

The background is a collage of two images. The left image shows a close-up of a person with glasses and a blue lanyard working with a white tray containing small marine specimens. The right image shows two people in a coastal field setting; one is wearing a white t-shirt with 'IMAGINE' and 'WARRIORS' printed on it, and the other is wearing a white cap and a dark t-shirt. They are standing near a rocky shore with a body of water in the background.

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2024 - March 2025

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A Message from our Executive Chairperson

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the ocean has reminded us of both its resilience and its fragility. Encouragingly, global cooperation reached new depths, evident in the momentum gathered around the High Seas Treaty; countries expanding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); and blue economy investments beginning to move from concept to implementation. Here at home, research along our Cape coast revealed tangible recovery within several MPAs: Living proof that protection, patience, and partnership yield results. The growing network of 42 MPAs, now covering more than five per cent of South Africa's exclusive economic zone, affirms our nation's capacity for ocean stewardship rooted in both science and *ubuntu*.

The same tides that bring hope also carry warning. The waters of the Atlantic Ocean continue to warm, marine heatwaves strain kelp forests and seabirds, and the drumbeat of offshore oil and gas exploration grows louder. Plastic pollution, declining biodiversity, and weakening fish stocks persist, revealing how closely our fate is tied to the health of the ocean. Across Africa's coastline, from Cape Town to Mombasa, communities are confronting the twin challenges of climate disruption and economic inequality. In this moment, we are called to act with humility and courage: To honour the ocean as teacher and sustainer, and to ensure that its gifts endure for generations still to come.

From reflection to action: The work of the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation

Within this global and local context, the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation has continued to translate care into action by merging science, education, and compassion in pursuit of ocean health. The year under review was marked by extraordinary resilience and growth, as our teams responded to one of the most significant turtle stranding events in South African history, rehabilitating over 600 post-hatchling loggerhead turtles after intense storms in April 2024. The collective response from volunteers, donors, scientists, and the public showed the best of who we are when we come together for the ocean.

The Marine Wildlife Management Programme strengthened Cape Town's leadership in humane, urban-coastal coexistence, disentangling 95 seals, expanding its research and response capacity, and leading national collaboration on seal health and rabies management. Alongside this, our research and academic partnerships deepened: 12 university students were mentored across multiple marine disciplines, while our inaugural Student Research Day showcased the next generation of ocean scientists and storytellers.

Education remained our heartbeat. Through the newly launched Ocean Campus, our educators reached over 41 000 classroom learners, 19 000 outreach learners, and more than 26 000 early childhood learners with our play and puppet programmes, both on- and off-site. The Marine Sciences curriculum, with a record 139 learners enrolled, continues to pioneer ocean literacy in South Africa's formal education system. From preschool pupils discovering marine life for the first time to postgraduate researchers presenting at global conferences, Ocean Campus is building a continuum of learning that connects people of all ages to the sea.

Our growing People and Ocean Lab expanded the conversation beyond science, bridging communities, behaviour, and social change. Through projects such as Mission Blue's Connecting for Action and Sustainable Seafood at the V&A Waterfront, the Foundation is shaping an inclusive, African-centred narrative of ocean stewardship rooted in empathy, justice, and shared prosperity.

Finally, our storytelling and advocacy reached new audiences through award-nominated films like *By Die Soutwater* and the production of *Wild Waterfront*, *Turtle TV*, and *Be The Tide*. These stories remind us that transformation begins with connection, people protect what they love, and they love what they know.

This year's achievements belong to a community: Our staff, trustees, volunteers, partners, and donors. Together, we are proving that meaningful change is possible when knowledge, compassion, and collaboration meet. The ocean's future will be shaped not by despair, but by the collective courage to care, and the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation stands proudly at the heart of that movement.



Ann Lamont, Executive Chairperson

Overview of the year gone by

2024 – 2025: A year of growth, resilience, and connection

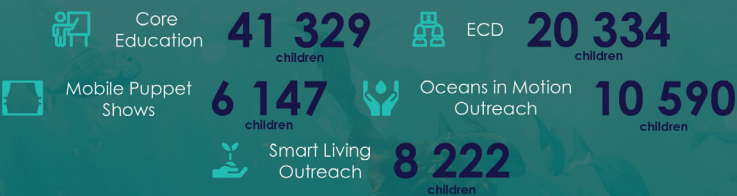
This year marked a transformative chapter for the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation, defined by bold responses to environmental challenges, deepened partnerships, and expanded educational impact. Across our programmes, from turtle rehabilitation and seal disentanglement to youth development and global advocacy, our teams demonstrated exceptional commitment to conservation and community.



In every corner of our work, the spirit of collaboration, care, and curiosity continues to drive us forward. As we reflect on this remarkable year, we celebrate the people who make our mission possible: The staff, our partners, inspired learners, and supporters. Together, we are building a thriving community of Ocean Champions.

GROUP BOOKING STATS
2024-2025

See below numbers
and statistics of
children we've
impacted.



 MOST POPULAR LESSONS



 MOST POPULAR AQUARIUM PUPPET SHOW

 MOST POPULAR MOBILE PUPPET SHOW



 NUMBER OF CHILDREN FROM THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS



 We hired 440 buses through Golden Arrow which transported 34 767 children to the Aquarium.

The launch of **Ocean Campus** was a major milestone for the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation. On 5 October 2024, over 200 teachers were invited to the Aquarium for a special Teachers' Day event that showcased our facilities, held a marine science career fair, and celebrated the official launch.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Our mobile puppet show team visited 140 schools, reaching more than 6 000 children, while our *Children's Play Centre* captivated over 20 000 young learners.

Aisha represented ECD at the Marine and Coastal Educators Network in Mossel Bay, where she received an award for best presentation.

The *Children's Play Centre* was successfully relocated to a temporary space in the Auditorium while construction is underway, and visitors have reviewed this interim space very positively.

The team completed puppet and voice training with Marelize Viljoen, and our mobile educators completed a defensive driving course. We also enjoyed participating in the pilot episode of *SEA the Aquarium* and the teacher training videos for FNB.

Core Education

The year in review commenced with a slow start but quickly picked up momentum. Over 41 000 learners came through our on-site classrooms, while our outreach vehicles reached approximately 19 000 Grades 4 to 7 learners.

Thanks to the combined efforts of our Marketing, Sales, and Education teams, we exceeded our own expectations with the successful execution of the following programmes:

- Our outreach teacher carried out three cycles of the Smart Living course, with support from City of Cape Town.
- We hosted multiple High School Volunteer courses due to high demand.

- We facilitated a Junior Biologist course in October 2024.
- Our Grade 8 – 9 Introduction to Marine Sciences course was fully booked, paving the way towards Marine Sciences FET.
- Our first annual Ocean Funatics and Shore & Sea programmes were launched with positive reception.
- We hosted our annual Young Biologist course in October 2024.
- Our first Climate Action Now course had 37 participants.
- The new Shore & Sea two-day programme launched in January 2025 with 20 students.
- Core Education and Marine Sciences team members attended and presented at the Marine and Coastal Educators Network workshop in Mossel Bay in January.
- In February, we celebrated Wetlands Week at Edith Stephens Wetland Park with 250 Grade 6 learners and 10 teachers.
- Two of our team members joined the TCC's Turtle Rescue Road Trip along the West Coast.



Marine Sciences

The Marine Sciences department experienced exciting growth and leadership transitions over the year in review. Marnus Smith stepped into the role of Head of Marine Sciences, and Sinokholo Mbozi – one of the first Marine Sciences PGCE graduates – joined as a teacher for the 2025 academic year. Bianca Engel, Whitney Samuels-Hoffmeister, and Jamy-Lee Springbok continue to enrich the department with their dedication to ocean literacy.

All 85 curriculum topics have been recorded, and content is delivered asynchronously with ongoing tutorials and online support. Students gain practical exposure through excursions, including visits to the Aquarium. For the period in review, engagement and retention rates have remained strong.

Student numbers increased to 139 at the start of 2025 – a 19.8% growth from 2024. This includes 29 Grade 12 learners, 30 Grade 11s, 72 Grade 10s, and 8 catch-up learners who are completing Grade 10 and 11 in one year. We continue to engage stakeholders through workshops and outreach, with the goal of expanding Marine Sciences across Southern Africa.



Adult Education

Our focus this year was on maintaining relationships with existing stakeholders while cultivating new ones. New clients included Lamina Education Services, Newform Foods, IE Business School, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, and Scouts SA. We continued working with the Wildlife Forensic Academy, International Ocean Institute South Africa, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, City of Cape Town, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, and Nature Connect.

In total, we engaged with 834 participants, including those in our online Ocean Academy and Marine Marvels courses. Despite challenges with venue capacity and large group logistics, support from the TCC and MWMP teams ensured valuable experiences for all.

We developed several programme proposals, including:

- Marine Vets Programme for Youth4Conservation
- Camp Programme for international students (Greenpop)
- First Responder Training for SANParks in Addo Elephant National Park
- Inland Teachers Programme for Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)

Our coordinator attended multiple training workshops, including Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative, Climate Reality Project, Responsible Fisheries Alliance, and Fundisa for Change. We maintained strong ties with Western Cape Environmental Education Friends (WCEEF) stakeholders through regular meetings and collaborative environmental education programmes.

A highlight was hosting a special evening event for 62 visually impaired guests in October 2024.



Productions

Our storytelling efforts reached new heights this year.

- *By Die Soutwater* premiered at the Silwerskermfees in August 2024 and aired on kykNET and Showmax. It was nominated as a finalist at the SIMA Awards and the International Tourist Film Festival Africa.
- We secured R450 000 from Film Cape Town – a joint initiative between the City of Cape Town and the Cape Town film industry – for the production of *Wild Waterfront*, a full-length documentary that started production in April 2024.
- Two pilot episodes were produced. *SEA the Aquarium*, a children's show funded by Development Bank of Southern Africa via Food & Trees for Africa NPC, was aired on the Department of Basic Education and CTV channels. *Be the Tide*, an ocean literacy series, aired on People's Planet in May 2025.
- We are producing 12 short chapters of *Turtle TV* for FNB, running from January to December 2025, and four *Tips for Teachers* ECD training videos.

- All video production of Marine Sciences curriculum lessons is set to be complete before classroom renovations are completed in 2025. They will be shared with our Grade 10 to 12 Marine Sciences students as an additional resource.



Turtle Conservation Centre (TCC)

The year in review marked a significant turning point for the TCC. In April and May 2024, an extreme coastal storm led to the stranding of 606 post-hatchling loggerhead turtles. This was an unprecedented emergency that stretched every aspect of our operations: From data capture and triage to rehabilitation and volunteer coordination, the pressure was immense. Yet, with remarkable support from our community, we rose to the occasion. A successful GivenGain campaign raised over R500 000, enabling us to meet the unexpected costs and, ultimately, release more turtles than ever.



Our partnership with UPWELL continued to flourish, highlighted by the collaborative release and satellite tagging of 12 post-hatchlings in KwaZulu-Natal, alongside the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) and iSimangaliso Wetland Park. These efforts are already yielding valuable tracking data. We also released seven sub-adult turtles, including a green turtle fitted with a satellite tag and six others (hawksbill, green, and loggerhead turtles) equipped with acoustic tags.



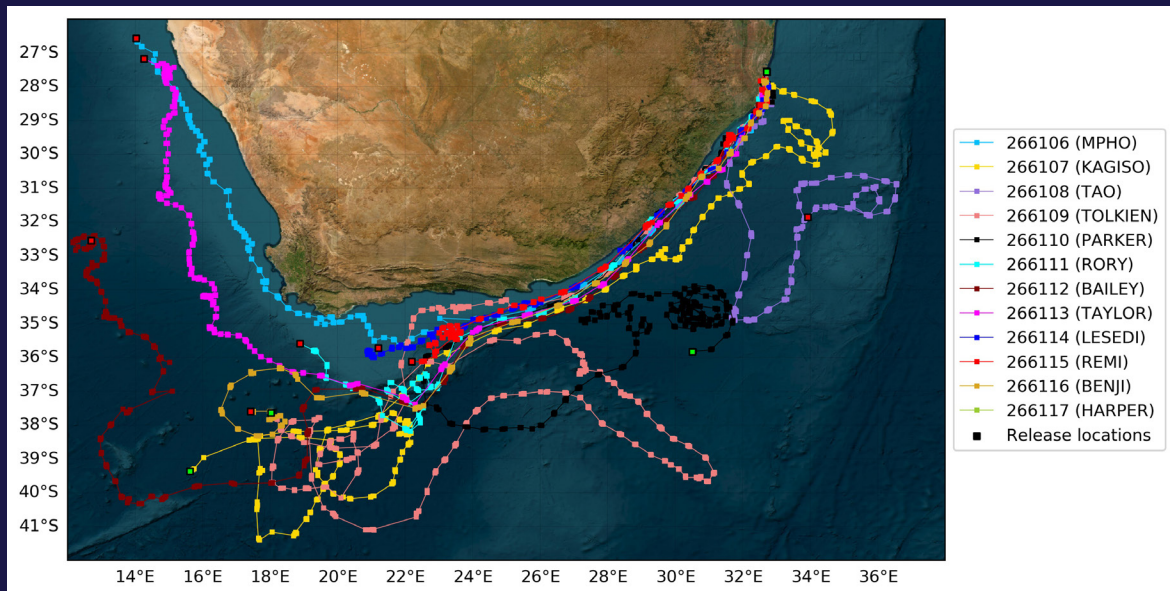
National collaboration remained a cornerstone of our work. During the hatchling stranding emergency, BayWorld and SAAMBR provided critical support by receiving post-hatchlings for continued rehabilitation. The National Sea Turtle Working Group continued to serve as a vital platform for coordination among researchers, managers, nesting beach teams, and rehabilitation centres. This spirit of collaboration culminated in March 2025, when the Foundation sponsored a South African delegation to attend the International Sea Turtle Symposium in Accra, Ghana.



We embarked on our 8th annual Turtle Rescue Road Trip from 27 to 31 January, connecting with key coastal communities and organisations on the West Coast. Each year, the road trip replenishes supplies for rescue and transportation of stranded or distressed sea turtles, trains new rangers, strengthens and expands community relationships, and installs additional signage along the coastline.

While few post-hatchlings strand along the West Coast, 13 sub-adult and adult turtles have been rescued here over the years. Tracking data also shows many healthy released turtles return to the West Coast for long periods of time. As many of the beaches are quite remote and difficult to access, this community engagement opportunity is critical for turtle conservation. We certainly enjoyed the time spent with enthusiastic groups who warmly welcomed our team.





The Foundation continues to work with the V&A Waterfront around the proposed building of a free-standing Turtle Conservation Centre in Granger Bay, as well as to explore options as part of the Aquarium's renovations.

The intention behind the new facility is to expand our capacity to contribute to the conservation of turtles and offer a unique visitor experience in Cape Town. The new Centre will be a world-class turtle rehabilitation and research facility, and the primary training site for turtle conservation organisations across Africa.

Through every challenge and triumph, the dedication of our staff and broader turtle community has been remarkable, and we are truly privileged and humbled.

Marine Wildlife Management Programme (MWMP)

The MWMP experienced a year of growth, innovation, and strengthened partnerships. Our team successfully disentangled 95 seals, removing 105 items. One of the most notable disentanglements was of a single seal with nine loops of fishing line around its neck. A high-risk rescue operation saw 16 seals safely released from the Robinson Dry Dock, thanks to collaboration with the Aquarium's Curatorial staff and the SPCA wildlife team. This event prompted plans to procure protective pig boards to enhance future response efforts.



Our longstanding partnership with the V&A Waterfront continues to provide a strong operational foundation. Staff capacity expanded: Elviro Malan was appointed as a new Wildlife Monitor, and Martine Viljoen was promoted to Marine Wildlife Manager. In September 2024, five team members completed whale disentangling training through the South African Whale Disentangling Network, joining the national emergency response network and further elevating our reputation beyond the Waterfront precinct. Team training has also expanded to include sunfish research techniques.

In February 2025, Martine Viljoen, Claire Taylor, and Ayanda Cimini participated in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)'s mark-recapture study in Kleinsee, tagging 3 394 seal pups and gaining valuable field experience.

All team members are now vaccinated against rabies, as seal health and rabies management have been emerging as a key focus. Together with the City of Cape Town, DFFE, and SeaSearch, the MWMP hosted a two-day Seal-Human Conflict Workshop, drawing experts from South Africa, Namibia, and Australia. The workshop fostered collaborative insights into seal health, behaviour, and human safety.

Our team responded to two confirmed rabies cases in Waterfront seals and supported the vaccination and tagging of Southern elephant seals along our coastline, including celebrity elephant seal, Buffel. Dr Ilse Jenkinson led the seal rabies vaccination trial with our team's active involvement. For public safety, a protective fence was installed around the seal platform outside the Aquarium.

Our work received strong public visibility this year. Ayanda was honoured by the V&A Waterfront as a Seal Guardian, and our disentanglement efforts were featured by Deutsche Welle and CNN Call to Earth. Another incredible feature was our role in the premiere of the short documentary *By Die Soutwater*, and we partnered with the City of Cape Town on a public awareness campaign promoting safe interactions with seals and marine wildlife.

This year of successes has solidified the MWMP's role as a leader in urban marine wildlife management.

Research

This year saw a renewed focus on research excellence and youth development. Through careful analysis of our internal datasets, we mentored and supervised 12 undergraduate and postgraduate students and interns. Their projects spanned a wide range of topics, including turtle hatchling growth rates; sunfish genetics; Cape fur seal movements in the V&A Waterfront; environmental factors influencing rehabilitated turtle movements; vocal repertoires of Northern rockhopper penguins in human care; and the possibility of microplastic transfer in both African penguins and turtle hatchlings in managed care.

For the first time in 24 years, we evaluated the long-term impact of our Young Biologist course, which has reached over 1 000 participants since 2001. The findings will be presented at the Southern African Marine Sciences Symposium in the last quarter of 2025.

We hosted our inaugural Student Presentation Day, where 16 students shared their research with guests from universities across the Western Cape.

This event strengthened our reputation as a collaborator of choice and led to new partnerships with the University of Cape Town and DIPLOMICS (Distributed Platform in OMICS), a national research infrastructure programme. These collaborations will support ongoing turtle research and the development of eDNA techniques.

Looking ahead, we have submitted two papers for publication and initiated new partnerships with Shark Spotters, SANParks, and the Acoustic Telemetry Array Platform (ATAP) to study shark and ray movements. We also plan to collaborate with the MWMP team to explore biodiversity in the Waterfront marina canals and expand our ocean sunfish research through eDNA studies with DIPLOMICS.

Through our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) programmes, we aim to assess the impact of all Ocean Campus education initiatives. These efforts support our new Ocean Champions leadership programme, designed to nurture ocean advocates of all ages.

People and Ocean Lab

Significant progress has been made toward establishing a People and Ocean research institute within the Foundation. This emerging unit aims to deliver high-quality research, communication strategies, and training opportunities that foster pro-ocean attitudes and behaviours. We will officially launch this newest pillar of the Foundation publicly in the latter part of 2025.

Two funded projects are currently underway:

- **Sustainable Seafood at the V&A Waterfront** (with SOLVE)
- **Mission Blue Connecting for Action** (with Seas of Good Hope), which included hosting the Hope Spot Champion event and launching the Connecting for Action Community Project.



Several unfunded projects have also reached completion or are nearing their final stages:

- A multi-site ecotourism study (with the University of Queensland)
- The first large-scale visitor research at the Two Oceans Aquarium, assessing demographics and psychographics
- A study on staff use of single-use plastics, including a campaign plan
- An evaluation of the impact of the new *Penguin Exhibit*

Two Ocean Campus evaluation projects are currently underway:

- A long-term impact study of the Young Biologist Course
- An evaluation of the Marine Sciences curriculum

Our work on South African Ocean Literacy continues in partnership with the University of Cardiff. The WWF-funded Marine Protected Area leadership workshop was well-received and will serve as a model for future leadership initiatives.

Campaigns

This year saw continued growth and recognition for our campaigns and global partnerships. The African Penguin #NOOW campaign gained momentum, with October 2024 featuring “waddles around the world” and strong media support.

Behind the scenes, we continued to support DFFE with the Biodiversity Management Plan. However, despite backing from DFFE and the USA, the proposed Population Viability Analysis has not progressed due to

Marine Protected Areas Day 2024, supported by Mission Blue and Protect Baltic, was our largest yet, with over 40 in-person events and millions reached through media. The day is now recognised as a truly international environmental celebration, encouraging governments to strengthen protection within MPAs.

MPA Day was selected among the top 10 in the Ocean Love Innovation Awards and was a finalist in the Enviropedia Eco-Logic Awards.

Dr Judy Mann-Lang continued to represent the Foundation on three local boards and four international bodies. Most notably, she has been serving as President of the International Zoo Educators Association and Chair of the Conservation and Environmental Sustainability Committee for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

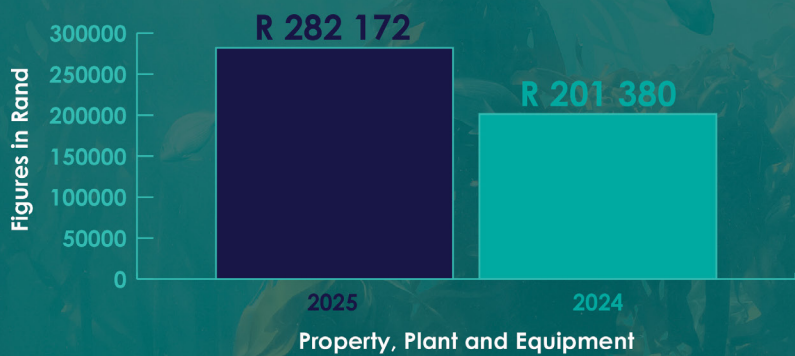
She presented at four international conferences and one local event, further strengthening our global presence.



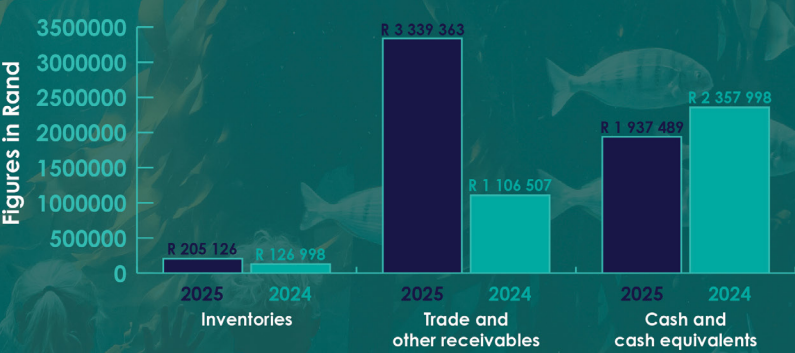
STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT
31 MARCH 2025

ASSETS

Non-current Assets



Current Assets



Total Current Assets:
2025 - R 5 481 978
2024 - R 3 591 503

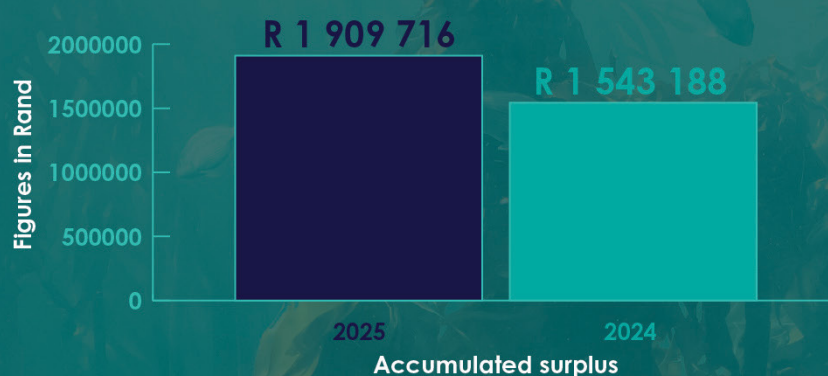
Total Assets:
2025 - R 5 764 150
2024 - R 3 792 883

The Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's Annual Financial Statements of the 2024/2025 financial year is available at:
<https://www.aquarium.co.za/uploads/files/TOA-Foundation-AFS-2024-2025.pdf>

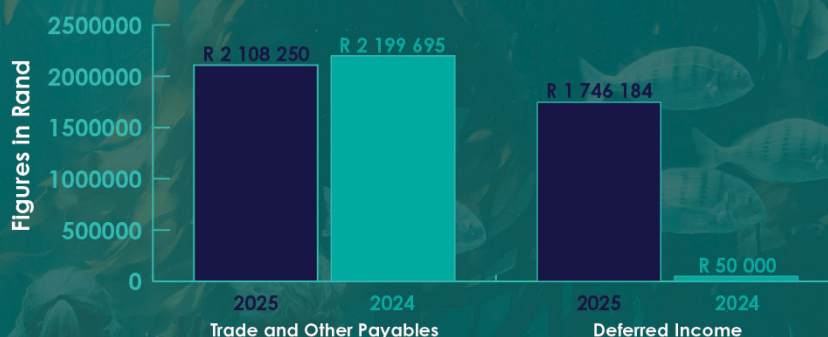
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

EQUITY & LIABILITIES

Equity



Current Liabilities



Total Current Liabilities:

2025 - R 3 854 434

2024 - R 2 249 695

Total Equity & Liabilities:

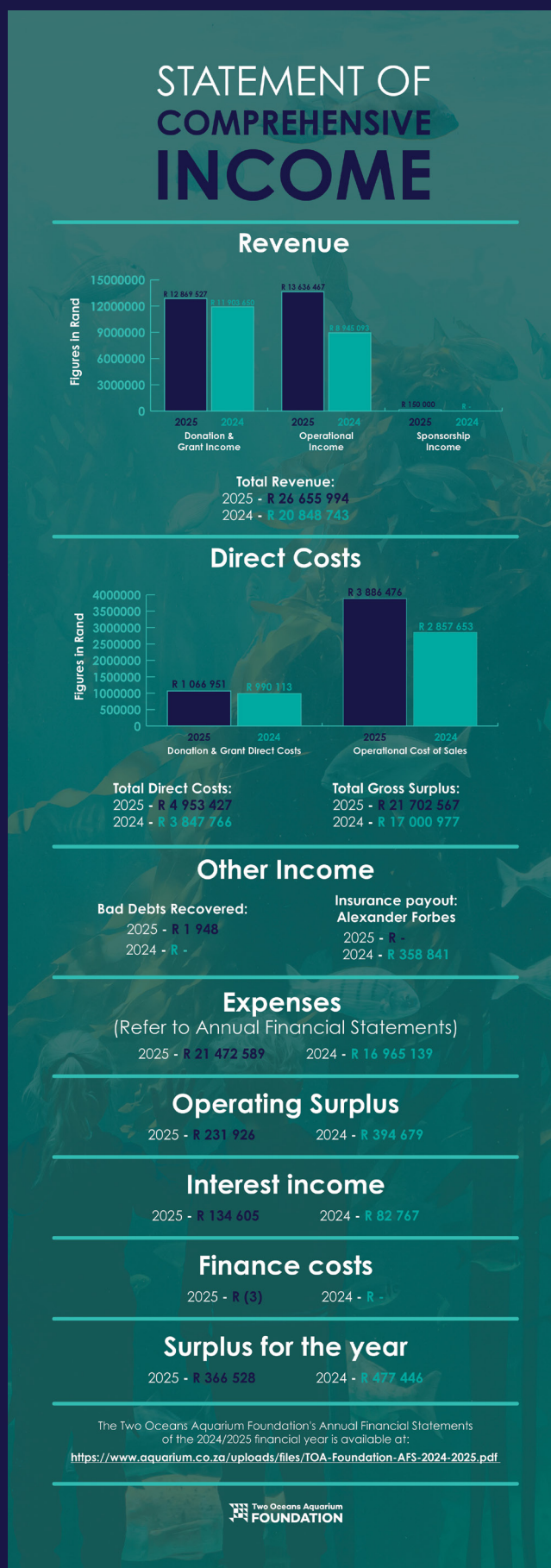
2025 - R 5 764 150

2024 - R 3 792 883

The Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation's Annual Financial Statements
of the 2024/2025 financial year is available at:

<https://www.aquarium.co.za/uploads/files/TOA-Foundation-AFS-2024-2025.pdf>

2. Statement of comprehensive income



Thank You

The Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation has had an impactful year, the successes of which are shared with our partners, funders, and supporters. Every individual, corporate, trust or foundation, and partnering entity that has contributed in any way has made it possible for us to carry out our mission: To inform and inspire all to connect with and protect our ocean and ocean-vulnerable communities through conservation, awareness, research, and education.

The Two Oceans Aquarium remains the largest funder of the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation.

ABALOB
African Ocean Safaris
Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz (AGA)
AVI Community Investment Trust
City of Cape Town
De Beers Marine
DHL Global Forwarding SA (Pty) Ltd.
Ella Molenaar
FNB Care
Food & Trees for Africa
Fresh Fruit Company
Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust
Irvine & Johnson Limited
Luis Pinheiro
Mercedes-Benz Germany
Mission Blue - The Sylvia Earle Alliance
One&Only Cape Town
Pharma Disease Management Solutions
PT Foundation
PUMA Sports SA (Pty) Ltd.
Redefine Properties Limited
Robertson and Caine (Pty) Ltd.
Rotary Club Of Newlands
Schroder Investment Management Limited
Simon Peile

SPUR Foundation
St Cyprians School
Stichting Morukuru Goodwill Foundation
The Table Bay Hotel
UCT Underwater Club: Diver24 Fundraiser
V&A Waterfront (Pty) Ltd.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who partnered with us and contributed to the success of our annual One Blue Heart event, hosted at the One&Only Cape Town.

Financial Sustainability

The Foundation's strategy to ensure financial sustainability is multi-faceted and includes the following:

- diversifying income to include grant and donor income;
- operational income from providing environmental education, research and conservation services;
- and income from the Two Oceans Aquarium, the founding entity of the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation.

The Foundation has been successful in this regard and income in the 2024/2025 financial year was donor and grant funding of 22%; Operational Income contributed 51%, and 27% income from the Two Oceans Aquarium. With deepening donor and grant partnerships and shifting from single year to multi-year agreements, we have successfully shifted 20% of our donor agreements to multi-year partnerships.

In closing, what embodies the true spirit of the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation?

We asked our Head of Research in our People and Ocean Lab, Dr Nathalie Viljoen, who has been part of the Two Oceans Aquarium family for 25 years, to reflect on the ebb and flow of life in this unique environment, which gives us the privilege of working closely with both animals and people. Nathalie spoke of organisational achievements, of growth and transformation, and of the deep connections that bind us together as a team and a community.

“In 2025, as the Two Oceans Aquarium celebrates its 30th anniversary, we are reminded of the enduring legacy and evolving journey that brought us here. It is in our shared experiences of quiet moments, milestones, challenges and triumphs, that the true heart of the Foundation is revealed. We are more than colleagues; we are a family united by purpose, passion, and a profound respect for the ocean and each other.”

