

2024 Annual Report

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Who We Are

Bubbles Turtle Conservation (BTC) is a marine conservation initiative based in Perhentian Island, Malaysia. Founded alongside Bubbles Dive Resort, BTC has been actively involved in protecting sea turtles by preserving their habitat and raising awareness for over two decades. The program focuses on key activities such as beach clean, hatchery management, night patrols to safeguard nesting turtles, and releasing hatchlings back to the sea. BTC also engages with schools and tourists to raise awareness about turtle conservation.

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect turtle habitats, raise awareness about conservation, and support eco-tourism. Through these efforts, we aim to build a lasting, positive relationship between humans and turtles, ensuring their survival for future generations.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a world where turtles and humans coexist in harmony.

What We Achieved



Our Impact in Numbers

5811

Hatchlings
Released

This season, we achieved an **81% hatch rate**, surpassing our 80% target, thanks to the team's dedication in maintaining ideal hatchery conditions.

We had **16 nesting mothers**, with nest sizes ranging from **48 to 133 eggs**. Lower egg counts may result from environmental factors, health conditions, or natural reproductive cycles.

7231

Eggs Protected

72

Nests Protected

The total number of nests dropped compared to last year due to fewer nesting turtles. After two years of high nesting activity, 2024 appears to be a resting year for the mother turtles.

As one of our mission is to raise awareness through education, we conducted **180 turtle talks** at Bubbles Dive Resort and visited **6 schools** and **1 association** to raise awareness about turtle and coral conservation.

187

Turtle Talks Conducted

18

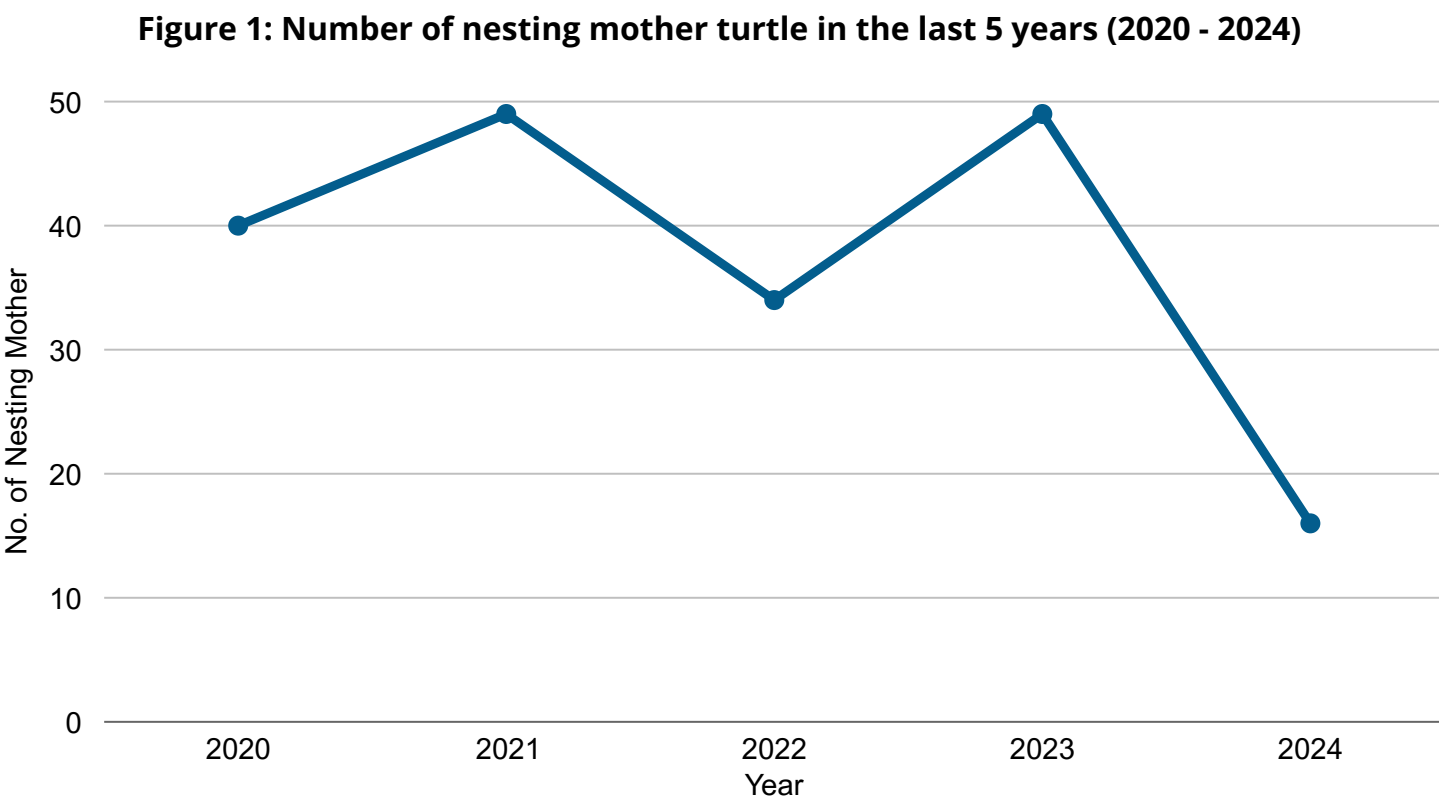
Beach Cleanups

Beach cleanups were held 2 times a week to keep nesting areas clear, collecting a total of **1128.7kg (2,488.371 lbs)** of trash this season. The data is uploaded to Clean Swell to support global conservation efforts.



Supporting Data

BTC’s project goal is to maintain nesting beach in order to keep it as a viable location for nesting sea turtles and a hatch rate at or above 80%.

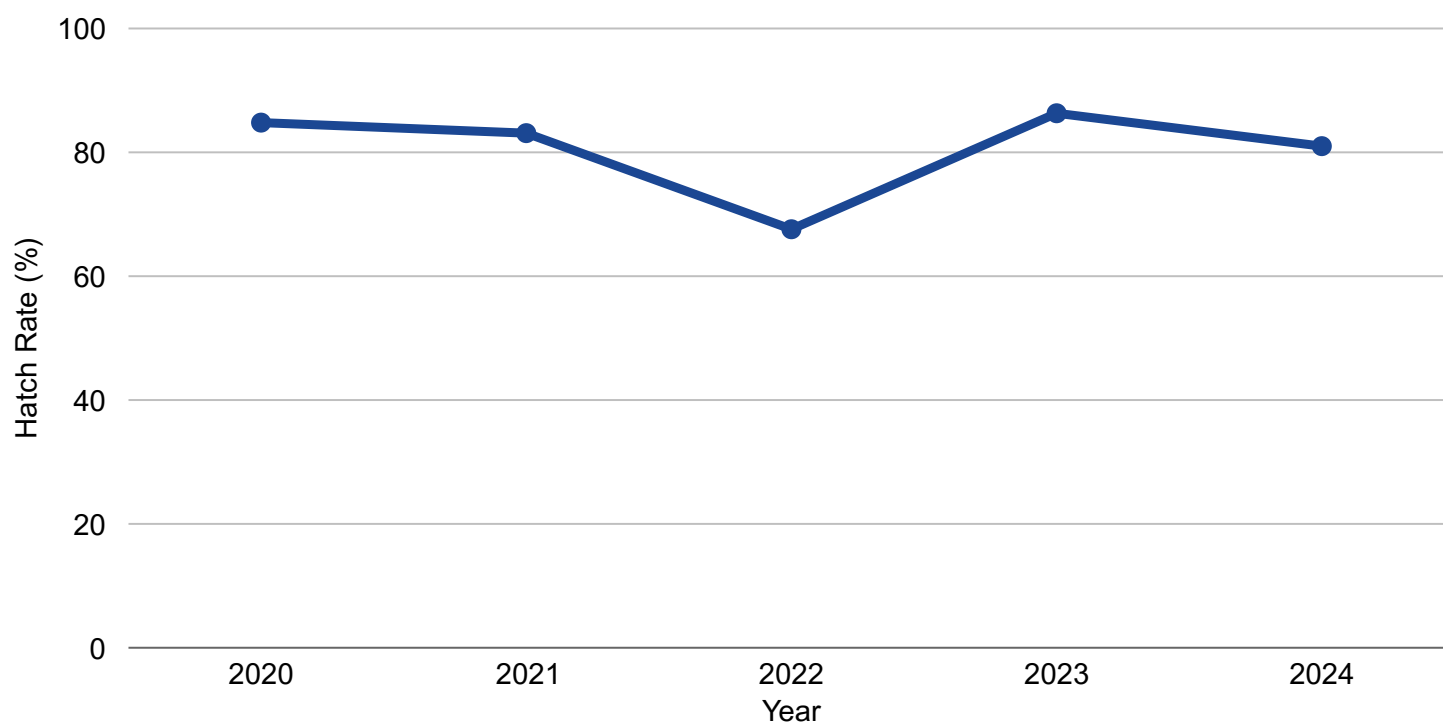


Over the past five years, we’ve observed fluctuations in the number of nesting mother turtles. During the COVID-19 period, nesting activity was notably high, likely due to reduced human activity on the island, which created a more peaceful environment for the turtles. However, in recent years, the numbers have declined. This change may partly result from the resumption of human activities, but it’s also important to understand that such variations are a natural part of a turtle’s reproductive cycle.

Sea turtles, particularly green sea turtles, don’t nest annually. After a productive nesting season, many enter a resting phase, during which they recover and rebuild their energy reserves. This break is essential for their health and ensures they have the strength needed for future nesting seasons. While external factors like human presence can influence nesting, these natural rhythms play a significant role in turtle population dynamics.

In 2024, the El Niño phenomenon likely contributed to the reduced nesting activity of mother turtles. Additionally, thicker shades were needed to regulate nest temperatures.

Figure 2: Average hatch rate in the last 5 years



Ensuring a high hatch rate is essential for protecting sea turtle populations. Despite challenges like changing weather patterns, predators, and increased human activity, BTC has remained committed to sustaining high hatch rates. Efforts to maintain high rates include:

- Conducting regular beach patrols to identify nesting turtles and safely relocate eggs to the hatchery.
- Creating ideal incubation conditions by carefully monitoring sand temperature and minimizing disturbances.
- Safely guiding hatchlings to the ocean, giving them the best chance to thrive in the wild.

**Year 2022 sees a low hatch rate of 68%, this was due to the ant infestation incident at the hatchery. Measures were put in place to prevent further infestation (adding barriers). A paper was published in the event of this incident.*

Link to published paper:

[🌐 Predatory ants invading sea turtle nests on the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia | Request PDF](#)

Other Events/Programs

We had an amazing year working with volunteers, groups, schools and tourists from all over the world.



**Turtle Conservation
Experiential Program**

The Bubbles Turtle Conservation Experiential Program welcomed 78 participants from around the world, all eager to make a difference. Throughout the 6-day, 5-night immersive experience, participants shadowed our dedicated interns and took part in vital conservation tasks such as beach patrols, data collection, and hatchery upkeep.

"This is truly an experiential program with a good mix of theory and hands on learning. It surpassed my expectations and I learned a lot from the enthusiastic team of young people at Bubbles Turtle Conservation." - Emily Teo, Singapore, Participant of 2024



**Nexus International
School**

We were privileged to host a group of young volunteers from Nexus International School for an exciting 4-day, 3-night visit. These enthusiastic kids were eager to learn and ready to get involved in hands-on conservation work. During their stay, they actively contributed by cleaning the beach, joining beach patrols, helping to release baby turtles, and even delivering presentations to raise awareness about turtle conservation. Their energy and dedication made a meaningful impact, and we are grateful for their support!



Penang Dive Club

For two consecutive years, Penang Dive Club has teamed up with Bubbles Dive Resort's dive crew and Bubbles Turtle Conservation for a clean-up dive trip. Together, they've worked tirelessly to remove debris from the ocean, making a noticeable impact on the underwater environment. These efforts not only keep our marine life safer but also inspire more people to take action for a cleaner ocean. Huge thanks to the dedicated teams and volunteers for their ongoing commitment to ocean conservation!



Project Waste

Bubbles Dive Resort was chosen by Project Waste to host their *For The Ocean Tour 2024*, collaborating with the dive center and Bubbles Turtle Conservation for beach and underwater clean-ups. The team collected 12.75kg of land trash and 21kg of underwater debris, including fishing net fragments, buoys, and other unexpected finds. Participants also gained valuable insights about sea turtles through an engaging talk by BTC. A huge shoutout to everyone involved for making a difference in ocean conservation!

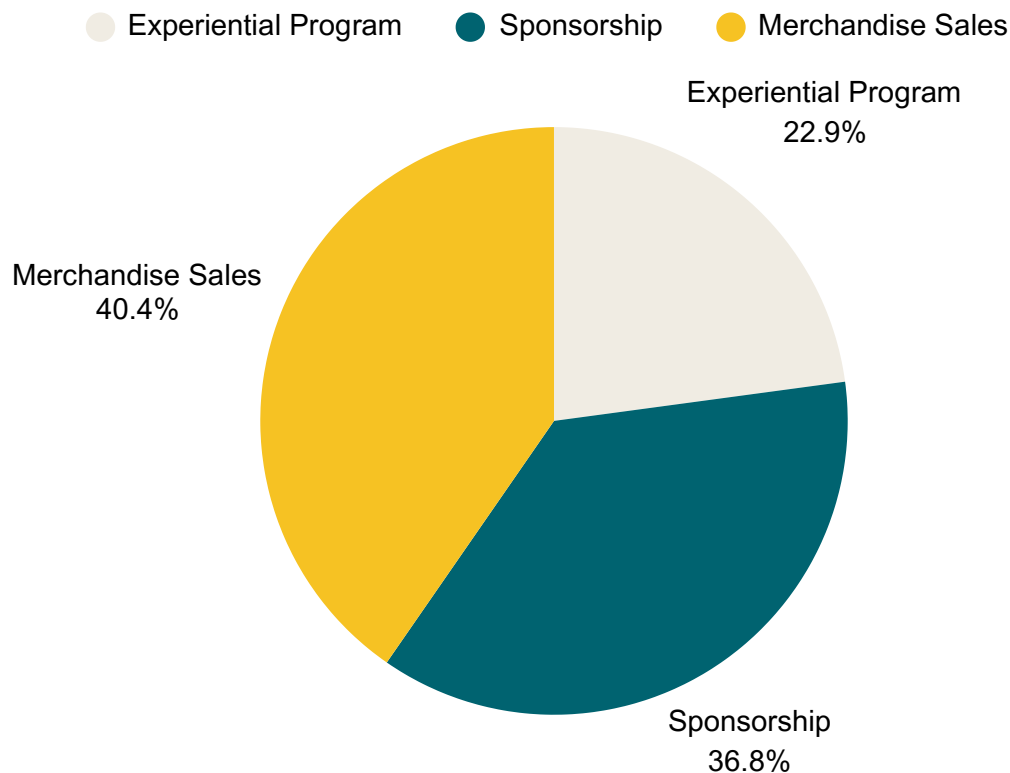
Our Financials

For the year of 2024, total revenue was RM60,011.60, and total expenditure was RM157,742.27.

BTC Finance Summary 2024

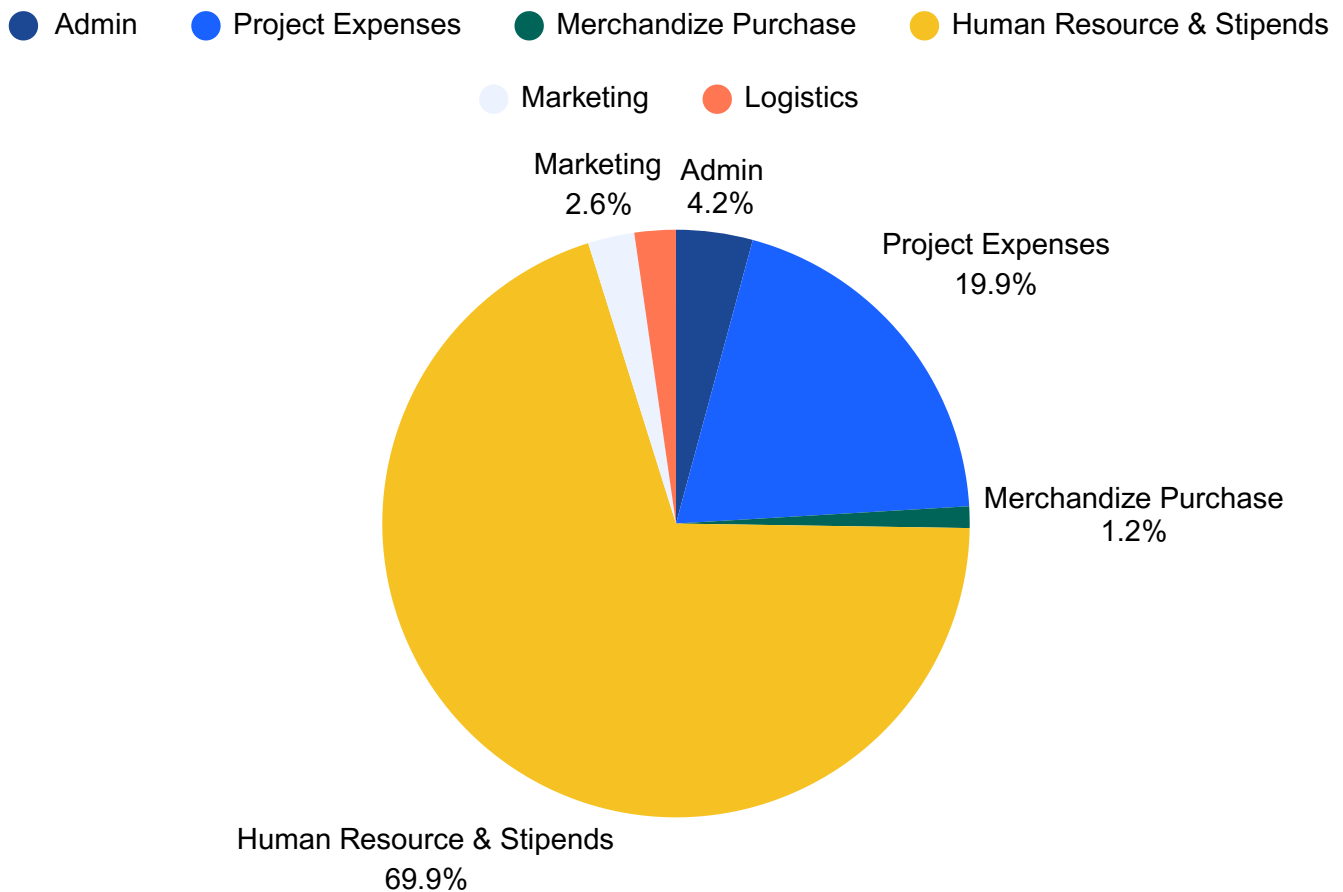
Categories	Amount Out (RM)	Amount In (RM)
Merchandise sales	0	30,304.50
Sales - Program & Workshop	0	17,170.00
Sponsorship	0	27,609.70
Admin cost	6,747.92	0
Cost of merchandise	1,895.67	0
Human Resources & Stipends	112,019.02	0
Marketing & Promotion	4,101.38	0
Project Expenses	31,802.84	0
Transportation & Logistics	3,640.37	0
Grand Total	160,207.20	75,084.20

Figure 3: BTC Revenue for 2024



According to the chart, the majority of our revenue, accounting for 50% of the total, is generated from merchandise sales. These include items designed and crafted by our interns, such as sea glass jewelry (made from beach clean collections), hand-knitted turtle crochets, tote bags to promote reduced plastic use, and t-shirts.

Figure 3: BTC Expenditure for 2024



According to the chart, the majority of our budget, 69.9% of total expenditure, is allocated to human resources and stipends. This significant portion is primarily due to the costs of supporting 12 interns per season, covering their food, accommodation, and dive courses as part of their compensation, totaling RM50,500. Interns are recruited each season for 2.5 to 3 months to conduct essential conservation work.

The second largest portion of our budget is allocated to project expenses, which include equipment and material purchases. However, the primary contributor to this high cost is the land rental fee of RM24,000. As Bubbles Turtle Conservation does not own the land where the project is based, renting the land is necessary.

For many years, Bubbles Dive Resort has supported BTC, which, in 2022, became an independent entity striving to establish itself as a Social Enterprise. With expenses still surpassing revenue, BTC is actively pursuing financial self-sustainability, depending significantly on public support to reach this objective.

Gratitude

The Bubbles Turtle Conservation team sincerely thanks all our sponsors for their generous support throughout the 2024 season. Your contributions have been instrumental in keeping our project running successfully.

What We Envision

For the 2025 season, we aim to maintain our 80% hatch rate, keep our project site's beach in top condition, and consistently provide awareness through education to the public. We're also looking to welcome more collaborators, sponsors, and volunteers to strengthen our efforts and ensure the project continues to thrive with even greater support.



Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at **turtle@bubblesdc.com**.

Bubbles Turtle Conservation

Help Protect Turtles and Their Habitat with Us!

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