

NIKOI
CEMPEDAK
PRIVATE ISLAND

2025 IMPACT REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Tourism done thoughtfully. Guided by nature, sustained by community.

From marine protection and regenerative farming to creative residencies, education programmes, and collaborations with local communities, many of the year's initiatives were rooted in our continued belief that hospitality should create value beyond the guest experience itself.

This report brings together stories from across the islands and surrounding region that reflect that approach. Some are measured through numbers: kilograms of waste diverted, funds raised, classes delivered, or renewable energy generated. Others are harder to quantify, like creative exchanges between artists and staff, conversations shared over keramba dinners, or opportunities created through long-term partnerships and community relationships.

As long-standing members of The Long Run, we continue to be guided by the balance of the 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture, and Commerce. While no report can fully capture the complexity of island life or the many people behind this work, we hope these pages offer an honest reflection of the progress, challenges, and collaborations that continue to shape Nikoi and Cempedak.

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A NOTE FROM ANDREW

Over the years, one of the most rewarding things for me has been watching the islands become increasingly shaped by the team who live on them. More and more, the ideas and initiatives featured in this report have grown organically from the passions, curiosity and initiative of our staff. Whether through environmental projects, cultural celebrations, community partnerships or new guest experiences, there is a growing sense of ownership across both islands that I find hugely encouraging. Some of the most meaningful things we do now are not top-down ideas, but things our teams have cared enough to make happen.

What I'm perhaps even prouder of is that respected external organisations are beginning to recognise the work being done here too. Cempedak was listed on Condé Nast Traveller's Gold List and named a Future Icon by Country & Town House. Both islands were finalists in the EXO Foundation Sustainability Awards, while Nikoi was named One to Watch at the ICRT Southeast Asia Responsible Tourism Awards. On a personal note, I was honoured to join the board of The Long Run, an organisation I deeply respect and one whose principles have helped shape much of our thinking over the years.

There have also been plenty of quieter shifts. Following the success of Ubah Rumah on Nikoi, we launched a writers' residency on Cempedak. New guest experiences included hyper-local dinners on a floating platform off the island, while Nikoi welcomed the team from Green Camp Bali - an offshoot of Green School - to provide nature-based learning for younger guests. We have also continued to invest in what remains our greatest asset: our team, through exchanges, training and initiatives designed to encourage greater ownership and growth.

At the same time, the environmental and social challenges facing island and coastal communities continue to evolve. We certainly do not have all the answers, and this report is not intended to suggest otherwise. But we remain committed to learning, adapting and trying to grow in a way that creates long-term value for the places and people around us.

Thank you for taking the time to read, and to everyone who continues to support the islands, our team and the wider community that makes all of this possible.



Andrew
CEO & Co-Founder
Nikoi and Cempedak Islands

ISLANDS' ETHOS

From the outset we have been keen that Nikoi and Cempedak should have a positive impact on all stakeholders. We have tried to avoid the 'eco resort' label as we believe this description has been overused and, to some, implies that guests are asked to either pay more or accept less. Rather, the goal has been to try and offer guests a unique experience which minimises negative impact in the short term and has a long term positive impact on the local community and environment.

In itself we see this endeavour as a journey. The approach might not always seem logical or standard industry practice but even small initiatives are given a lot of thought. As owner and operator, decisions are made with the guest in mind rather than just the bottom line, industry practice or the conflict of a different owner and operator. We believe returning guests are our best endorsement and that is why you will not see us pay for advertisement. As owners, we regularly holiday on the island as paying guests and this helps ensure we continue to maintain standards and offer value.

For us, being ethical does not mean we have to compromise on standards. In fact we believe the opposite. By harmonising with the local environment, the local community and culture, customers get a better experience. An experience with the soul put back in.



ISLANDS' ETHOS



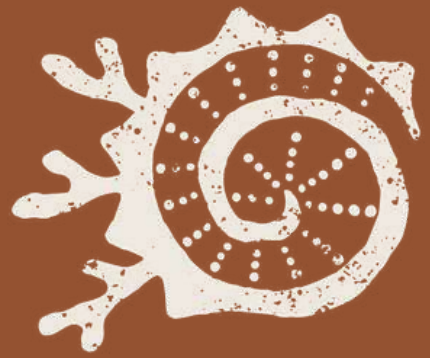
We protect what we're part of.

We look after the land, the sea, the people and the culture around us.



We go beyond what's expected.

Our service is instinctive, not scripted, and always personal.



We question the usual.

From how we build to how we host, we're not scared to do things differently.

THE 4C FRAMEWORK

The Long Run's 4Cs framework is how we integrate sustainable practices into our operations. Developed by practitioners and experts, it offers both practical flexibility and technical rigour, grounded in 86 clearly defined criteria. By organising sustainability into four strategic pillars, the framework makes holistic and meaningful action more accessible and achievable.

THE LONG RUN

Nikoi is one of only 12 Long Run Alliance Global Ecosphere Retreat (GER)® members, following a rigorous assessment process and comprehensive audit. Cempedak is a Long Run Fellow Member, on its way to achieving GER status too.



Conservation

Biodiversity
Climate Action
Enviromental Management



Culture

Promoting Ethical Cultural Change
Celebrating Cultural Diversity
Supporting Cultural Heritage



Community

Employee Well-being
Ethical Employment
Sustainable Development
Community Engagement



Commerce

Progression Planning
Responsible Business Practices
Long-term Resilience & Viability
Community Engagement

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

Conservation



12,100km^3 of ocean protected



100% of organic waste diverted from landfill



4,054 turtle hatchlings released

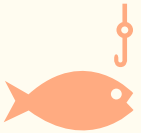
Culture



7 artists / writers hosted through on island residencies



2 local sailing events sponsored



1 new dining experience developed with local fishermen

Community



378 teachers trained through The Island Foundation



16 trainees from local colleges provided with internships



61 female staff attended Women's Day events

Commerce



S$33,340 raised for local community and conservation projects



1,347kg of plastic offset with plastic credits



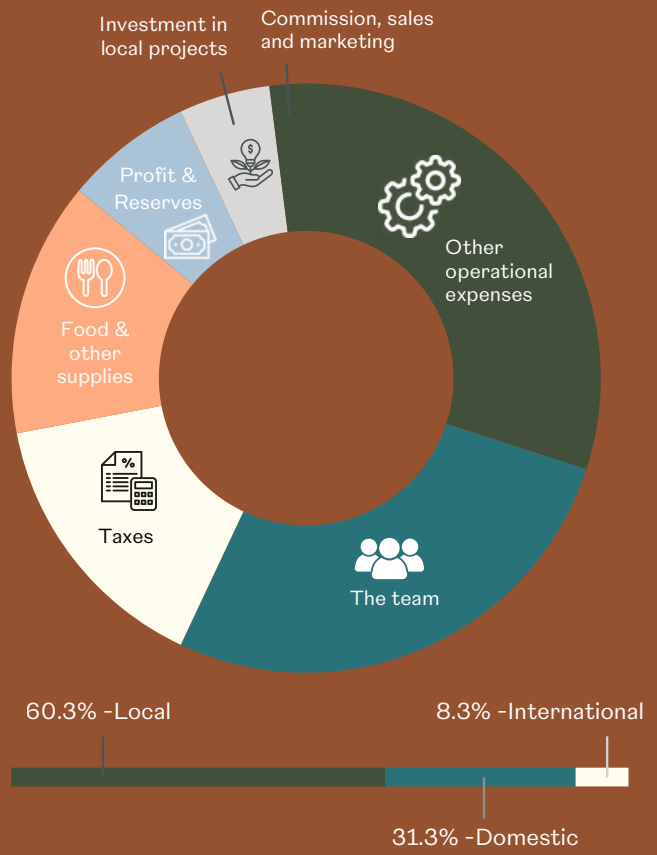
36 kids learnt nature based skills through a Green Camp Bali collaboration

THE 4C IMPACT STATEMENT

How your stay impacts nature & people

Method vetted by The Long Run. For more details about the framework used to make these calculation please go to thelong.org/4CsImpactStatement

Your contribution to the local economy



Your contribution in 4C projects explained

89,5%

In 2024-2025, The Island Foundation expanded its impact across small island and coastal communities. It ran 13 Learning Centres for 576 students, delivering over 3,400 hours of lessons and 80 excursions. Community ties grew through 67 events with nearly 3,500 participants. The teacher training programme reached 378 teachers across the Riau region

11,6%

Through a partnership with Jord International, we support local efforts by Conservation International (CI), a global non profit dedicated to protecting nature and ensuring its benefits for people and the planet.

9,3%

Managing Ubah Rumah and Tulisan Nusantara, residency programmes for Southeast Asian artists and writers respectively, focused on raising awareness of endangered cultures, communities, and ecosystems. Funding annual boat races and local sports, and supporting education through UMRAH scholarships.

By staying with us you help

Manage **342,240** acres of marine protected area and clean up our community- more than 350 tonnes of plastic has been removed from Bintan's beaches so far.

Support more than **200** local staff, who have an average of 4 dependents, and approximately **15,000** villagers through The Island Foundation.

Safeguard local traditions through sponsoring annual traditional boat races (jong and kelok races) within the local community.

Raise **$337,700 USD** annually which is invested in responsible tourism initiatives at the islands, as well as donated to nonprofits set up by the owners of Nikoi and Cempedak which tackle conservation and education issues within Bintan.



Conserving the natural ecosystems in and around our islands is essential, not just for the success of our business, but for the communities who depend on them for their livelihoods and way of life.

CONSERVATION



TURTLE NESTS & HATCHLINGS

Join the Nikoi Turtle Watch Club on WhatsApp

2025 marked our most successful turtle nesting season to date on Nikoi Island, with 77 nests recorded across the year and 59 successfully hatching. In total, 3,983 hatchlings made their way safely to the ocean, including 44 Hawksbill and 15 Green turtle nests. On Cempedak, one Hawksbill nest was also successfully released, with 71 hatchlings reaching the sea.

Alongside the encouraging numbers, the team also began to observe what appeared to be returning mothers coming back to nest on the islands' beaches, a promising sign of long-term habitat protection and ecosystem health. While this has so far been identified informally through repeated sightings, a key focus for 2026 will be the introduction of facial geotagging and the creation of a dedicated identification database to better track and monitor individual turtles over time.

The year also marked an important milestone for our research efforts when our marine biolgists, Amandine Vuylsteke and Mutia Asyafa, published a research paper - From Mass Tourism to Citizen Science: Harnessing Tourism for Sea Turtle Conservation in the Riau Archipelago. The publication highlighted the role that our long-term conservation efforts, data collection and guest engagement can play in supporting marine conservation, a significant achievement for the team and growing contribution of the islands' meaningful research.

4,054

Hatchlings successfully released.

NEW CONSERVATION MANAGER: AMANDINE

In April, Amandine Vuylsteke joined Nikoi as Conservation Manager, bringing with her over eight years of experience across marine conservation projects in the Maldives and Australia. Throughout the year, she led turtle monitoring and nest protection activities, while also supporting ethical guest experiences during turtle encounters and hatchlings.

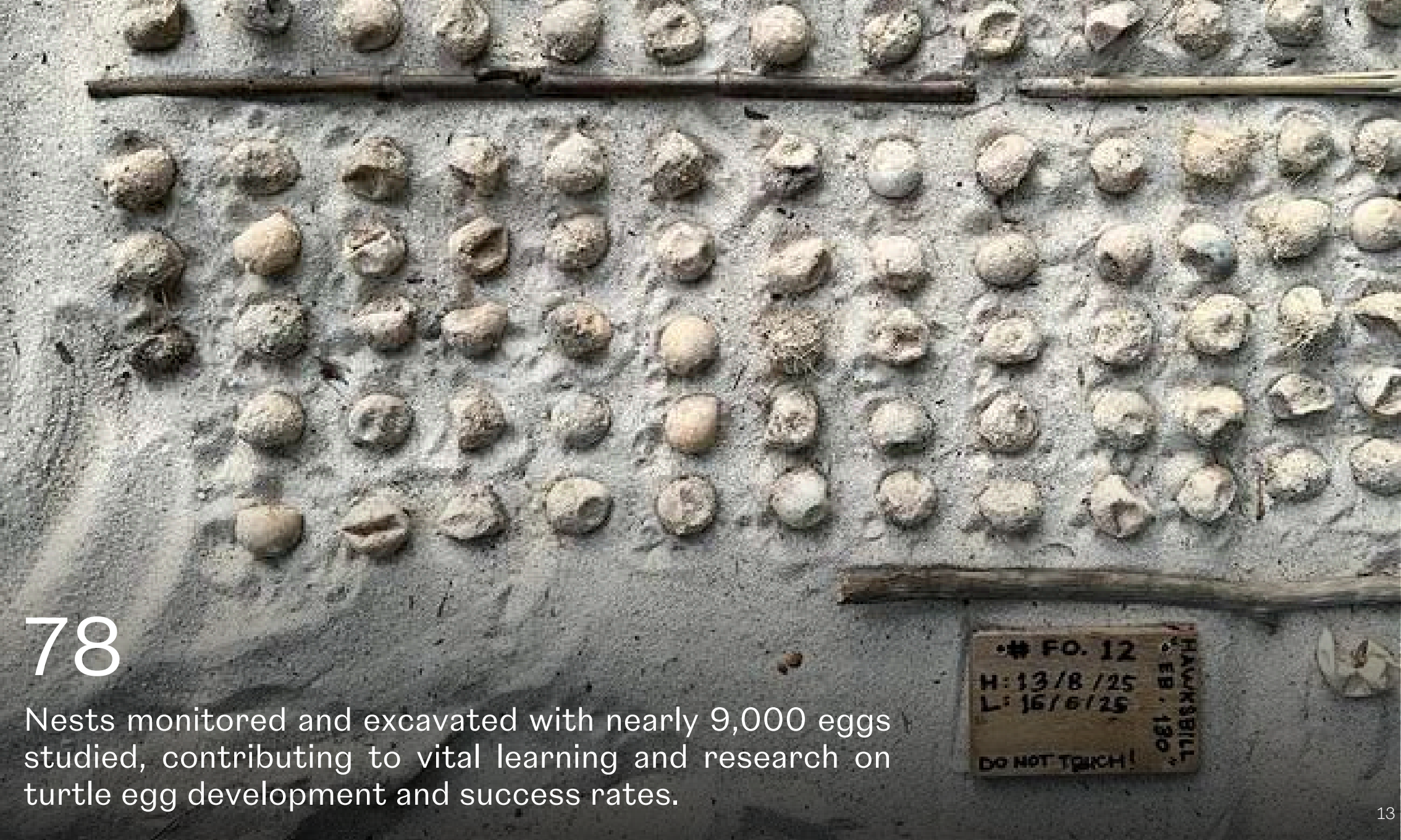
Alongside this, Amandine supported collaborative seagrass survey work with UMRAH, a local university on Bintan, contributing to wider coastal ecosystem research in the region. Nikoi also took part in awareness activities supporting the global #DefendTheDeep campaign, reinforcing the islands' ongoing commitment to marine protection.

Several new guest education initiatives were introduced during the year, including the Turtle Watch Club on WhatsApp, reef biodiversity snorkelling sessions and the island's new '3-Shells Policy' to protect the small creatures that call them home.

"I can honestly say I make a difference here, and that's all I have ever wanted."

- Amandine Vuylsteke





78

Nests monitored and excavated with nearly 9,000 eggs studied, contributing to vital learning and research on turtle egg development and success rates.

OCEAN LIFE NEWSLETTER & BINTAN MPA

Ocean Life was launched as a new newsletter dedicated to sharing marine conservation stories and environmental updates from across the region, with a particular focus on the protection of the East Bintan Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Each edition is written by Lilly Gilbert who is a long-time visitor to the islands and has more than 15 years of sustainability experience. Alongside the launch of the newsletter, Lilly has been working with us to support our long-term protection strategies for the East Bintan MPA, including collaboration meetings with Konservasi Indonesia and the Blue Carbon Institute.

Discussions focused on how conservation, tourism, local livelihoods and economic development can coexist in a way that supports both communities and healthy marine ecosystems.

Fundraising efforts throughout the year also helped support ongoing marine conservation and protection work in the region, contributing towards a longer-term vision for a thriving and sustainable blue economy in Bintan.



Ocean Life

Updates on marine conservation in the East Bintan Marine Protected Area.

Subscribe Here

CITIZEN SCIENCE, CORAL SPAWNING & SUSTAINABILITY TOURS

2,475

Guests engaged with sustainability tours.

Throughout 2025, Mutia Asyafa led guest activities focused on the marine life and coastal ecosystems surrounding Cempedak Island. During guided low-tide rockpool walks, guests discovered hairy crabs, pistol shrimp, flatworms, and a wide range of intertidal species, with around 50 marine animals and plants identified across the year.

In April, the team also documented a coral spawning event in the waters in front of the boathouse - an important sign of healthy reef conditions and a thriving marine environment. Alongside this, Cempedak and Nikoi contributed to a collaborative guest survey with UMRAH, exploring willingness to support seagrass conservation research in the Bintan region.

Sustainability tours also reached their highest participation to date, with 2,307 guests joining tours on Cempedak and a further 168 on Nikoi, helping guests gain a deeper understanding of the islands' sustainability and conservation efforts.







BSF, WASTE WATER & CIRCULAR SYSTEMS

Behind the scenes, the islands continued investing in systems designed to turn waste into resources and reduce reliance on external inputs wherever possible. From organic waste processing and renewable energy generation to water recovery systems, many operational practices are built around long-term circularity and low-impact resource management.

Through the continued development of the Black Soldier Fly (BSF) programme, 100% of organic waste generated across Nikoi and Cempedak was successfully diverted from landfill. At Cempedak, 17,177 kg of organic waste was processed through the BSF system, while Nikoi processed a further 26,780.5 kg.

Approximately 75% of total water consumption was also recovered as grey water and reused for irrigation and landscaping, equating to a combined 10,419 m^3 reused across both islands throughout the year.

Renewable energy generation also continued across both islands through solar photovoltaic panels and solar water heating systems. At Cempedak, these systems provided 52,559 kWh of renewable energy, meeting 27.5% of annual electricity demand. On Nikoi, they generated 61,100 kWh, equivalent to 40.1% of annual electricity consumption. Combined, the islands produced 113,659 kWh of renewable energy during the year.

75%

Of total water consumption was recovered and reused for irrigation and landscaping.



43,958kg

Of organic food waste diverted from landfill to our black soldier fly farms.

PERMACULTURE FARM & PRODUCE

Strengthening connections between the islands and local food systems continued through the ongoing development of Kebun Reja, the mainland permaculture farm supplying produce to both Nikoi and Cempedak. Designed around low-impact farming principles and more resilient supply chains, the farm plays an important role in reducing dependency on externally sourced goods while supporting fresher and more seasonal provisioning across the islands.

Throughout the year, Kebun Reja supplied produce valued at USD 34,599.50, alongside 91,706 eggs produced on the farm for use across the islands. Beyond reducing food miles and packaging waste, the farm also provides greater visibility over how food is grown and sourced, helping strengthen a more transparent and connected approach to hospitality operations.

The continued growth of Kebun Reja reflects a wider commitment to building systems that support long-term sustainability, food resilience, and closer relationships between people, land, and the islands they support.



91,706

Eggs produced by the chickens at Kebun Reja.


KEBUN REJA



As custodians of a small part of the wider community, it is our responsibility to use our business to give back and support those who've cared for this place long before we arrived.

COMMUNITY

THE ISLAND FOUNDATION

Yayasan Peduli Kepulauan Indonesia

Founded in 2010 by a few of the islands' founders, The Island Foundation continues to support education and community development across coastal and small island communities in the Riau Archipelago. Operating independently with its own dedicated team and external funding, the Foundation works through its Learning for Sustainability framework, centred around Learning Centres, Teacher Training, and Community Engagement.

Throughout the year, the Foundation operated 13 Learning Centres across the region, delivering more than 2,000 classes and over 3,250 hours of learning to 576 students. Through project-based education, students are encouraged to connect learning with their local environment, culture and everyday lives.

The Island Foundation's Teacher training and community engagement programmes also continued expanding across the Riau Islands, supporting more than 300 educators alongside environmental education initiatives focused on sustainability awareness and coastal protection.



Read The Island Foundation's Annual Report

The Island Foundation's annual offsite, hosted on Nikoi, included the board, program coordinators and guest speakers from Sokola Institute and Orang Laut SG.

576

Children enrolled in their Learning Centres program.



67

Community events hosted.





3,249

Hours of teaching conducted.

378

Teachers trained.

WOMEN'S DAYS & KUANTAN BERSIH WASTE BANK

Creating more space for connection, confidence and shared experiences among women working across our properties remained an important focus throughout the year. Building on the initiative launched in 2024 by our Chief Improvement Officer, Ita, dedicated Women's Days were once again held across Nikoi and Cempedak. These events brought together team members from different departments for a day centred around learning, creativity and community.



A total of 61 women attended the two sessions, which is a 45% increase from the previous year. Guest speaker Ibu Elfina joined the programme to share insights from her work with the Kuantan Bersih Waste Bank, while creative workshops and activities were led by invited artists Tangmo, Mahom and Wendy - previous residents of Ubah Rumah.

The programme also included sessions led internally by team members, including grounding yoga, "Future Me" letter writing and confidential sharing circles facilitated by Ita. Together, the events created opportunities for reflection, self-expression, and stronger connections between women across the islands.



In many parts of Indonesia, women still face barriers in pursuing careers and leadership opportunities. Our Women's Days continue to be vital in empowering the minority female workforce.



61

Female staff joined in Women's Day Events across both islands.



AIR GLUBI VOLLEYBALL

Community spirit and friendly competition came together during the local Air Glubi volleyball tournament held as part of the Indonesian Independence Day celebrations in August. Introduced through Roi, one of Cempedak's Recreation Attendants whose father is the village chief of Air Glubi, the tournament became a meaningful opportunity to strengthen connections between the island team and the neighbouring community. The Cempedak team progressed all the way to the finals, ultimately finishing in second place.

Volleyball has long been part of daily life in the staff kampong, with the familiar sounds of evening matches carrying across the island each day. Bringing staff and local communities together through sport, the tournament created a shared sense of pride, connection and celebration between neighbouring islands.

The event also reflected Cempedak's ongoing relationship with Air Glubi, home to one of the The Island Foundation's Learning Centres and regularly visited through guest bike tours to the village.

STAFF EXCHANGES & INTERNSHIPS

Knowledge collaboration played an important role in strengthening relationships. Members of the team were invited to share their experience and expertise through a series of staff exchanges.

Cempedak's Bar Manager, Gaspar, travelled to Misool in Raja Ampat to support the expansion of their bar offering. Leading mixology training sessions, he helped the team develop their own signature cocktail, creating an opportunity for collaboration between like minded properties.

Meanwhile, HR Manager, Suhendy, visited Sumba Hospitality Foundation to deliver training sessions for both staff and students. Workshops covered leadership, anti-harassment practices and decision-making, alongside open discussions on topics such as sexual harassment and forced marriage.

Additionally, the islands welcomed 18 interns across 11 departments, with placements from a variety of schools including Lembaga Pelatihan Kerja Lagoi, Batam Tourism Polytechnic and Visigo Academy as well as two travelling from the UK.





18

Internships completed across 11 departments.



The culture of Bintan is rich, yet remains relatively undocumented and under-researched. We're working to change that by supporting initiatives that preserve local stories, traditions and ways of life before they're lost.

CULTURE



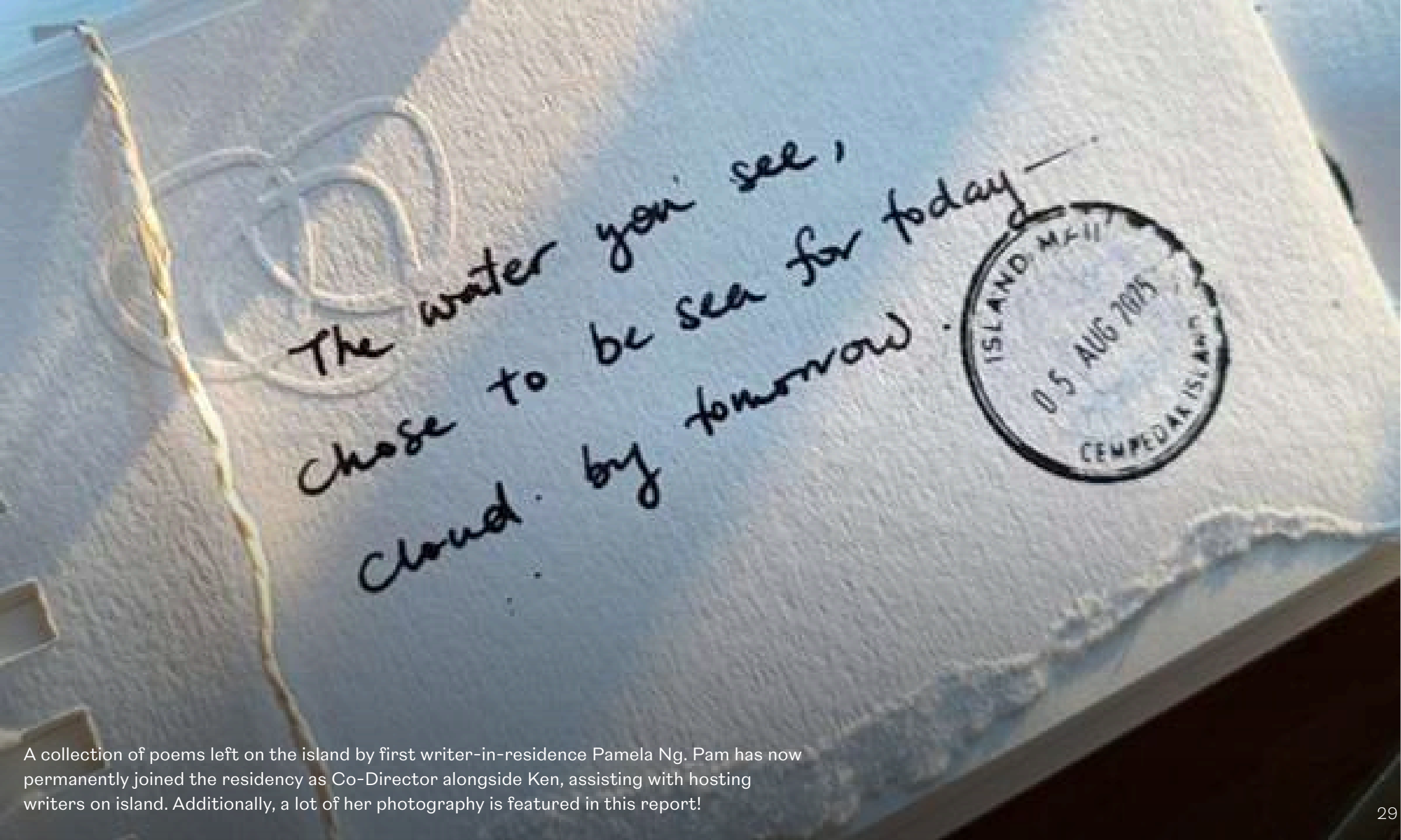
TULISAN NUSANTARA: WRITER'S RESIDENCY ON CEMPEDAK ISLAND

Following the success of Ubah Rumah - Nikoi's artist residency programme - Cempedak launched Tulisan Nusantara, meaning 'Writings of the Archipelago', a new writers' residency programme. Managed by screenwriter and director Ken Kwek, it is designed to celebrate regional storytelling, culture and connection to place. Each year, published writers from across Southeast Asia are invited to the island, where the landscapes, communities and traditions of the Riau Islands inspire a new piece of writing.

The first writer-in-residence was Pamela Ng, whose piece 'The Last Dugong Hunter' explored the story of Pak Munsa from Air Glubi, believed to be the last dugong hunter in the Riau Archipelago. Through the story, Pamela reflected on maritime culture, environmental change and the growing pressures facing coastal communities and marine ecosystems in the region.

Over time, the residency will build into a growing anthology of work connected to the region's cultural and environmental identity, with further residencies already planned for 2026 including writers from Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Read the first pieces published from the residency here



A collection of poems left on the island by first writer-in-residence Pamela Ng. Pam has now permanently joined the residency as Co-Director alongside Ken, assisting with hosting writers on island. Additionally, a lot of her photography is featured in this report!

UBAH RUMAH: ARTIST'S RESIDENCY ON NIKOI ISLAND

Marking its third year, Ubah Rumah continued to grow as a platform for creative exchange, community connection and cultural learning across the islands. Throughout the year, six artists took part across five residencies, with residents joining from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

A new focus this year centred around skill-sharing and longer-term knowledge transfer with island teams, helping ensure creative practices introduced through the residencies could continue beyond the artists' stay. Filipino artist, Nicky, taught staff how to create bamboo whistles, a craft that has since been incorporated into our activities for kids. Singaporean mixed-media artist, Ricky, introduced natural foraging techniques used to create decorations for island events and celebrations, practices that continue to be used by the team following the residency.

Artists also brought a wide range of different creative practices to the islands throughout the year. Made Bayak from Bali introduced his concept of 'Plasticology', transforming discarded plastic into artwork, while Malaysian artist Ireen led natural dye workshops using plants found across the island landscape. Artist duo Tangmo and Mahom from Thailand also contributed workshops and creative sessions during their stay, including activities held as part of the Women's Day programme.











6

Ubah Rumah residencies hosted in 2025.

UBAH RUMAH AT THE AFFORDABLE ART FAIR IN SINGAPORE

Marking the first international exhibition for Ubah Rumah, the programme partnered with the Affordable Art Fair Singapore to showcase works by six previous artists-in-residence to an international audience. The collaboration created an important platform for emerging regional artists, with the Affordable Art Fair team providing strong support in helping bring the exhibition to life.

Featured artists included Filipino mixed-media artist Florence Cinco, Singaporean illustrator and insect enthusiast Wendy Zhang, Malaysian textile artist Ireen Tan, Indonesian printmaker Djuwadi Ahwal, Singaporean mixed-media artist Ricky Yeo, and Indonesian textile artist Lusiana Limono.

Upon departure from the exhibition, visitors were invited to take part in a public vote to select their favourite Ubah Rumah exhibiting artist. The artist with the most votes was then awarded their own private show at Blue Space gallery in Singapore. Djuwadi took the prize and a show was also awarded to Wendy, both of which will take place in the second half of 2026.







Ubah Rumah's first international show in Singapore, with artwork from six previous resident artists. The team came out in full force with staff from Nikoi travelling over from Bintan to attend.



KERAMBA DINING EXPERIENCE

Inspired by the fishing traditions that shape daily life across the Riau Islands, a new dining experience was introduced on Cempedak. This one-of-a-kind dinner centres around a traditional keramba - a wooden fish-holding structure commonly used by local fishermen to keep their catch alive and fresh.

The experience begins on the island with a guided nature walk through the permaculture garden, introducing guests to island-grown produce before continuing out to the floating platforms for dinner. Fish is sourced directly from local fishermen and guests are invited to participate in catching it from the stores. The seafood-focused dishes are then prepared using traditional cooking styles. Local fishermen also join to share stories about life at sea and the region's fishing culture.

More than simply a dining concept, the experience was designed to create stronger connections between guests and the communities surrounding the islands, while celebrating the knowledge, traditions, and livelihoods that continue to shape coastal life across Bintan.



Keramba dinners help strengthen connections with the local community while offering guests insight into the region’s fishing practices and coastal culture.



SAILING IN THE ANNUAL KOLEK RACE



Cempedak's first ever Kolek team

Inspired by years of bringing guests to watch the annual kolek races in Desa Air Glubi, the recreation team on Cempedak decided to take a more active role in the tradition this year by entering a boat into the competition themselves. With a strong interest in sailing already shared across the team, the project became an opportunity to participate more directly in an important part of the region's maritime culture, rather than simply observe it from the sidelines.

"After all the capsizes and pre race rescues, we finally got the hang of it...then our bamboo mast snapped"

- Jimmy Lim, Cempedak Island Manager

Cempedak commissioned local Air Glubi boat builder, Rio, to construct the kolek using akasia and cempedak wood, supporting local craftsmanship and traditional boat-building knowledge within the village community. The completed boat was then raced by the island recreation team during the event in Desa Air Glubi.

For many of the younger team members involved, it was also a chance to reconnect with a tradition they had grown up around but never previously participated in themselves. The project brought together local knowledge, village relationships, and shared pride around an event that remains deeply rooted in coastal island culture.







1

Race entered

728

Capsizes during both practice and the race.



INDEPENDANCE DAY JONG RACE



Bringing together communities from across the region, the annual Selatan Jong Race once again celebrated the maritime culture, craftsmanship, and Independence Day traditions of the Riau Archipelago. Held on Bintan, the event centres around traditional jong racing - small handcrafted sailboats that have long been part of the region's coastal heritage, with each boat carefully built and sailed by local participants.

Nikoi and Cempedak continued their support of the event as sponsors alongside long-time organiser Michel Lippitsch, who has helped grow the race into an important annual community gathering. Team members from both islands joined local communities for the celebrations, alongside participants and spectators from neighbouring islands across the region.

Far more than a competition, the Jong Race has become a celebration of shared identity, bringing together families, villages, and younger generations to keep maritime traditions and stories alive.





Responsible commerce means making thoughtful, values-driven decisions at every level - from sourcing suppliers to hiring staff. By staying independently owned, we can continue supporting responsible tourism.

COMMERCE



GREEN CAMP COLLABORATION

36

Kids joined and learnt nature-based skills,

Collaboration and knowledge exchange continued to play an important role in strengthening the islands' approach to purposeful hospitality experiences. During the year, Green Camp Bali joined Nikoi for a three-week residency programme focused on hands-on environmental education for both guests and team members.

Through a series of immersive workshops and outdoor activities, children staying on the island were encouraged to explore topics including marine ecosystems, sustainable farming, natural materials, and creative reuse. Designed around curiosity, sustainability, and experiential learning, the programme added a new dimension to the guest experience while fostering a deeper connection to the natural environment.

Alongside guest activities, Green Camp also delivered training sessions for staff, helping build skills and confidence in environmental education and activity facilitation. The collaboration reflected a growing focus on experiences that create lasting value through learning, engagement, and shared knowledge.



THE ISLAND CLUB



Support through The Island Club continued to grow throughout the year, strengthening the connection between guests and The Island Foundation. The membership programme requires a donation to The Island Foundation to join, with members receiving benefits including advance bookings, priority waitlist access, and invitations to regular community events in Singapore.

Throughout the year, the Island Club raised $33,337 SGD for The Island Foundation - an increase of more than 66% compared to the previous year. Membership also continued to grow, reaching 80 members by the end of the year, including 37 new sign-ups. The average donation amount increased to S$557, more than double the minimum contribution required to join.

The continued growth of the programme reflects an increasing willingness from guests to support long-term educational and community initiatives across the Riau Islands beyond their stay on the islands themselves.

37

New members joined the Island Club

S$33,340

Raised for local education through the Island Club



LOCAL BAND PARTNERSHIP

Connections formed within the local community also led to new opportunities for regional musicians during the year. After meeting local musician, Aweng, at the annual Jong Race, Cempedak’s Island Manager, Jimmy, began conversations around bringing live music performances to the islands.

Following a successful trial performance, Aweng and his team of musicians were invited to perform regularly across both Nikoi and Cempedak on a bi-weekly basis. The partnership creates ongoing paid opportunities for local performers, while also adding a new layer to the guest experience through live evening entertainment across the islands.

The collaboration has already continued to grow beyond the regular performances, with the group also confirmed for several private events taking place on the islands in 2026.

COFFEE ROASTING

A shared interest in coffee and community led to a new partnership with a local speciality roastery. After connecting through the regional coffee community, Cempedak's Island Manager, Jimmy, began working closely with local roaster Titan and his new business to develop a coffee programme centred around supporting local enterprise.

Together, they sourced fair trade and sustainably grown beans before developing roasting profiles specifically for us. Green beans were sourced through No Filter, whose reinvestment model returns additional value directly to farming cooperatives at origin — an approach aligned with the islands' own values and long-term partnership approach.

What began as a small collaboration has since grown into an ongoing supply partnership, with Titan now providing coffee for both islands on a regular basis. To deepen the guest experience further, a small-scale coffee roaster was also introduced on the island for speciality roasting sessions and coffee tastings, creating opportunities to share the story behind the beans, roasting process, and partnerships behind the islands' coffee programme.



PLASTIC CREDITS WITH SEVEN CLEAN SEAS

The programme also continues to create a tangible incentive for teams across the islands to reduce plastic use internally. When operational plastic consumption falls below projected levels, the resulting savings are redirected into staff party funds - turning everyday reduction efforts into a shared team achievement and encouraging greater awareness around waste across departments.

1,347kg

Plastic offset with plastic credits

Partnership with Seven Clean Seas continued throughout the year as part of ongoing efforts to take greater responsibility for unavoidable plastic use across both islands. By tracking operational plastic consumption and funding the removal of an equivalent amount of plastic waste from the environment in Indonesia, the initiative supports wider marine protection efforts in the region.

Throughout the year, Cempedak offset 731 kg of plastic through the partnership, while Nikoi contributed a further 615 kg recovered from the environment. While the long-term goal remains reducing plastic use wherever possible, the partnership also provides a practical and transparent way to support credible local clean-up initiatives already working on the ground.





RICE BAGS & CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Supporting small local suppliers and entrepreneurial initiatives within the team remained an important focus throughout the year.

One example is Cempedak Recreation Manager Jaslan, who runs a small bee farm supplying honey to both islands. Alongside the honey production, Jaslan has also developed new reusable takeaway bags for island operations, made using repurposed rice sacks and damaged umbrellas supplied by the islands. The finished bags are then purchased back from him for operational use, helping create additional income opportunities while extending the life of discarded materials.

New Christmas decorations introduced across the islands during the year were also sourced through a local disabled community, who hand-crocheted decorations specifically for the festive season. Initiatives like these help create opportunities for local suppliers, makers, and small-scale entrepreneurs to become part of the islands' wider supply chain in meaningful and creative ways.



PRE-2025 IMPACT

Our impact in 2025 builds on nearly two decades of work in responsible tourism. From pioneering zero-waste operations to founding an education charity that now reaches thousands, our journey has been shaped by a commitment to the 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce. Here are some of the milestones that have defined our path so far.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS, 2007 - 2025

CONSERVATION

- More than S$600k has been spent on marine conservation efforts to date.
- Establishment of the **138,500 ha East Bintan Marine Protected Area**, formally gazetted in 2022.
- Daily beach cleans since opening and removing over **350 tonnes** of plastic in the region through our partnership with Seven Clean Seas.
- **Thousands of turtle hatchlings** released through long-running nest protection programmes.
- Early adoption of **renewable energy**: Nikoi installed its first solar PV system in 2013, upgraded in 2019. And Cempedak opened in the same year with advanced solar and energy management.
- **Zero-waste operations** since opening, including 17 waste streams, BSF larvae composting, and glass pulverisation for reuse.

COMMUNITY

- Founding of **The Island Foundation** in 2010, which has since established 13 learning centres, educated over 3,000 children, and trained more than 1,500 teachers.
- Support for local enterprises such as alang-alang thatchers, car rentals, bamboo craft businesses, and smallholder farmers.
- Strong **staff welfare policies**: 5-day working week, cooperative savings and loans scheme, 99% local staff, and very high retention.
- During COVID, furloughed staff were supported through paid coastal cleanups and maintenance projects. They collected 250 tonnes of plastic during the period.

CULTURE

- Launch of **Ubah Rumah Residency** in 2022, hosting regional artists and researchers to document and celebrate cultural and ecological heritage.
- Over 15 years of sponsorship of **traditional jong (model boat) and kelok (sailing boat) races**, reviving maritime culture with hundreds of participants.
- Cultural preservation projects, including arts and crafts programmes, documentation of local stories, saving traditional charcoal kilns, and community cultural exchanges.

COMMERCE

- Membership of **The Long Run**, with Nikoi achieving Global Ecosphere Retreats® certification in 2022 - one of only 11 properties worldwide.
- Profits reinvested annually into conservation, community, and culture initiatives.
- Secured multi-million-dollar donor commitments to support The Island Foundation.
- Recognition through multiple international awards, including **HICAP Sustainable Hotel Awards, National Geographic World Legacy Awards,** and others.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OVER THE YEARS

NIKOI ISLAND

EXO Foundation Sustainability Awards - Silver in People Category (2025)
ICRT Southeast Asia Responsible Tourism Awards – One to Watch (2025)
Expat Living Readers' Choice – Best Overseas Hotel for a Family Getaway (2024, 2025, 2026)
Regenerative Travel Impact Awards – Finalist, Regenerative Travel Experience (2023)
WTTC Tourism for Tomorrow Awards – Finalist, Social Impact (2019)
Wild Asia Responsible Tourism Awards – Winner 2015, Finalist 2012 & 2009
HICAP Sustainable Hotel Awards – Winner, Sustainable Communities (2016)
Green Hotelier Awards – Winner (2015)
Sustainable Business Awards (Indonesia) – Winner (2015)
National Geographic World Legacy Awards – Finalist (2014)
Travel + Leisure Global Vision Awards – Runner-Up, Sustainability (2013)
i-Escape – Best for Kids (2013)
Treehugger Best of Green Awards – Best Resort (2012)
Tripadvisor Recognition – Hall of Fame (2019), multiple Certificates of Excellence & Travellers' Choice Awards (2011–2016, 2018)

CEMPEDAK ISLAND

Condé Nast Traveler: The Gold List (2026)
Country & Town House Future Icon Awards - Winner: Responsible Destination Hotel or Resort (2026)
ADEX 360 Blue Legacy Awards - Ecotourism Location of the Year (2026)
Tripadvisor Recognition – Travellers' Choice (2018–2025), including Top 10% of Hotels Globally (2025)
EXO Foundation Sustainability Awards - Silver in People Category (2025)
Expat Living Readers' Choice – Best Overseas Hotel for a Couple's Getaway (2024, 2025, 2026)
Web in Travel Changemakers Awards – Winner, Environmental Awareness & Action (2023)
HICAP Sustainable Hotel Awards – Winner, Positive Community Impact (2023); Winner, Sustainable Design (2017)
National Geographic Traveller Big Sleep Awards – Winner, Castaway Category (2017)
Condé Nast Traveller – The Hot List (2017)


NIKOI
CEMPEDAK
PRIVATE ISLAND