

# OCEAN IN THE HANDS OF TANZANIAN YOUTH



**Our Ocean Magazine / Volume 1**

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# THE STATE OF OUR OCEAN AND TANZANIAN YOUTH POSITION



Tanzania, a nation adorned with diverse marine ecosystems, is grappling with formidable challenges that demand unified efforts. Our youth, recognizing the critical role they play, have spearheaded projects aimed at addressing these challenges, making significant contributions to ocean conservation and sustainable development.

Among the pressing issues affecting our Tanzanian ocean is the pervasive pollution, with more than 43,000 tons of plastic waste generated in Dar es Salaam alone. This waste finds its way into our ocean, rivers, and lakes, posing a severe threat to marine life. Additionally, the rampant deforestation of mangroves for timber and firewood has been a major contributor to the degradation of these vital ecosystems.

In Tanzania, where over 3 million people rely on the ocean for their livelihoods, the declining productivity of our ocean is alarming. Overfishing and Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing practices, such as blast fishing, further exacerbate the challenges. The ocean, a source of sustenance for many, is in peril.

The youth of Tanzania echo a poignant saying: "We didn't inherit this planet from our ancestors;

we borrowed it from our children." It is a clarion call for urgent action. Species like the seacow, absent from Tanzanian waters for over a decade, emphasize the critical need for change.

Tanzanian youth are rallying for joint action from the government, private sectors, stakeholders, and all citizens to prioritize our ocean. It's time to move beyond words and take concrete actions. We advocate for the establishment of more Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the implementation of restoration projects to revive lost ocean ecosystems.

Incorporating ocean literacy into school curriculums is essential for increasing awareness in our communities. Protection of the high seas, fostering a sustainable blue economy, and robust policy frameworks are paramount. Marine spatial planning is crucial for safeguarding our ocean.

Tanzanian youth resoundingly say YES for our ocean. We invite everyone to join hands with us in the collective endeavor to stand for our ocean, ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for generations to come.

# ABOUT SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE

Founded in 2014 by Daniela Fernandez, a member of the World Economic Forum Friends of Ocean Action and recognized in the 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) stands as a global catalyst for youth-led ocean initiatives. In Tanzania, SOA has taken proactive steps by establishing hubs to empower local youth and coastal communities, fostering sustainable practices and driving initiatives dedicated to ocean conservation.

SOA is dedicated to activating young people, developing and implementing innovative solutions, and mobilizing a dynamic ocean workforce to restore the health of our oceans within our lifetime. With a mission to address the greatest threats facing our planet, SOA has successfully built the world's largest network of young ocean leaders. Through unwavering support for innovative startups, nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns, SOA is at the forefront of creating meaningful change for the benefit of our oceans and the planet.

Visit SOA website to learn more here:  
[www.soalliance.org](http://www.soalliance.org)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty for His blessings, guidance, and the opportunity to contribute to the preservation and sustainability of our oceanic treasures.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) for their unwavering support and invaluable contribution to the youth-driven projects featured in this magazine. SOA's commitment to nurturing a generation of ocean ambassadors in Tanzania has been instrumental in driving positive change.

A special acknowledgment goes to the entire SOA Tanzania staff team for their dedicated time and unwavering commitment in preparing and bringing this magazine to fruition. Your collective effort has made a significant impact, and we are truly thankful for your hard work.

Our sincere thanks extend to our members and ocean leaders who have been pivotal in the success of these projects. Your collaboration and shared dedication to ocean conservation have been inspiring.

We express our gratitude to our mentors for providing guidance and sharing their invaluable experience, which has been instrumental in shaping the initiatives highlighted in this magazine.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the youth who contributed their project information for this magazine. Your passion, innovation, and commitment to ocean conservation are commendable, and we are honored to feature your impactful work.



# SOA HUBS IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

## 1. SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE TANZANIA

Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania (SOA Tanzania) stands as a youth-led non-governmental organization, officially registered under the NGO Act No. 24 of 2002 of the United Republic of Tanzania. As an official hub of the international NGO, Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), our mission is dedicated to empowering the youth and local coastal communities in Tanzania through ocean conservation and sustainable blue economic practices. Established in 2020, SOA Tanzania currently boasts a membership of over 246 youths and local coastal community participants, actively engaged in projects aimed at restoring the health and sustainability of our ocean.

Our organization targets the ambitious goal of becoming the largest youth network in Tanzania, striving to empower the youth and local coastal communities to proactively contribute to the restoration of our ocean. With a focus on innovative solutions, SOA Tanzania has undertaken initiatives such as the successful planting of 18,500 mangroves, symbolizing our commitment to creating a healthy and sustainable ocean for both the present and future generations.

**Vision:** To emerge as a leading ocean activist group, offering innovative solutions to encourage the sustainable use of marine natural resources in the coastal water bodies of Tanzania.

Visit our website to learn more:  
[www.soatanzania.or.tz](http://www.soatanzania.or.tz)



## 2. SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE ZANZIBAR



**Sustainable Ocean Alliance Zanzibar operates in close collaboration with the youth in Zanzibar, spearheading significant changes in ocean conservation and the well-being of marine organisms. Our commitment is rooted in ensuring that the resources of the ocean benefit both the current and future generations.**

**Vision: Our vision is to become the ocean ambassador that catalyzes transformative changes in the Zanzibar ocean, promoting sustainable use of marine natural resources in the region.**

**Mission: We are dedicated to empowering the youth of Zanzibar, fostering ocean conservation efforts for**

**the benefit of the present and future generations.**

**In the year 2022-2023, SOA Zanzibar actively engaged in various initiatives, including the successful planting of 1,000 mangrove seedlings along the beaches of Unguja Ukuu. Additionally, we participated in a beach cleanup at Lumumba school near Kinazini beach.**

**Following the cleanup, a brand audit was conducted, identifying top-polluting companies responsible for excessive plastic waste ending up in the ocean. These efforts underscore our commitment to tangible actions in preserving Zanzibar's oceanic ecosystem.**

## 1. COMMUNITY APPROACH TO FISHERIES RESILIENCE

By Olivia Kombe

In the coastal village of Kunduchi, Tanzania, where the challenges of climate change, overfishing, and unsustainable practices weigh heavily on small-scale fisheries, a beacon of hope is emerging. Olivia Kombe, at the helm of the "Community Approach to Fisheries Resilience" project, is steering a transformative journey toward sustainability and resilience.

### Milestones Achieved:

With invaluable support from the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), Olivia's project has achieved remarkable milestones. Sustainable fishing practices have been adopted, awareness has increased, and the community has enhanced its resilience to climate change impacts. Beyond these tangible outcomes, the project has instilled a profound sense of responsibility within the Kunduchi fishing community.

### Addressing Ocean Challenges:

Olivia's project plays a pivotal role in mitigating pressing ocean problems. Through community involvement, sustainable practices, and awareness campaigns, it contributes to the overall health of the oceans. The ripple effect is evident as the community adopts sustainable practices and becomes more aware of the importance of ocean health. This knowledge and commitment spread to neighboring areas, showcasing how local initiatives can have a broader positive impact on the marine ecosystem.

### Project Overview:

Olivia Kombe, as the leader of the project, brings a dedicated vision to address the multifaceted challenges faced by small-scale fisheries. The project focuses on raising awareness, educating the Kunduchi fishing community, and implementing sustainable practices to enhance resilience to climate change impacts. With a community-based approach, Olivia aims to ensure the long-term health of both the ocean and the local fishery industry.

### Community Engagement:

Central to the project's success is the active engagement of the Kunduchi community. Through collaborative efforts, community members have played a crucial role in shaping and implementing solutions tailored to their specific needs. This approach ensures ownership and a deep sense of responsibility among the residents, extending beyond safeguarding the environment to ensuring the well-being and food security of the entire community.

### SOA Support:

Being a grantee of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) has been a transformative experience for Olivia Kombe. The 1:1 mentorship provided by SOA has not only sharpened her skills but has also offered valuable insights into navigating the complex challenges of promoting sustainable fisheries in the face of climate change. The fellowship on leadership for climate-resilient fisheries has empowered Olivia with the knowledge and tools to lead initiatives that make a tangible impact on ocean conservation.



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## The Power of Collective Efforts:

Olivia emphasizes that collective efforts drive positive change. As a young leader, she believes in the immense power to shape the future of oceans. The call is for inspiration, collaboration, and a shared commitment to sustainable solutions. Together, Olivia and her fellow young leaders believe they can create a lasting impact on their communities and the health of the oceans.

In the unfolding story of fisheries resilience in Kunduchi, Olivia Kombe's leadership stands as a testament to the transformative power of community-driven initiatives. With SOA's support and the active engagement of the Kunduchi community, Olivia's project not only addresses local challenges but also becomes a beacon of inspiration for broader positive change in marine ecosystems. As the waves of change continue to ripple, Olivia's project exemplifies the potential for a sustainable and resilient future for both local communities and the oceans they depend on.



## 2. GRASS UNDERWATER PROJECT

By Ailars David

### Introduction:

Diving into the depths of Tanzania's coastal waters, Ailars David, a marine scientist and scuba diver, has embarked on a mission to save a critical yet overlooked marine ecosystem – seagrass meadows. In collaboration with the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) and working with SOA Tanzania, Ailars leads the GRASS UNDERWATER PROJECT, a visionary initiative aimed at raising awareness, conducting vital research, and actively conserving seagrass habitats.

### The GRASS UNDERWATER Project:

Ailars David's initiative seeks to transform the narrative surrounding seagrass, making it a familiar habitat to all. With the support of SOA, the project addresses the urgent need for awareness, monitoring, conservation, and restoration. By adopting seagrass meadows for monitoring and restoration efforts, the project is taking tangible steps to ensure the survival of this vital marine ecosystem.

### Ailars David's Vision:

As the founder and hub leader of Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania, Ailars envisions a future where seagrass meadows are no longer overlooked but cherished for their ecological importance. With SOA's unwavering support, Ailars and his team are sowing the seeds of change, working tirelessly to conserve and restore seagrass habitats along Tanzania's coast.

Ailars David's Seagrass Conservation Initiative, powered by SOA's support, stands as a beacon of hope for the underwater meadows that silently

### The Seagrass Crisis:

More than half of the world's seagrass cover has vanished since 1977, primarily due to human activities such as pollution, coastal developments, and boat anchoring. Unbeknownst to many, seagrass meadows play a pivotal role in marine ecosystems, providing essential habitat and sustenance for numerous species, including endangered ones like sea cows and sea turtles.

### SOA's Crucial Support:

In 2022, with backing from SOA, the GRASS UNDERWATER PROJECT commenced its journey by adopting seagrass meadows in Tanzania for monitoring. Building on this momentum, the project expanded its impact in 2023 by adopting a substantial 0.5 square kilometers of seagrass meadows in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The involvement of youth and local coastal communities is key to the project's success, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for the marine environment.

contribute to the health of our oceans. Through awareness, research, and hands-on conservation efforts, this project exemplifies the transformative impact that dedicated individuals can make in safeguarding our marine ecosystems.



# 3. Coral reef restoration project

By Nancy Iraba

## Introduction:

In the vibrant underwater realm off Tanzania's coast, Nancy Iraba, the SOA grant project lead at Aqua-Farms Organization (AFO), is pioneering a groundbreaking initiative to revive the ailing Buyuni Reef. Teaming up with her colleague Jerry Geoffrey Mang'ena and armed with expertise gained from The Nature Conservancy's Reef Resilience Network and NOAA, Nancy stands as Tanzania's first marine scientist divermaster spearheading coral restoration efforts.

## A Community-Based Approach:

AFO, fueled by support from the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), is employing a community-based strategy to breathe life back into Buyuni Reef. With a focus on the locally managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) designated in early 2022, Nancy Iraba is leading efforts to replant 1,000 coral fragments across 400 square meters of the reef. The ambitious goal is to restore an expansive 1 square kilometer of reef by 2030, safeguarding its future for both marine life and the communities dependent on its health.

## The Challenge:

Buyuni Reef, a vital habitat serving as a nursery and breeding ground for vulnerable fish species, has faced severe setbacks due to climate change and harmful fishing practices. The reef's degradation not only threatens diverse coral species but also undermines its economic and ecological significance.

## SOA's Support:

The SOA grant has proven instrumental in propelling Nancy Iraba and AFO toward their mission. By fostering a community-driven approach, this initiative not only aims to revive a precious marine ecosystem but also stands as a beacon of hope for sustainable coral reef management practices.

Nancy Iraba's leadership in the Coral Reef Restoration project exemplifies the vital role young and passionate individuals play in safeguarding our oceans. With a vision that extends beyond immediate restoration goals, Nancy and her team are sowing the seeds for a thriving Buyuni Reef, where biodiversity flourishes, and communities thrive in harmony with their marine environment.



## 4. HOLISTIC MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT

BY SALIM AND GUMBO

In the serene villages of Stahabu, Kipumbwi, and Sange in Pangani District, Tanzania, a quiet revolution is taking place, one rooted in the soil of mangrove conservation and restoration. Guided by the hands of Ambakofi Organization, our project, a Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) initiative, has not only planted trees but sowed the seeds of sustainable change within the fishing community.

### Training the Guardians of the Mangroves:

In Stahabu, Kipumbwi, and Sange villages, 75 small-scale fishers became the custodians of our mangrove restoration project. With SOA support, we conducted hands-on training sessions in CBEMR techniques. This was not just about planting saplings; it was about cultivating a sense of responsibility among the guardians of our coastal ecosystem.

### Mangroves: Guardians of the Ocean:

Our project isn't just about trees; it's about safeguarding the lifeline of our oceans. Mangroves, deeply connected to the ocean, play a pivotal role in maintaining the health of marine ecosystems. From bringing essential nutrients to filtering waste that could harm the ocean, mangroves are the unsung heroes of our coastal regions.

In a short span, our project achieved a monumental feat - the collection of more than 3 tons of solid waste along the mangrove and shoreline. This showcases the interconnectedness of mangroves and waste management, proving that our efforts extend beyond tree planting.

### Project Overview:

Our mission was clear: to build the capacity of 75 small-scale fishers in mangrove restoration projects. With the unwavering support of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), we embarked on a journey to train our community in CBEMR techniques, fostering a connection with nature that goes beyond planting trees.

### Nature's Solution to Restoration:

The CBEMR solution stands as a testament to the power of natural regeneration. Unlike traditional planting methods that often incur high costs and see saplings wither away, our approach was both pragmatic and sustainable. By supporting natural regeneration, we ensured a more robust and flourishing mangrove ecosystem.

### The SOAlliance Connection and support:

Being part of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance has been a catalyst for change. It's not just about financial support; it's about building a network with fellow youth leaders who share a passion for ocean conservation. The collaborative spirit fostered by SOA amplifies the impact of our individual projects, creating a ripple effect of positive change.



# A Call to Action:



**Our project isn't just about restoring mangroves; it's a call to action for communities worldwide. The CBEMR solution is a desirable approach for restoration projects everywhere, emphasizing the importance of natural regeneration. As guardians of our coastal ecosystems, it is our collective responsibility to ensure the health and resilience of mangroves.**



# 5. SUSTAINING THE ROOTS: A MANGROVE REFORESTATION PROJECT IN ZANZIBAR

By Rashid Said Ali

In the heart of the Southern region of Zanzibar lies a community-driven initiative, a pledge to nature, and a promise for a sustainable future. As the project leader for this endeavor, my vision is to plant 1,000 mangrove seedlings in the Unguja-ukuu community, fostering collaboration between local government, community members, and nature enthusiasts. With over 5 years of experience working on various mangrove projects in Zanzibar, I am honored to spearhead this impactful venture.

## Collaborative Planting for a Sustainable Tomorrow:

Collaboration is at the core of our mission. Together with the local government and community members, we will actively engage in the planting process. This isn't just about putting seedlings in the ground; it's about fostering a sense of connection and responsibility among those who call this coastal area home.

## A Multi-Faceted Approach for Long-Term Impact:

Our project goes beyond tree planting. The knowledge and skills acquired during training will not only contribute to mangrove forest protection but will also sustain the livelihoods of community members. We envision various income-generating activities, with a particular focus on beekeeping projects that thrive in the presence of flourishing forests.

## Project Overview:

The objective is clear – to ensure the long-term sustainability of the mangrove forest. Through a comprehensive plan that involves planting, monitoring, and maintaining these precious ecosystems, we are striving for a harmonious coexistence between the coastal community and the mangrove forests.

## Educating for a Sustainable Future:

Central to our project is the education of the coastal community about the significance of mangrove reforestation. By imparting knowledge and skills during training sessions, we empower community members to actively participate in the project's implementation. This isn't a one-time event but a commitment to enhancing forest conservation practices in their daily lives.

## Community-Led Protection Initiatives:

The community's involvement goes beyond the planting phase. Volunteers will actively oversee mangrove forest protection, understanding that the benefits they reap extend beyond environmental conservation. The ripple effect includes the safeguarding of neighboring tree species and the resolution of challenges related to forest resources conservation and livelihoods.

# PARTICIPATORY LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS:

Our commitment to sustainability is reinforced through participatory learning. By actively involving participants in resolving community challenges, we ensure that the change in attitude and practice becomes ingrained in their daily lives. This transformative journey is a key factor in achieving long-term sustainability.

As we embark on this journey, I am not just a project leader; I am a steward of nature, a facilitator of positive change, and a believer in the enduring power of community-driven initiatives. With the support of the community, local government, and the Sustainable Ocean Alliance, this project isn't just about planting trees; it's about fostering a legacy of sustainability that will benefit generations to come. Together, let's sustain the roots for a greener, healthier, and more resilient Zanzibar.



## 6. OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP PROGRAM

By SOA Tanzania

### Introduction:

Our Ocean Bootcamp 2023, a beacon of transformative capacity-building, unfolded against the scenic backdrop of Bagamoyo, Tanzania. This impactful program, initiated in 2021, has grown into a dynamic movement aimed at nurturing the next generation of ocean leaders. Let's delve into the highlights of this remarkable journey.

### Empowering the Fellows:

At the heart of the boot camp was a commitment to equip fellows with essential tools to become effective ocean leaders. The curriculum focused on ocean conservation, project development, and monitoring, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of challenges and opportunities in marine conservation.

### A Vision for the Future:

Returning from the field, fellows brought not only newfound knowledge but also a profound sense of responsibility and connection to our oceans. Our Ocean Bootcamp 2023 has sown the seeds for a future where these young leaders will play pivotal roles in driving sustainable practices and advocating for the health of our oceans.

### Origins and Evolution:

Launched in 2021 at the University of Dodoma, Our Ocean Bootcamp evolved with a successful second cohort in 2022 at the University of Dar es Salaam. In 2023, the program reached new heights, attracting an overwhelming response of 154 applicants. Out of this pool, 30 outstanding individuals were selected as fellows for the third cohort.

### Hands-On Conservation Efforts:

Taking a practical turn, the program transported fellows to a mangrove site in Bagamoyo on November 25, 2023. Alongside dedicated staff and the local community, they actively contributed to preserving coastal ecosystems by planting 1,000 mangroves. This hands-on experience fostered a deeper connection to marine conservation and showcased the tangible impact of collective efforts.

### Appreciation to Sustainable Ocean Alliance:

We extend heartfelt appreciation to the Sustainable Ocean Alliance for their unwavering support, making Our Ocean Bootcamp 2023 a reality. Their commitment to funding this program has been instrumental in providing young leaders with the resources and opportunities needed to make a lasting impact in marine conservation.





# TANZANIAN YOUTH IN GLOBAL CONFERENCES

## 1. TANZANIA YOUTH DELEGATION AT COP 27 EGYPT AND COP 28, DUBAI-UAE

*By Ailars David*

### Introduction:

Ailars David, the founder and hub leader of Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania, shares profound reflections on his experiences at both COP27 and COP28, powered by the support of Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA). His journey through these pivotal climate conferences reveals a tapestry of challenges, triumphs, and a thirst for meaningful climate actions.

### Thirst for Climate Justice and Youth Involvement at COP27:

A profound thirst for climate justice, youth involvement, and sustainable practices permeates Ailars David's reflections on COP27. Focusing on the Loss and Damage agenda, he emphasizes proactive measures to prevent damages caused by climate change. However, he advocates for prioritizing solutions, mitigations, and adaptations to combat climate change. Disappointment surfaces at the limited platform for African youth in decision-making rooms, underlining the need for increased representation.

### COP27: Historic Agreements and Challenges:

Ailars David begins by acknowledging the historical decisions made at COP27, such as the establishment of new funding arrangements for vulnerable developing countries after a 30-year delay. While celebrating the promises made, he stresses the importance of translating commitments into tangible actions. The unique inclusion of an Ocean Pavilion energized him, yet concerns arose over major plastic polluters' sponsorship, adding a layer of skepticism among climate activists.

### COP28: Triumphs and Transformative Agreements:

Transitioning to COP28, Ailars David marvels at the transformative agreements and initiatives that marked a turning point in the global fight against climate change. Nearly 200 countries came together to forge a groundbreaking shift away from fossil fuels, emphasizing renewable energy targets and a significant investment in the Loss and Damage Fund. COP28 underscored the global community's dedication to actionable initiatives for a sustainable future.



## 2. TANZANIAN YOUTH DELEGATION AT UN OCEAN CONFERENCE 2022 AND YOUTH AND INNOVATION

By Frank, Nancy and Ailars

In a gathering of over a hundred global youth delegates from June 24-26, 2022, the UN Ocean Conference Youth and Innovation Forum became a nexus for passionate individuals united by a common cause—protecting the ocean. This unique event unfolded at the Nova School of Business & Economics in Cascais, Portugal, with a collective aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14), aligning with the conference theme of scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation.

### Youth-Driven Innovation:

The forum's Innovation empowered teams to collaboratively devise and propose innovative ocean solutions. From seminars and workshops to panel discussions, all events were live-streamed, ensuring global participation in the discourse surrounding ocean protection. The closing plenary, featuring high-level speakers and VIPs, marked the culmination of this transformative experience.

### Empowered by Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA):

Three outstanding youth leaders represented Tanzania at the conference: Mr. Frank Mirobo (hub leader for SOA ZANZIBAR), Ms. Nancy Iraba (Ocean leader), and Ailars David (hub leader for SOA TANZANIA). Their presence was made possible through the unwavering support of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA).

### Impactful Reflections:

Nancy Iraba expressed her astonishment, stating, "I had never once thought I could ever attend such a conference for the ocean and also be given a seat in the same panel discussion, speaking with people like Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General."

Frank Mirobo emphasized the profound connections made during the event, noting, "I made connections that I had never had before and was so inspiring to learn and share experiences on ocean works; this helps and energizes to know we are not alone."

Ailars David conveyed his gratitude, saying, "I am touched beyond words with how SOA functions to help youth get a seat to attend important meetings like the UN ocean conference. To me, this is a life-changing opportunity to connect and work together with other people across nations."

### A Life-Changing Opportunity:

The Tanzanian youth delegation, supported by SOA, left the forum equipped with knowledge, tools, and inspiration to advance their commitment to ocean conservation. The experience not only facilitated personal and professional growth but also brought critical attention to the

indispensable role of the ocean in combating climate change.



# 3. OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE 2023 IN PANAMA

*By Edwin Superius*

In one word, attending the Our Ocean Conference in Panama was nothing short of "inspirational." This global event marked a pivotal moment in my journey as a young advocate for ocean conservation, providing an unparalleled platform to address pressing issues and connect with like-minded individuals.

## Learnings, Gains, and Achievements:

The Our Ocean Conference equipped me with knowledge, skills, and connections that have transformed me into a more informed and empowered advocate. The educational opportunities, including informative sessions and side events, enriched my understanding of marine issues, innovative solutions, and individual roles in driving positive change.

In a remarkable turn of events, our Sustainable Blue Economy group, during the Youth Leadership Summit, participated in the Ocean Solution Sprint and emerged as winners. Our Sustainable Blue Economy business idea received the prestigious Ocean Solution Sprint winner award. This recognition is not just a personal achievement but a testament to the potential of innovative, natural-based solutions in advancing the Blue Economy, particularly in Tanzania.

## The Significance of the Our Ocean Conference:

The conference was paramount for me as a young person, offering a global stage to tackle issues such as marine pollution, over-fishing, and climate change. It was an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to solutions crucial for the future of my generation. Beyond that, the event was a hub for networking, connecting me with professionals and fellow activists who share my passion for ocean conservation.

Participation in the conference became a catalyst for personal and professional growth. It opened avenues for collaboration and shared experiences, instilling in me a deep sense of responsibility for ocean stewardship. Witnessing the dedication of leaders and activists left an indelible mark, inspiring me to amplify my voice and advocate for sustainable practices.



# Key Takeaway and Inspirational Message:

The key takeaway from the Our Ocean Conference is the acknowledgment that our actions resonate across the oceanic web that binds us all. Under the theme 'Our Ocean, Our Connection,' we recognize that the health of the oceans reflects the health of our communities, economies, and shared future. As stewards of this connection, the young generation stands at the forefront of change. The knowledge gained from the .

Our Ocean Conference empowers me to be an ambassador for sustainable practices, a guardian of marine life, and an advocate for policies that protect our shared heritage.

In conclusion, the Our Ocean Conference was not just an event; it was a transformative experience that has shaped my commitment to ocean conservation. The waves of change initiated during the conference continue to guide my journey towards a more sustainable and interconnected world.





# SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE TANZANIA

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