

2023-2024

IMPACT REPORT 2023 - 2024

One People | One Planet



DO GOOD, BETTER



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

gviworld.com

Conserving nature, engaging communities

About GVI

It all started in 1998 with one marine conservation program and 21 participants.

Driven by a united passion to make an impact more sustainably and ethically, like-minded changemakers from across the globe started joining forces.

In the 25+ years since, GVI has grown to host over 35,000 participants in conservation and community development projects around the world, in collaboration with over 100 local partners.

From the island of Tenerife off Africa's northwest coast, to Thailand's mountainous jungles, South Africa's rolling savannah, the high-altitude villages of the Himalayas and beyond, our participants have worked tirelessly to conserve nature and engage communities, and we've only just begun.

Our programs include internships, professional apprenticeships, research fellowships and volunteering programs ranging from 1-24 weeks, as well as online courses and virtual internships.

With each new participant and project, we cement ourselves as a world leader in experiential education and training on global issues and sustainable development.

25+ years of experience	40+ countries worldwide	100+ local project partners	35 000+ lives transformed
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● GVI PLANET - Conservation
● GVI PEOPLE - Community Development

Message from the CEO

We continue to make progress on global issues – from climate change to gender equality, sustainability, biodiversity loss and more – thanks to the collective contributions of changemakers like you, people who are determined to do good, better.

The last two years were a time of opportunity and growth for GVI. We welcomed thousands of interns, research fellows, apprentices and volunteers at our hubs around the globe. And thanks to the new GVI Foundation Grants, we managed to give access to even more participants. We hosted corporate, school and university groups as well as under-18 groups on locally-led conservation and community service projects.

All together, our participants monitored 2881 species including 241 endangered species, removed 9,181 kilograms of plastic waste, ran 3,978 children’s development lessons, 1,055 climate change workshops, 3,400 English literacy sessions and 1,999 health and nutrition workshops, refurbished 74 buildings, and made a difference in many more ways which are detailed in the following pages.

This is our annual impact report for 2023–2024, which naturally means we’re sharing our measured impact. But the collective impact of changemakers across the globe goes far beyond these numbers. It’s found in the connections made between participants and community members at each of our hub locations.

It’s in the research papers and academic publications that result from months of hard work by our participants. It’s in the passion and long hours put in by our staff and local partners, to ensure each project’s success. It’s in our organisation’s initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint and promote a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. It’s in the memories and friendships made between people from all walks of life, joining together to make a difference.

Thank you to all of our supporters, community members and participants who believe in our mission and our ability to make a difference.

Andrew Valentine
CEO



Our Impact Directors



Dr Vardhan Patankar
GVI
Conservation Impact Director
PhD in Conservation Biology and MSc in Marine Sciences. Author, co-author or cited in over 1000 academic papers on Google Scholar.

“GVI’s conservation impact is centred around groundbreaking academic research.

We work with detailed data from our 18 research stations, ensuring we deliver on our commitment to science.”



Cheryl Martin
GVI
Head of Learning and Development
35+ years experience in education and community development.

“We are dedicated to delivering high-quality programs guided by GVI’s 10 Ethical Principles. By partnering with locally-led initiatives, we help drive long-term, sustainable community development.”

10 Global challenges

As an international organisation, our programs are tied together through our work to address ten critical global challenges.

Progress on these issues is made in collaboration with local project partners, community members, and our volunteers and participants.

01

Plastic Pollution
and Debris

06

Children's Learning
and Development

02

Climate Change

07

Adult English
Literacy

03

Biodiversity Loss

08

Gender Equality

04

Endangered Species

09

Health and
Nutrition

05

Sustainability

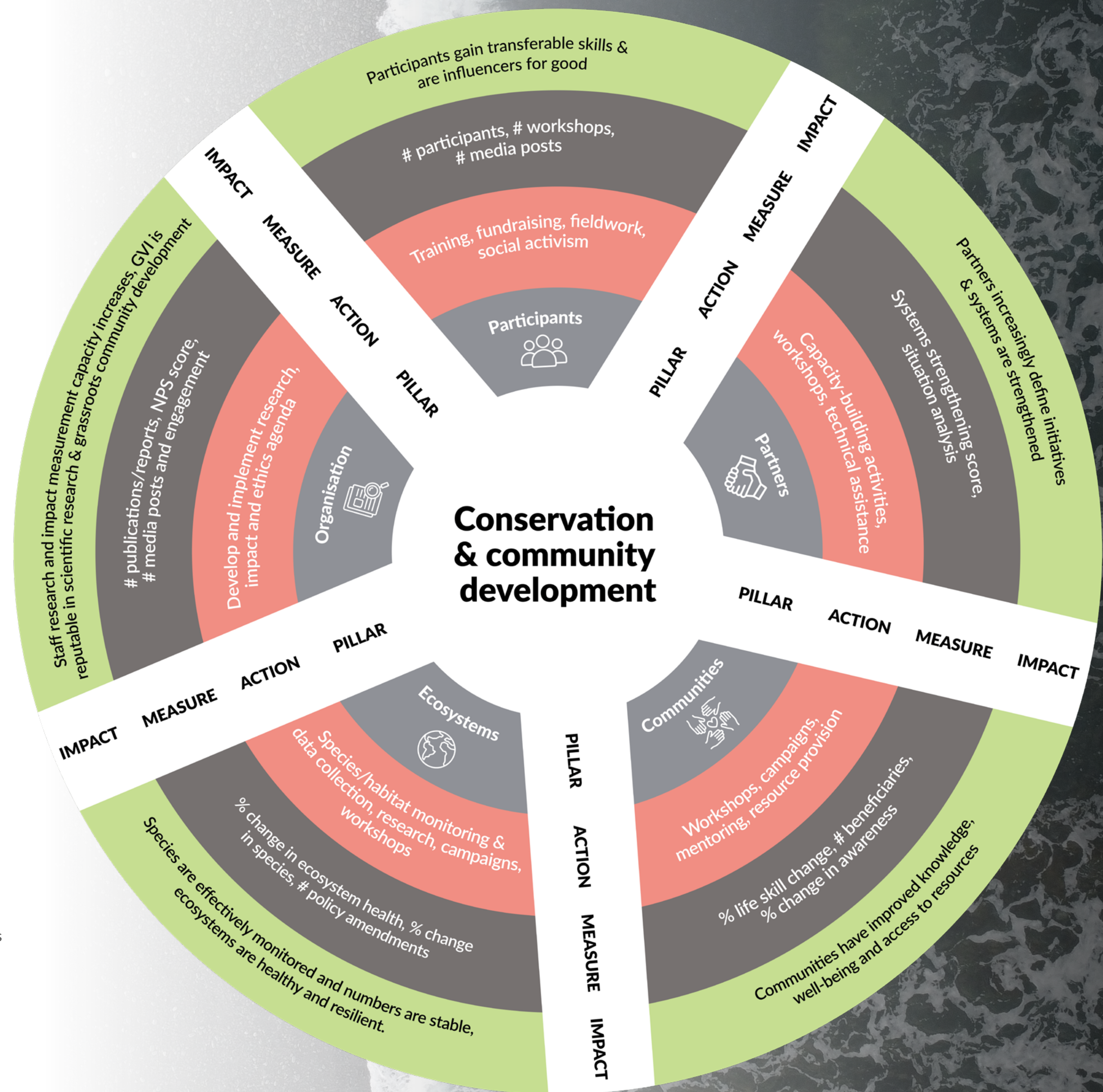
10

Infrastructure
Development

Theory of Change

GVI's theory of change helps us to frame our actions and capture our learnings to maximise positive impact in our conservation and community programs. At each of our bases, we continuously monitor, evaluate and report on our projects to help us inform our impact strategy.

We work towards building a global network of people united by their passion to make a difference. These are our main pillars, actions, metrics and desired outcomes.



Impact Highlights



GVI Planet

9 permanent GVI conservation research stations
10 partner conservation research stations
2,098 conservation participants

2,881

Species monitored

241

Endangered species

2,640

Non-endangered species

Across our coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves, coastal forest and rainforest savanna ecosystems:

5,294

Biodiversity surveys conducted

4,462

Endangered species surveys conducted

704

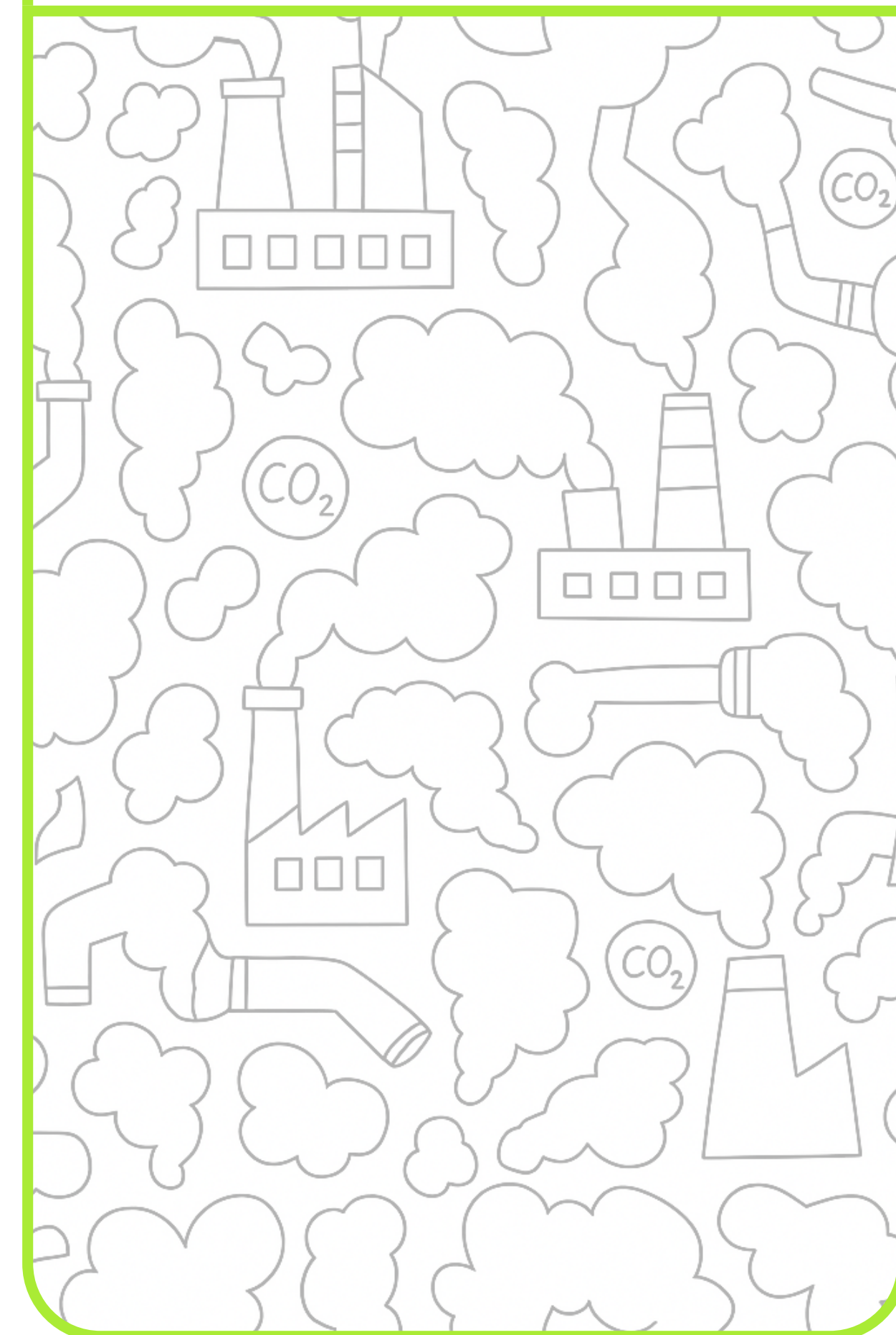
Climate change workshops with **7,758** attendees

684

Site cleanups with **9,181 kg** plastic collected

55 kg

Average weekly carbon dioxide emissions per person - lower than the industry average (usually between 70-80 CO₂e)



GVI People

8 permanent GVI community development hubs
7 partner community development hubs
684 community development participants

3,400

Adult English literacy sessions with **670** student attendees

1,673

Gender equality workshops with **1,046** women and girl attendees

74

Buildings were refurbished

1,999

Health and nutrition workshops with **2,411** community attendees

28

Diversity, equality and inclusivity workshops with **196** community attendees

496

Sustainable development goals workshops with **2,286** community attendees

3,978

Children's development and learning sessions with **3,978** student attendees



Groups & U18s

17,412

Hours of service in 2024 alone,
conducted by 53 groups in
9 locations around the world.

Group Highlights

- St Mary's School in South Africa fundraised and worked with GVI and our construction partner in Nepal to build a volleyball court for a local school.
- New York University travelled to Gandoca, Costa Rica, where they cleared vegetation at a local school to create a safe space for the community, and constructed the foundation of a mangrove nursery.
- Ohio State University provided extensive support to NGOs in Chiang Mai, Thailand; Cape Town, South Africa; Gandoca, Costa Rica and Pokhara, Nepal. Their assistance included areas such as social media management, financial systems, water recycling, process optimisation, marketing strategies, and more.

5,530

27 Under-18s groups contributed a total of
5,530 hours of service work in 7 locations.

U18s Highlights

- Reopened our U18s location in Limpopo, South Africa after a year of closure.
- Launched new Costa Rica U18s programs in Gandoca.

GVI Foundation Grants

Increased access to make an impact

We understand that many passionate changemakers would love the chance to Do Good, Better. But not everyone is able to raise the funds themselves to join a GVI conservation or community development program abroad. With this in mind, we established the GVI Foundation Grant, allowing us to give deserving candidates the chance to realise their goals of making a real impact in sustainable projects across the globe.

The GVI Foundation Grant contributes towards the program fees of eligible participants based on their motivation and circumstances, allocating up to R45 million in grant funding each year.

The grant also ensures that our conservation and community development programs always have enough participants to deliver our project work, while meeting our impact goals and our partners' needs.



“
For five years, I'd dreamed of joining GVI, specifically their wildlife conservation program in South Africa. Circumstances never quite lined up – until now. I applied for the grant, was accepted, and before I knew it, I was booking the trip of a lifetime: 6 weeks in Limpopo, South Africa, working on conservation at Karongwe Game Reserve.”

- Charlie Woods



PLANET

Strengthening conservation programs





Canary Islands, **Tenerife**

Canary Islands, Tenerife

 Impact focus: Marine conservation

516

Individual short-finned pilot whales identified in Canary islands.

961

Sightings of cetaceans

300+

Boat surveys conducted

474

Biodiversity surveys conducted

68

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) workshops

124

Site cleanups (most of any hub), collecting **2,498 kg** of plastic



Impact highlights

- We get 30 of the world's 97 cetacean species here! Some of the most exciting ones we've seen so far include: Blainville's beaked whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, short-beaked common dolphin, Atlantic-spotted dolphin, oceanic bottlenose dolphin, false killer whale, Risso's dolphin, and Bryde's whale.
- Our teams recorded 150+ sea turtle sightings – a 60% increase from 2022.
- Loggerhead sea turtle sightings increased by 30% during boat surveys, with additional increase trends witnessed at feeding grounds.

Acknowledgements

Whale Express, Olatz and Mario (boat skippers), Santa and Jesus as owners of Whale Express, and Jesus as Director of Asociacion Conservacion Marina GVI in Tenerife.



Preserving Tenerife's pilot whale population

Tenerife, Canary Islands

CASE STUDY: Marine Conservation

Tenerife's Teno-Rasca Marine Reserve is a sanctuary for short-finned pilot whales and other marine species, but its ecosystem is under growing pressure from increased tourism. Boat traffic, noise pollution, and habitat degradation threaten marine life, disrupting whale behaviours and impacting the reserve's ecological balance.

Collecting data and taking action

GVI conducted over 300 annual boat surveys to monitor pilot whale populations, track behaviour, and analyse long-term trends using photo-ID data. Weekly beach cleanups removed over 500kg of marine debris, and collected data was used to help advocate for stricter enforcement of marine protection laws.

Turning the tide

- Over 400 individual pilot whales have been photo-identified, allowing long-term tracking of population dynamics.
- 50% of monitored injured individuals showed signs of healing, demonstrating resilience despite environmental pressures.
- Documented 200+ cases of vessel non-compliance, supporting policy discussions on stricter marine patrols and strengthening regulations.
- More than 200 volunteers participated in conservation efforts, actively contributing to data collection, surveys, and advocacy.
- Weekly beach cleanups resulted in the removal of over 500kg of marine debris, reducing plastic pollution in marine habitats.
- Strengthened collaborations with marine conservation NGOs, amplifying efforts to improve wildlife protection.

“Protecting Tenerife’s marine life means more than research – it means building bridges between science, community, and sustainable tourism. Every whale sighted, every piece of plastic removed, and every person educated brings us one step closer to a future where conservation and coexistence go hand-in-hand.”

Alejandra Carvallo - Tenerife, Program Manager

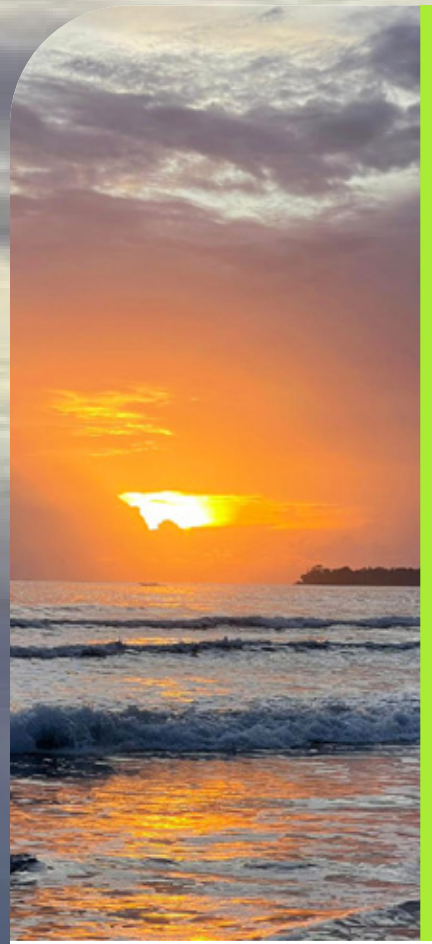
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Whale express
Red Promar
Volunteers, interns and participants.
GVI central team for facilitating research activities.





Costa Rica, **Kekoldi**



Costa Rica, Kekoldi

 Impact focus: Wildlife and coastal conservation

1,551

Biodiversity surveys conducted **(the most of any GVI hub).**

254

Species monitored (including **27** endangered species)

46

SDG workshops were held, with **281** attendees

29

Site cleanups collecting **917 kg** of plastic and debris



Impact highlights

- We opened a new research station in Kekoldi Indigenous Reserve in January 2023 to conduct research on the ecological importance of the area.
- Boosted our local partnerships through our relationships with Turtle Rescue Cahuita (working to promote the protection and survival of sea turtles) and Kekoldi Hawkwatch (we're in the world's second-busiest spot for raptor migration).
- Target and rare species sightings include variable false coral, Gage's rain frog and false tree coral.

Acknowledgements

Kekoldi Hawkwatch,
Turtle Rescue Cahuita





Fiji, Dawasamu.

Fiji, Dawasamu

 Impact focus: Marine and coastal conservation

41

SDG workshops and **187** individuals attending the workshop

1,076

Biodiversity surveys conducted

330

Species monitored

56

Cleanups collecting **159 kg** of plastic and debris

2,163

Individuals involved in **biodiversity surveys.**

Impact highlights

- We developed an MOU with the Fijian National University to collaborate on seagrass transplantation, work on scientific publications, write grant proposals and establish a marine education program.
- We developed an MOU with the University of the South Pacific to collaborate on water quality assessment in the Dawasamu basin, work on scientific publications, write grant proposals and establish an internship program.
- We created a PADI dive speciality for this region: Marine Megafauna Diver. This qualification is unique to GVI and includes training participants to identify common marine megafauna species, threats to them, and appropriate conservation actions.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Shalini Singh – Fijian National University,
 Professor Antoine N'Yeurt – University of the South Pacific,
 Mr. Neil Thorpe, Taione Delai - Science Coordinator,
 Marine Powell - Marine Science Officer,
 Vivan Rane - Science Coordinator,
 Noah Shinde - Science Coordinator.





Madagascar, **Nosy Be**



Madagascar, Nosy Be

 Impact focus: Wildlife and coastal conservation

587

Biodiversity surveys and 88 endangered species surveys with **389** participant attendees.

192

climate change workshops with **397** attendees

103

species monitored including **10** endangered species



Impact highlights

- We completed 24 months of data collection on herpetofauna, birds and lemurs and collated the first full dataset for Lokobe National Park since the 1990s, giving detailed insights into species abundance, distribution and densities and shedding light on what protection measures are needed.
- We conducted 20 ranger classes in Ampasipohy village, translating knowledge about the forest from Malagasy and French to English, which has increased tourism and work opportunities for the Forest Rangers.
- Our team contributed to the first annual report on behalf of Lokobe National Park, including data on herpetofauna, birds and lemurs for conservation and environmental impacts.

Acknowledgements

Madagascar National Parks, Lokobe National Park, Ampasipohy Rangers, Lokobe Rangers, community members of Marodoka and Hell Ville, Alliance Française Centre.



An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The scene is dominated by a large school of yellow-striped snappers swimming in the center-right. The reef is composed of various coral species, including branching corals and large, dark, porous structures. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above. The overall composition is rich in detail and color.

Mexico, **Puerto Morelos**



Mexico, Puerto Morelos

 Impact focus: Marine conservation

149

Endangered species surveys.

65

Endangered species monitored (the most of any hub in 2023)

72

Site cleanups, collecting **1,326 kg** plastic waste

535

biodiversity surveys with 489 attendees

301 metres of fishing line/rope

4,421 pieces plastic packaging

2,385 plastic bottle caps

93 kg of waste was recyclable



Impact highlights

We participated in many meaningful events, including:

- Collaborating with CRIP on three conch shell surveys in Chinchorro.
- Hosting AGGRA certifications with our partner Healthy Reefs in April, certifying 18 people.
- Participating in four coral planting days with our partner CRIP.
- Participating in four planting sessions in the dunes with CONANP.
- Conducting coral reef monitoring activities through 54 coral transects and 46 fish transects in 18 sites in 5 locations for Healthy Reefs biannual Health of the Reef Report.

Our team also did some important work monitoring the health of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecosystem for health analysis, which included:

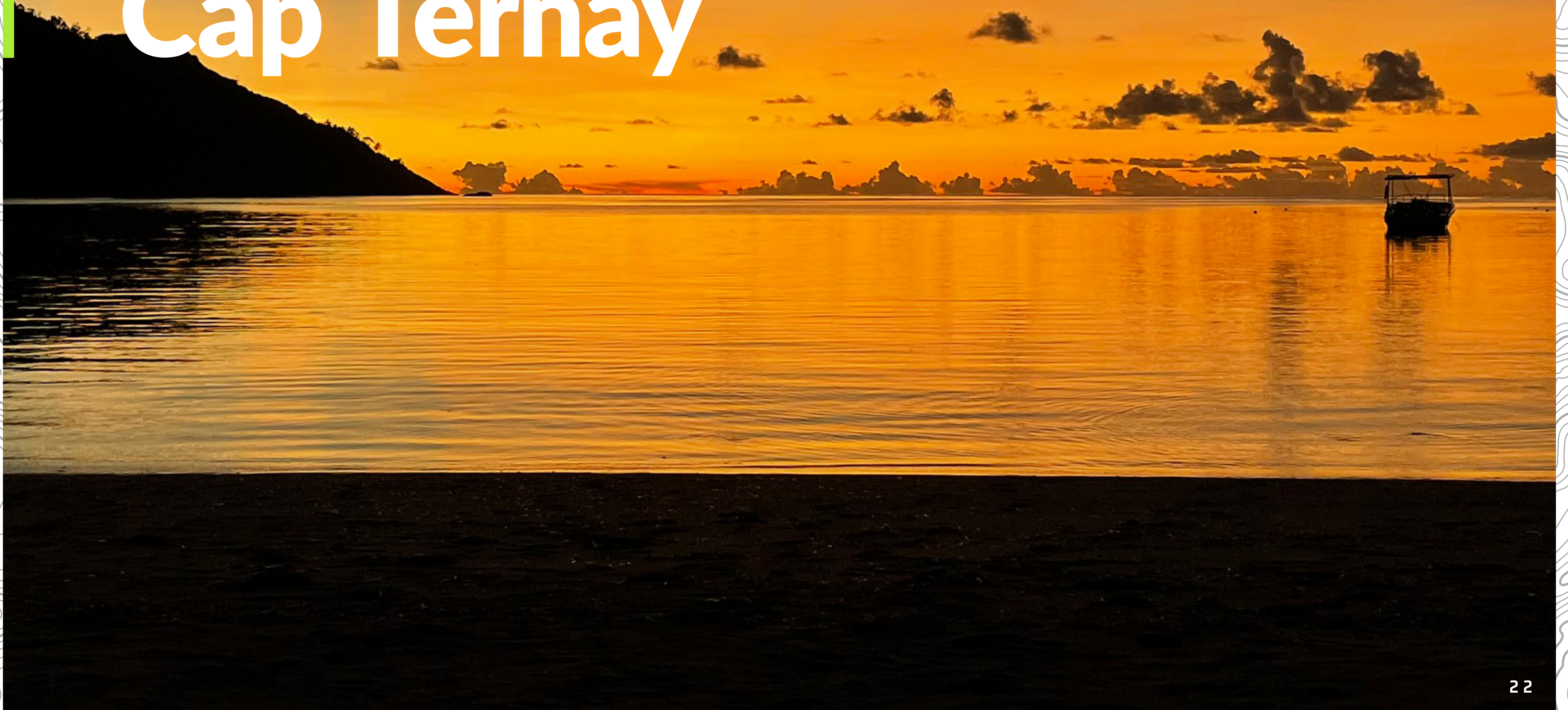
- 63 coral watch surveys
- 18 AGGRA Benthos surveys
- 6 AGGRA coral communities surveys
- 30 AGGRA fish surveys

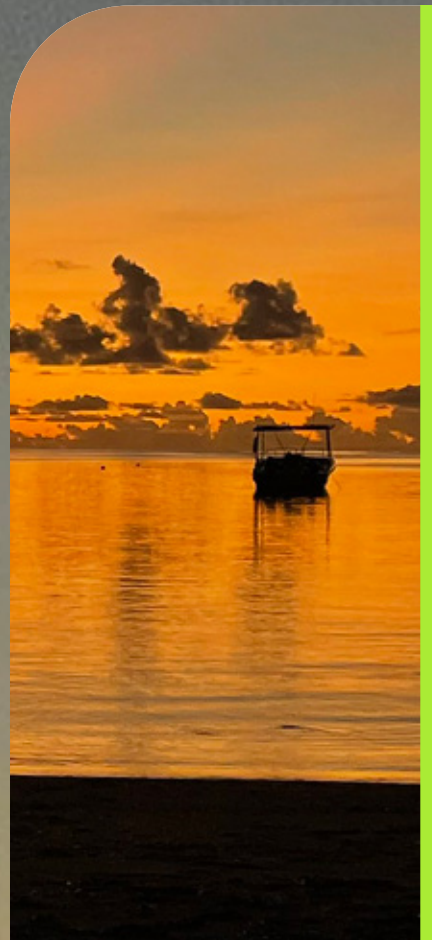
Acknowledgements

Our partners Healthy Reefs for Healthy People, CRIP, CoralWatch and CONANP



Seychelles, **Cap Ternay**





Seychelles, Cap Ternay

 Impact focus: Marine and coastal conservation

254

Climate change workshops
(the most of any GVI hub,
with **1,391** attendees).

152

Site cleanups, collecting
1,297 kg of plastic

678

Species monitored
(the most of any GVI hub)

896

Biodiversity surveys
conducted



Impact highlights

- We received a **\$150,000 photogrammetry grant** to monitor the growth/decline of the reef in NW Mahe using new technologies. We can now assess areas that are otherwise difficult to access for divers, and build 3D maps of three sites to assess overall health in and out of local marine parks.
- We established a new partnership with Plant My Coral (PMC), focused on coral nurseries and fragment out-planting. This has allowed us to begin a long-term coral nursery, to help restore some of the degraded reef systems in NW Mahe.
- In March 2023 we began a new coastal restoration project with R2R, which allows us to work with NGOs and government agencies to restore degraded ecosystems and remove invasive species, with the long-term goal of re-establishing natural mangrove forests.

Acknowledgements

The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SEYCCAT), Plant my Coral (PMC), Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), International School Seychelles (ISS), Ridge to Reef (R2R)



South Africa, **Limpopo**





South Africa, Limpopo

 Impact focus: Wildlife conservation

6,452

Climate change workshop attendees at **53** workshops (the most of any GVI hub).

2,535

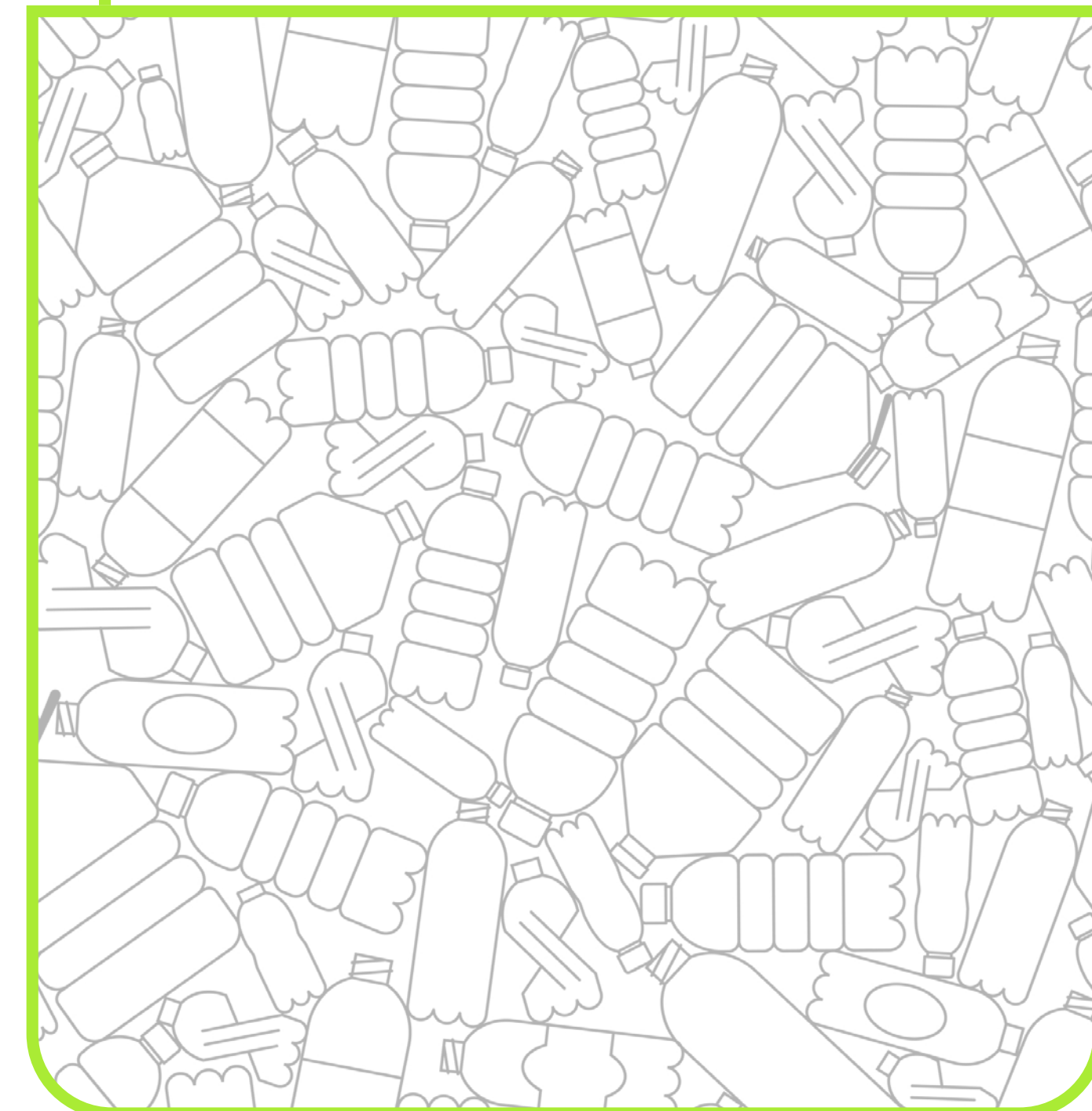
Endangered species surveys conducted (the most of any GVI hub)

19

Site cleanups collecting **178 kg** plastic

230

Non-endangered species and **16** endangered species monitored



Impact highlights

- GVI staff assisted with conservation activities, including:
 - 6 rhino dehorning events, rhino translocations and a reintroduction.
 - The introduction of one female cheetah and relocation of four young cheetahs.
- We sent a class of Grade 7 learners on a 3-day environmental education program in Greater Kruger, where they learned about nature and how they can protect it, as well as their cultural history.
- Our team also ran a successful fundraiser at Mahlahla Lodge for anti-poaching and community projects. Amount raised in Raisely: \$2,019.47. Funds were used for a hi-tech security camera, which will assist with response time and visibility. The remaining funds went towards community development projects.

Acknowledgements

Karongwe Game Reserve Association board of directors, Karongwe Reserve Management and anti-poaching unit, Karongwe shareholders, and the donors and supporters of our community and reserve management projects, without whom it would not be possible.



Raptor research in South Africa

Limpopo, South Africa

CASE STUDY: Conservation

In South Africa, game reserves and national parks are a common conservation strategy. These protected areas offer refuge for many wildlife species and play a vital role in conserving habitats and biodiversity. They are especially important for birds of prey (raptors). Due to habitat loss and their sensitivity to environmental changes, many African raptor species are experiencing population declines, making them important indicators of ecosystem health.

Monitoring raptor diversity

Over the past eight years, GVI Limpopo has conducted raptor monitoring during daily game drives, collecting data on sightings, species, locations, and behaviours. This long-term dataset – comprising over 4,000 sightings across 44 species – supported a research project on raptor diversity and habitat preferences.

A soaring success so far

- Data from 4,041 bird of prey sightings across 44 species was made available to Research Fellow Esther Graham who completed her research project at GVI Limpopo Base and Cornerstone University, USA.
- Esther's data analysis focused on species richness and Shannon-Weiner diversity indices for each year, as well as kernel density estimate heat maps made using QGIS (only for species data where $N \geq 19$, and excluding flyovers).
- Species richness varied from 20 to 35 raptor species per year. In terms of species diversity the Shannon-Weiner diversity indices ranged from 2.08 to 4.82 per year. Typical index values are generally between 1.5 and 3.5 in most ecological studies.

“We’re proud to support research that not only deepens our understanding of raptors, but also informs future conservation strategies. With over 4,000 sightings recorded during this period, our work continues to highlight the vital role of raptors as environmental indicators. This is just one chapter in a larger story of biodiversity protection. We look to the future with hope, ready to soar even higher.”

Dr Vardhan Patankar, GVI Conservation Impact Director

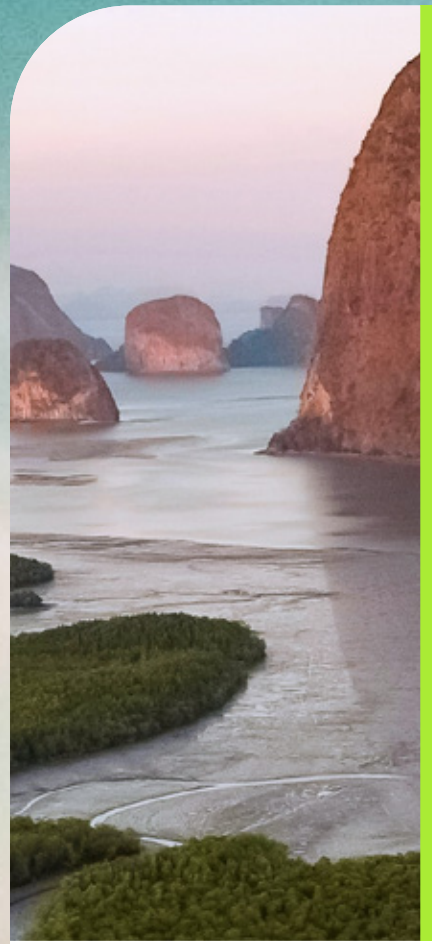
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Esther Graham (GVI Limpopo Research Fellow)
Dr. Rob Keys (Cornerstone University)



Thailand, **Phang Nga**





Thailand, Phang Nga

 Impact focus: Marine conservation

138

Climate change workshops with **1,420** attendees

271

Species monitored including **3** endangered species



2,814

Kilograms of plastic collected, the most of any hub, through **16 site cleanups.**

Impact highlights

- 35 of the 40 adult green sea turtles that we have rehabilitated were released back into the ocean, thanks to the volunteers who conducted environmental enrichment over the past 8 years.
- Bumpy, a special turtle who was unable to dive, went through a rigorous training program beginning August 2022 and did his first dive in January 2023. He is one step closer to being released.

Acknowledgements

The Royal Thai Navy, DMCR Takuapa and Phang Nga province, Dr Fah at PMBC, Thai government school, Burmese Learning Centre, Khao Lak Triple and the many volunteers, staff members, government officials and community members who made our work possible.



Thailand, **Chiang Mai**





Thailand, Chiang Mai

 Impact focus: Wildlife conservation

6000

Trees were donated to our hub from local forest authority for reforestation project.

3

New male elephants were welcomed to the reintegration project

118

Biodiversity surveys conducted

408

Endangered species surveys conducted

61

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) workshops

75

Site cleanups collecting **132 kg** of plastic and other debris



Impact highlights

- Our Chiang Mai team launched a project to study behaviours and territories of endangered lar gibbons, including formalising databases and establishing survey techniques.
- We welcomed our first set of gibbon volunteers and interns and collected acoustic and behavioural data for the last two years completing 300 gibbon surveys.
- With the support of community members, we began reforesting areas that were used for agriculture, to expand gibbon territories and habitats.
- The introduction of three male elephants into the local reintegration project has benefited the ecosystem and allowed volunteers and interns to observe unique elephant behaviour.
- Elephant data collection has expanded, allowing us to increase our understanding of semi-wild elephant integration into the forest.
- We've expanded our community projects thanks to our strong and deep connections with the Karen community, increasing English lessons at the request of local families for children and adults to increase employment opportunities.
- We've also increased our sessions with local elders in our community engagement work, incorporating art and culture and the importance of conserving their biodiversity.

Acknowledgements

Huay Pakoot Elephant Community Foundation, Karen Hill Tribe Community, the local primary school, and all volunteers, community members and donors who enable our projects to have a meaningful impact.





PEOPLE

Empowering community development programs

Cambodia, **Siem Reap**

CAMBODIA
SIEM REAP

Cambodia, Siem Reap

 **Impact focus:** Community development, education and teaching.

1,029

English literacy sessions with **112** students attending

71

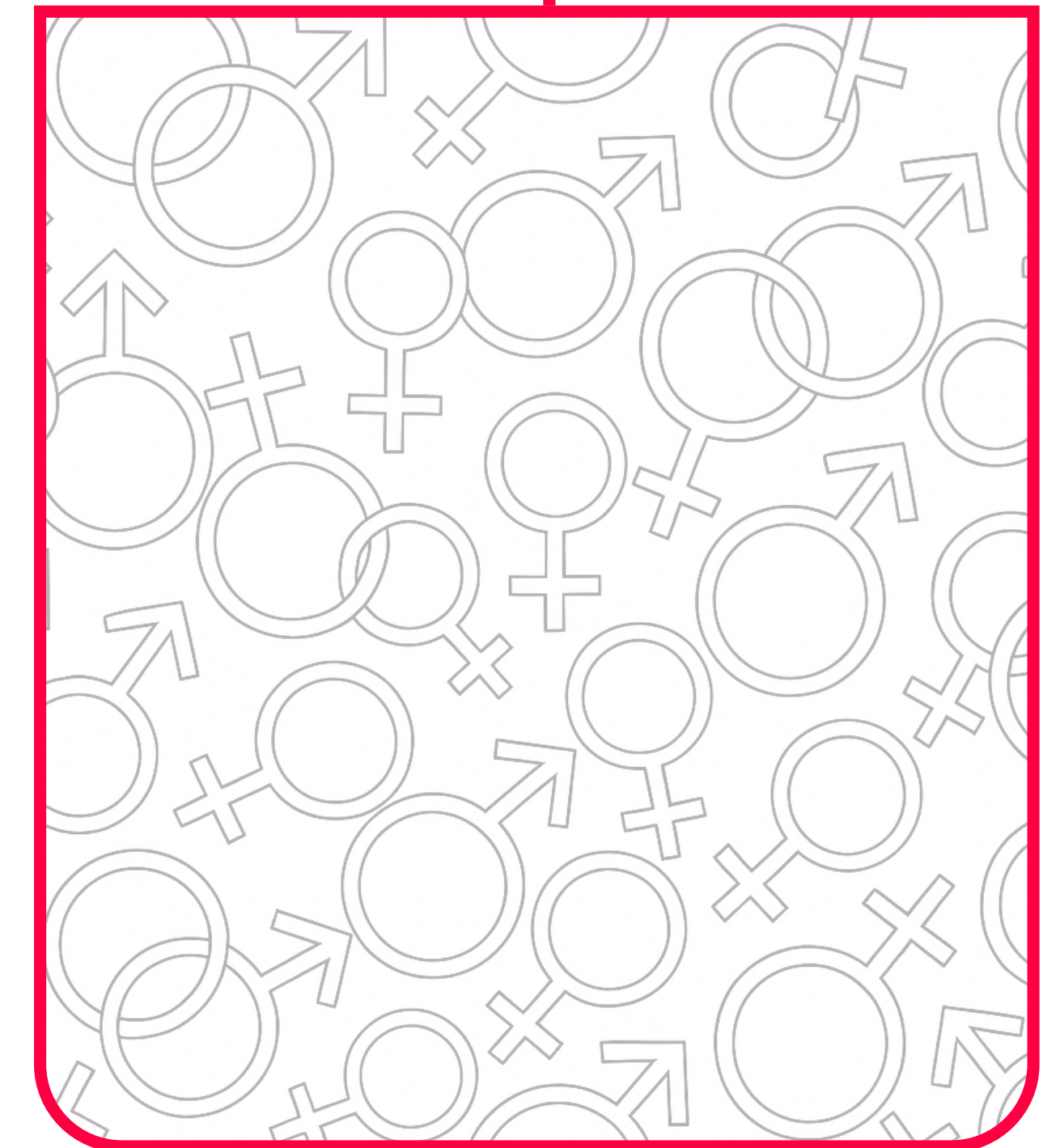
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) workshops

473

Gender equality workshops with **85** community attendees



Lowest average carbon emissions per participant



1,422

Children's development and learning workshops with **1,132** students attending.

Impact highlights

- Our team welcomed exciting new partnerships with local primary and middle schools, and The Life and Hope Organisation.
- Through our programs, we were able to reach more rural areas and provide English and information and communications technology (ICT) training to young people.
- We developed a sewing and job skills program, with 10 women learning career-development skills and attending weekly women's empowerment workshops.
- Our team hosted enrichment activities for a group of rural girls, who local monks sponsor to attend school in Siem Reap through a program called PAGE (Program Advancing Girls' Education).
- In collaboration with the Railway Family Fundraiser, we raised approximately GBP 40,000 towards our projects in education and gender equality.
- We also developed a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certification course.

Acknowledgements

Life and Hope Association, Wat Damnak Learning Centre, Banteay Srei Women's Empowerment Organisation, Youth Dream Fulfillment Association, Reach Siem Reap.



Costa Rica, Cartago



Costa Rica, Cartago

 **Impact focus:** Community development, education and teaching.

450

Children's development and learning workshops (the most of any GVI hub in 2023, with **450** attendees).

150

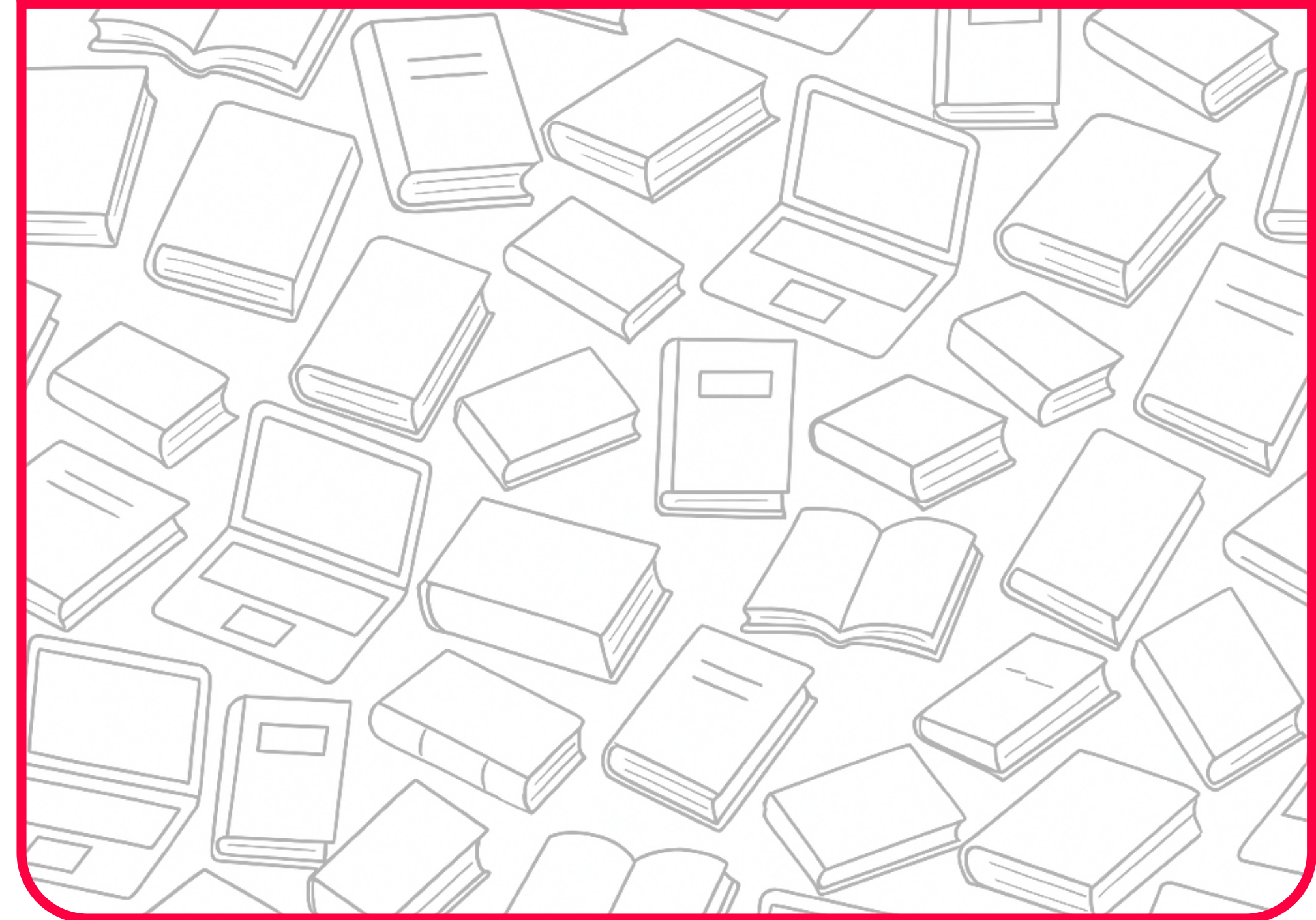
English literacy workshops with **36** attendees

84

Gender equality workshops with **16** community attendees

35

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) workshops



Impact highlights

- GVI staff developed interactive teaching programs to get children with specific learning conditions to gain new English language skills.
- We witnessed incredible relationship building between staff and children, with over 300 kids who have gained trust in staff and shown growth.
- Older children attending English lessons for the first time are showing improved grammar structure in class.
- Alongside the Bethany Project, we're teaching job skills to single mothers in our program, as well as self-defence and English language skills.
- Women have shared successes after joining our women's empowerment workshops.
- It's a privilege to see some of our community participants moving from basic English skills to proficiency.

Acknowledgements

Proyecto Abraham
Daycare Centre, Bethany
Project



Fiji, Dawasamu





Fiji, Dawasamu

 **Impact focus:** Community development, education and teaching.

8006

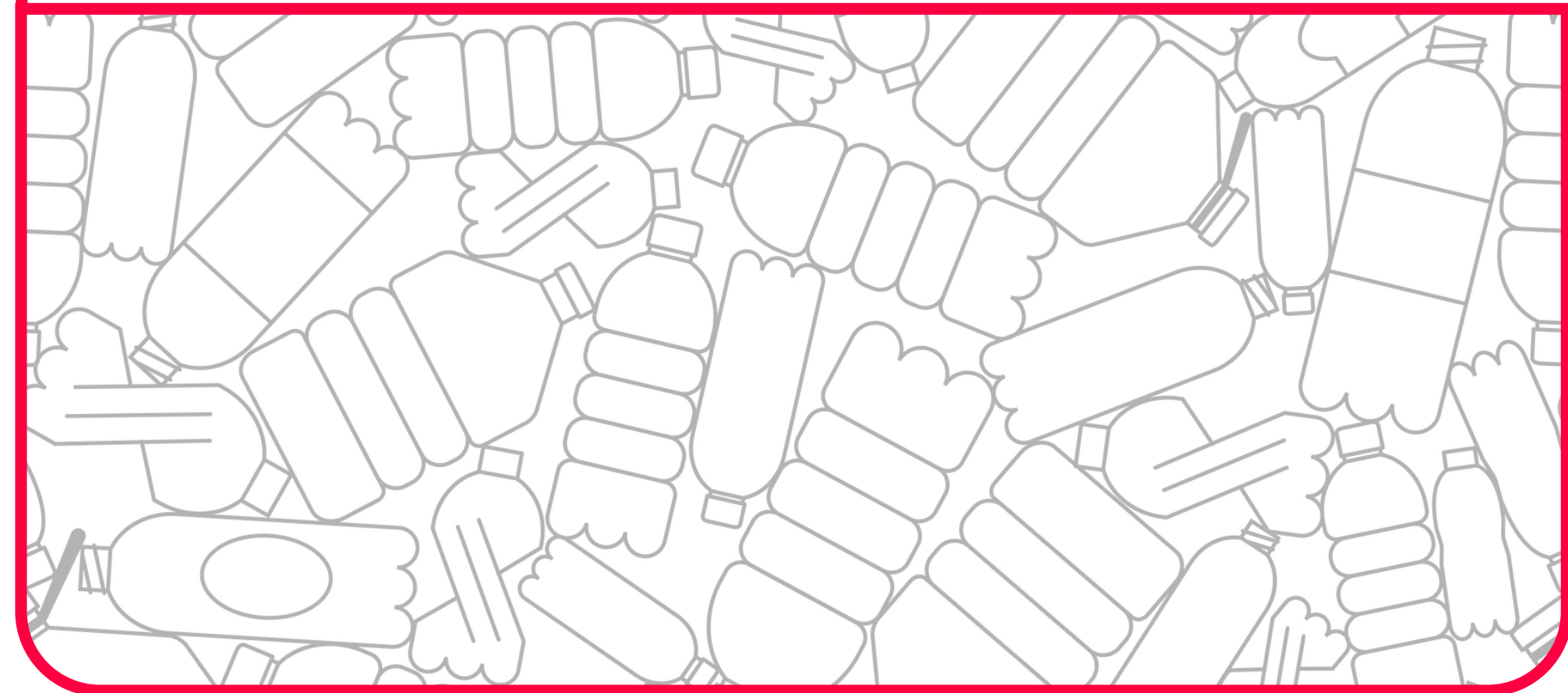
Student attendees in **739** children's development and learning workshops.

24

Tonnes of recyclable waste processed since 2017

801

Health and nutrition workshops held with **707** community attendees



Impact highlights

- Our literacy program "Foster the Love of Reading" was approved by the Ministry of Education and we were granted a licence to teach at a local primary school.
- We're based in the only district in Fiji that recycles. Through the local waste management program, in which we are actively involved, over 24 tonnes of recyclable waste has been processed since 2017.
- We worked with 707 community members to promote health and well-being through our public health program, including our "House to House" health discussions and "Mothers and Babies" workshops.

Acknowledgements

Sereima Vautoni – health coordinator, Amelia Qina – community coordinator, Litia Likuvasakula – education coordinator and district health nurse, Silana village, community members of the district of Dawasamu, and all donors and supporters of our projects.



Ghana, **Krokobite**





Ghana, Krokobite

Impact focus: Gender equality, women's empowerment and community development.

527

Gender equality workshops (most of any GVI hub) with **808 attendees.**

300

Women received free breast cancer screening

16

Teachers became first-aid certified

65

Diversity, equality and inclusivity workshops with **155** attendees

289

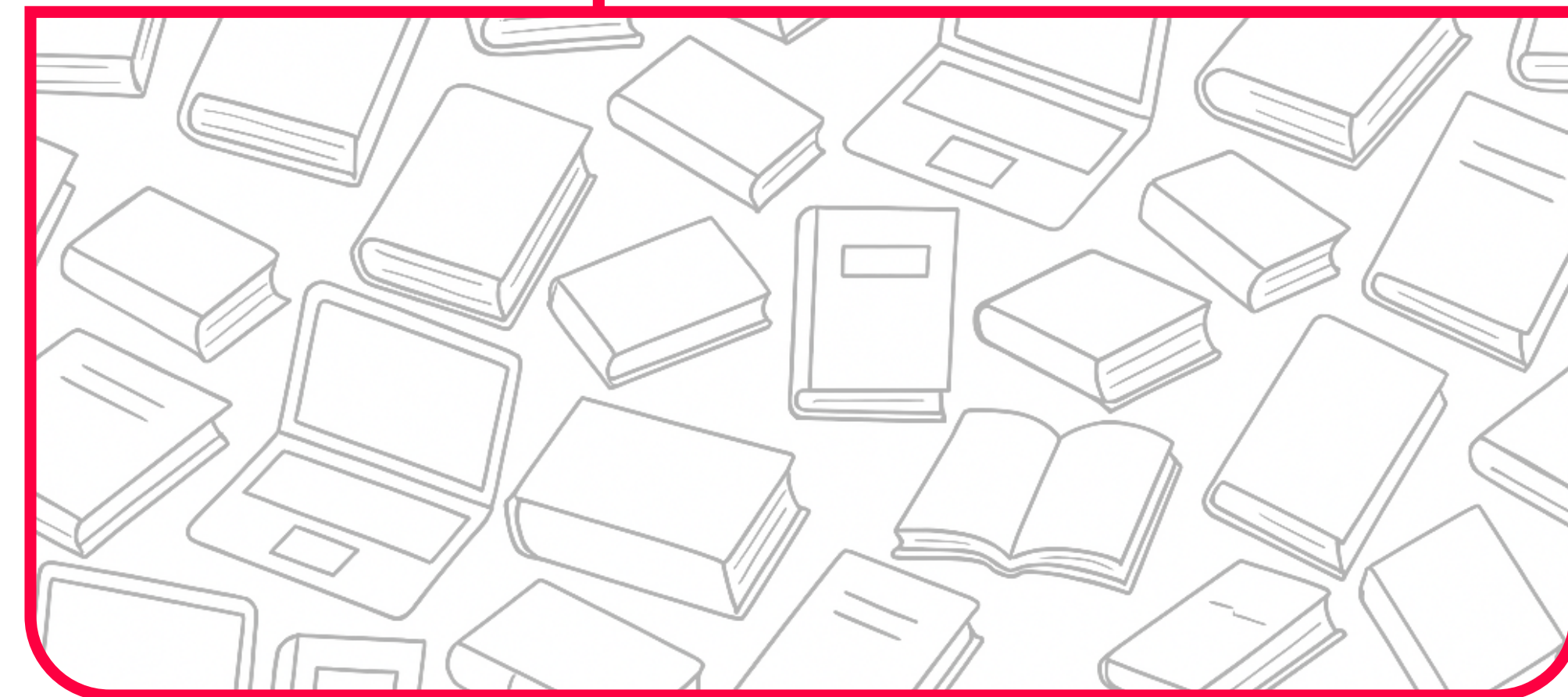
Health and nutrition workshops with **598** attendees

871

Children's development workshops with **583** student attendees

146

Climate change workshops with **1,261** attendees



Impact highlights

- We had a hugely successful breast cancer awareness initiative in collaboration with two local clinics. Over 300 women received free screening and training during our month-long initiative in 2023.
- Also in 2023, 16 teachers from our partner schools became child first-aid certified at our free 3-day course. This increases safety at schools and in the community.

Acknowledgements

Sunbeam Foundation Academy for their leadership and advocacy, Sabina for her incredible devotion to the projects, Nii Adote Akwei who went above and beyond to support us.



Madagascar, Nosy Be





Madagascar, Nosy Be

 **Impact focus:** Community development, infrastructure, education and teaching.

122

Adults graduated

140

Children graduated

376

Children's development workshops with **262** attendees

151

Gender equality workshops with **43** women and girl attendees

134

Climate change workshops with **194** attendees

7

Buildings refurbished used for teaching and education

1,201

English literacy lessons (most of any GVI hub).



Impact highlights

- Our team launched gender equality sessions, meeting twice a week with women and girls in the community to teach life and advocacy skills, and help them create their own curriculum.
- Three students worked their way up through beginner, intermediate and advanced English classes to graduate and earn jobs as tourist guides in Lokobe National Park.
- Ranger classes begin in Ampasipohy village, translating knowledge about the forest from Malagasy and French to English, which has increased tourism and work opportunities for the rangers.

Acknowledgements

Madagascar National Parks, Lokobe National Park, Ampasipohy Rangers, Lokobe Rangers, community members of Marodoka and Hell Ville, Alliance Française Centre.



Upskilling and uplifting women and girls in Madagascar

Nosy Be, Madagascar

CASE STUDY: Community Development

Nosy Be, Madagascar's largest and busiest tourist destination, sits within the DIANA region and is home to a predominantly youthful population, with a significant proportion under the age of 15. Despite its rich biodiversity, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture, the area faces challenges related to poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education – especially among women and youth.

The road to gender equality

In response, GVI Nosy Be launched various local initiatives focused on education, women's empowerment, and environmental conservation to create sustainable development opportunities.

One example is a gender equality program aligned with UN SDG #5: Quality Education, which delivered 90 group workshops in 2024 and had 18 women who regularly attended sessions.

We also host empowerment workshops and training sessions twice a week, welcoming a diverse group of young women aged 16 to 32. These sessions cover essential and relevant topics, including career guidance, an introduction to new technologies and digital skills, financial literacy, and self-confidence building.

A brighter future

- Participants developed key life and professional skills, including CV writing and public speaking, and built supportive networks through shared experiences.
- One standout participant, Moniscat (22), shared that the program gave her a sense of belonging and helped expand her knowledge through both empowerment and English classes.

"I'm proud that in 2023 and 2024, our gender equality program in Nosy Be delivered 90 workshops and empowered 18 women through skills training, creating real pathways to opportunity. Besides our community-led programs – like the women's empowerment workshops in Nosy Be – we are not only building vital life skills but also fostering confidence, connection, and lasting change"

Dr Vardhan Patankar, GVI Conservation Impact Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rangers of the Lokobe National Park
Maison de Jeunes Community Centre
Marodoka school primary public school
Ampasipohy primary public school



Nepal, **Pokhara**





Nepal, Pokhara

 **Impact focus:** Women's empowerment, infrastructure, education and gender equality.



Buildings refurbished in the community, including school classrooms.

813

Health and nutrition workshops (the most of any hub, with **448** community attendees)

960

Children's learning workshops with **485** attendees

466

Gender equality workshops with **90** women and girl attendees



18

Site cleanups collecting **216 kg** of plastic

Impact highlights

- 250 girls benefited from construction of volleyball ground project in 2023. We were able to complete the area in just 2 months. Thanks to Reddam and St Mary's schools for generous support and for raising over \$2,200.
- The Skilled Sewing Sisters Project started following a direct giving fundraiser that mobilised \$6,160. The project aims to improve the vocational skills of our community women's groups and to advance the life skills training of our women's empowerment program. The project engaged 21 women, and purchased 6 sewing machines as well as raw materials and equipment.

Acknowledgements

Shree Bishnu Paduka secondary school and the principal. Special appreciation for the Girls Power volleyball project fundraiser run by Reddam schools and St Mary's in South Africa.



Thailand, Phang Nga



Thailand, Phang Nga

 **Impact focus:** Women's empowerment, gender equality and education.

858

Women and girl attendees in **48** gender equality workshops.

280

Children's education sessions in 2023 with **116** attendees

200

English education lessons in 2023 reached **44** attendees

325

Children's education sessions in 2024 at our Chiang Mai, Thailand hub attended by **94** students



16

Site cleanups, collecting **2814 kg** of plastic (the most of any hub)

Impact highlights

- After completing English lessons with GVI, members of our adult class were able to establish businesses catering to English-speaking tourists. One started a business catering to tourists in a local market, where they employed two other individuals. Another member opened a homestay and bar in the village.
- Two students who completed English training with us over the past 10 years were employed at a local hotel.

Acknowledgements

The Royal Thai Navy, DMCR Takuapa and Phang Nga province, Dr Fah at PMBC, Thai government school, Burmese Learning Centre, Khao Lak Triple and the many volunteers, staff members, government officials and community members who made our work possible.



Providing support to young children in a remote Thai village

Chiang Mai, Thailand

CASE STUDY: Community Development

Located in the mountain forests of Northern Thailand, the Karen Tribal village is home to a small government school of 100 children.

Due to limited resources, incorrect learning material and varying levels of proficiency among their teachers, the local children have struggled to reach their full potential in learning English.

Bridging the educational gap

After realising the opportunity to support the local teachers, GVI education volunteers and interns started providing weekly English lessons to 22 small children between the ages of 5 and 7.

Through interactive activities like word puzzles, pronunciation drills, and writing exercises, students started building essential language skills in a fun and immersive environment.

A great boost in their confidence

- Since the program started, their confidence has soared among students who now actively participate in these learning opportunities.
- Their pronunciation has sharpened, their writing skills have advanced, and they're tackling challenges beyond their grade level with enthusiasm.

"The students in local schools have progressed hugely and gained a lot of confidence. The lessons are full of fun and we look forward to them every week. We couldn't do it all without the support from the community - we love working closely with them."

Charlotte Digby, GVI Chiang Mai

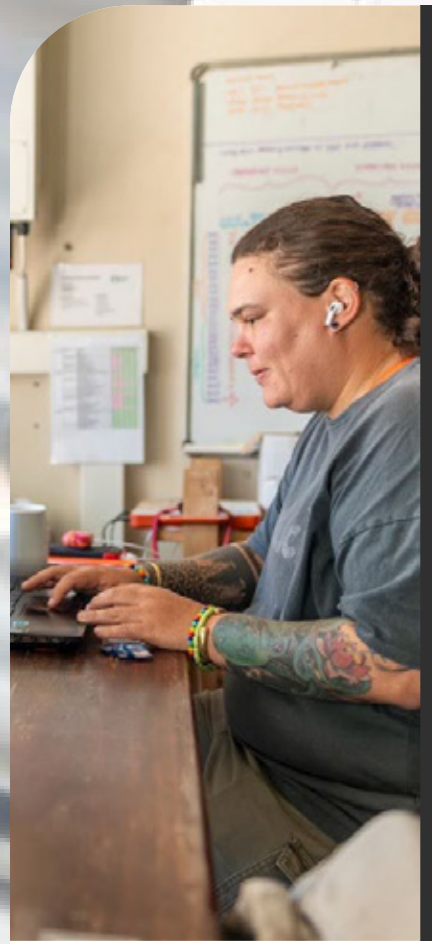
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Su - Local English Teachers (her fourth language)
 BohDuh - Local English Teachers (her third language)
 Raywat - Survival First Aid
 Chinjung Aod - School Administrator
 Cheewa Thammachatngam - Grade 1 Teacher
 Singto - Has been a great resource to have for the evening english classes with his two daughters 'Eh Eh and Ou Ou. He has assisted with translations and explaining complicated sentence structures that has excelled their learning process empowering them to understand english at an intermediate learning level. This is a significant progression in their English fluency ability.



Virtual internships

Supporting projects remotely



Virtual internships

Our virtual internships allow participants from all over the world to make an impact and advance their personal and professional skills and experience, no matter where they are based.



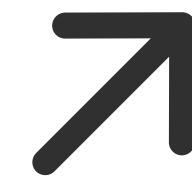
Unique projects completed for external partners.

Regions:

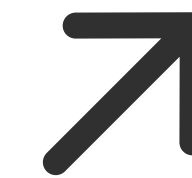
UK, Europe, South America, Australia, Middle East, and North America.

Highlights

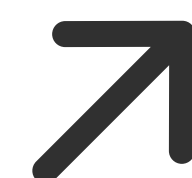
Analysed hundreds of hours of camera trap footage for Rhino Revolution and inputted data into EarthRanger.



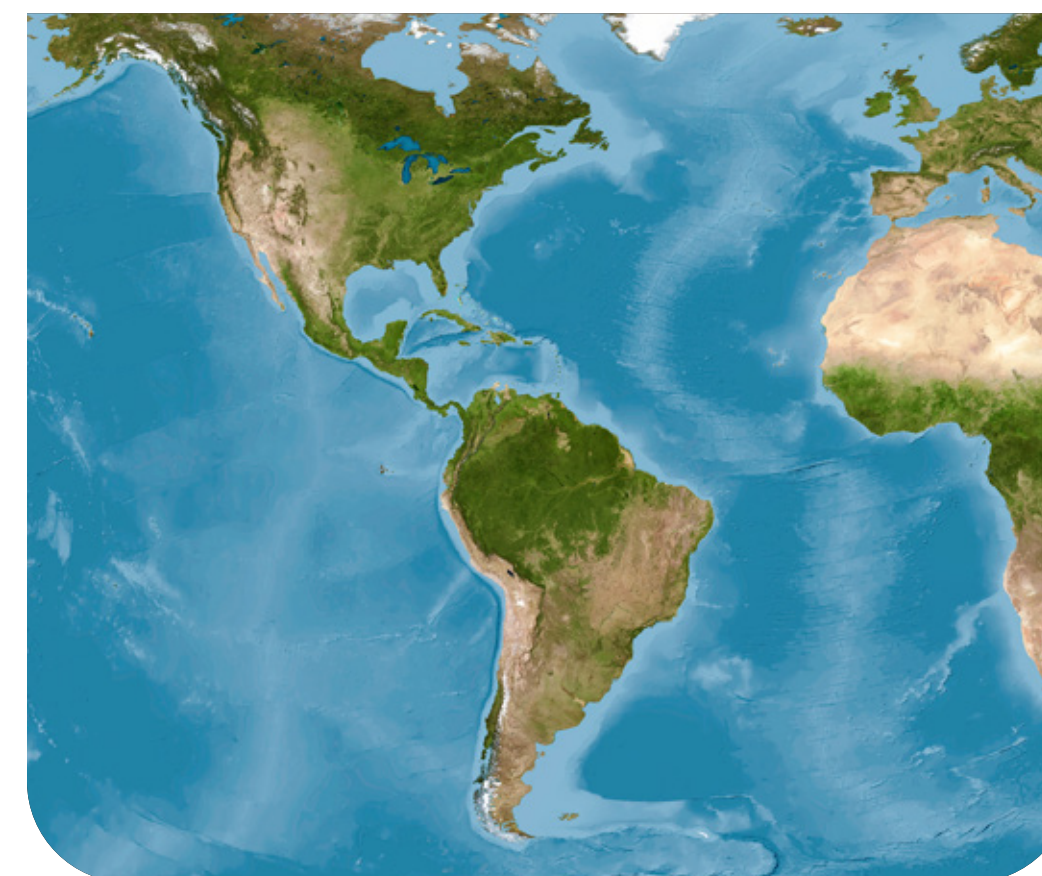
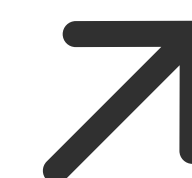
Conducted data analysis for a long-term study on shrimp reproductive status, population structure and species size in Mexico with INAPESCA, which informs the decisions of the Mexican fisheries.



Created social media posts for different partners to educate the public on issues from pollution to turtle conservation, shark finning, fundraising and more.



Participants have gone on to volunteer or work with GVI, get accepted into law school, enrol in Masters programs and secure jobs or placements in their chosen fields.



Acknowledgements

SASANE, Rhino Revolution, Turtle Love, Shark Guardian, EarthRanger, INAPESCA, Breathe Conservation, Ocean Pledge, YWaste, Hoedspruit Reptile Center, Save the Snakes, Global Girl Project, Healthy Reefs, Foundation for Education and Development, Rescue Dogs for Wildlife, Catalyst4Change, Afrikan Wear Design, GVI Impact Team, GVI Kekoldi, GVI Mexico.





Progress towards our Carbon Management and DE&I in 2025

At GVI, our goal is to embed climate responsibility into every journey we offer – whether it's an internship, volunteer program or community engagement initiative. This means actively measuring and reducing our carbon footprint, integrating sustainability practices into daily operations, and empowering participants to make climate-conscious choices.

We are committed to moving towards a carbon-neutral – and ultimately carbon-positive – model by investing in high-impact offsetting, supporting nature-based solutions, and continually improving our environmental practices. By weaving environmental accountability into both the travel experience and the impact work on the ground, we aim to lead by example and support a global movement toward more responsible, regenerative travel.

In addition to the incredible on-the-ground work being done at our research stations and hubs around the globe, we are also committed to improving our impact as an organisation through staff training, data collection, improved resource access and greater accountability. The following shows our progress towards these goals in 2025.



Carbon management

Goal 1

Measure

Collect data for our annual carbon footprint.

Progress

Collected comprehensive data from each hub on their carbon footprint.

Goal 2

Reduce

Develop a carbon reduction plan for 2023–2025 for each base.

Progress

Established a baseline dataset on carbon emissions.

Goal 3

Offset

Establish three carbon offset programs (planting trees, restoring mangroves and planting coral).

Progress

Analysed our ecosystems to better understand carbon sequestration. Obtained funding for assessing coral health using photogrammetry technique and coral planting project in the Seychelles and implemented coral and forest restoration projects by planting more than 3,000 corals and 2,000 plants.

Goal 4

Report

Produce an impact report and communicate carbon consumption and plans to reduce and offset.

Progress

Collected relevant data on carbon emissions, which is included in this report.

Goal 5

Influence

Join key climate initiatives, train staff and participants, and run campaigns to raise awareness.

Progress

Trained our hub staff to measure carbon footprint and trained broader GVI staff to understand key terms related to climate issues.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Goal 1

Mental health

Provide mental health resources and support mechanisms.

Progress

Shared mental health resources and support tools with staff worldwide, and conducted regular training on well-being and mental health preparedness.

Goal 2

Global diversity

Develop a global diversity calendar.

Progress

Compiled an initial diversity calendar inclusive of staff demographics, which has been shared widely across the team.

Goal 3

Staff accommodations

Improve understanding of staff needs and accommodations.

Progress

Incorporated accommodations-related questions in staff surveys to ensure reasonable adaptations can be made wherever possible.

Goal 4

Employee expectations

Develop related policies and documents.

Progress

Developed an anti-discrimination policy and formal grievance procedure. Completed global Code of Conduct for participants and began work on Digital Communications Guide.

Goal 5

Gender diversity

Provide gender diversity resources and support mechanisms.

Progress

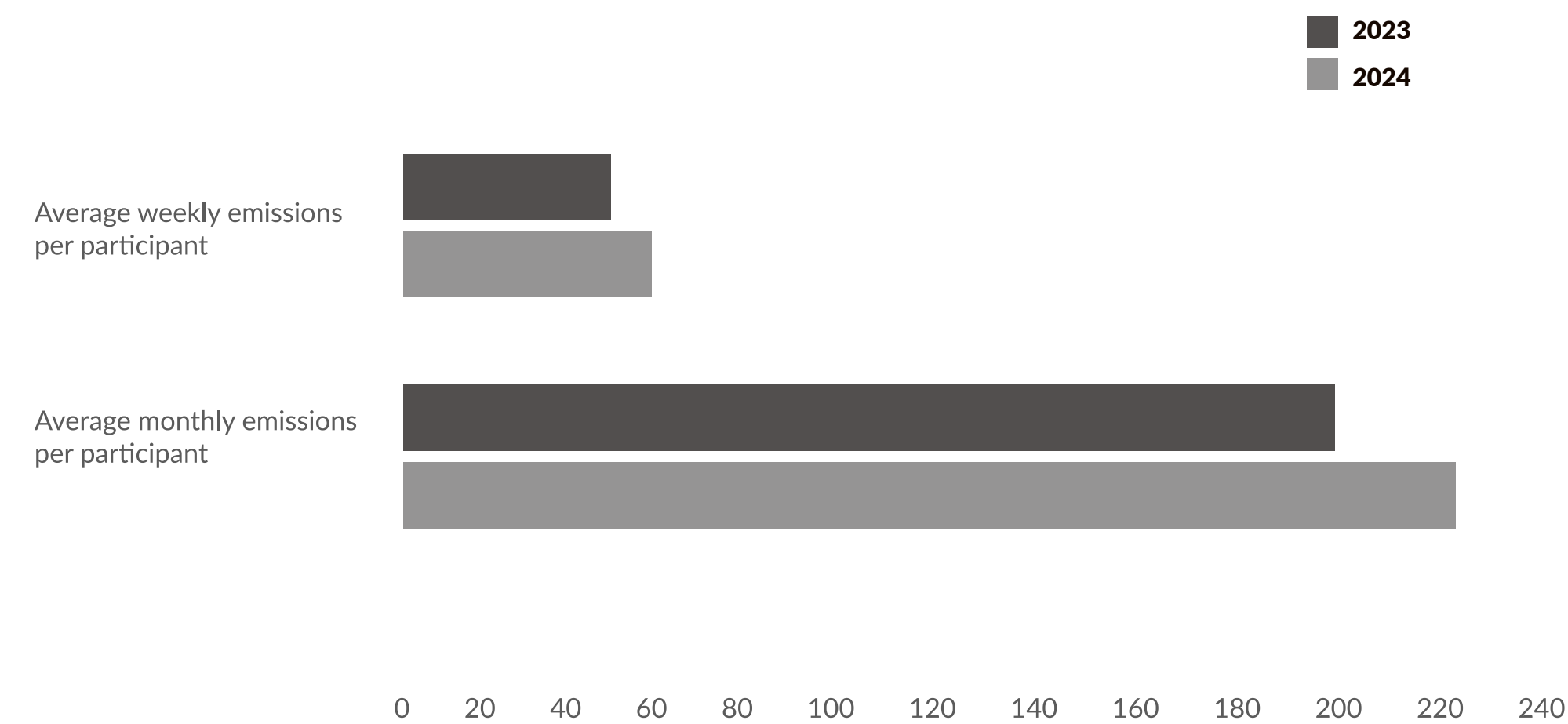
Released a gender diversity policy and published our LGBTQ+ travel pages on GVI website.

Carbon footprint goals

Our goal is to become a leader in environmental stewardship, contributing to the global effort to mitigate climate change and achieving carbon positivity by 2030 by implementing an effective carbon management plan.

Over the last two years, we've managed to:

- Collect comprehensive data from each hub on their carbon footprint
- Establish a baseline dataset on carbon emissions. Variables in the baseline data include carbon emissions from the production of meals, electricity, fuel consumption and waste.



We analysed the flights of a sample of our participants to better understand the carbon emissions associated with travel to our bases. Based on the data collected, the average emissions were found to be 2,904 kg. We observed that the further a hub is located from the two most frequent origins, the higher the carbon footprint emitted.

Initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint

We have implemented a series of initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint and lessen our impact on the planet.

Our aim is to increase the number of GVI locations that can carry out each initiative, to reduce our carbon footprint. The following activities are currently in process at various hubs:

Reduce

- Solar energy (4 hubs)
- Energy-efficient lighting solutions (9 hubs)
- Lights off initiative (all hubs)
- Rainwater harvesting (4 hubs)
- Low-flow faucets (5 hubs)
- No single-use plastic (2 hubs)
- >70% vegan/vegetarian meals (8 hubs)
- Vegetable gardens (2 hubs)
- Low-impact transport (3 hubs)

Reuse

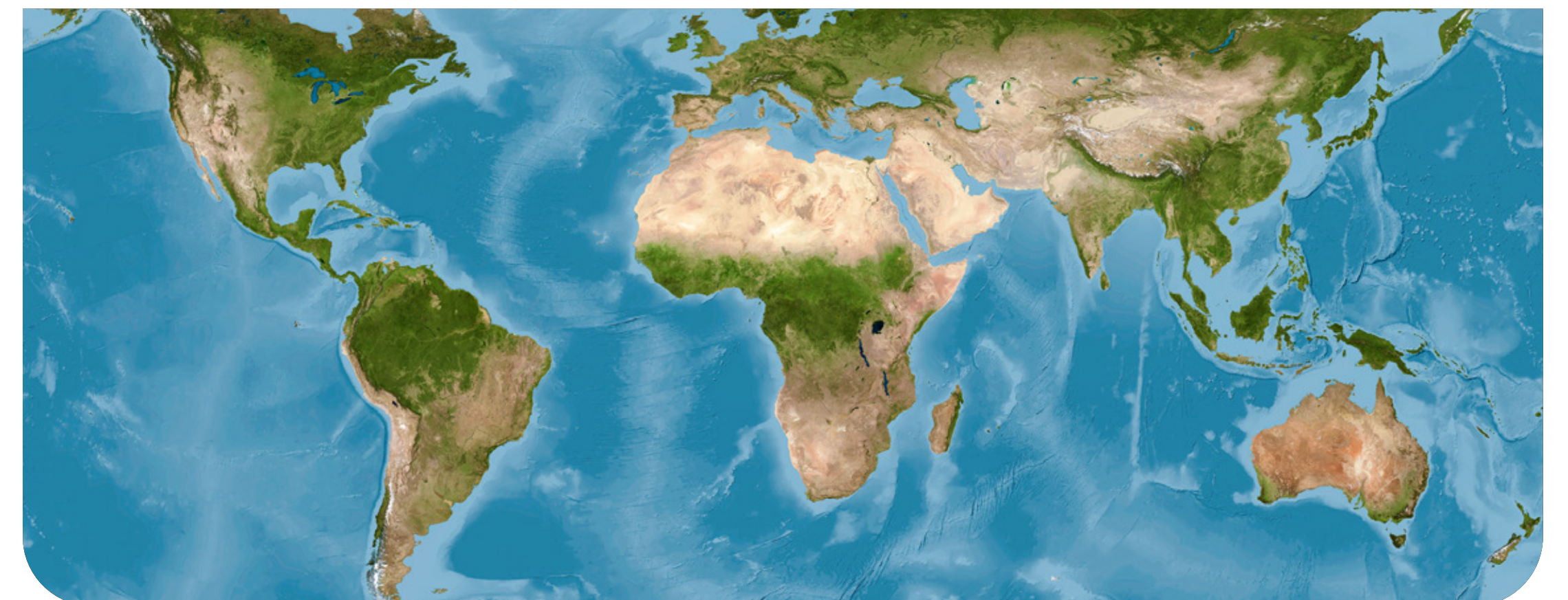
- Refillable water bottles (all hubs)
- Toiletry dispensers (8 hubs)
- Participants exchanging used goods (all hubs)

Recycle

- Recycling stations (12 hubs)
- Composting (6 hubs)
- Upcycling (all hubs)
- Household waste separation (10 hubs)

Sequester carbon

- Coral reef restoration (4 hubs)
- Mangrove reforestation (3 hubs)
- Tree planting (7 hubs)
- Seagrass conservation (4 hubs)





DO GOOD, **BETTER**

2023-2024


Thank you!

Together we made an impact in 2023 and 2024!. From all of us at GVI, thank you for joining us as we work to do good, better.

Get in touch

If you would like to collaborate with GVI through a partnership, sponsorship, grant or to join a program - we'd love to connect with you!



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