific communities project 'Conservation of biodiversity, seagrass ecosystems and their services – safeguarding food security and resilience in vulnerable coastal communities in a changing climate' project (hereafter The Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project) had to continue its growth, development and delivery through a series of ZOOM calls with our in country partners (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Timor-Leste). This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

With most activities sill restricted by Covid rules, RJ spoke at 'Coptrz Con', the UK's first ever 2-Day Digital Drone Event. RJ spoke on the use of WingtaOne survey drones and Pix4D software for the fine-scale mapping of coastal seagrass meadows around the UK.

May 2021. As COVID-19 regulations started easing into May, we were soon able to initiate a series of drone training workshops (since these could be conducted outside) for several members of the team. In May we were also able to connect with the team at Feel Good Drinks for a day at The Wave near Bristol. A wonderful opportunity for some serious seagrass and surf conversations!

Later in May, we brought Lucy Coals on board to lead the delivery of a series of digital workshops and training as part of The Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project.

June 2021. World Environment Day 2021 on 5 June marked the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030 with a clear message that resonated across the globe. Following this on World Oceans Day we launched the 'Marine Meadows of Cornwall' film before Leanne and RJ joined the Finisterre crew at the Wheal Kitty workshops in Cornwall on 10th June for Finisterre's Sea7 - The UK's first online ocean activist training camp. Their session, with Swati Thiyagarajan and Dan Burgess, focussed on the importance of thriving ecosystems.



Later in June RJ gave speech at the Eden Project, alongside Feel Good Drinks as part of the Planet Mark The Zero Carbon Tour ahead of COP26 in Glasgow. Midsummer then shone a spotlight on our collaboration with the Outdoor Swimming Society, a fundraising event themed around 'The Longest Swim on the longest day'. Many of the team were on fieldwork in the Solent and were able to directly participate, often swimming directly above seagrass.

Q2. July 2021. Summer usually brings with it the opportunity for volunteer engagement across our restoration sites, but unfortunately 2021 was limited due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This summer brought about a major seagrass survey in the Isle of Wight and Solent area that enabled the assessment of seagrass health, and reproduction at an unprecedented scale. Diving and wading surveys enabled the assessment of 16 sites in collaboration with Natural England, the Ocean Conservation Trust and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. In addition, a small team of staff, together with some volunteers from the Dutch based social enterprise 'Sea Ranger Service' collected both ground truth data and an initial small amount of seagrass seeds in the Solent to facilitate future local trials.

We were thrilled in July to win the Climate Change category in the Blue Flag Best Practice Competition for our work in Dale, West Wales.

Andy the Northern Diver spent time in North Wales as part of Expedition WET. Jake Davies hosted the team in the beautiful seagrass meadows of Porthdinllaen.

August 2021. Although covid restrictions remained challenging, fieldwork in Wales continued and the team were able to recruit a limited volunteer pool to assist with seagrass seed collections in North Wales.

The team had a stand at the Between the Trees Festival in South Wales where Rich presented to an audience about our restoration activities.

September 2021. We were excited to have the arrival of our new seagrass nursery lead (Elise) to commence the delivery of our new Ofwat funded innovation project in collaboration with Affinity Water to trial a seagrass nursery.

RJ led an outreach event at The Botanic Gardens Harvest Festival for Restoration Forth.

During Scotland's Climate Week, RJ coordinated filming of the work in Loch Craignish with coverage of the project in the Financial Times.

Ben joined a special one-day event as part of New Scientist Live on Creating a Sustainable Future. He delivered an hour long talk to an audience of around 1000 people on hopes and challenges for seagrass conservation.

RJ spoke at The Green Party Autumn Conference in Birmingham.

Q3 October 2021. We were delighted to announce the support of Coldplay in our ongoing work to protect and restore seagrass meadows.

We also joined Tom Heap at the Royal Geographical Society at the launch of 39 Ways to Save the Planet.

Ben teamed up with The Ocean Agency to make his seagrass images freely available for all in the Image Bank as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This was the first time a range of high-quality seagrass imagery was made

available open access on the internet for widespread use.

Evie was featured in a Townswomen's Guilds article, showcasing her skills, expertise, and leadership in marine conservation.

November 2021. Wonders of the Celtic Deep aired on BBC1 Wales following filming in August 2020. This presented the team as ocean heroes and provided a fantastic opportunity to communicate our work to different audiences.

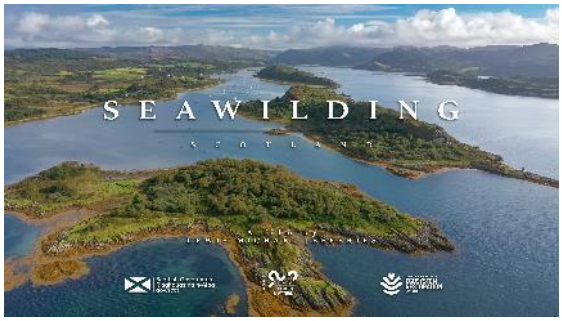
RJ gave a seagrass science and conservation talk to members of the Botantical Society of Britain and Ireland and to the CIEEM Annual Members Meeting. RJ also recorded a podcast for the Wild About Conservation series.

Sam, Bethan, Eve and Evie attended the Explorers Against Extinction event at the Royal Geographical Society in London.

Throughout November the team were out in the community engaging primary schools in seagrass science.

Nature Based Solutions outreach conducted with Marine Scotland occurred in Edinburgh as part of the COP26 programme. Screening of Into The Oceanic in Glasgow also occurred whilst RJ spoke at the Ocean Mic LIVE with Finisterre in Edinburgh.

The Project Seagrass AGM was held at Nant Gwythern in North Wales and on St Andrews Day we release our second film of the year 'Seawilding Scotland', a celebration of Scotland's first community-led marine restoration project.



December 2021. Through our partnership with CGI UK we support the creation of 'STEM from home' activity packs for 6-14 year olds.

Q4 January 2022: Rich gave a presentation at Coastal Futures 2022 Innovation for Ocean Recovery Conference. RJ has an article published on Rewilding Scotland in collaboration with Lewis Michael-Jefferies in Oceanographic Magazine.

We announced Coldplay as patrons of Project Seagrass.

February 2022. The Forth Lines exhibition launched at the RBGE introducing Restoration Forth to the public. The Project Seagrass team were at the Science Museum in London for the Future Explorers event exploring how our world could look in 2050. Children were encouraged to create art works about this future in the context of restored marine habitats.

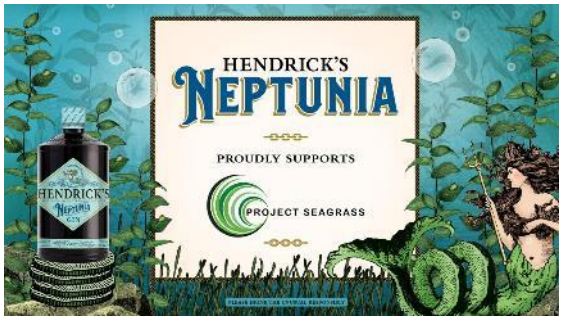
RJ, Issy and Bethan attended the Boat Life Event at the NEC where wide interest in seagrass was evident from the boating community. Our new leaflet on guidance for people sailing and boating around seagrass was released.

Began to explore restoration potential in North Wales with multiple stakeholders across Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Drop-in sessions were hosted at community halls in North Wales to discuss seagrass restoration proposals.

March 2022. For the last ever unofficial World Seagrass Day we released a short video and Coldplay becoming ambassadors for Project Seagrass was featured on ITV News Wales.

RJ had an article published on Neptune grass (*Posidonia oceanica*) in collaboration with Dr Dimitris Poursanidis in Oceanographic Magazine and we saw the launch of Hendricks Neptunia Gin through which we are collaborating to raise the profile of seagrass ecosystems internationally.



On World Wildlife Day, the Secretariat of CITES, the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Jackson Wild, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and other partner

organizations held a live event where Lucy presented about the need for protection, conservation, and restoration of global seagrass meadows. Rich ran SeagrassWatch workshops with the National Trust and Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC staff in North Wales and the first Advanced Mooring Systems trials were deployed into Porthdinllaen.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: RESEARCH

Q1. April 2021. Whilst covid restrictions continued to be strict, some carefully managed fieldwork led by Evie commenced in the Solent to begin understanding the potential for seagrass restoration.

May 2021. Rich published an article led by Chiara that documents the drivers of long-term change in UK seagrass meadows, showcasing the problems of water quality in the Milford Haven waterway. This was titled 'Unravelling the Spatial and Temporal Plasticity of Eelgrass Meadows'.

June 2021. Rich contributed to a UK wide review led by the British Ecological Society on the storage of carbon by natural habitats.

Q2 July 2021. Rich published a key review paper in collaboration with an intern Emma Butterworth that discusses the contribution of seagrass to supporting the diets of coastal seabirds. This paper potentially creates a platform for future engagement of the wider birding community with seagrass conservation.

August 2021. Open-Ocean Camera Workshops began to support the Seagrass Ecosystem Services Project and the SMMR funded project Restoration of Seagrass for Ocean Wealth UK (RESOW UK) commenced. Project Seagrass is a major partner in the project with Leanne and Rich co-writing the proposal and acting as principal investigators.

September 2021. We monitored the restoration success at our site in Dale. Seagrass density was found to be increasing and shoots were significantly larger than in 2020.

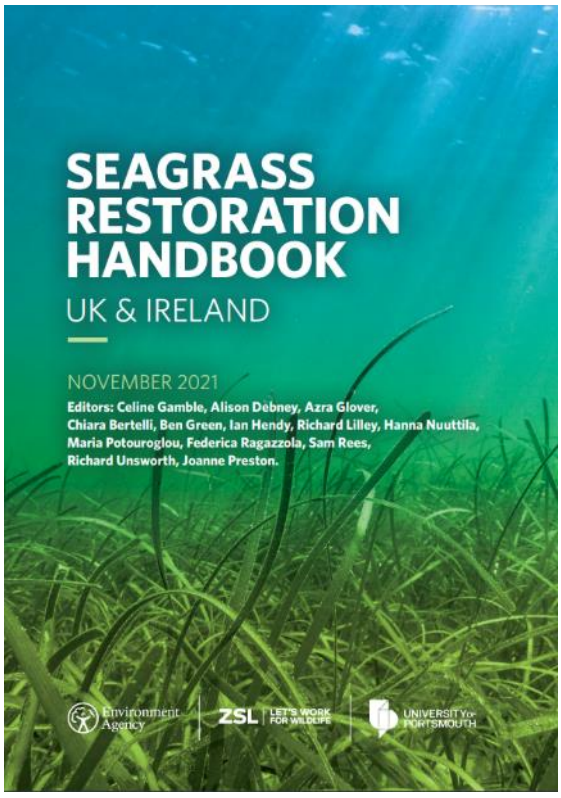
Q3. October 2021. In early October, we organised, and Ben chaired, two special sessions on seagrass restoration at the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) Annual Science Meeting. These sessions brought together renowned seagrass scientists from across the world, including Richard, to discuss Experience and Adaptation and Innovation and Ambition

Seagrass planting trials began around the Isle of Wight. These were conducted principally to test the problems of invasive algae on restoration.

November 2021. COP26 and CGI x Project Seagrass Collaboration launched. This aimed to bring together our seagrass expertise with the satellite technology of CGI to remotely map the UKs seagrass meadows.

The English Environment Agency launched the Seagrass Restoration Handbook at COP26. This handbook aims to guide groups as to the most appropriate methods for seagrass restoration.

RJ and Rich both attended activities associated to the COP26 event held in Glasgow, this included attendance at a side event on Blue Carbon called 'Beyond the Inventory'. That event acted as an important precursor to the establishment of a UK wide Blue Carbon network that members of Project Seagrass now contribute to.



Lucy, Elise and Sam visited the Netherlands on a seagrass knowledge exchange with the University of Groningen and The Fieldwork Company.

December 2021. Final planting trials of the year conducted on the Isle of Wight.

Q4 – January 2022: The final report was submitted on our seagrass restoration work in Dale, West Wales. Lots of transferrable lessons were learned. Seagrass density was not as high as we hoped for but it is certainly on a strong resilient footing going forward.

Feb 2021: Seagrass planting trials were conducted across 7 sites in North Wales to determine suitability for future seagrass restoration. As part of this work, we chose to test various methods for restoration to improve our planting abilities including Dispenser Injection Seeding (DIS), coir pots and hessian bags.

New research was published on Latitude and predation drive variation in epifaunal seagrass crustaceans. This built on field work conducted by Rich and Ben back in 2014 and 2015.

March 2022: Rich helped lead a European wide workshop formulating 100 scientific questions for seagrass conservation in Europe. This was funded through collaboration with UNESCO.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: ACTION

Q1 April 2021. At the end of April, the team began surveying the health and distribution of seagrass around the Isle of Wight. Key findings of this work are the far greater extent of seagrass than previously recorded. Local anecdotal evidence indicates this is due to increasing coverage rather than improved mapping.

May 2021. Rich commenced the start of a trial with a Welsh fisherman to pilot the use of a Sensitive Ecosystem Responsible Fisher (SERF) Award to encourage fishers to support marine habitat restoration projects. The SERF award enables fishers to obtain immediate benefits from a project whose ecological benefits may take a long time to materialise.

June 2021. Last week in June was spent mapping seagrass meadows around the Orkney Isles as part of Marine Scotland project and supporting Heriot-Watt University ICIT Blue Carbon study.

Q2 July 2021. Sam Rees travelled with a team to Loch Craignish to set up a seagrass processing facility for Seawilding. RJ conducted some reproductive surveys to help establish the best window for seed picking.

August 2021. Seagrass seed collection activity took place both in the Solent and in North Wales. Seagrass-Watch was also conducted in North Wales. The team (led by Sam) also conducted an early trial of a sled for the mechanised collection of seagrass seeds.

August 21st the first hessian bags with seagrass seeds were planted in Loch Craignish (Pick and Plant). This was a first for Scotland and the direct result of technical support provided by the Project Seagrass team. Further WingtraOne seagrass mapping took the summers mapping to 1000ha+.

September 2021. The team deployed the WingtraOne drone to map seagrass meadows around the Isle of Wight. This information helps to further refine seagrass restoration site choices in the Solent.

October 2021. The Restoration Forth project was launched in South Queensferry under the iconic Forth Rail Bridge. RJ conducted baselining site selection for Restoration Forth.

November 2021. This month was very much dominated by COP26, but we did find time to host Greg Martinez from Cadiz at our HQ in South Wales and discuss the creation of a Global Seagrass Nursery Network.

December 2021. Blue Carbon coring fieldwork continued in Argyll with Seawilding. This is contributing towards the RESOW project and the PhD student work of Aisling Collins.

Q4 January 2022. We continued our partnership with Natural England to conduct the Isle of Scilly Seagrass Monitoring Survey and continued with our Seagrass-Watch Survey in Porthdinllaen.

February 2022. The Restoration Forth Strategic Planning Workshop.

March 2022. The year ended much as it had begun, with the month spent gearing up for the coming field campaign during the summer of 2022. Set to be our biggest yet!

FINANCIAL REVIEW

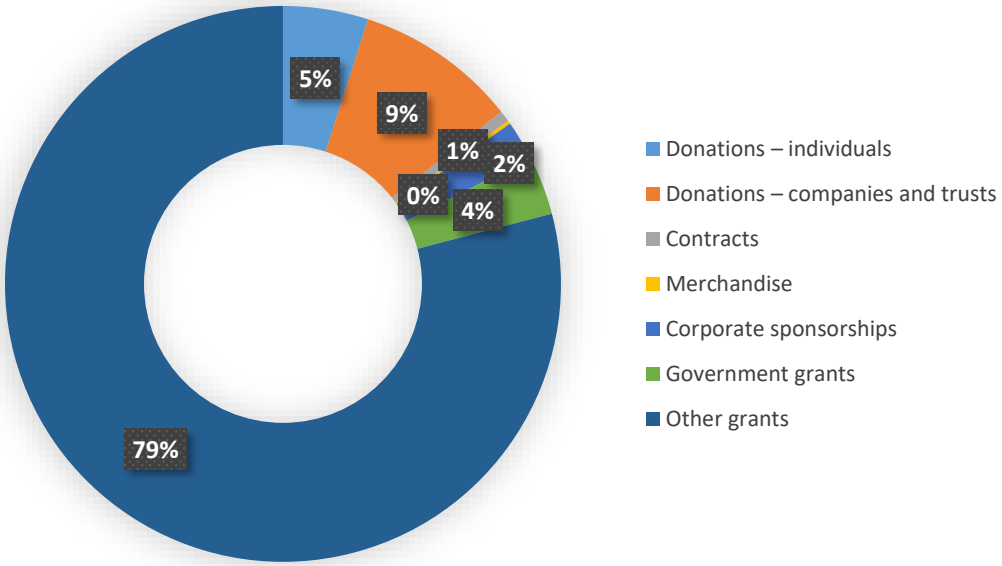
Despite the impact of the Covid-19 crisis changing the way we work and raise money, 2021-22 was successful financially and has put us in a strong position to continue our work into the future. We raised over £825,000 in income, a nearly 140% increase on the previous year.

The last *two* years have been really quite exceptional with respect to our growth as an organisation. Whilst this growth is exciting and is enabling us to deliver positive impact at greater scales, this year we have identified the need to improve our auditing and governance structures to reflect the significantly increased size of our income and organisation. This will be a focus for Project Seagrass during the financial year 2022/2023.

Over the 2022/2023 financial year we will be developing a new 10-year strategy that reflects our national and international ambitions. We will be drafting and reviewing both financial regulations and a scheme of delegation that is commensurate with the size of our organisation. We will also be seeking to expand our Board of Trustees to help guide us through this period of growth and transition.

INCOME

GRANT INCOME FOR NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS CONTRIBUTED A SIGNIFICANT £682,124.

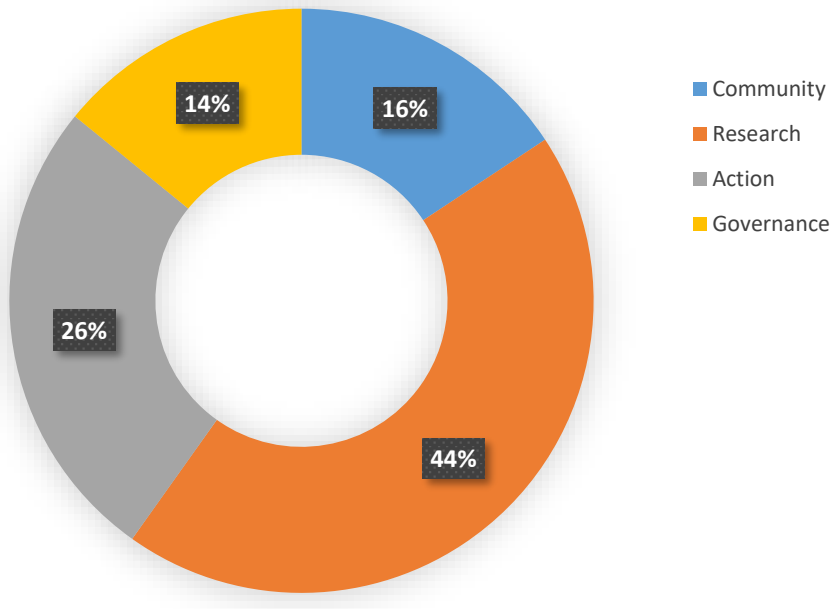


Major grant income came as a result of the increasing recognition of our capacity as an organisation to run and deliver significant seagrass conservation and restoration projects. Working with key conservation partners such as WWF-UK has enabled us to leverage major funding for our UK based technical expertise and experience in seagrass restoration through multi-partner projects in North Wales, the Solent and the Firth of Forth. During the 21-22 financial year we were able to bring in significant grant funding through an Ofwat innovation grant to commence the development of a pilot seagrass nursery in West Wales. This was a seminal project for Project Seagrass as it created a major new stream of action, community, and research operations.

The financial year 2021-22 also marked a change in the level of interest in Project Seagrass as a Corporate Social Responsibility partner. Through our corporate sponsorship scheme, we received sponsorships from Emitwise, ACRES, CGI, Stockton Drilling, Wurkr, ActSustainability, MediaPlusUK, Bruichladdich, Marine Scope Taxonomy and AquaPlanet.

EXPENDITURE

WE SPENT £369,586 ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEAR.



Expenditure was directed towards delivering several significant programmes of work this year:

Funding from WWF-UK and in partnership with Swansea University supported our work towards scaling up seagrass restoration in the UK through mechanisation trails for seed collection £52,000. This partnership also saw our Seagrass Ocean Rescue projects in the Solent and in North Wales spend £68,448 for project development work, including significant outreach and engagement activity. Our ongoing partnership with WWF-UK also supported the Restoration Forth project with £82,427 contributed to development work on the ground for seagrass restoration in the Firth of Forth.

We received £154,018 from Edith Cowan University for our role in the international IKI funded Seagrass Ecosystem Services project

A grant of £249,791 from the Ofwat Innovation in Water Challenge Fund supported our Seagrass Seeds of Recovery project and included proof of concept funding of £97, 606 for our seagrass nursery.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), incorporated on and registered as a charity on 24 July 2015 in England and Wales and 17 August 2016 in Scotland. It is governed by an Association Model Constitution, having been amended following approval by members at an EGM on 2nd May 2015.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, as defined by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Act 2011, who are also Directors under the Companies Act 2006 and are collectively referred to as "The Trustees".

The need for a more involved and independent board of trustees has been identified by the Directors. Not least the need to have trustees who are chosen for their individual qualifications, experience and skills to cover the gamut of those required for successful governance of the rapidly expanding organisation. The ambition for the period 1st April 2022- 31st March 2023 is to appoint another four new trustees to the board. The view of the board at present (given the rapid growth of the organisation) is that we should aim for between 8-10 trustees involved to provide adequate governance for an organisation of this size and ambition.

Trustees may serve two consecutive periods of four years. After serving these periods they must stand down for a minimum of two years before offering themselves for election again. The organisation advertises vacant trustee positions to the public. A register of trustees' interests is held and regularly updated by the charity.

TRUSTEE INDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

All new trustees are to be given a formal familiarisation with the organisations business, Charitable Board organisation and responsibilities by the Chairman and the four Senior Executives as part of an induction process.

It is our intention to employ charity staff during the next financial year. Newly appointed staff will work to agreed terms of reference, will be subject to regular performance interviews and are to be given career training opportunities.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees, which administers the Charity, meets regularly and on not less than four occasions per annum.

To set the pay and remuneration of personnel, the Chair will make a recommendation for approval by the Board of the Charity. This recommendation follows a meeting with the Directors. It is based on a review of annual performance against certain targets and what the organisation can afford to pay.

Volunteers are central to the successful operation of the Charity. A core group of regular volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the organisation and should be recognised here.

Various sub-committees are constituted as required. The Directors, who are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day administration and running of the Charity, act as the link with external stakeholders. To facilitate effective operations, the Senior Executives have delegated authority – within terms of delegation approved by the trustees – for operational matters. These include finance, employment and developing related activities.

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Insofar as it is complementary to its objects, the Charity is guided by both local, national and global policy. The Charity works in close partnership with several organisations, including Swansea University, Natural Resources Wales, Nature Scot, Natural England, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government, CGI, Ocean Infinity and WWF UK, and internationally Stockholm University and Seagrass-Watch to help achieve common and strategic objectives in marine education, conservation, and restoration.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

At the heart of our operations are three pillars – Research, Community and Action all of which will guide all the charity's activities over the next decade. At Project Seagrass we also recognise the growing importance of the digital community (particularly in light of COVID-19) in communicating our marine conservation and education messages. We wish to take positive action to ensure we remain a global, outward facing organisation with a key focus on sustainable development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In this financial year much was achieved. Work began on the development of a new strategic plan and new structures and procedures are being introduced for the Charity boards and committees.

As an organisation we have identified the need for more formal policies and procedures to be in place as we continue to grow. In particular the need to introduce a cashflow forecast, and risk register to guide our 3-year charity plan.

Our key achievements for the period 2021-2022 highlight just how far we've come as a charity in terms of our impact. However, with this growth comes additional responsibilities to ensure we are performing in line with our mission, vision and values.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

If the last seven years has taught us anything at Project Seagrass, it's that achieving our mission begins with how we build our team and how we work together. We believe; indeed, experience has taught us, that only by bringing together a diverse range of experiences and perspectives can we tackle complex crises. It is only though celebrating and harnessing diversity of experience that we will be able to work towards creating a future where seagrasses and society can truly prosper.

We evidenced our commitment to this when we organised the International Seagrass Biology Workshop back in 2016. We included a Code of Conduct to ensure that our event was a safe space for all, no matter of their gender, gender identity, heritage, sexual orientation, or any other factor. It was the first and only event in the workshops 27-year history to do so. We move forward following this narrative. So, central to our ethos is a determination to 'live our values', and as we embark on this next chapter of our journey, we are committed to creating a work culture of belonging. A work environment where all team members are valued for who they are and given equal opportunity to grow and succeed, with no discrimination on the basis of their race, colour, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, or identification with any marginalised community in the countries where we work.

Diversity, equity and inclusion can look different in every country, and whilst we have worked to champion and celebrate our Welsh roots, we know we have work still do to if we wish to meet the ideals of the organisation we wish to become.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking clear, concerted steps to diversify our team:

- We will develop inclusive position descriptions that open doors for different types of backgrounds, experiences, and education, and that use language which welcomes a more diverse group of candidates.
- We will ensure our teams foster equity, inclusion, and belonging and that diverse perspectives are valued in decision-making.
- We will intentionally coach and mentor diverse talent.
- We will support the expansion of workplace groups to build community for underrepresented groups, and to elevate their voices within the organisation.

Whilst we acknowledge our team is currently small, we are expecting to grow our organisation rapidly, and therefore this commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion reflects our vision for the charity we wish to become.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking steps to be more inclusive in our work:

- We will ensure that our team adheres to our Code of Conduct for all events
- We will endeavour to advertise events and volunteer opportunities to all members of society.

We will seek to transform our online platforms to ensure that they use inclusive language and imagery, that is needed to foster a more diverse marine conservation community.

VOLUNTARY HELP AND GIFTS IN KIND

The contribution of Volunteers to the success of the organisation remains key both in financial and operational terms. Project Seagrass originated from the passion, drive and energies of the Directors who have continued to work in part on a voluntary basis. Indeed, volunteers and volunteerism is in the DNA of the organisation. The estimated value of volunteer's efforts this year in terms of voluntary hours worked is impossible to put a precise figure on but would easily run into the tens of thousands of pounds.

A total of £18,062 was donated to the charity from external fundraising activities.

During the financial year 2021-22 Ben (0.4 fte), Richard (0.6 fte) and Leanne (0.4 fte) all worked for Project Seagrass voluntarily. The financial value of this contribution is estimated as being in excess of £100k.

RESERVES POLICY

The Board has identified a target minimum reserve requirement equivalent to three months' operating costs, which will enable the charity to meet commitments as they fall due. At 31 March 2021, the organisation had total reserves of £217,269. However, within this balance are restricted funds of £209,677 relating to operational programmes. These restricted funds are not available for the general purposes of the charity. Unrestricted reserves were £969 at year start. Through regular review of financial performance, open and transparent dialogue with key stakeholders and seeking to identify additional core funding, the trustees aim to improve this position.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees monitors the significant risks to which the charity is exposed. A formal risk register will be maintained by the Directors in future years and scrutinised by the Trustees quarterly. The main residual risks and mitigative strategies are:

1. Insufficient income generated – recruit for a dedicated fundraising staff member. Directors to continue to source funding for programmes and projects.
2. Sufficient fundraising cannot be secured – securing sufficient

unrestricted funds to support the full costs of our conservation, education and restoration activities will be addressed in a range of ways through developing our supporter offer, forging new partnerships and demonstrating the value of our activities for corporate support.

3. Asset development – whilst we only have limited assets at present, we need to continue to invest in assets for autonomy and to develop our capacity. There is a need to maintain our vessel and improve our online presence to meet the appetite for a stronger digital offer.
4. Succession planning – role descriptions and SOP must be available for all roles. Roles will be linked to delivery of a Project Seagrass strategy.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

COVID-19 has emphasised how linked the wellbeing of our society is to the health of our natural environment. More than ever people have enjoyed their local green and blue spaces and have felt more connected to nature. The calls for a green recovery have also grown stronger, not least because we still have the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss to respond to.

Whilst there are economic and financial challenges to overcome, the appetite for change provides a strong platform for our charity to play a role in helping people to understand the importance of our coastal and marine environments and to give them information on the actions that can be taken to protect and restore this resource for the future.

Recent events have also highlighted the inequalities which continue to exist in our society. As we develop our digital offer, we will use it as a way of engaging further with people who cannot visit our coastlines in person but wish to learn about our marine environment. We will use this as an additional opportunity to forge new partnerships to work with harder to reach groups in society.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4, Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit.

As a dedicated team of seagrass scientists, we work to protect seagrass, and through seagrass, we support marine conservation more broadly. The charities main work is in promoting protection of coastal ecosystems and the promotion of sustainable marine resource use.

Each of our programs are aimed at improving the condition of the marine environment. A healthy marine environment will supply benefits to the public; these are often referred to as marine 'ecosystem services.'

The United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognized three types of ecosystem services called provision, regulating and cultural. Each of these is relevant to the marine environment.

Provisioning refers to society's needs for our seas to supply both the wild caught and farmed fish that are an important part of our diet.

Regulating is important for climate; seagrass is a significant contributor to carbon sequestration in the form of 'blue carbon'

Culturally, British seas and coasts are well regarded for recreation, tourism and appreciation of natural heritage. When the coastal ecosystem is healthy, it supplies more of these benefits.

Project Seagrass works not only to increase the extent of these benefits, but also to make them publicly available.

During 2021/22 the charity promoted interest and learning about the marine environment and inspired action at the local level through its community engagement programmes.

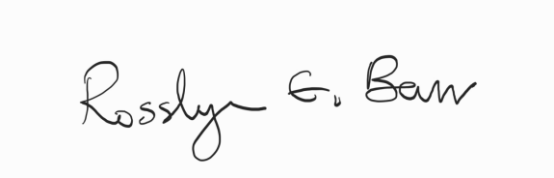
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees would like to again thank all our volunteers, members, and supporters - individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, public bodies and corporate organisations who have supported our work. This includes WWF UK, Hendricks and CGI. The recent COVID-19 crisis has reminded us how loved the work of Project Seagrass is, the importance of its role within Wales and the role it has to play in the wider conservation practice and science community across the UK and further afield. We know that collaborative working and partnerships (informal and formal) will enable us to confidently face the challenges ahead with our loyal and dedicated team of trustees and volunteers.

APPROVAL OF THE TRUSTEES' REPORT

At the time of approving this report, the Trustees are aware of no relevant audit information of which the group and charity's auditors are unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, as trustees, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group and charitable charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The report was approved by the Board on 27-01-2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Rosslyn Barr (Chair)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable account policies and then apply them consistently
2. Observe the methods and the principles in the Charity SORP
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring proper accounting records are maintained that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply the appropriate legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PROJECT SEAGRASS

Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of Project Seagrass (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable by law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis of opinion
We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the charity with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the report; or
- sufficient and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance and review of legal and professional costs around actual and potential litigation and claims.
- Enquiry of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Bush & Co Limited
Statutory Audit
Chartered Accountants

30 January 2023
2 Barnfield Crecent
Exeter
EX1 1QT

Bush & Co Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Consolidated statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	102,120	16,744	118,864	18,062
Other trading activities	3	17,890	7,948	25,838	3,262
Charitable activities	4	35,000	647,124	682,124	344,298
Total income		**155,010**	**671,816**	**826,826**	**365,622**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		2,403	-	2,403	1,681
Charitable activities	5,6,7,8	42,310	327,276	369,586	172,802
Total expenditure		**44,713**	**327,276**	**371,989**	**174,483**
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before other recognised gains and transfers		110,297	344,540	454,837	191,139
Net gains on investment assets		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		110,297	344,540	454,837	191.139
Transfers between funds	12	(20,024)	20,024	-	-
Net movement in funds	12	90,273	364,564	454,837	191.139
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds carried forward from previous year		969	216,301	217,270	26,131
Total funds carried forward		**91,242**	**580,865**	**672,107**	**217,270**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2022

	Note	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	215,980	203,623
Intangible assets		-	-
Total fixed assets		**215,980**	**203,623**
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors	10	176,019	9,916
Cash at bank and in hand		389,173	22,219
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	11	109,065	18,488
Net assets		**672,107**	**217,270**
Funds			
Restricted funds	12,13	580,865	216,301
Unrestricted funds	12,13	91,242	969
Total funds		**672,107**	**217,270**

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 27-01-2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mrs Rosslyn Barr (chair)

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net cash flows generated from operations	14		410,572		202,698
Investing activities					
Purchase of fixed assets		(43,618)		(205,410)	
Net cash used in investing activities			(43,618)		(205,410)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			366,954		(2,712)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			22,219		24,931
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			**389,173**		**22,219**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

Project Seagrass is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 1 Well Cottages, Coychurch, Bridgend, F35 5HD, Wales.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the have a reasonable expectation that the has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	20% and 25% on Cost
Computers	25% on Cost
Motor Vehicles	16.67% on Cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the 's balance sheet when the becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the 's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Donations – individuals	34,773	6,244	41,017	15,812
Donations – companies and trusts	67,347	10,500	77,847	2,250
Other fundraising income	-	-	-	-
Total income from donations and legacies	**102,120**	**16,744**	**118,864**	**18,062**

Donations from trusts and companies do not include any donated services or goods. These have not been included in the financial statements as we are unable to measure reliably the value of the services received in the year.

3 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Contracts	5,323	-	5,323	3,262
Merchandise	1,656	-	1,656	-
Corporate sponsorships	10,911	7,948	18,859	-
Total income from other trading activities	**17,890**	**7,948**	**25,838**	**3,262**

All income from other trading activities is unrestricted. While we received income from the sale of merchandise via our online store (operated by TeeMill) over the course of the financial year. We received income from one contract related to the translation of Seagrass Spotter, and the use of the Project Seagrass research boat by Swansea University for the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project.

4 INCOME FROM CHARITY ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Government grants	-	28,430	28,430	313,551
Other grants	35,000	618,694	653,694	30,747
Total income from charity activities	**35,000**	**647,124**	**682,124**	**344,298**

All grant income over the course of the financial year was restricted. We received 26 grants, one of which was from national government (Welsh Government).

5 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITY ACTIVITIES BY ACTIVITY	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Community	9,148	49,986	59,134	8,488
Research	25,157	137,461	162,618	2,838
Action	-	96,092	96,092	82,792
Governance, administration, and staffing	8,005	43,737	51,742	78,685
Total expenditure on charity activities	**42,310**	**327,276**	**369,586**	**172,803**

Governance and administration costs include insurance, audit and legal fees as well as other admin costs such as postage, stationery and IT equipment as well as the re-design of the Project Seagrass website which occurred during the financial year. We do not account for any donated software (e.g., Slack, Dropbox) within these costs.

6 ANALYIS OF CHARITY ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Audit and accountancy	11,730	-	11,730	5,944
Auditors Remuneration	7,200	-	7,200	-
Advertising and marketing	545	576	1,121	2,261
Bank fees	27	-	27	180
Cleaning	78	-	78	-
Consulting	2,350	19,084	21,434	45,608
Conferences, events and community expenses	739	401	1,140	-
Depreciation	374	30,887	31,261	2,988
Drone expenses	2,479	1,722	4,201	55
Field and lab expenses	2,449	13,375	15,824	1,239
IT consumables	561	4,796	5,357	3,556
Insurance	313	5,237	5,550	1,101
Printing, postage and stationery	855	1,296	2,151	5,305
Professional fees	4,467	12,222	16,689	2,116
Rent	2,685	3,819	6,504	1,310
Repairs and maintenance	716	4,750	5,466	16,201
Staff costs	(227)	216,230	216,003	73,048
Subscriptions	134	-	134	-
Telephone	147	-	147	-
Travel and subsistence	4,688	12,881	17,569	11,890
Total expenditure on charity activities	**42,310**	**327,276**	**369,586**	**172,802**

7 STAFF COSTS	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Salaries and wages	191,369	47,133
Employer's national insurance contributions	12,687	3,670
Pension contributions	7,033	1,779
Staffing costs	4,914	20,466
Total costs of employing staff	**216,003**	**73,048**

One employee received emoluments in the band £40,000 to £50,000 (2021: 1). Two trustees claimed expenses during the year for travel, subsistence and staff training totalling £234 (2021: £nil). No trustee received remuneration during the year (2021: nil).

Additional staffing costs of £4,914 (2021: £20,466) were incurred in training.

8 STAFF NUMBERS	Total Funds 2022 (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)
Community	1	1
Research	3	1
Action	1	1
Governance and administration	3	-
Total staff	**8**	**3**

9 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Assets under construction £	Plant and equipment £	Computers £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	102,837	85,004	13,070	5,700	206,611
Additions	-	35,899	7,718	-	43,617
Transfers	(102,837)	102,837	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	**-**	**223,740**	**20,788**	**5,700**	**250,228**
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2021	-	1,996	491	500	2,987
Depreciation charge for the year	-	26,847	3,464	950	31,261
At 31 March 2022	-	28,843	3,955	1,450	34,248
Carrying amount					
At 31 March 2022	**-**	**194,897**	**16,833**	**4,250**	**215,980**
At 31 March 2021	102,837	83,008	12,579	5,200	203,624

10 DEBTORS	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts receivable	138,782	-
Other debtors	30,605	27
Prepayments	6,632	9,888
Total debtors	**176,019**	**9,915**

11 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts payable	33,302	15,339
Other taxation and social security	-	1,952
Other creditors	372	383
Accruals and deferred income	75,391	814
Total Creditors	**109,065**	**18,488**

12 MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Unrestricted funds	969	155,010	(44,713)	(20,024)	91,242
Restricted funds	216,301	671,816	(327,276)	20,024	580,865
Total funds	**217,270**	**826,826**	**(371,989)**	**-**	**672,107**

Funds have been transferred from the unrestricted fund to cover expenditure, incurred in the year, on projects in excess of their restricted fund.

13 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	7,569	208,411	215,980	1,200	202,424	203,624
Current assets / (liabilities)	83,673	372,454	456,127	(231)	13,877	13,646
Total funds	**91,242**	**580,865**	**672,107**	**969**	**216,301**	**217,270**

14 CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS	2022 £	2021 £
Surplus for the year	454,837	191,138
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	31,261	2,987
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(166,102)	(9,915)
Increase in creditors	90,576	18,488
Cash generated from operations	**410,572**	**202,698**

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO MADE OUR WORK THIS YEAR POSSIBLE.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND STATUTORY BODIES:

Welsh Government
Natural Resources Wales
Scottish Government
Ofwatt
Natural England

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS:

Seacology
William Grant Foundation
Kreitman Foundation
Salzwasser E.V.
Synchronicity Earth
The Educational Trust
Golden Bottle Trust
WWF-UK

COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS:

Emitwise
CGI
Cardiff University
MediaPlusUK
Marine Scope Taxonomy
RebelRestoration
ACRES
Wurkr
ConsanoEarth
Ocean Infinity
AquaPlanet
Edith Cowan University
Stockton Drilling
ActSustainability
Highland Park
Bruichladdich
Swansea University

We would like to extend our thanks to our valued donors who wish to remain anonymous.

PATRONS, SUPPORTERS AND GROUPS:

Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School
Explorers Against Extinction
Sunnyside Primary School
Outdoor Swimming Society
Awel y mor Primary School
Western Ecology Tour

PRO BONO SUPPORT:

Finisterre

REFERENCE
& administrative information

Project Seagrass is governed according to charity law by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are unpaid volunteers. Two Senior Executives are unpaid, with one senior exec and the CEO being the only paid individuals.

CHARITY NAME
Project Seagrass

CHARITY NUMBER
1162824 (England and Wales)
SC025837 (Scotland)

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPPERATIONAL ADDRESS
Project Seagrass
PO Box 412
Bridgend
CF31 9RL

SCOTTISH OPERATIONAL ADDRESS
18/6 Millar Crescent Morningside
Edinburgh
EH10 5HW

TRUSTEES
The Trustees who served during the period from 1 April 2021 to the date of approval of this report were as follows:

Rosslyn Barr
Chair
(From November 2020)

Mike Furness
(From November 2020)

Jake Davies
(From November 2020)

Sarah Pilgrim
(From March 2021)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
The members of the Senior Management Team were in post for the whole of the year ended 31 March 2021 and until the date of this report unless stated otherwise:

Dr Richard Lilley
Chief Executive

Benjamin Jones
Senior Executive

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
Senior Executive

Dr Richard Unsworth
Senior Executive

ACCOUNTANTS
Alterledger Ltd.
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101 Gorbals Street
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G5 9DW

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
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PROJECT SEAGRASS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162824

Accounts

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Annual Impact Report and Accounts 2020-2021

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INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Over one million seagrass seeds planted.

A significant undertaking, and an achievement in which everyone involved should be justifiably proud. From the staff to the volunteers, this has been a truly collective effort. The UKs first full-scale seagrass restoration project couldn't have happened without the support of so many people – so thank you to all involved.

But this journey isn't over, indeed this is just the start!

As we face down a climate emergency, and increasingly recognise the scale of the biodiversity crisis upon us, we need scalable solutions, and we need them now. We're at a critical moment in our history when we are told, without even a hint of hyperbole, that *"we are running out of time as a species"*.

In addressing these two crises nature will be our biggest ally. There has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems.

The loss of seagrass in the North Atlantic that has occurred over centuries has created a necessity for the start of a period of environmental renewal. At the beginning of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration it is critical that we create projects from strong, collaborative partnerships which rejuvenate our oceans using the best available science.

At Project Seagrass we're inspired to facilitate those partnerships; and support communities, organisations, and governments in working together on a shared mission to transform our coastal seas. We believe that restoring seagrass meadows will provide a foundation for a conversation about wider seascape rehabilitation, after all this is the aim, and at Project Seagrass we are committed to supporting the mainstreaming of this concept. Seagrass meadows are just the start!

I hope that by this time next year we're able to reflect on the announcement of further seagrass restoration projects across all three of the home nations of Great Britain, and to reflect on a schedule of work that will help us to scale these efforts and support communities across the UK.

Is this a pipe dream? I don't think so, but let's see what the 2022 report brings!

Dr Richard Lilley

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy remains the same today as when we were founded in 2013, and is underpinned by our four key aims:

1. To educate the wider community on the presence and importance of seagrass ecosystems, the services they provide and current seagrass management issues.
2. To build the capacity of stakeholders in the use of standardised scientific methodologies
3. To promote and assist with long-term monitoring of seagrass condition.
4. To support scientific research and conservation measures that help facilitate the long-term resilience of seagrass ecosystems.

To achieve these aims we are organising our workflows through three pillars: community, research and action. It is through these three pillars that we influence and ultimately make progress towards our vision: "A world in which seagrass meadows are thriving, abundant and well managed for people and planet".

2020-2021 Pillar Highlights

Community Outreach

Monthly average of 100k Twitter impressions

2014 Year End Average = 5.9k

↓

2021 Year End Average = 100.6k

We have also recorded significant growth on both Facebook and Instagram.

Research Impact

UN environment programme

The importance of seagrasses is highlighted in a new UN report to which we contributed;

Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People

The report was released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) together with GRID-Arendal and UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

Direct Action

1,000,000

The last of one million seagrass seeds were planted by our team in Dale, West Wales.

The wrap up of the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project in Dale in March 2021 represents the completion of the first 'meadow scale' seagrass restoration project in the UK.

Community: Through both social and traditional media, in person events, and the development of free educational materials we seek to empower learners of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to address the interconnected global challenges that seagrass ecosystems are facing. These challenges include, but are not limited to, climate change, environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity. It is particularly important for us to shape our educational workflows to ensure they are accessible to those who may otherwise be marginalised due to poverty and inequality.

Our strategy is explicitly tied to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals since we believe that learning must prepare students and learners of all ages to find solutions for the challenges we face. Education should be transformative and allow us to make informed decisions and take individual and collective action to change our societies and care for the planet.

Research: Diverse research bringing together multiple disciplines is needed to support policies to recover and sustain healthy seagrass ecosystems. As seagrass research necessarily becomes more transdisciplinary to address complex challenges, it will be critical for scientists and research funders to understand how scientists from different disciplines and regions might collaborate and strengthen the overall evidence base for the better management of seagrass ecosystems.

We will continue to advocate for and conduct the transdisciplinary research that improves our knowledge of seagrass ecosystems. As a supporting partner to the UN Ocean Decade we will respond to their CALL TO ACTION and produce – "The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want".

Action: On 1 March 2019, The United Nations General Assembly declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the aim to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight the climate crisis and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity.

As partners to this call, we have an ambitious plan for 2021-2026, including the launch of three new seagrass restoration projects in 2021, in Wales, Scotland and England. We are also piloting a seagrass nursery and mechanisation programme in Wales to facilitate the scaling up of harvesting and planting seagrass seeds.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

OUR YEAR – A SNAPSHOT

Undoubtedly the highlight, and the main focus of our 2020-2021 year was the completion of the planting for Seagrass Ocean Rescue; a pioneering partnership with Sky Ocean Rescue, WWF UK and Swansea University to plant over 1 million seagrass seeds over 2ha of seabed in Dale, Pembrokeshire as a pilot scheme. With the planting now complete it is vital we now monitor the meadow as it grows and work with local stakeholders to make the most of the opportunities this new meadow can create. This includes the piloting of a scheme to reward fishers for sensitive behaviour towards the seabed and a programme to create moorings for visiting boats.

Key Stats

This project was the first meadow-scale seagrass restoration project in the UK.

Project development, community engagement and seed planting ran over 2 years from 2019-2021.

Over 1,000,000 seeds were planted.

The project engaged 92 volunteers in collecting seagrass seeds.

Thirty volunteers were involved in sorting and separating seagrass seeds.

A whopping 1955 volunteers were involved in the packing of sand and seeds into hessian bags.

Forty-four volunteers helped plant the bags of seagrass seeds.

Volunteers ranged in age from three to ninety and came from Falmouth to Edinburgh.

Our Year In Community

Outreach activities and the continuous development of our Seagrass Education and Awareness (SEA) programme remains the core focus of our 'Education' Pillar.

This year we have added a number of resources to the SEA programme which can be downloaded from our website.

- Four 'Wild Days' resources were added to the Age 0-5 programme.
- Five 'Species Spotlights' were added to the Age 5-7 programme.
- A 'Seagrass Physiology and Photosynthesis' video was added to the Age 11-14 programme.

This year we have added several resources to the SEA programme which can be downloaded from our ProjectSeagrass.org website.

In May 2020 we published a new website at Seagrass.org.uk with a specific focus on UK seagrasses.

We have also continued to grow our online presence across our social media platforms; Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Indicative figures of our reach:

(Twitter)

Q1
343.2k Tweet impressions
260 New follower

Q2
262.5k Tweet impressions
223 New followers

Q3
309.6k Tweet impressions
280 New followers

Q4
292.4k Tweet impressions
430 New followers

(YouTube)

Q1
Over 400 views of Evie's 'Earth Live Lesson 'from Lizzie Daly and over 700 views of 'Sowing Seagrass seeds in Wales' from Richard Scarse.

Q2
Over 4000 views of 'Using seagrass to fight the climate emergency' from WWF UK

Q3
Over 500 views of 'You might never have heard of seagrass. Here's why you need to' from Razor Science Show (CGTN)

Q4
Over 30,000 views of 'Seagrass Superheroes' with Jason Lewis

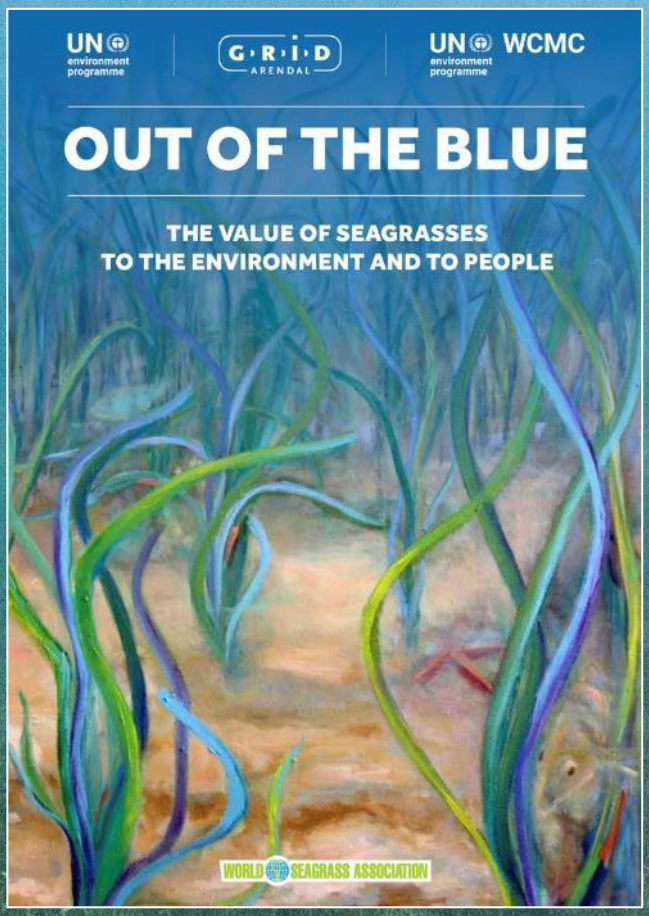
Our Year In Research

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

As a supporting partner the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development are committed to producing "The Science We Need For the Ocean We Want."

This year we have produced the following peer-reviewed papers:

- McKenzie, L.J., Nordlund, L.M., Jones, B.L., Cullen-Unsworth, L.C., Roelfsema, C. and Unsworth, R.K., 2020. The global distribution of seagrass meadows. Environmental Research Letters, 15(7), p.074041.
- Jones, B. L., Nordlund, L. M., Unsworth, R. K., Jiddawi, N. S., & Eklöf, J. S. (2021). Seagrass structural traits drive fish assemblages in small-scale fisheries. Frontiers in Marine Science, 8, 354.
- Unsworth, R.K., Higgs, A., Walter, B., Cullen-Unsworth, L.C., Inman, I. and Jones, B.L., 2021, March. Canopy Accumulation: Are Seagrass Meadows a Sink of Microplastics?. In Oceans (Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 162-178). Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.



At Project Seagrass we were also involved in the publication of the UNEP Report 'Out of the Blue'

- United Nations Environment Programme (2020). Out of the blue: The value of seagrasses to the environment and to people. UNEP, Nairobi.

The publication of such a report by the United Nations represents a significant milestone in putting seagrass ecosystems on the marine conservation agenda.

Our Year In Action

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION
2021-2030

As a supporting partner to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration we are committed to active restoration of seagrass ecosystems.

In 2020-2021 we completed our first 1,000,000 seagrass seeds pilot project in Dale, Pembrokeshire.

The planning and fundraising for a further two seagrass restoration projects has been conducted which are pipelined to begin in 2021-2022.

We have secured funding for a seagrass mechanisation project which seeks ways in which we can scale our seagrass restoration effort through the mechanical harvesting and planting of seagrass seeds.

In Scotland we have secured 'Biodiversity Challenge Fund' funding from NatureScot for the creation of a community-led seagrass restoration project with Seawilding (SCIO, SC050126) in Loch Craignish, Argyll.

We are actively seeking collaboration and funding for a full-scale Scottish project and to pilot a seagrass nursery in Wales.

We completed the year 2020 to 21 with the successful rolling out of major piece of restoration infrastructure funding from the Welsh Government. This included funding for survey equipment and a new boat.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Following its 2nd anniversary in 2015, Project Seagrass reviewed its success and also evaluated the most pressing threats to coastal seagrass meadows for the coming decade. This led to identification of four key areas where Project Seagrass should focus its efforts:

Education

Influence

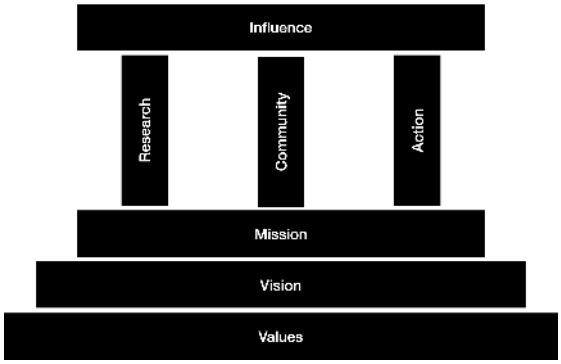
Research

Action

These were presented on the 9th March 2016 at our 'Official Launch' in Cardiff.

In January 2021, these four key areas were reduced to three. The rationale being that the 'Influence' we were having was as result of the other 3 pillars, and what we were achieving through 'education' and its associated activities was the building of a community of people who cared about the future of seagrass ecosystems. It also speaks to our direct engagement with coastal communities as a way of working.

Our organisations 'Pillars' are now therefore Research, Community and Action.



This report presents the highlights of the past year that work towards our three pillars.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PERIOD 2020/21

The period from the 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 marks 7 years since Project Seagrass was founded, 6 years since it became a registered charity in England and Wales and 4 years since it became a registered charity in Scotland. Our Key achievements for this year are broken down below; first by pillar, and then chronologically by Quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: COMMUNITY

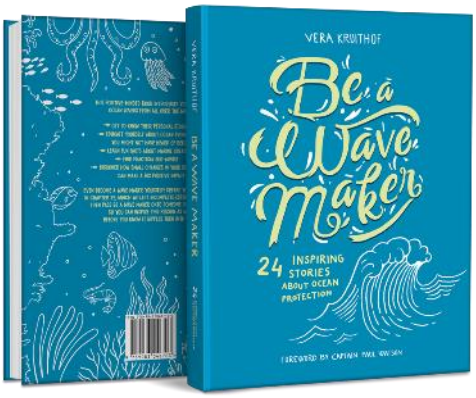
Q1. April 2020. To kick off the year we teamed up with Nedret Andre to host an online exhibition; 'Seagrass As Art' with submissions open until 31st May.

Submissions which can be viewed on our website.
Evie delivered two online talks; 'Seagrass Success' as part of Lizzie Daly's Earth LIVE lesson programme and 'Seagrass meadows' as

part of the "Bring Ocean Science to the classroom initiative. "Rich and the Seagrass Ocean Rescue restoration project featured on Weatherman Walking on BBC Wales.

May 2020. On 22nd May, The International Day For Biodiversity, we launched our UK Seagrass Restoration focussed website Seagrass.org.uk. Ben gave a seminar presentation to the Faculty of Science and Technology at Bournemouth University on the development of Project Seagrass, and the research we conduct.

June 2020. For World Oceans Day we teamed up with Earthwatch Europe to release a range of educational resources. Ben featured as one of 24 inspiring ocean advocates in the book Be A Wave Maker, aimed at children and young adults.



RJ wrote his first blog for Finisterre's Sunday Broadcast and Rich spoke at Blue Marine Foundations 'Rewilding the Sea' Online Conference.

Q2.

Throughout the difficult period of the Covid19 pandemic lockdown in the UK our wider Project Seagrass team that includes staff employed through Swansea University contributed to a whole range of educational and outreach events and materials.

July 2020. The article 'Restoring our lost seagrass meadows' ran in the Waitrose Weeend publication.

September 2020: RJ did an online 'meet the scientist' for a Primary School in Wiltshire

Q3

November 2020. RJ gave a talk at the The Wildlife Information Centre's AGM on the importance of global seagrass ecosystems and our restoration work in the UK context. Rich was interviewed by Big Issue North for an article; Pilot's new lessons for 'nursery for fish'.

Wild Saint launched their 'Sea Tails' socks to raise awareness of our work.

For his achievements through science communication, Ben was selected as a Planethon Pacer, a Swedish programme supported by Oatly. RJ also wrote his quarterly Autumn Underwater Update for Finisterre.

December 2020. RJ spoke about seagrass restoration at the MASTS Research Priorities for Climate Change science conference.

We ran a 'Good News Advent Calendar' across our social media platform before releasing a 'Days of Seagrass' Christmas video on the 23rd.

Q4

January 2021: Our interview with Radio 4 for their series '39 Ways to Save the Planet' aired.

We were included in 'The Planet Savers of 2020' e-book and RJ did a MASTS CASTS.

February 2021: RJ presented to Sustainable LSE and to Jersey International Centre of Advanced Studies (JICAS) and Leanne did a seminar at PLACE

March 2021: Each year ends with both a celebration of World Seagrass Day on March 1st and Seagrass Awareness Month.

RJ presented to both the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences and the European Marine Science Educators Association on the challenges and opportunities for seagrass restoration.

The beginning of 2021 saw a concerted effort by our expanding team to develop a draft seagrass education programme targeted to run alongside our future restoration activities.

Evie and Sam were filmed for a short film by Jason Lewis.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: RESEARCH

Q1 – Rich contributed to a key scientific paper published in Nature Communications on how mimicry of key functions in the marine environment can help improve restoration.

Q2 – July 2020: Ben, Rich and Leanne published a paper on the Global distribution of seagrass meadows, which has subsequently been well cited and used by global ocean charity Oceana in strategic planning for future blue carbon campaigns.

Q3 – In October 2020 RJ started work on a project with NatureScot and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh conducting Seagrass meadow surveys and genetic analysis of samples from Scottish waters.

In November 2020, the Project Seagrass team planted more experimental seed planting as part of their Dale pilot project in order to improve the effectiveness of their methods.

December 2020. Throughout December, Ben participated in several UN Ocean Decade workshops and seminars focusing on co-

designing the science we need for the Ocean Decade.

Q4 – January 2021: Ben lead research documenting the functional role that seagrass plays in supporting fish vital to small-scale fisheries, which was subsequently featured on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development hub.

Feb 2021: Rich, Leanne, Ben and others within the Project Seagrass team published a paper on the accumaltion of plastics in seagrass meadows.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: ACTION

Q1 The UK wide Covid19 lockdown commencing in March 2020 meant that conservation actions during this period were minimal.

Q2 August 2020. RJ organised seagrass seed collection at Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve whilst the rest of the team collected seagrass seeds at Porthdinllaen.

During August 2020 a major seagrass seed collection activity took place in North Wales to support a second round of seed planting in Dale. The challenges of Covid19 restrictions limited the capacity of volunteers to be part of the activities.

Q3 November 2020 was a seminal moment in the development and expansion of Project Seagrass through the signing of a funding agreement with the Welsh Government to develop a programme of infrastructure investment to facilitate future seagrass restoration in Wales.

On November 23rd the team deployed the final BoSS lines in Dale, marking 1,000,000 seeds planted since the beginning of Seagrass Ocean Rescue.

Q4

February 2021 saw the ordering of a new seagrass restoration vessel funded by the Welsh Government. As part of the same project funding a major investment in Drones was made enabling purchase of a Wingtra fixed wing drone.

In February 2021 we planted 10000 seagrass seeds at Porthdinllaen in North Wales within mooring scars as part of our Seacology and our Welsh Government projects.

We continued with our partnership with Natural England to conduct the Isle of Scilly Seagrass Monitoring Survey, and continued with our Seagrass-Watch Survey in Porthdinllaen.

In March 2021, Rich commenced the start of a trial with a Welsh fisherman to pilot the use of a Sensitive Ecosystem Responsible Fisher (SERF) Award to encourage fishers to support marine habitat restoration projects. The SERF award enables fishers to obtain immediate benefits from a project whose ecological benefits may take a long time to materialise.

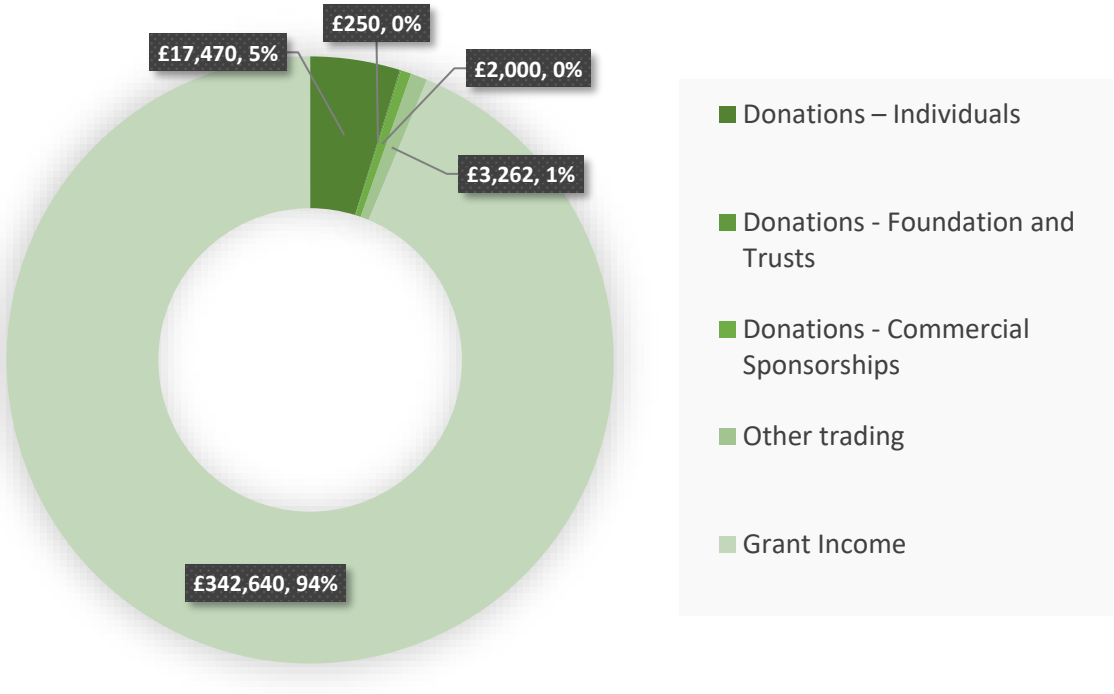
In March 2021 we also deployed three visitor moorings in Dale as part of our seagrass restoration project. The aim of these moorings was to delineate the restoration area and discourage anchoring in the area. The operation of these moorings is a collaboration with the Dale Seagrass Stakeholder Group. Project Seagrass has agreed to act as the manager of funds generated from the voluntary fees raised from their use.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 crisis changing the way we work and raise money, 2020-21 was successful financially and has put us in a strong position for the future – a strong position to secure a future for seagrass. We raised over **£365,000** in income, a **2,111.6%** increase on the previous year. Nearly £300,000 of that was granted for one specific project (funded by Welsh Government) which we completed during the financial year. We spent over **£270,000** on our action programmes.

INCOME

GRANT INCOME CONTRIBUTED A SIGNIFICANT £342,640.



£306,000 from the Welsh Government to deliver the RESOW (Wales) project, aiming to support future infrastructure in Wales to enable seagrass restoration operations.

Commercial sponsorships from Haku Taku, Reverse Gear and Emitwise

Nearly £20,000 in donations from the public

£32,000 in funding from the Scottish Government

Continued contributions from Natural England for the Isles of Scilly seagrass monitoring programme

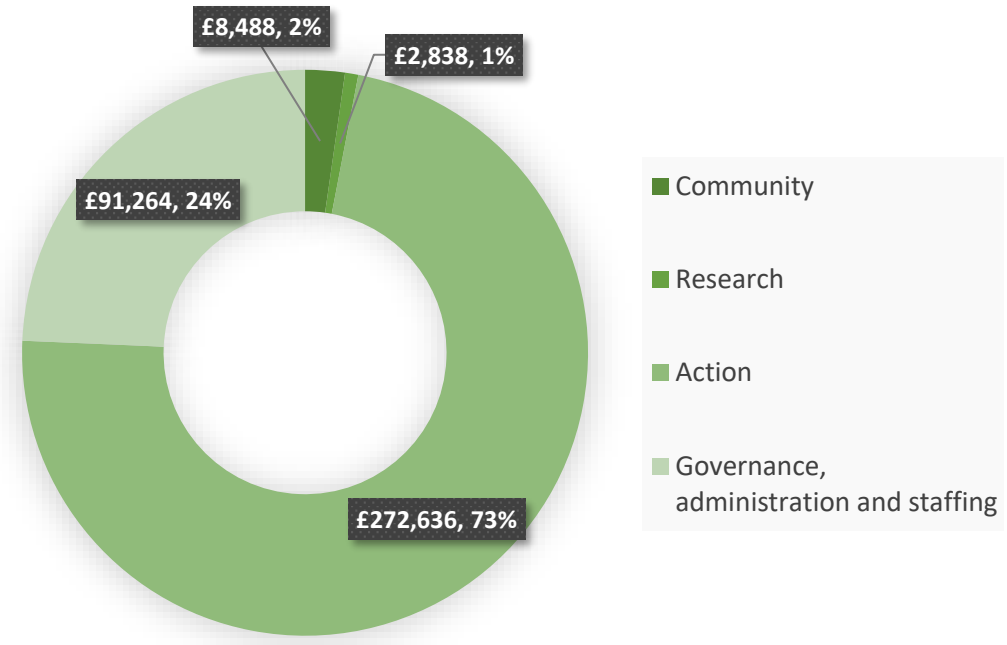
£14,900 from Seacology for the implementation of an Advanced Mooring System trial and associated seagrass planting in North Wales

£10,000 from the William Grant Foundation towards scientific research

2,111.6% increase in income from 2019-2020

EXPENDITURE

WE SPENT £375,226 ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEAR.



There was significant capital spend of over £200,000 this year largely thanks to Welsh and Scottish Government support. Key significant capital spend included:

- Research Vessel RV Gwenhidw - £103,000.
- MX Aquatic Habitat Echosounder - £18,500
- WingtraOne Survey Drones (2) - £51,000

We also delivered several significant programmes of work this year:

- Seagrass Restoration Stakeholder Strategy in Wales - £27,900
- Stakeholder mapping in the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation - £18,300
- Special Area of Conservation report and plan - £18,500
- Habitat Suitability Model - £19,000
- Communication materials (including two SAC communication boards - £26,500

Thanks to William Grant Foundation, and in collaboration with NatureScot and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, we spent £10,000 conducting a genetic connectivity study for Scottish seagrasses. This has provided the necessary information to give the go ahead for Scotland's first seagrass restoration project.

With our partners Swansea University, WWF UK and Sky Ocean Rescue we completed the planting of over 1,000,000 seagrass seeds in Dale, Pembrokeshire marking the completion of the UKs first full-scale seagrass restoration project.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), incorporated on and registered as a charity on 24 July 2015 in England and Wales and 17 August 2016 in Scotland. It is governed by an Association Model Constitution, having been amended following approval by members at an AGM on 2nd May 2015.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees, as defined by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Act 2011 and are collectively referred to as "The Trustees".

The need for a more involved and independent board of trustees was identified by the Senior Executives. Not least the need to have trustees who are chosen for their individual qualifications, experience and skills to cover the gamut of those required for successful governance of the rapidly expanding organisation. The ambition for the period 1st April 2020- 31st March 2021 was to appoint 4 new trustees to the board and to elect a formal Chair. The view of the board at present (given the rapid growth of the organisation) is that from now on there should be between 4 and 12 trustees involved to provide adequate governance for an organisation of this size and ambition.

Trustees may serve two consecutive periods of four years. After serving these periods they must stand down for a minimum of two years before offering themselves for election again. The organisation advertises vacant trustee positions to the public. A register of trustees' interests is held and regularly updated by the charity.

TRUSTEE INDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

All new trustees are to be given a formal familiarisation with the organisations business, Charitable Board organisation and responsibilities by the Chairman and the four Senior Executives as part of an induction process. It is our intention to employ charity staff during the next financial year. Newly appointed staff will work to agreed terms of reference, will be subject to regular performance interviews and are to be given career training opportunities.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Trustees, which administers the Charity, meets regularly and on not less than four occasions per annum.

To set the pay and remuneration of the key management personnel (Executives) and staff in general, the Chairman will make a recommendation for approval by the Board of the Charity. This recommendation follows a meeting with the Directors. It is based on a review of annual performance against certain targets and what the organisation can afford to pay.

Volunteers are central to the successful operation of the Charity. A core group of regular volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the organisation and should be recognised here.

Various sub-committees are constituted as required. The senior Executives, who are ultimately responsible for the day-to-day administration and running of the Charity, act as the link with outside stakeholders. To facilitate effective operations, the Senior Executives have delegated authority – within terms of delegation approved by the trustees – for operational matters. These include finance, employment and developing related activities.

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS

Insofar as it is complementary to its objects, the Charity is guided by both local, national and global policy. The Charity works in close partnership with several organisations,

including Cardiff University, Swansea University, Natural Resources Wales, Nature Scot, Natural England, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government, Sky Zero and WWF UK, and internationally Stockholm University to help achieve common and strategic objectives in marine education, conservation, and restoration.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

At the heart of the operations are three pillars – Research, Community and Action all of which will guide all the charity's activities over the next decade. At Project Seagrass we also recognise the growing importance of the digital community (particularly in light of COVID-19) in communicating our marine conservation and education messages. We wish to take positive action to ensure we remain a global, outward facing organisation with a key focus on sustainable development and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This year was the first step along this new path and contained some notable achievements and successes. However, the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK in March 2020, and the impact of the subsequent government measures to contain it, have had a dramatic effect on all elements of the Welsh, Scottish and wider UK economy. Restrictions on people's movement means that project delivery and community engagement has been particularly hard hit.

This situation is unprecedented in modern times. There is currently no certainty about what normality for society will be in the coming years let alone the route back to it. A new strategy requires a different organisational model which was being developed. Creating a realistic sustainable growth plan in these circumstances is extremely challenging.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In the financial year much was achieved. Work began on a new strategic plan and new structures and procedures are being introduced for the Charity boards and committees.

As an organisation we have identified the need for more formal policies and procedures to be in place as we continue to grow. In particular, the need to introduce a cashflow forecast, and a risk register to guide the development of a 5-year charity plan.

Our key achievements for the period 2020-2021 highlight just how far we've come as a charity in terms of our impact. However, with this growth comes additional responsibilities to ensure we are performing in line with our mission, vision and values.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

If the last seven years has taught us anything at Project Seagrass, it's that achieving our mission begins with how we build our team and how we work together. We believe; indeed, experience has taught us, that only by bringing together a diverse range of identities, experiences and perspectives can we tackle complex crises. It is only though celebrating and harnessing diversity of experience that we will be able to work towards creating a future where seagrasses and society can truly prosper.

We evidenced our commitment to this when we organised the International Seagrass Biology Workshop in 2016. We included a Code of Conduct to ensure that our event was a safe space for all, no matter of their gender, gender identity, heritage, sexual orientation, or any other factor. It was the first and only event in the workshops 27-year history to do so.

Central to our ethos is a determination to 'live our values', and as we embark on this next chapter of our journey, we are committed to creating a work culture of belonging. A work environment where all team members are valued for who they are and given equal opportunity to grow and succeed, with no

discrimination on the basis of their race, colour, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, or identification with any marginalised community in the countries where we work.

Diversity, equity and inclusion can look different in every country, and whilst we have worked to champion and celebrate our Welsh roots, we know we have work still do to if we wish to meet the ideals of the organisation we wish to become.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking clear, concerted steps to diversify our team:

- We will develop inclusive position descriptions that open doors for different types of backgrounds, experiences, and education, and that use language which welcomes a more diverse group of candidates.
- We will ensure our teams foster equity, inclusion, and belonging and that diverse perspectives are valued in decision-making.
- We will intentionally coach and mentor diverse talent.

Whilst we acknowledge our team is currently small, we are expecting to grow our organisation rapidly, and therefore this commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion reflects our vision for the charity we wish to become.

Project Seagrass is committed to taking steps to be more inclusive in our work:

- We will ensure that our team adheres to our Code of Conduct for all events
- We will endeavour to advertise events and volunteer opportunities to all members of society.

We will seek to transform our online platforms to ensure that they use inclusive language and imagery, that is needed to foster a more diverse marine conservation community.

VOLUNTARY HELP AND GIFTS IN KIND

The contribution of the Volunteers to the success of the organisation remains key both in financial and operational terms. Project Seagrass originated from the passion, drive and energies of the Senior Executives who have continued to work on a voluntary basis. Indeed, volunteers and volunteerism is in the DNA of the organisation. The estimated value of volunteer's efforts in the year in terms of voluntary hours worked is impossible to put a precise figure on but would easily run into the tens of thousands of pounds. A total of £10,257.69 was donated to the charity from fundraising activities.

During the financial year 2020-21 Ben (Executive Director, 0.6 FTE), Rich (Executive Director, 0.6 FTE) and Leanne (Executive Director 0.6 FTE) all worked for Project Seagrass voluntarily. The financial value of this contribution is estimated as being at least ≈£100k.

RESERVES POLICY

The Board has identified a minimum reserve requirement equivalent to three months' operating costs, which will enable the charity to meet commitments as they fall due. At 31 March 2020, the organisation had total reserves of £26,131. However, within this balance are restricted funds of £10,663 relating to operational programmes. These restricted funds are not available for the general purposes of the charity. Unrestricted reserves are currently £7,592. Through regular review of financial performance, open and transparent dialogue with key stakeholders and seeking to identify additional core funding, the trustees aim to improve this position.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees monitors the significant risks to which the charity is exposed. A risk

register will be maintained by the Senior Executives and scrutinised by the Trustees quarterly. The main residual risks are:

1. Insufficient income generated – the employment of a full time Director should generate new income streams for the organisation, and this remains an area for us to focus on.
2. Sufficient fundraising cannot be secured – securing sufficient unrestricted funds to support the full costs of our conservation, education and restoration activities will be addressed in a range of ways through developing our supporter offer, forging new partnerships and demonstrating the value of our activities for corporate support.
3. Asset development – whilst we only have limited assets at present, we need to continue to invest in assets for autonomy and to develop our capacity. There is a need to upgrade and improve our online presence to meet the appetite for a stronger digital offer.
4. The loss of current talent and expertise is one of the greatest risks to the organisation at present.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

COVID-19 has emphasised how linked the wellbeing of our society is to the health of our natural environment. More than ever people have enjoyed their local green and blue spaces and have felt more connected to nature. The calls for a green recovery have also grown stronger, not least because we still have the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss to respond to.

Whilst there are economic and financial challenges to overcome, the appetite for change provides a strong platform for our Charity to play a role in helping people to understand the importance of our coastal and marine environments and to give them information on the actions that can be taken to protect and restore this resource for the future.

Recent events have also highlighted the inequalities which continue to exist in our society, including digital exclusion. As we develop our digital offer, we will use it as a way of engaging further with people who cannot visit our coastlines in person but wish to learn about our marine environment. We will use this as an opportunity to forge new partnerships to work with harder to reach groups in society.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4, Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission concerning public benefit.

As a dedicated team of seagrass scientists and seagrass enthusiasts, we work to protect seagrass, and through seagrass, we support marine conservation more broadly. The charities main work is in promoting protection of coastal ecosystems and the promotion of sustainable marine resource use.

Each of our programs are aimed at improving the condition of the marine environment. A healthy marine environment will supply benefits to the public; these are often referred to as marine 'ecosystem services'.

The United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognized three types of ecosystem services called provision, regulating and cultural. Each of these is relevant to the marine environment.

Provisioning refers to society's needs for our seas to supply both the wild caught and farmed fish that are an important part of our diet.

Regulating is important for climate; seagrass is a significant contributor to carbon sequestration in the form of 'blue carbon'

Culturally, British seas and coasts are well regarded for recreation, ecotourism and appreciation of natural heritage. When the coastal ecosystem is healthy, it supplies more of these benefits.

Project Seagrass works not only to increase the extent of these benefits, but also to make them publicly available.

During 2019/20 the charity promoted interest and learning on the marine environment through its dedicated SEA (Seagrass Education & Awareness) outreach and education programme and inspired action at the local level through delivery of its SAS (Seagrass Ambassador Scheme) volunteer and community engagement programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees would like to again thank all our volunteers, members and supporters - individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, public bodies and corporate organisations who have supported our work. This includes Natural England, Emitwise, WWF UK and Sky Ocean Rescue. The recent COVID-19 crisis has reminded us how much loved the work of Project Seagrass is, the importance of its role within Great Britain and the role it has to play in the wider conservation practice and science community internationally. We know that collaborative working and partnerships (informal and formal) will enable us to confidently face the challenges ahead with our loyal and dedicated team of trustees and volunteers.

APPROVAL OF THE TRUSTEES' REPORT

At the time of approving this report, the Trustees are aware of no relevant audit information of which the group and charity's auditors are unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken, as a Trustee, in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group and charity's auditors are aware of that information.

The report was approved by the Board on 31st March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

31st March 2022 (Chair)

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom General Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

1. Select suitable account policies and then apply them consistently
2. Observe the methods and the principles in the Charity SORP
3. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply the appropriate legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Consolidated statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	1	15,033	3,029	18,062	10,258
Other trading activities	2	3,262	-	3,262	15
Charitable activities	3	1,658	342,640	344,298	6,259
Total income		**19,953**	**345,699**	**365,622**	**16,532**
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds:		312	1,369	1,681	1,517
Charitable activities	4,5,6	27,517	145,286	172,803	7,664 *RESTATED*
Total expenditure		**27,829**	**146,655**	**174,484**	**9,181** ***RESTATED***
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before other recognised gains and transfers		(7,876)	199,014	191,138	7,351 *RESTATED*
Net gains on investment assets		-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(7,876)	199,014	191,138	7,351 *RESTATED*
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(7,876)	199,014	191,138	7,351 *RESTATED*
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds carried forward from previous year		15,468	10,663	26,131	18,780 *RESTATED*
Total funds carried forward		**7,592**	**209,677**	**217,269**	**26,131** ***RESTATED***

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

PROJECT SEAGRASS

Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2021

	Note	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		203,623	1,200 *RESTATED*
Intangible assets		Not valued	Not valued
Total fixed assets		**203,623**	**1,200**
Current assets			
Stocks		-	-
Debtors		9,916	-
Cash at bank and in hand		22,219	24,931 *RESTATED*
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year		18,488	-
Net assets		**217,270**	**26,131**
Funds			
Restricted funds		216,301	10,663
Unrestricted funds		969	15,468
Total funds		**217,270**	**26,131**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Donations – individuals	12,783	3,029	15,812	7,880
Donations – companies and trusts	2,250		2,250	-
Other fundraising income	-	-	-	2,378
Total income from donations and legacies	**15,033**	**3,029**	**18,062**	**10,258**

Donations from trusts and companies do not include any donated services or goods. These have not been included in the financial statements as we are unable to measure reliably the value of the services received in the year.

2 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Contracts	3,262	-	3,262	-
Merchandise	-		-	15
Total income from other trading activities	**3,262**	**-**	**3,262**	**15**

All income from other trading activities is unrestricted. While we received income from the sale of merchandise via our online store (operated by TeeMill) over the course of the financial year, this money has not been paid out and will be included in the following financial year. We received income from one contract related to the translation of SeagrassSpotter, and the use of the Project Seagrass research boat to Swansea University for the Seagrass Ocean Rescue project.

3 INCOME FROM CHARITY ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Government grants	-	313,551	313,551	6,259 *RESTATED*
Other grants	1,658	29,089	30,747	-
Total income from charity activities	**1,658**	**342,640**	**344,298**	**6,259** ***RESTATED***

99.5% of grant income over the course of the financial year was restricted. We received seven grants, three of which were from national government (Welsh Government, Scottish Government and Natural England).

4 NON-CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON CHARITY ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Community	5,216	3,272	8,488	222
Research	-	2,838	2,838	-
Action	4,500	78,292	82,792	6,608
Governance, administration, and staffing	17,801	60,884	78,685	834 *RESTATED*
Total expenditure on charity activities	**27,517**	**145,286**	**172,803**	**7,664** ***RESTATED***

Governance and administration costs include insurance, audit and legal fees as well as other admin costs such as postage, stationery and IT equipment as well as the re-design of the Project Seagrass website which occurred during the financial year. We do not account for any donated software (e.g., Slack, Dropbox) within these costs.

5 STAFF COSTS	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Salaries and wages	47,132	-
Employer's national insurance contributions	3,670	-
Pension contributions	1,779	-
Staffing costs	20,466	-
Total costs of employing staff	**73,048**	**-**

One employee received emoluments in the band £40,000 to £50,000 (2019: nil). No trustees claimed expenses during the year for travel and subsistence, and no trustee received remuneration during the year (2019: nil).

Additional staffing costs of £20,466 were incurred in training.

6 STAFF NUMBERS	Total Funds 2021 (£)	Total Funds 2020 (£)
Community	1	-
Research	1	-
Action	1	-
Governance and administration	-	-
Total staff	**3**	**-**

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS WHO MADE OUR WORK THIS YEAR POSSIBLE.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND STATUTORY BODIES:

Welsh Government
Scottish Government
Natural England

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS:

Blair Foundation
Seacology
BIAZA
William Grant Foundation

COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS:

Hakutaku
Reverse Gear
Wild Saint
Emitwise
GRID-Arendal
Swansea University
Cardiff University
Nick Martin

We would like to extend our thanks to our valued donors who wish to remain anonymous.

PATRONS, SUPPORTERS, MEMBERS AND GROUPS:

Coychurch Primary
Sunnyside Primary
Awel y mor Primary

PRO BONO SUPPORT:

Finisterre

REFERENCE
& administrative information

Project Seagrass is governed according to charity law by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are unpaid volunteers. Three Senior Executives are unpaid, with the CEO being the only paid individual.

CHARITY NAME
Project Seagrass

CHARITY NUMBER
1162824 (England and Wales)
SC025837 (Scotland)

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPPERATIONAL ADDRESS
Project Seagrass
PO Box 412
Bridgend
CF31 9RL

SCOTTISH OPERATIONAL ADDRESS
18/6 Millar Crescent Morningside
Edinburgh
EH10 5HW

TRUSTEES
The Trustees who served during the period from 1 April 2020 to the date of approval of this report were as follows:

Rosslyn Barr
Chair
(From November 2020)

Mike Furness
(From November 2020)

Jake Davies
(From November 2020)

Sarah Pilgrim
(From March 2021)

Benjamin Jones
(Resigned November 2020)

Richard Unsworth
(Resigned November 2020)

Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
(Resigned November 2020)

Rebecca Cullen
(Resigned November 2020)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM
The members of the Senior Management Team were in post for the whole of the year ended 31 March 2021 and until the date of this report unless stated otherwise:

Dr Richard Lilley
Chief Executive

Benjamin Jones
Senior Executive

Dr Leanne Cullen-Unsworth
Senior Executive

Dr Richard Unsworth
Senior Executive

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