

January-March 2025

Kyeema Newsletter

Words from our CEO

The past few months have been challenging for the NGO sector, with shifting donor priorities and budget changes affecting many of us. Despite this, I remain optimistic about the future—because at Kyeema, we know exactly who we are, why we exist and what we do best. Our commitment to community-led development and achieving long-term, sustainable outcomes remains as strong as ever. Time and time again, we have seen that when communities are empowered, real and lasting change happens.

This was especially clear last month when we gathered to pay our respects to our dear friend and coral reef champion, Kevin Egu. Kevin was a quiet achiever, always working hard behind the scenes, mentoring and guiding others with unwavering dedication. It was incredibly moving to see that the community he worked so closely with is ready and committed to continuing his legacy. Over the years, Kevin involved local community members in his monitoring visits, helping with data collection, and nursery maintenance, ensuring they had the skills and confidence to take ownership of the work. He also mentored the coral gardeners on Yule Island and in East New Britain, always just a WhatsApp message away when they needed advice. We miss you, Kevin, but we are so grateful for the example you set and the passionate group of people you leave behind, eager to carry your vision forward.

Next week, our Program Manager, Annelise McDougall, will be in PNG as part of our World Wildlife Fund-supported project, she will be conducting a week-long coral gardening training with community members from Central Province and East New Britain and will also visit our coral nursery sites, reinforcing the vital work Kevin helped establish. It's in moments like these that we are reminded of why we do what we do. Despite the challenges, we press on—because the work is too important, the impact is too great, and the communities we partner with are too committed to let us slow down.

Thank you for your support!

Warm regards,
Marijke Frantzen
CEO, Kyeema Foundation



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Safer World for All Campaign: A Call for Stronger Australian Aid

The Safer World for All campaign is bringing key conversations about Australian aid directly to electorates across the country. As we approach election season, this initiative, in collaboration with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), is ensuring that international development remains a priority for candidates and voters alike. These events offer a platform to discuss the value of Australian aid, hear from global development leaders, and directly ask candidates about their stance on international assistance.

With the recent suspension of USAID programs, Australia has an opportunity to step up as a global leader in aid delivery and advocacy.

For our Brisbane-based supporters – their last event in this series is being held from **6-8pm on April 5 (Saturday) at Sunnybank Performing Arts Centre (SunPAC)**.

If you would like to attend, please register at saferworld.org.au.



Kyeema is now on GlobalGiving!

GlobalGiving is the largest global crowdfunding platform for nonprofits, connecting organizations like ours with donors around the world. This partnership provides Kyeema with a powerful platform to reach new supporters, access grant opportunities, and build a sustainable funding base for our community-driven programs.

This is particularly ideal for our UK and US supporters, as donations made through GlobalGiving are tax-deductible in both countries!

By donating through GlobalGiving, supporters can directly contribute to our work in food security and climate resilience while benefiting from a trusted and transparent giving platform.

ADVOCATE FOR A SAFER WORLD FOR ALL

5th April • 6pm-8pm
Sunnybank Performing Arts Centre

Join us to hear from federal candidates from Brisbane and surrounding areas, along with community organisations on why they support a safer world for all.

- Pacific Islands Council of Queensland Inc
- Ethnic Communities Council of QLD
- Australian Chin Communities Council
- Empowerment without Borders
- Queensland Muslims Inc
- Sudanese Australian Advocacy Network QLD
- SomaliQld
- Queensland African Communities Council



Mozambique Update

Our team in Mozambique has been checking in on participants of our Mozambique ANCP project in Marracuene, which supports women in setting up their own poultry businesses. We caught up with Olga, who shared how she's progressing since receiving training and establishing her starter flock.

A single mother of two, Olga always dreamed of building a sustainable future through farming. She started raising chickens in 2019 but lost her entire flock in 2021. Determined to rebuild, she joined the program and received Boschveld chicks, expert training, and ongoing support in poultry farming.

Now, her business is thriving! She sells chickens for 500 MZN each, has a flock of over 25 birds, including two laying hens, and is meeting growing demand in her community.



"The project was a light at the end of the tunnel," Olga shares. "It has reignited my dream of becoming a successful poultry farmer and small business owner."

We love sharing stories like Olga's—women gaining financial independence and building brighter futures. This is what Kyeema is all about!



Malawi Update

Exciting progress is underway in Chadza, where construction of the Rural Poultry Centre's new poultry training and incubation centre is in full swing!

Nestled between Ngala Mountain and Msozi Mountain, the facility will include:

- A storehouse and training room for egg incubation and poultry education
- A toilet block and guard house for improved infrastructure
- An incubation facility to provide resilient, local breeds of day-old chicks

Once completed, the centre will serve as a regional hub for sustainable poultry training, helping local farmers improve productivity while ensuring affordable, high-quality poultry for households in the area.

We can't wait to see the school once it is up and running!

Ethiopia Update

As our Direct Aid Program activities wrap up, the team has been conducting monitoring visits and end-of-project interviews with participants. One of them, Ayalnesh, shared how the project has transformed her family's livelihood.

Living in Addis Ababa, Ayalnesh and her husband, who both live with disabilities, struggled to find stable employment. They relied on selling taper candles outside their local church and a small government safety net, but financial instability made it difficult to afford nutritious food or plan for the future.

Through the program, she received training, starter chicks, and essential supplies to launch a small-scale poultry farm. She quickly applied her newfound skills in chicken management and marketing, and the results have been life-changing.

- **Sustainable Income** – She now sells eggs in her community, earning a more stable and predictable income.
- **Improved Nutrition** – Her family has regular access to fresh eggs, enriching their diet.
- **Empowerment** – With new skills and confidence, she is now supporting others in her community to start their own poultry farms.

We look forward to sharing more outcomes and participant stories from the project in the coming weeks as the team finalizes their reporting.



Papua New Guinea Update

Earlier this year, we mourned the loss of our dear colleague and coral reef champion, Kevin. His family and community have come together to honour his memory by launching a new coral nursery, 'Kef Reef'.

Many of those who once worked alongside Kevin are now leading this initiative with passion and dedication. They've already built frames and completed a site assessment to find the best restoration location. But their work is just beginning.

To support them, Kyeema has arranged a specialized training in April, where our marine Program Manager will fly in from Fiji to provide hands-on guidance. This training will ensure the community has the skills and resources to restore and expand the reef for years to come. We will share more updates after the training!



Pacific Regional

Our team has been conducting monitoring visits across Pacific Island countries involved in our Nature-Based Solutions project, funded through the WWF/DFAT Climate Resilient by Nature program.

In Fiji, they hosted representatives from WWF, visiting coral nurseries and a newly established mangrove nursery. A local youth leader has been trained to maintain both, ensuring long-term impact. In Samoa, they helped to revamp an existing coral nursery at the Return to Paradise nursery, training staff and setting up a new reef restoration site following the Reefs of Hope experimental design.

Next, they'll travel to PNG to support coral restoration training in Tubusereia, visit sites in Yule Island, and New England, before ending their trip in Brisbane.



Recovery Camps Helping Displaced Families Rebuild in Ukraine

In times of crisis, small acts of kindness can ripple outward, transforming lives in ways we never imagined. This was the case for 242 mothers and children in Ukraine, who recently found solace, support, and strength through the “Recovery Camp”—a series of one-day rehabilitation camps designed to help families cope with the trauma of displacement and war.

Thanks to the generous support of Palladium’s Humanitarian Relief Fund, the Lviv Charitable Foundation “Sincere Heart” was able to organize these camps, offering much-needed psychological support, community-building activities, and moments of pure joy for families navigating immense hardship.

A Safe Space for Healing

For many of the mothers and children attending the camps, the past few years have been marked by upheaval and uncertainty. Uprooted from their homes, separated from loved ones, and facing the emotional weight of war, they arrived at the camps carrying heavy burdens. But from the moment they stepped through the doors, they were met with warmth, understanding, and a program designed to lift their spirits.

Through interactive games, physical activities, and art therapy, the camps aimed to reduce emotional stress and restore a sense of normalcy. The impact was immediate. Children ran through relay races, mothers relaxed in group therapy sessions, and families reconnected through shared experiences. One participant summed it up perfectly:

“We spent the day like in a fairy tale, forgetting about our problems... like in peacetime. A 100% reboot.”



More Than Just a Camp—A Community

Beyond emotional healing, the camps fostered a deep sense of belonging among participants.

Many mothers shared that displacement had left them feeling isolated, their once-thriving social networks fractured. But at the Recovery Camp, they found others who understood their struggles, creating bonds that extended beyond the day’s activities.

“At the camp, I met new people with similar experiences. For the first time in a long time, I opened up. You realize that you are not alone, and it works as a support—it becomes easier for you,” shared one mother.

These newfound connections are crucial. They remind families that they are not facing these challenges alone and that together, they can navigate the difficult road ahead.

Real Impact, Real Change

The numbers speak for themselves: 99% of participants reported feeling well-informed and supported throughout the program, and 98% said they would recommend the camp to other families.

Psychological assessments identified children in need of further support, with eight families referred for free online therapy.

One mother, reflecting on the experience, shared: “I am very glad that I had the opportunity to attend this camp. I can already see the results of the work in my behaviour and the behaviour of my child.”

And for the children, the camp was nothing short of magical: “This is the best camp there is! Perfect organization, the most exciting games, delicious food, and incredible gifts! My kids love it here!”

A Thank You to Those Making a Difference

The success of the Recovery Camp was made by the unwavering dedication of the Lviv Charitable Foundation “Sincere Heart” facilitators, psychologists, and organizers, as well as the crucial funding from Palladium’s Humanitarian Relief Fund.

By investing in mental health and community support, this initiative has provided more than just temporary relief—it has helped families take the first steps toward rebuilding their emotional resilience and reclaiming their joy.

As one participant put it: “The incredible atmosphere of the camp, the excellent professional guidance, and the time dedicated to finding positivity in such a difficult time—it all gives us strength to keep going.”

In challenging times, it is these moments of connection and care that shine the brightest. And thanks to the generosity of those who believe in the power of community, hope continues to grow where it’s needed most.



Community-Led Water Project on Yule Island

Yule Island, despite its proximity to the National Capital District, has long struggled with access to essential services. The island's approximately 2,000 residents, spread across four clan groups, have faced severe challenges due to saltwater inundation and erosion, forcing the relocation of several villages. These issues, coupled with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) problems, have significantly impacted the health and well-being of the community.

The Yule Island Water Project, funded by the Palladium Our Communities Fund, aimed to address these critical issues by improving access to clean water. Women in the community, who often bore the burden of fetching water, endured long and physically demanding journeys. This project focused on bringing water access significantly closer to homes, installing water tanks and poly pipes, and mobilizing local volunteers to create a functional and sustainable water supply system.

Over several days, community members came together to dig trenches, carry equipment, and install the water system. Two new water tanks were strategically installed to support the existing three tanks, maintaining water pressure as it flowed to residents. The additional tanks and pipes increased water pressure, reaching areas that previously lacked collection points and reducing the distance women had to travel for water. Three new water collection points were established, significantly easing the burden on women and children.



Outcomes

Project has positively impacted around 1,000 community members on Yule Island, making their daily lives easier and healthier

- Three new water collection points mean women and children don't have to walk as far to get water.
- New tanks and pipes ensure water reaches more homes with good pressure.
- 13 homes now have showers and flushing toilets.
- Better hygiene and sanitation reduce waterborne diseases.
- Residents feel invested by participating in the project.

For women, the decreased need to travel for water translates into fewer physical injuries and more time for income-generating activities, caregiving, and community engagement.

Children, who often accompanied their mothers on these long journeys, now have more time for school, play, and rest, contributing to their overall well-being. Health outcomes are also expected to improve with the increased access to clean water, as households can maintain better hygiene and sanitation practices, reducing the spread of waterborne diseases.

By involving the community in every step, from consultations to installation, this project has not only provided vital infrastructure but has also fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment among the island's residents.

Kyeema extends our gratitude to the Palladium Our Communities Fund for their generous support, which has made this transformative project possible. Together, we are building a healthier, more resilient future for Yule Island families.



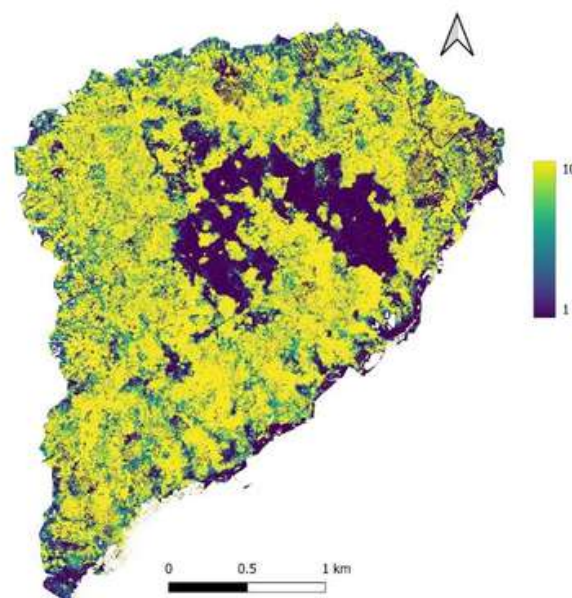
Can Innovative Carbon Mapping Tools Unlock a More Transparent Carbon Market?

At the heart of climate change mitigation is an urgent need to ensure that nature-based solutions (NbS) benefit both people and the planet. Through funding provided by the Palladium Challenge Fund in 2022, [Space4Good](#)'s remote sensing-based carbon assessment solution Carbometrica has pioneered a fresh approach to carbon mapping—one that enhances accessibility, transparency, and accuracy in carbon certification. By developing innovative tools and collaborating with local partners, this project is driving global efforts to unlock the full potential of carbon markets and contribute to climate action.

Unlocking the Carbon Market for Project Developers

Access to the carbon market is often limited by high entry costs, complex verification processes, and a lack of reliable monitoring tools. These barriers prevent smaller-scale project developers from obtaining the support they need to implement nature-based solutions that could have a significant impact on mitigating climate change. This is where the *Carbometrica* project steps in.

The project's dual approach to carbon mapping, which combines satellite imagery with high-resolution drone data, provides two distinct pathways for verifying carbon sequestration. The satellite-based method is low-cost, scalable, and accessible to a wide range of users. Meanwhile, the drone-based method delivers more precise results for smaller sites, offering a higher level of accuracy, which is essential for gaining credibility in the carbon market. Together, these methods provide developers with the flexibility and tools needed to verify their carbon projects, creating a much-needed bridge to global carbon markets.



Local Partnerships Amplify Impact

One of the standout features of this project is its emphasis on working with strong local partners. Space4Good has teamed up with the Arsari Enviro Group and the Masarang Foundation in Indonesia to not only enhance carbon monitoring efforts but also contribute to broader community development. By empowering local teams to operate drones and conduct fieldwork, the project is helping to build local capacity in cutting-edge technologies. This partnership is a prime example of how carbon monitoring can be more than just a technical exercise—it can also serve as a catalyst for local employment and sustainable development.

As a direct result of these collaborations, the project has created employment opportunities for local workers, with an estimated full-time equivalent of one person dedicated to field operations and another in mixed field and organizational roles. This work also supports

wider environmental and economic outcomes, including the relocation of a wildlife sanctuary and the production of sustainable non-timber forest products.



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A Path Forward

Reflecting on the project's outcomes and future plans, Alexander Gunkel, CEO of Space4Good, said: "This has been an amazing opportunity for us to further develop our biomass tool with the goal of supporting inspirational and aspirational project developers with the financial resources they so bitterly need. While the carbon market took several hits in recent years, tools like *Carbometrica* are here to restore trust in high-integrity projects and provide support along the value chain. The next step for us is to expand *CarboCatch* through pilots in new regions, scaling in Southeast Asia and new commercial partnerships."

Thanks to the support from the Palladium Challenge Fund, Space4Good is now well-positioned to further develop and scale its innovative carbon mapping solutions, contributing to a more transparent and accessible carbon market that benefits both the environment and local communities.

Kyeema would like to express its gratitude to our corporate partner Palladium for generously funding the Palladium Challenge Fund and championing innovative solutions to address global challenges. This collaboration plays a pivotal role in creating sustainable, lasting impacts for communities around the world.

