Sustainable Ocean Alliance

SOA Tanzania

2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



PREPARED BY

SOA Tanzania

www.soatanzania.or.tz

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania (SOA Tanzania) strengthened its role as a leading youth-led organization advancing ocean conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable blue economy development in Tanzania. Through five flagship initiatives implemented across coastal communities particularly in Bagamoyo District and Dar es Salaam SOA Tanzania promoted ecosystem restoration, ocean literacy, youth leadership, plastic pollution reduction, and sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.



A major milestone in 2025 was SOA Tanzania being recognized as a winner of the prestigious UNDP Equator Prize 2025, becoming an internationally recognized award-winning youth-led NGO for community-driven nature-based solutions and ocean conservation efforts. During the year, SOA Tanzania's community also grew to 885 active members and young ocean leaders, while 234 young people had been trained through the Our Ocean Bootcamp programme since 2021. We sincerely thank our partners, supporters, volunteers, and youth champions for making this impactful year possible.





Table of Contents

About Us 07

Executive Summary 02

Word From Our hub Leader 5-6

Word From Our Board Member 04

Our Team and Board 30-33

2025 In Numbers 08

2025 Projects Implemented 10-28

UNDP Equator Prize 2025 09

Our Funders & Partners 34-35

Vision 2026 29



~Jerome Flint

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD MEMBER

2025 has demonstrated the remarkable potential of youth-led organizations in advancing impactful and community-driven ocean conservation solutions. SOA Tanzania continues to stand out as a strong example of how young leaders can mobilize communities, restore critical marine ecosystems, and promote sustainable blue economy opportunities while addressing some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. The organization's growth, international recognition, and commitment to empowering coastal communities reflect a clear vision and dedicated leadership. I am proud to support SOA Tanzania's journey and look forward to seeing the organization continue inspiring positive change for ocean conservation in Tanzania and beyond.



~Ailars David

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As we reflect on 2025, I am incredibly proud of how far SOA Tanzania has grown as a youth-led movement for ocean action in Tanzania. This year marked an important milestone in our journey as SOA Tanzania was recognized as a winner of the prestigious UNDP Equator Prize 2025, highlighting the power of community-driven conservation and youth leadership. Beyond the recognition, our true impact continues to be reflected in the lives of young people and coastal communities we empower, the ecosystems we restore, and the hope we inspire for the future of our ocean. I sincerely thank our dedicated team, members, advisors, partners, and supporters for believing in our mission and continuing to stand with us as we work towards a healthier and more sustainable ocean for future generations.



~Shadya Ngirini

MESSAGE FROM OUR HUB LEADER

2025 has been a year of growth, resilience, and impactful action for SOA Tanzania. As a youth-led organization, we have continued empowering young people and coastal communities to become active champions for ocean conservation and sustainable blue economy development. From restoring marine ecosystems to strengthening youth leadership and community engagement, our collective efforts continue to create positive change across Tanzania's coastal communities. I am deeply proud of our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters whose dedication made this impactful year possible. Together, we are building a stronger movement for a healthy, resilient, and sustainable ocean future.

ABOUT US

Who We Are

Sustainable Ocean Alliance TANZANIA (SOA TANZANIA) is a registered YOUTH led NGO with a national registration number OONGO/R/3106 under NGO Act No.24 of 2002 of the united republic of Tanzania and an official hub of an international NGO known **Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA),** working to empower YOUTH and Local coastal communities in Tanzania via ocean conservations and sustainable blue economy, restoring the health and sustainability of our ocean, creating a health and sustainable ocean for this and the next generation.

Our Vission

To become the substantial ocean activist group furnishing innovative ocean solutions in encouraging sustainable use of the marine natural resources in the coastal water bodies of Tanzania.

Our Mission

We empower YOUTH and Local coastal communities in **ocean conservation** and **sustainable blue economy**, creating a healthy and sustainable ocean for this and the next generation.



OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

Five Years of Youth-Led Ocean Action, Restoration and Community Impact

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

55,300
Mangroves Planted

200,750
Cumulative Mangroves Restored

5,635.8HA
Mangrove Area Adopted

550M2
Seagrass Area Adopted

350M2
Seagrass Area restored

10
Beehive provided

YOUTH & COMMUNITY IMPACT

885
Active Young Ocean Leadrs and Members

234
Young People Trained

50 Ocean Bootcamp 2025 Fellows

377+
Coastal Community Members Engaged

150+
Blue Jobs Created

100+
Youth and women Trained on Seaweed

ADVOCACY, CLEANUPS & GLOBAL RECOGNITION

59,452
Waste Removed (Kg)

900+
Cleanup Participants

832,713+
People Reached

UNDP EQUATOR PRIZE 2025 WINNER

EQUATOR PRIZE 2025

UNDP

SOA TANZANIA WINS THE PRESTIGIOUS 2025 UNDP EQUATOR PRIZE

A National Youth-Led Ocean Conservation Hub Recognized Globally

In 2025, SOA Tanzania was awarded the prestigious UNDP Equator Prize 2025, becoming one of only 10 global winners selected from over 700 nominations across 103 countries. The award recognizes SOA Tanzania's outstanding youth-led marine ecosystem restoration, community empowerment, and innovative blue economy solutions. Announced on 8 August 2025 under the theme "Nature for Climate Action," this recognition positions SOA Tanzania as an award-winning, youth-led NGO and a national hub of SOA Global. Each winner receives USD 10,000, global recognition, and participation in UNGA and COP30.

Learn More at equatorinitiative.org

OFFICIAL UNDP CASE STUDY

The official UNDP Equator Initiative Case Study documents SOA Tanzania's governance model, biodiversity outcomes, blue carbon impacts, community livelihood results, and policy scalability.

Download Full UNDP Case Study (PDF)





Sustainable Ocean Alliance

SOA Tanzania

CHAPTER 1

OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP

PROGRAM







OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP PROGRAMME 2025

The Our Ocean Bootcamp Programme is SOA Tanzania's flagship youth leadership and capacity-building initiative designed to empower young people with knowledge, skills, networks, and opportunities in ocean conservation, climate action, innovation, and sustainable blue economy development. Since its establishment in 2021, the programme has continued building a growing network of young ocean leaders and change-makers across Tanzania.

In 2025, SOA Tanzania successfully hosted the 5th Cohort of the Our Ocean Bootcamp from 10th–16th November 2025, bringing together 50 selected fellows from across Tanzania. The Bootcamp combined virtual learning sessions, leadership discussions, practical innovation workshops, and ocean action activities.

The programme focused on key thematic areas including ocean literacy, climate justice, marine conservation, blue economy innovation, entrepreneurship, advocacy, leadership development, and project design.

Since 2021, the Our Ocean Bootcamp Programme has cumulatively trained 234 young people from different regions of Tanzania, creating one of the country's growing youth networks dedicated to ocean conservation and climate resilience.

KEY IMPACTS

234 Young People Trained Since 2021	**50** Fellows Trained 5th Cohort 2025
5 Cohorts Completed	**6+** Thematic Areas Covered
100+ Youth-Led Collaborations	**5th** Year of Ocean Bootcamp

PROGRAMME FUNDERS!

Sustainable Ocean Alliance

UN Fund

AFRICA EUROPE FOUNDATION

VSO

OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP PROGRAMME 2025 GARALLERY











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SOA Tanzania

CHAPTER 2

THE GRASS UNDERWATER

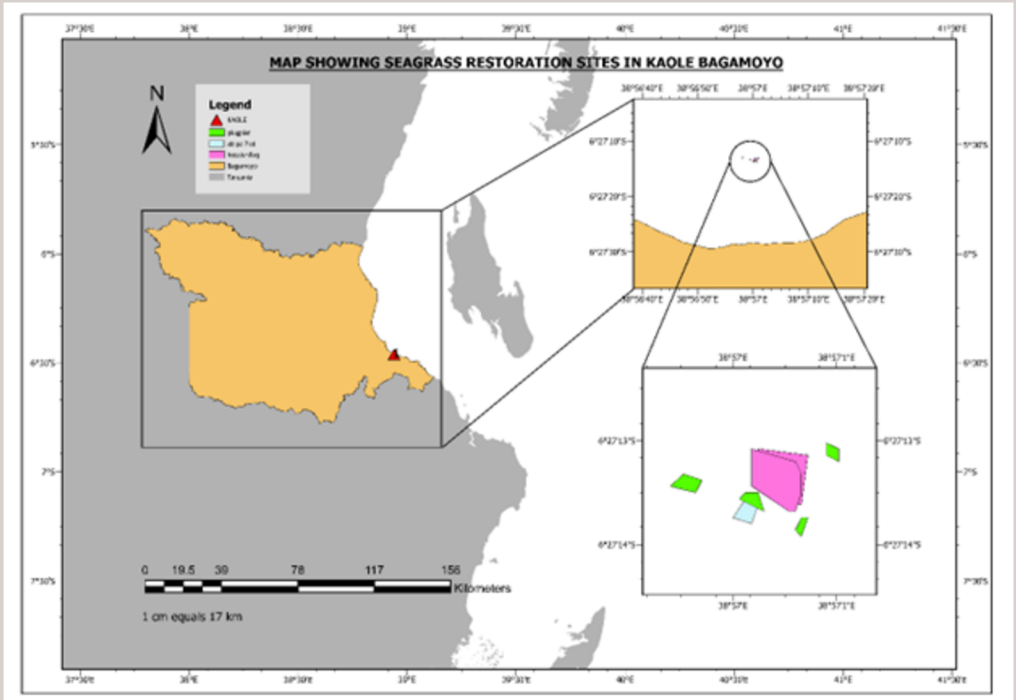
PROJECT







The Grass Underwater Project is SOA Tanzania's flagship seagrass conservation, restoration, and ocean literacy initiative focused on restoring degraded seagrass ecosystems and strengthening community stewardship in Tanzania. In 2025, SOA Tanzania implemented community-led seagrass restoration and monitoring activities in Kaole, Bagamoyo involving youth, local fishers, coastal communities, BMUs, government officials, and conservation partners. From 17th–21st September 2025, 30 participants were trained on seagrass ecology, restoration methodologies, and monitoring techniques. A total Area of 350m² of degraded seagrass meadows were restored using more than 829 seagrass shoots through Plug, Staple, and Hessian Bag restoration methods focusing on *Thalassia hemprichii, Cymodocea rotundata, Cymodocea serrulata, Halodule uninervis, and Enhalus acoroides*. The project remained officially endorsed under the United Nations Ocean Decade framework.



KEY IMPACTS

550 m²
Seagrass Area Adopted

829
seagrass shoots restored and transplanted

30
Direct participants trained and engaged in restoration activities

5
seagrass species restored

350 m²
Seagrass Area Restored

3
Restorational Methods Tested

PROJECT PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

THE OCEANCY

MOSSY EARTH

Sustainable Ocean Alliance

GRASS UNDERWATER 2025 PHOTO GARALLERY









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SOA Tanzania

CHAPTER 3

THE MIKOKO YETU PROJECT







MIKOKO YETU PROJECT

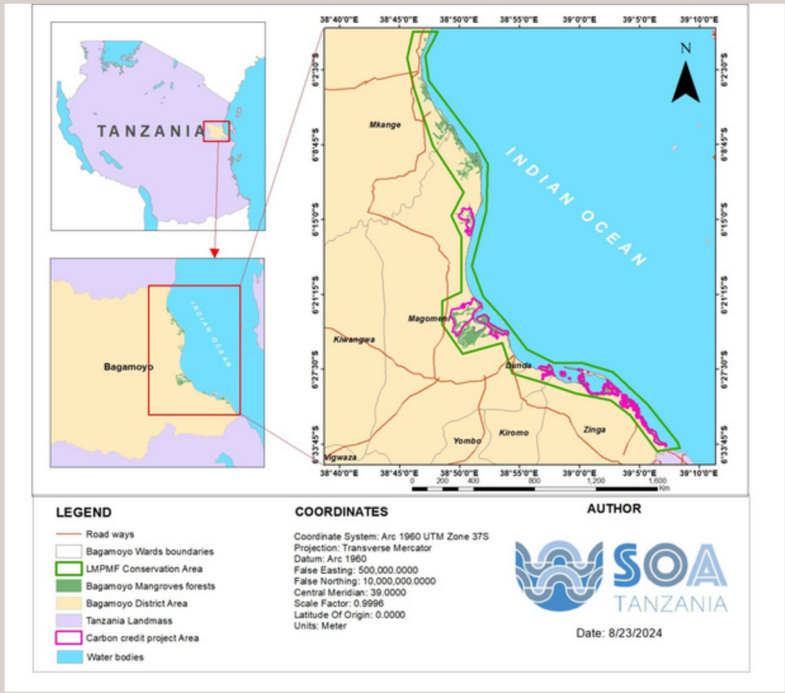
Community-Led Mangrove Conservation & Restoration | Bagamoyo District

The Mikoko Yetu Project is SOA Tanzania's flagship community-led mangrove conservation and restoration initiative implemented in Bagamoyo District along Tanzania's central coastline. The project focuses on restoring degraded mangrove ecosystems while strengthening biodiversity conservation, blue carbon storage, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods through nature-based solutions and community stewardship. Restoration activities are implemented across Kitame, Mkadini, Kaole, Mlingotini, Kondo, Changwahela, and Kiembeni villages.

By the end of 2025, SOA Tanzania had cumulatively restored and supported approximately 200,750 mangroves through direct planting and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) approaches, including 55,300 directly planted mangroves and 145,450 mangroves supported through natural regeneration interventions. The project currently supports conservation and restoration activities across approximately 5,635.8 hectares of mangrove ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity conservation, shoreline stabilization, fisheries habitat restoration, and climate change mitigation through blue carbon ecosystem restoration.

RESTORATION ACHIEVEMENTS

200,750 Cummulative trees planted	**5,635.8 Ha** Mangrove area adopted
55,300 Direct planted trees	**145,450** ANR Trees
200 Ha Area Restored	**81%** Overall Survival Rate
8 Native Mangrove species planted	**3,337 Ha** Mangrove area mapped



PROJECT PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

RE-EARTH INITIATIVE · goodcarbon · salesforce · Sustainable Ocean Alliance · Archer, Evrard & Sigurdsson

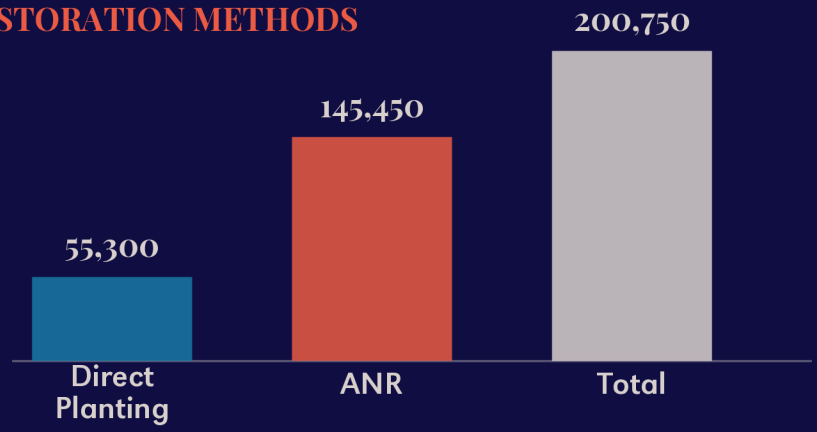
MIKOKO YETU PROJECT | Ecological Data & Monitoring Results

SPECIES SURVIVAL RATES (%)

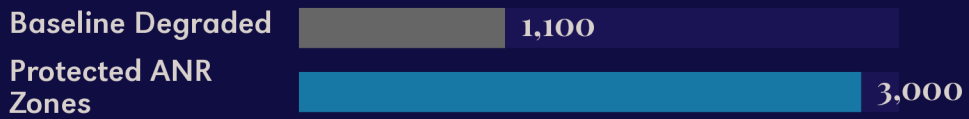


Overall Estimated Survival Rate: **81%**

RESTORATION METHODS



SEEDLING DENSITY (seedlings/ha)



ECOSYSTEM STRUCTURE

Canopy Height: 0.5 – 52 m
Basal-Area Weighted: 0.5 – 33 m
Young Planted DBH: 0.5 – 3 cm
Mature Stand DBH: 4 – 18 cm
Native Species: 8 Fauna Groups: 6+

BLUE CARBON & LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

5,635.8 Ha	3,337 Ha	200 Ha	0.30	2,742
Mangrove area adopted	Mangrove area mapped	Area Restored	Global Human Mondification Index (GHM index)	Estimated population living within or adjacent to the restoration landscape

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

Fauna: Fiddler crabs, mangrove tree crabs, mudskippers, juvenile fish, mollusks, benthic invertebrates
Mangrove Species (8): R. mucronata, A. marina, B. gymnorrhiza, C. tagal, S. alba, L. racemosa, H. littoralis, X. granatum

Avifauna: African Spoonbill, Sacred Ibis, Great Egret, Grey Heron, Yellow-billed Stork
Above-Ground Biomass: 0.5 – 375 Mg C ha^{-1}

COMMUNITY: 150+ youth & community members trained | 100+ youth mobilized | 10 beehives installed | 50+ blue economy beneficiaries

Data sources: SOA Tanzania field monitoring, Restor ecosystem analysis, QGIS, TreeMapper, GPS surveys, drone mapping, Global Mangrove Watch.

MANGROVE BEEKEEPING & COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS INITIATIVE

Mikoko Yetu Project | Bagamoyo District, 2025

In 2025, SOA Tanzania launched its first community-based Mangrove Beekeeping Initiative under the Mikoko Yetu Project to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and reduce pressure on mangrove ecosystems in Bagamoyo District. Implemented in partnership with Acla Honey, Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Bagamoyo, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA Global), and supported by Salesforce, the initiative trained youth and coastal communities on mangrove beekeeping, hive management, honey production, and ecosystem conservation. Through the initiative, 377 community members were engaged, while 50 fellows from the 2025 Our Ocean Bootcamp received training on mangrove beekeeping and sustainable blue economy opportunities linked to climate resilience and nature-based solutions.

KEY IMPACTS

10 beehives installed within mangrove ecosystems

377 Coastal community members engaged and involved

50 Our Ocean Bootcamp 2025 fellows trained



MIKOKO YETU 2025 PHOTO GARALLERY











Sustainable Ocean Alliance

SOA Tanzania

CHAPTER 4

OUR OCEAN CLEAN UP

PROJECT







OUR OCEAN CLEANUP PROJECT

Mobilizing Youth & Communities Against Marine Plastic Pollution

Plastic pollution remains one of the greatest threats facing ocean ecosystems globally, affecting marine biodiversity, coastal communities, fisheries, and human health. Through the Our Ocean Cleanup Project, SOA Tanzania continues mobilizing youth, coastal communities, volunteers, and partners to take action against marine plastic pollution through beach cleanups, awareness campaigns, and ocean advocacy activities along the Tanzanian coastline.

In 2025, SOA Tanzania conducted two major beach cleanup events during World Ocean Day at Sinda Island in June and World Cleanup Day at Selander Bridge in September. These cleanups brought together more than 900 participants including youth, local communities, government stakeholders, private sector partners, and conservation organizations committed to protecting the ocean from plastic pollution.

By the end of 2025, SOA Tanzania had cumulatively removed approximately 59,452 kilograms of waste through cleanup activities conducted since 2021 across coastal areas in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

KEY IMPACTS

59,452 Kg — waste cumulatively removed since 2021

900+ — participants engaged in cleanup activities

2 — major cleanup events conducted in 2025

- Increased awareness on marine plastic pollution
- Strengthened youth & community participation
- Expanded collaboration with partners on ocean protection



PROJECT PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Oceanic Society
Since 1969

GLOBAL OCEAN CLEANUP

OCEAN CLEAN UP PHOTO GARALLERY







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SOA Tanzania

CHAPTER 5

YOUTH AND WOMEN SEAWEED EMPOWERMENT PROJECT







Youth & Women Mwani Empowerment Project

Bagamoyo, Tanzania | September 2025

The Youth and Women Mwani Empowerment Project is an initiative by SOA Tanzania aimed at empowering youth and coastal communities through sustainable seaweed farming and value addition in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The project supports SOA Tanzania's broader mission of promoting sustainable blue economy opportunities, ocean conservation, climate resilience, and livelihood improvement for marginalized coastal communities.

In September 2025, SOA Tanzania conducted an intensive training programme involving 100 participants including 50 youth and 50 women. The training was facilitated by Mr. Godfrey Christopher from FETA-Mbegani, equipping participants with practical skills on seaweed farm setup, cultivation, disease management, harvesting, processing, and market access. Participants also received hands-on training on seaweed value addition including production of seaweed soap, lotion, shower gel, body jelly, and shampoo.

KEY IMPACTS

100 Participants Trained	**50** Youth Empowered
50 Women Empowered	**5+** Value-Added Products
2 Intensive Training Programme	**3+** Blue Economy Skills Areas



PROJECT PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FUND

Funded by the European Union

GLOBAL YOUTH MOBILIZATION

SEAWEED EMPOWERMENT PHOTO GALLERY







GLOBAL REPRESENTATION, ADVOCACY & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Amplifying Youth Voices on the Global Stage

WIOMSA SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM 2025

SOA Tanzania participated in the WIOMSA Scientific Symposium 2025, engaging with researchers, conservation practitioners, youth leaders, and marine scientists from across the Western Indian Ocean region. The symposium provided an important platform for sharing youth perspectives, ocean science, community-led conservation experiences, and strengthening regional collaboration on marine conservation and sustainable blue economy initiatives.



ONE YOUNG WORLD SUMMIT

In 2025, Ailars David represented SOA Tanzania at the One Young World Summit through the Z Zurich Foundation Scholarship. The summit brought together young leaders from around the world working on sustainability, climate resilience, innovation, and social impact. The participation strengthened SOA Tanzania's international visibility while creating opportunities for global networking, leadership development, and collaboration.



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE (UNOC)

SOA Tanzania participated in the United Nations Ocean Conference in France, contributing to global discussions on ocean conservation, youth engagement, climate action, and sustainable blue economy development. The conference provided a global platform to amplify youth voices from Tanzania and highlight community-led marine conservation initiatives implemented by SOA Tanzania.



RAMSAR CONVENTION PRE-COP15 WORKSHOP

Represented by Amrani Nurudini Samwaja, SOA Tanzania participated in the Ramsar Convention Pre-COP15 National Position Workshop held in Morogoro, organized by WWF Tanzania in collaboration with TAWA under the Vice President's Office. The workshop brought together government officials, youth groups, and conservation stakeholders to contribute to Tanzania's national position ahead of COP15 negotiations on wetlands conservation and biodiversity protection.



RE.GENERATION FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAMME

Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

In 2025, Ailars David, Founder and Hub Leader of SOA Tanzania, was selected to join the prestigious Re.Generation Future Leaders Programme by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. The programme brings together young leaders, innovators, scientists, and environmental advocates from around the world working on impactful solutions for climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. The selection recognized Ailars David's leadership and SOA Tanzania's growing impact in youth-led ocean conservation, ecosystem restoration, and community-driven climate resilience initiatives in Tanzania.

The programme provided a valuable platform for leadership development, global networking, mentorship, and collaboration with emerging environmental leaders and international organizations. For the SOA Tanzania community, this achievement represented an important milestone demonstrating how local youth-led conservation actions can gain international recognition and contribute to global environmental solutions. The opportunity continues inspiring young people within SOA Tanzania to believe in the power of community action, innovation, and youth leadership in shaping a sustainable future for the ocean and coastal communities.











KEY LESSONS LEARNED 2025

What We Learned

Youth-Led Solutions Drive Impactful Conservation

Young people continue to play a critical role in driving innovative, community-led, and impactful ocean conservation solutions across Tanzania.

Linking Livelihoods to Conservation Increases Sustainability

Integrating sustainable blue economy opportunities such as seaweed farming and mangrove beekeeping strengthened community participation and long-term ecosystem stewardship.

Community Ownership is Key for Long-Term Success

Strong collaboration with local communities, youth groups, BMUs, and stakeholders increased local ownership and strengthened the sustainability of restoration and conservation initiatives.

SOA TANZANIA: OUR VISION FOR 2026

Looking Ahead

1. **Scaling Restoration & Community Impact**

   Expand mangrove and seagrass restoration while strengthening biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions across coastal communities.

2. **Empowering the Next Generation of Ocean Leaders**

   Equipping young people with skills in innovation, aquapreneurship, leadership, and sustainable blue economy development.

3. **Strengthening Partnerships & Advocacy**

   Strengthen strategic partnerships, increase policy engagement, and amplify youth voices in global ocean discussions.

4. **Building Tanzania's Largest Youth Ocean Network**

   Becoming the largest youth and coastal community network dedicated to ocean restoration and marine conservation.

5. **Join Us in Restoring Our Ocean**

   SOA Tanzania invites partners, funders, and ocean advocates to join this transformative journey through funding, collaboration, and collective action.

THE DREAM TEAM



Ailars David
Founder



Benjamin Bitta
Co-founder



Paul Matonya
General Secretary



Herberth George
Communications



Shadya Ngirini
Director



Nasra Nurdini
Finance

THE DREAM TEAM



Elidaima Jackson
Partnerships Manager



Erick Mjwahuzi
Fundraising Manager



Divan Joseph
Campaigns Manager



Amrani Nurdin
Blue Economy



Yusssuf Isa
Project Officer



Livinus Renatus
Fundraising Manager

OUR BOARD MEMBERS



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IOC UNESCO



Mrinalini Venkatachalam
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Maria Pentzel
Marine Parks



Dr.Liberatus Lyimo
lecturer

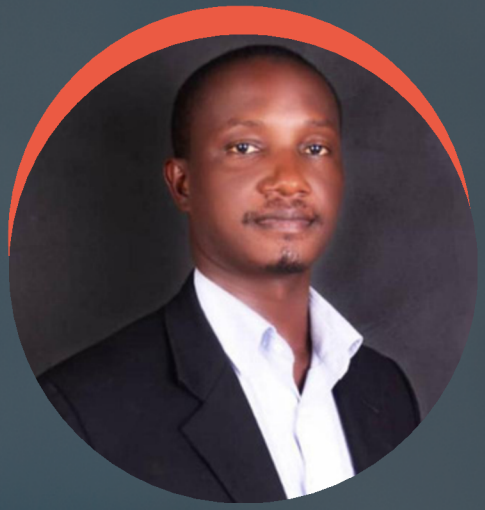
OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Dr.Bahati Mayoma
Lecturer



Dr.Yussuf Salum
Lecturer



Edward Senkondo
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Nikos Therapos
Founder DoTank Plus



Mr. Godfrey
Christopher
Lecturer

Our Funders & Partners

We couldn't have done it without your generous support

































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IUCN

GBW Great Blue Wall

Archer, Evrand & Sigurdsson

Global EverGreening Alliance

YOUTH 4 MPAS
KEEPING IT BLUE

MTI INVESTMENT

TON TO TON
Community & Environment

Acla



High Seas Alliance

takt

MBRC
THE OCEAN

WILDTRUST™

2021 2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

RISE UP
a blue call to action

acqua mater

WIOMSA
Coasts Ocean and People
WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



ASANTE SANA!

THANK YOU!

MERCI!

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