

indyACT

ANNUAL REPORT | 2025



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1. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



At a time when Lebanon and the wider region are confronted by war and ongoing forms of colonial aggression, IndyAct—together with its partners and donors—is stepping up to take strategic action across key priority areas, turning adversity into opportunity.

Across Lebanon and beyond, communities are grappling with the compounded impacts of war, climate change, biodiversity loss, economic collapse, and governance challenges. These overlapping crises demand integrated, locally grounded, and forward-looking solutions.

In pursuit of a more resilient and inclusive green economy, IndyACT is working closely with municipalities to develop local climate action plans, strengthening decentralized governance while bridging the gap between local realities and national ambition, by ensuring reflection of local outcomes in central government's communication.

Along Lebanon's coast, IndyACT is bringing renewed focus to a largely undervalued yet resource-rich ecosystem. Stretching over 225 kilometers, Lebanon's marine and coastal environment holds significant potential as a sustainable source of livelihoods—from fisheries to ecotourism—if managed responsibly and equitably.

To advance this vision, IndyACT is partnering with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, fishing cooperatives, ACTED, the Ministry of Environment, the University of Balamand, and municipalities. At the regional level, collaborations with the Monk Seal Alliance and the Mediterranean Sea Alliance further strengthen collective impact and knowledge exchange.

Inland, IndyACT continues to support the conservation of fragile ecosystems such as the Ammiq Wetlands—Lebanon's largest remaining freshwater wetland and one of its most ecologically significant sites.

In partnership with the Skaff family and Oikos Institute, efforts are focused on transforming Ammiq into a well-managed, climate-resilient model that safeguards biodiversity, protects freshwater resources, and fosters local stewardship through sustainable agriculture and nature-based economic opportunities.

As Lebanon's economic crisis persists, IndyACT remains committed to advancing green and circular economy solutions that reduce waste, create jobs, and build long-term resilience.

These achievements are made possible by the dedication of our team and the continued support of our partners and donors. Together, we are not only responding to today's challenges—we are laying the foundations for steadfastness and resilience for present and future generations living in Lebanon and beyond.

Hala Kilani
President of IndyACT

2. ABOUT INDYACT

WHO WE ARE?

IndyACT is a campaigning non-governmental organization rooted in Lebanon and active across the MENA region and internationally. IndyACT works on various environmental and social challenges facing our societies. We believe that change happens through inclusive and participatory engagement of all stakeholders, by empowering the wider civil society actors to advocate for the world we want. We operate at local, national, and global levels—working directly with international & local communities, municipalities, ministries, and other stakeholders to tackle urgent environmental and social challenges.

MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

Our mission is to empower independent civil society actors with the skills, tools, and professional support needed to design and implement high-impact environmental and social campaigns. We are dedicated to activating change, influencing policies, and protecting natural resources through collaboration, knowledge, and action.

VISION

IndyACT's vision is to see a planet that is healthy, equitable, resilient, safe, and beautiful, where people live in balance with nature and with each other.

OUR VALUES

Independence - non-violence – inclusiveness - sustainable equity – innovation – diversity - non-discrimination - political neutrality - professionalism

OUR MOTTO

At IndyACT, we believe that real change comes when passion meets professionalism. Passion provides the drive for ethical and moral lasting change, and the commitment to specific priority causes and issues; while professionalism brings the high standards and international tools required in delivering the impact required

PASSION WITH
PROFESSIONALISM

OUR BOARD



HALA KILANI

Hala Kilani is the President of IndyACT and a leader in global energy diplomacy through her work with REN21, advancing the transition to renewable-based economies. Since 2012, she has been actively engaged in international climate advocacy, collaborating with global networks such as Climate Action Network International and contributing to major UN climate processes. Her work spans from supporting Indigenous communities in Cameroon to documenting conservation practices in the Arabian Peninsula, alongside her continued commitment to women's rights and environmental justice.



**DR. NASSER
YASSIN**

Dr. Nasser Yassin is a policy scientist and former Minister of Environment of Lebanon, with extensive expertise in public policy, environmental governance, and crisis management. He has held senior academic and leadership roles at the American University of Beirut, contributing to research and policy development at national and regional levels. During his ministerial tenure, he led key reform initiatives and coordinated national emergency responses in collaboration with international partners and UN agencies.

OUR BOARD



**GEORGES
YOUSSEF**

Georges Youssef is a Lebanese expert in sustainable development with over three decades of experience spanning academia, local governance, and social innovation. As former Mayor of Menjez, he led pioneering initiatives in climate action, heritage preservation, and rural development. He is the co-founder and CEO of Agro Cedrus and continues to contribute to sustainability through teaching and regional climate leadership roles.



**NADA
GHORAYEB
ZAAROUR**

Nada Ghorayeb Zaarour is an environmental and political leader with over 20 years of experience in climate action, governance, and public advocacy across Lebanon and the MENA region. She is the founder and president of Green Mind and a co-founder of the Green Party of Lebanon, where she has championed ecological justice and women's political participation. Through national and international initiatives, she continues to drive climate policy, partnerships, and sustainability leadership.

OUR BOARD



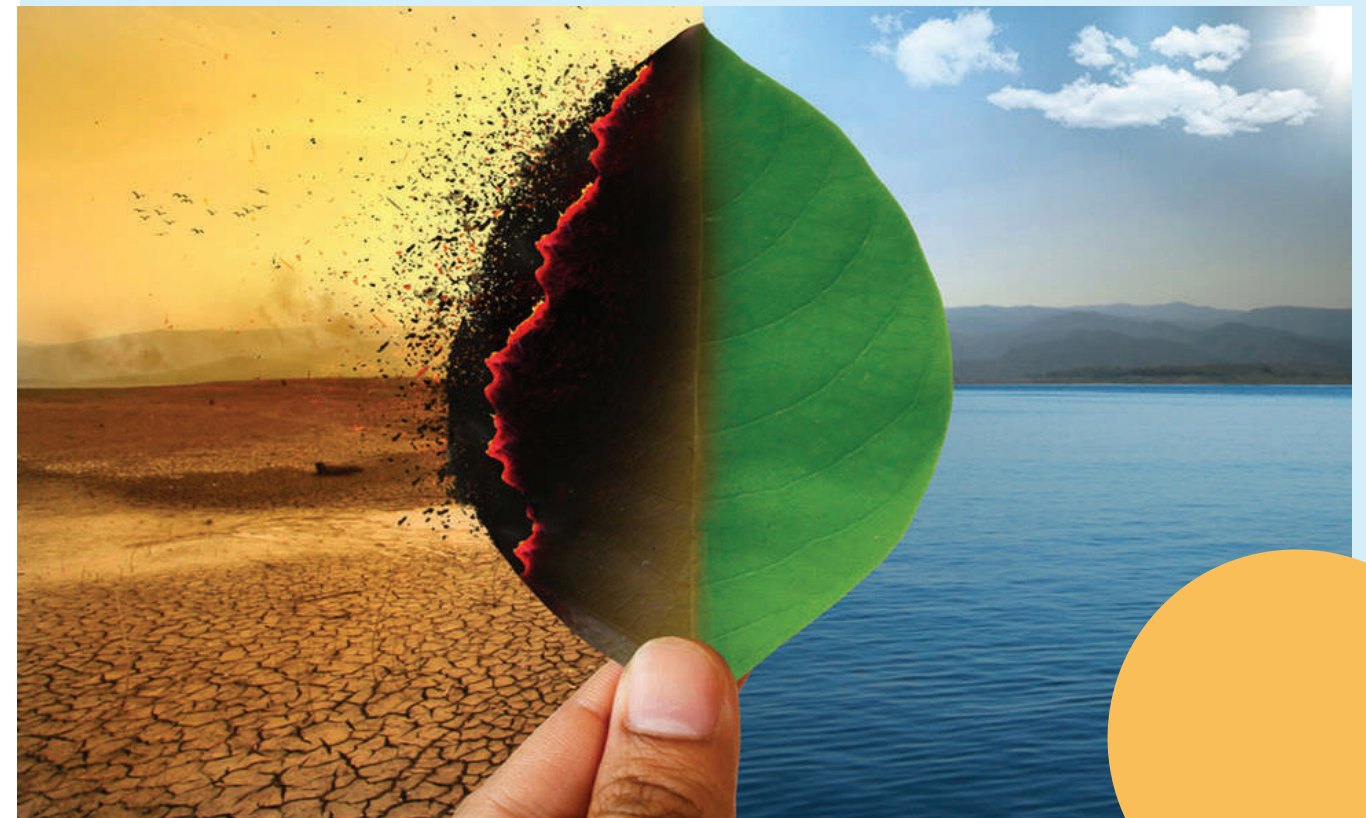
**MIRA ABOUL
HOSN**

Mira Aboul Hosn is an environmental advocate and communication specialist with over 15 years of experience in public engagement and activism. She began her career with Greenpeace, leading awareness campaigns and organizing non-violent environmental actions to promote sustainable practices. Today, she serves as a municipal council member in Btekhay, where she leads environmental initiatives and community-based sustainability projects.

4. STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS 2025

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 is a stocktaking year, where progress towards 2030 decadal targets on various issues (Paris climate targets, global biodiversity framework, sustainable development goals, etc.) are reviewed by government and stakeholders at this midway point. For IndyACT, this assessment was key, as it provides an opportunity to raise urgency for faster implementation. Although much progress was achieved on various issues, with some more than others, we are still behind. Therefore, IndyACT worked closely with its international partners and networks to benefit from the momentum created by the stocktaking.



3. STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS 2025

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In Lebanon, IndyACT main achievement for 2025 is translating its green economy vision document, "100% Lebanon", into Lebanon's Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy, developed by the Ministry of Environment and submitted to the International Community. In addition, IndyACT achieved substantial progress in advancing the development of Marine Protected Areas, as well as the conservation of wetlands (Ammiq, Palm Island Nature Reserve, and Damour). On an organizational level, IndyACT substantially expanded its partnership, becoming an active member in several regional and international networks. IndyACT also elected a new Board, updates its internal policies, and increased its team members from less than 10 to more than 20 individuals.



5. OUR PROGRAMS

	_____		_____		_____	Green Economy
	_____		_____		_____	Climate Change
	_____		_____		_____	Circular Economy
	_____		_____		_____	Marine Protected Areas
	_____		_____		_____	Conservation

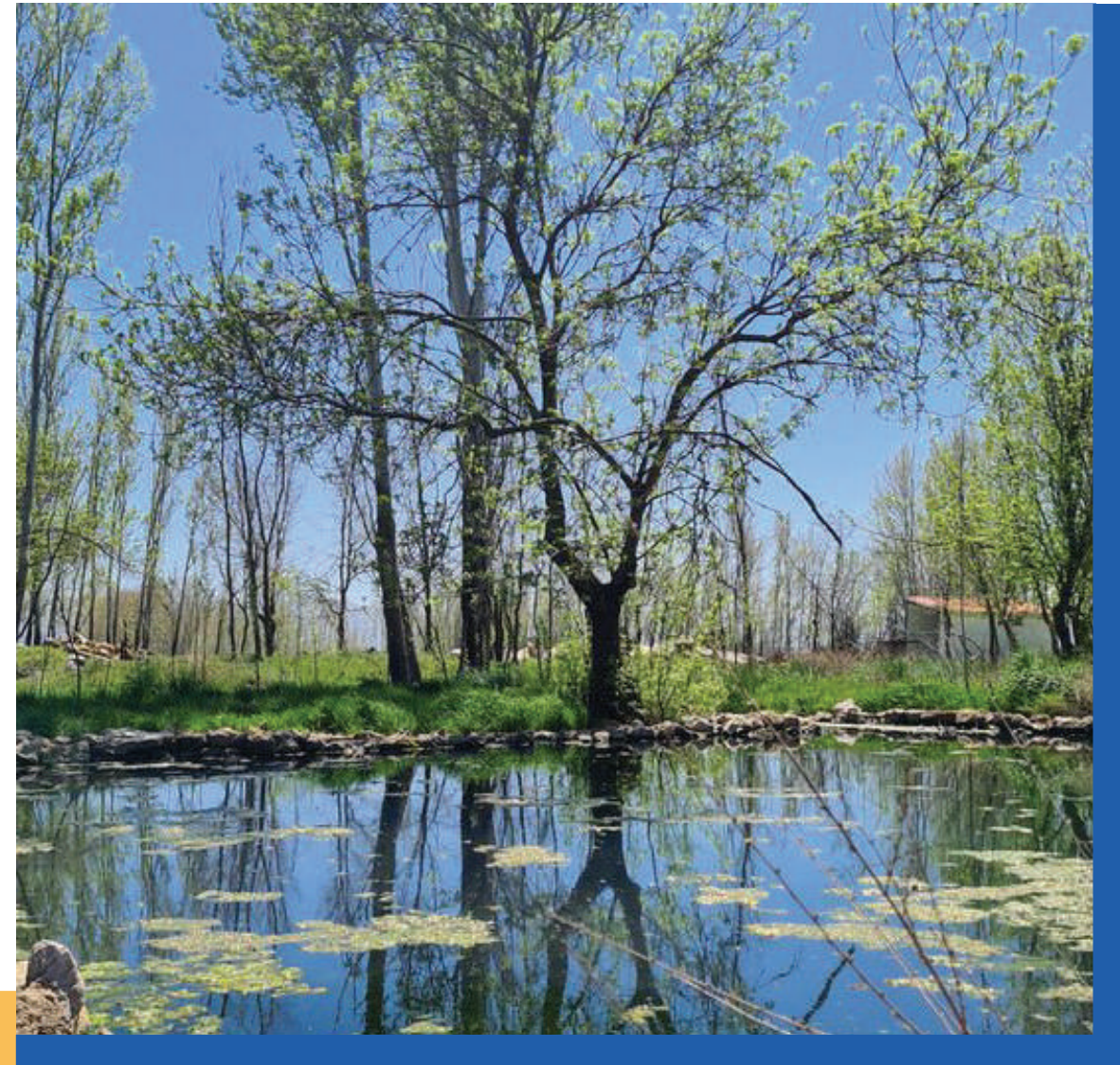


5. OUR PROGRAMS

CLIMATE PROGRAM

IndyACT continues to expand its work on advancing climate action in Lebanon through enabling municipalities to transition to the green economy. In partnership with Green Mind Association and collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, IndyACT is developing a National Framework for Municipal Climate Action, to be housed under the Lebanon Climate Act. This Framework will create clear two-way communication channels between the Ministry of Environment and municipalities. This will help the Ministry in further mainstreaming its climate institutional arrangements, guide and strengthen municipalities' capacity to develop climate-resilient and net-zero development plans in line with the IndyACT's 100% Lebanon vision targets. These plans will help municipalities in accessing technical and financial opportunities and ensure that local action is meaningfully reflected in national climate ambition and reporting.

By establishing the foundation for this national mechanism, IndyACT is helping prepare the enabling conditions for more coherent, inclusive, and decentralized climate governance in Lebanon. The initiative will strengthen municipal engagement, enhance transparency and reporting, and contribute to building a green economy future that aligns local priorities with national commitments.



GREEN ECONOMY PROGRAM

Within its Green Economy work, IndyACT played a central role in shaping Lebanon's long-term climate and economic transition through the "100% Lebanon" initiative—a visionary roadmap for green recovery aligned with the Paris Agreement. Following global commitments to develop national climate strategies and strengthen NDCs, IndyACT worked closely with the Ministry of Environment to craft a green economy vision for 2050 that provides clear economic and social justification for achieving net-zero emissions and climate resilience.

Launched in 2020 and refined through 2023, the initiative brought together over 200 organizations in a national dialogue and produced five expert-led sectoral strategies in Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Tourism, and Material Management.



indy/ACT

These strategies offer a practical, economically grounded pathway toward net-zero emissions and improved quality of life, and formed the backbone of Lebanon's Low-Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), submitted to the UNFCCC in 2025.

Through close collaboration with the Ministry and inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations, IndyACT ensured that the 100% Lebanon vision was fully integrated into national planning frameworks. By bridging technical expertise with participatory engagement, IndyACT contributed to anchoring a long-term, holistic, and coherent vision for Lebanon's green transition—positioning LEDS as a future-oriented strategy aligned with global climate goals and advancing a resilient, socially inclusive green economy.

5. OUR PROGRAMS

MARINE PROGRAM -2025 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, IndyACT made significant strides in advancing marine conservation in Lebanon with a particular focus on the Palm Island Nature Reserve (PINR), the National 30x30 campaign, the National Monk Seal Action Plan, and the Damour estuary. In addition, during 2025, in collaboration with the Med Sea Alliance (MSA), IndyACT widened its advocacy work on the regional scale, with a specific focus on advocating for a regional 30x30 target.



This project is supported by:



5. OUR PROGRAMS

PALM ISLAND NATURE RESERVE (PINR)

As the co-manager of PINR, IndyACT has been engaged in the day-to-day operation of the Marine Protected Area (MPA), especially in relation to the reserve in fisheries recovery. Much work has been put into the project during the year of 2025. One important milestone was the launching of the process of expansion of the PINR area, from its original 4.2 km² to 30 km². This important extension will consider key ecosystems providing important services such as fish breeding and nursing grounds, CO₂ sequestration, and nutrient sources, that all benefit the coastal population. This extension will include areas from 10 meters depths, south of the Islands, all the way to over 500 meters on its new Northwestern border, thereby including deep-sea ecosystems and migration routes for species such as whales, dolphins and tuna.



In addition, work to protect key species from the reserve have been launched through the development of action plans for:

- The Dusky Grouper (*Epinephelus marginatus*), one of the flag species of the Mediterranean, and an important species for the fishing sector. 2025 saw the first underwater monitoring programs conducted.



DUSKY GROUPE



AUDOUIN'S GULL

- The Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*), once the rarest gull species in the world. It uses the Palm Islands as a migration passage point and have been recorded breeding on the islands.

5. OUR PROGRAMS

PALM ISLAND NATURE RESERVE (PINR)

The Mediterranean Monk Seal (*Monachus monachus*), one of the most threatened sea mammals in the world. Known to once have been thriving in the Mediterranean Sea, they are now only a few numbers left, of which a couple of individuals have been observed using the caves around the Palm Islands for cover.

MONK SEAL



THE MEDITERRANEAN MONK SEAL

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), PINR, and the Monk Seal Alliance, IndyACT lead the process for the development the National Monk Seal Action Plan. The aim of the plan is to protect the vulnerable species from the most acute forms of harm, as well as helping its population recolonize the Lebanese coast and thereby build a new strong and stable group. The creation of the Action Plan included the organisation of multiple workshops bringing together key experts and stakeholders from around the country to discuss the relevant actions to include in the plan.

These workshops have also led to the modification and adoption of the micro-reserve decree, a new category of reserves under the Protected Areas law. This new reserve category would make it possible to designate Monk Seal habitats are micro-reserves.

In October 2025, IndyACT was at the forefront of a non-violent action targeting an illegal construction work taking place in Aamchit. This construction site was situated over an underwater cave confirmed to be an important habitat for the Mediterranean Monk Seal.

5. OUR PROGRAMS

30X30 MPA NETWORK CAMPAIGN

On the national level, IndyACT updated the advocacy strategy for the National MPA Network Campaign, a coalition of more than 20 NGOs fighting for the 30x30 goal.

In addition, IndyACT organized the National Fisheries Conference at the Grand Serail, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Acted, and the University of Balamand. The goal of the conference is to raise urgency on the fisheries sector, highlight its challenges, needs, and priorities. The conference also highlighted the role of marine protected areas in fisheries management.

On the regional level, IndyACT joined the Med Sea Alliance in August 2025. A regional player focused on marine conservation, fighting Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, and limiting destructive fishing practices for the well-being of Mediterranean ecosystems and coastal communities. IndyACT's role in the alliance is to assist in its regional advocacy strategy for 30x30 and leading the implementation of this campaign in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Sea. As part of the MSA team, IndyACT participated in the Annual Meeting of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

Webinar on "Advancing the 30x30 Marine Campaign: Lessons from Spain and the Way Forward for Lebanon."
28 October, 2028 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CEST

This webinar aims to exchange insights and lessons learned from the 30x30 campaign in Spain. It will present updates on the 30x30 campaign in Lebanon, led by LEF and IndyACT as we will discuss recommendations and the next steps for advancing the National MPA Network Campaign in Lebanon.

Alex Kebbon
30x30 MPA Network
Campaign Coordinator
IndyACT

Wael Hmaidan
Programs Manager
Lebanese Environment
Forum (LEF)

Pablo Rodriguez Ros
30x30 Mediterranean
Program Lead
Med Sea Alliance

Registration before the 26th of October

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Ammiq Wetlands in Lebanon are among the most ecologically important freshwater habitats in the Mediterranean. IndyACT, as the co-manager of the wetland, has been working on the conservation of the wetland's rich biodiversity and protecting key species.

In 2025, a comprehensive hydrogeological study has been initiated to assess water availability and support the development of a water management plan, ensuring the long-term health of the wetland ecosystem. In addition, IndyACT initiated work on sustainable agriculture in surrounding areas, promoting practices that minimize impacts on water resources while supporting local livelihoods.

By understanding the hydrological connectivity between farms and the wetland, IndyACT aims to balance conservation objectives with human activities. Through research, habitat protection, and responsible land-use practices, IndyACT aims to conserve the ecological and social value of the wetland, a vital biodiversity hotspot in Lebanon.



5. OUR PROGRAMS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAM

in the past period, IndyACT maintained a strong and consistent engagement to advancing the global agenda on chemicals and waste management.

The organization participated in:

Basel Convention Working Groups on technical guidelines for incineration (D10) and specially engineered landfill (D5)

Basel Convention Plastic Waste Partnership (Prevention and Minimization Working Group)

Small Intersessional Working Group (SWING) on plastic waste management and environmentally sound disposal

Group of technical experts on releases under the Minamata convention on Mercury

Basel Convention Household Waste Partnership Working Group

These engagements lead to the accomplishment of the Basel Convention's fundamental objective by supporting the development of technical guidelines which guarantee the environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous and plastic wastes.



5. OUR PROGRAMS

CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAM

In addition, IndyACT has actively participated in the global circular economy related networks, *such as:*

The International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)

Coordination role within the Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG) in collaboration with the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

The World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry

The Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

The Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC)

These roles demonstrate a consistent impact on the development of international policy discussions regarding hazardous chemical substances.

In 2025, IndyACT actively participated in several important international meetings during the reporting period, *including:*

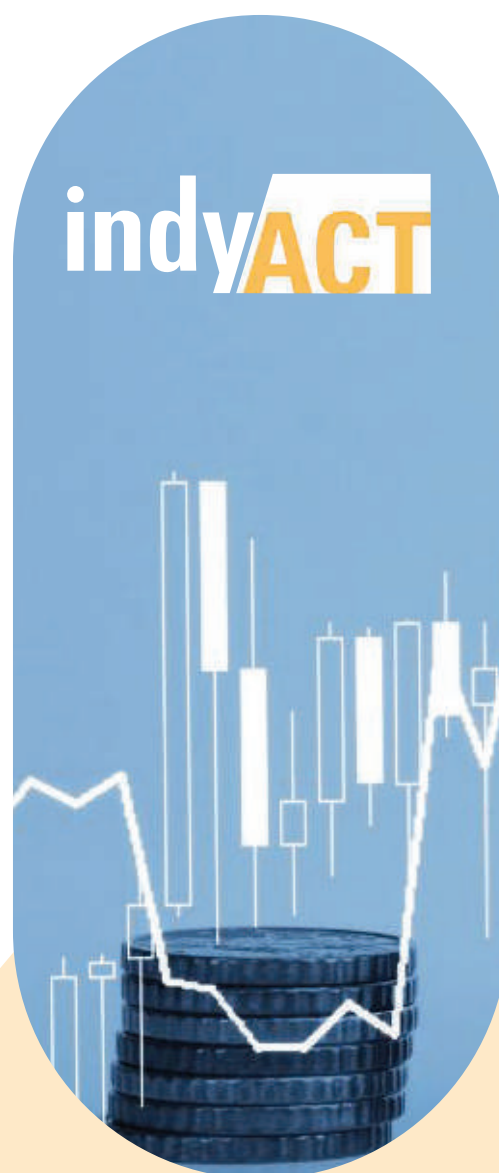
Second IPEN MENA Regional Meeting (Cairo, November 2025)

First Plenary Session of the Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution (Geneva, February 2026).

IndyACT's sustained participation in international conventions, technical working groups, and policy processes underscores its vital role as a civil society actor in the global circular economy governance. Through continuous engagement, policy recommendations, and strategic communication, the organization aims to achieve a global policy framework that would allow us to achieve a healthier and pollution-free circular economy.

6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2025

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the year ended **31 December 2025**



<i>In USD</i>	2025	2024
Opening balance as per books	426,275	255,895
Incoming donation LBP	0	18,764
Grant Income	384,195	304,604
Services Income	0	180,580
Donations	0	5,015
Total receipts and donations	810,470	764,858
Projects and events	198,188	260,662
Personnel	46,642	14,444
Visibility	8,586	2,467
Knowledge Development and Reports	934	3,000
Insurance	580	0
Transportation	11,934	10,312
Accommodation	549	4,570
Travel	1,927	0
Per Diem Exp.	1,008	0
Entertainment	1,907	162
Repair and maintenance	576	35
Communication	527	4,638
Utilities	2,122	5,023
Office supplies	577	1,160
Professional fees	8,722	1,000
Other Expenses	4,520	6,493
Bank Charges	5,147	2,727
Social Aid	1,057	-
Equipment	24,559	21,890
Total disbursements	320,062	338,583
Cash balance at year end	490,408	426,275

PARTNERSHIPS
AND NETWORKS

OUR PARTNERS

Key IndyACT partners in 2025 are:

- Skaff Estate
- Instituto Oikos
- University of Balamand
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment
- Palm Island Nature Reserve APAC
- Association for Bird Conservation in Lebanon (ABCL)
- Agri-Movement Lebanon



OUR DONORS

Our 2025 donors are:

Organization name	Logo
DIMFE (Donors’ Initiative for Mediterranean Freshwater Ecosystems)	
The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation	
The Monk Seal Alliance,	
MedFund	
MedPAN	
International Klima Initiative (IKI)	
The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)	
The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	

PARTNERSHIPS
AND NETWORKS

OUR NETWORKS

IndyACT is a member of:

Organization name	Logo
The Mediterranean Sea Alliance (MSA)	
Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN)	
Global Alliance for Inceneration Alternatives (GAIA)	
Green Economy Coalition (GEC)	
The Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands (MAW)	



Organization name	Logo
International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)	
Break Free from Plastics Coalition	
MedWet Managers Network	
MIO-ECSDE (Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development)	
Climate Action Network	
Zero Mercury Working Group	
Lebanese Water Actors Platform (LEWAP)	

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

OUR MEMBERSHIP

IndyACT is an observer in the following intergovernmental bodies:

- UN General Assembly
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Convention on Biological diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- UN Environmental Program (UNEP)
- Barcelona Convention
- Basel Convention
- Minamata Convention
- Stockholm Convention
- Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
- Global Frameworks on Chemicals
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

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