



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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2024 impact year in summary

2024 has been a transformative year for SOA Tanzania, marked by impactful ocean conservation initiatives, community engagement, and youth empowerment. As a youth-led organization, we have continued our mission to restore marine ecosystems, promote a sustainable blue economy, and advocate for climate resilience in Tanzania's coastal communities.

One of our significant achievements was the expansion of our ocean restoration projects. We planted over 20,000 mangroves in Bagamoyo with the support of Salesforce and re:earthin, strengthening our commitment to coastal resilience. Additionally, we restored 0.5 square kilometers of seagrass meadows, contributing to marine biodiversity protection and carbon sequestration. Our 'Grass Underwater' project was officially endorsed as a UN Ocean Decade initiative and shortlisted for the prestigious IRIS Prize 2024, elevating our work to the global stage.

Our impact was also felt in global youth engagement as we commemorated International Youth Day with a live Instagram event, amplifying the voices of young ocean leaders. Furthermore, our Working Group structure was enhanced to improve efficiency, ensuring sustained progress in our conservation efforts.

As we reflect on 2024, we remain committed to driving ocean restoration, empowering communities, and advocating for policies that protect our marine ecosystems. Thank you to our partners, supporters, and dedicated youth champions for making this year a success. Together, we continue to make waves for a sustainable blue future.



Words from our Hub leader and Founder



Ailars David
Hub Leader
and Founder
SOA Tanzania

As we conclude another transformative year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the unwavering commitment and passion of our team, partners, and coastal communities. 2024 has been beyond amazing—a year where our collective actions have made a lasting impact on marine conservation and youth empowerment. Every mangrove planted, every young leader trained, and every voice raised for the ocean counts toward building a more sustainable world.

Your unwavering commitment has enabled us to empower and inspire a growing community of over **695** young ocean professionals in Tanzania. Together, we are creating waves of positive impact for our oceans, our climate, and our future.

On behalf of the entire SOA Tanzania family, thank you for believing in the power of youth to lead change. 🌊❤️

SOA Tanzania stands stronger than ever in its mission, and the momentum we have gained this year inspires us to forge ahead with even greater ambition in 2025. Together, we are shaping a future where our ocean thrives, and our communities flourish.

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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.



2024 IN NUMBERS

42,500

MANGROVES PLANTED

through our Mikoko yetu project we have directly planted mangrove seedlings in our adopted mangrove area.

695

YOUNG OCEAN LEADERS

Our ocean community of young ocean professionals has grown to 695 ocean leaders.

4,621 HA

MANGROVE AREA

we have adopted this mangrove area for conservation, protection and restoration

50

BLUE JOBS CREATED

50 youth and local coastal communities empowered through sustainable blue economy and innovations

130

OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP

130 young people trained through our ocean bootcamp program

57,000KG

WASTE REMOVED FROM THE OCEAN

57,000Kg of waste removed during our ocean clean up events





01

MIKOKO YETU PROJECT

Introduction

The Mikoko Yetu Project, initiated in 2021, is a large-scale mangrove restoration and conservation initiative located in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. The project aims to restore degraded mangrove forests, enhance carbon sequestration, and support coastal community resilience through sustainable blue economy initiatives.

Ecological Restoration and Carbon Sequestration

The project has adopted **4,621 hectares** of mangrove forest for conservation and has successfully direct planted **42,500** mangrove seedlings to rehabilitate degraded areas. These efforts contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation, coastal protection, and carbon sequestration, mitigating the impacts of climate change and enhancing ecosystem services.

Community Involvement and Sustainable Livelihoods

The Mikoko Yetu Project actively engages local coastal communities in mangrove conservation by integrating voluntary carbon markets and promoting sustainable blue economy practices such as mangrove honey production and seaweed farming. A key component of this initiative is the empowerment of 20 local community members as Mangrove Guardians, who play a critical role in monitoring, protecting, and restoring mangrove ecosystems.

Collaborations and Governance

The project is implemented in close collaboration with Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) and Beach Management Units (BMUs) to ensure sustainable management, community involvement, and policy integration. This multi-stakeholder approach strengthens mangrove conservation efforts and enhances long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits for local communities.

Through its integrated approach to ecosystem restoration and community-driven conservation, the Mikoko Yetu Project serves as a model for sustainable mangrove management and a nature-based solution to climate change and coastal degradation.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



2024 Mangrove actions:

click this link HERE to watch a mangrove planting video: https://youtu.be/crU0_bH4cDU



02

GRASS UNDERWATER PROJECT



THE GRASS UNDERWATER PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

More than half of the seagrass cover in the ocean has been lost since 1977. This is due to numerous anthropogenic pressures that threaten the existence of seagrass beds. Most findings report that pollution, coastal developments and boat anchoring have for decades been the major cause of seagrass loss in many areas including the Indian Ocean. Seagrass are one of the most overlooked marine ecosystems, worse enough is that local coastal communities are not even aware of the roles and importance of seagrass and on how to conserve seagrass. The UNEP reports that globally 7% of the seagrass cover is lost every year equivalent to a football field of seagrass cover lost every 30 minutes. There is a possibility of losing seagrass beds completely in the next 10 years if no actions are taken.

KEY OBJECTIVE

THE GRASS UNDERWATER PROJECT has a goal to make seagrass a familiar habitat to everyone so as it's no longer overlooked but given the spotlight it deserves through raising awareness to the community, performing seagrass bed monitoring, research, conservation, protection and restoration also it will aid to protection of Tanzania Marine endangered spp like sea cow and sea turtles whose existence greatly depends on seagrass for food and shelter.

UN OCEAN DECADE ENDORSEMENT

In 2024 the Grass Underwater project got officially endorsed as UN Ocean Decade Project, a contribution to achieving the science we need for the future we want for our ocean

Learn more here: [CLICK HERE](#)

Blog feature post: [CLICK HERE](#)

PROJECT PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development





03

KIJANA NA MWANI PROJECT

Introduction

The Kijana na Mwani Project is an initiative by SOA Tanzania aimed at empowering youth and coastal communities through sustainable seaweed farming and value addition. This project is part of SOA Tanzania's broader mission to empower youth, promote the blue economy, enhance ocean conservation, and improve the livelihoods of marginalized coastal communities. Implemented in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, the project has provided skills, resources, and support to young people and women, enabling them to engage in seaweed farming as a source of income while contributing to marine ecosystem restoration.

Why seaweed.

Seaweed farming is a highly sustainable and eco-friendly economic activity that offers numerous benefits. It is an important livelihood for coastal communities, particularly women, as it requires minimal investment, grows quickly, and provides a reliable source of income. Additionally, seaweed farming plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, improving water quality, and providing habitat for marine life. Recognizing these benefits, SOA Tanzania initiated the Kijana na Mwani Project to introduce and expand seaweed farming among youth and local communities, promoting economic resilience and environmental conservation.

Youth and coastal community empowerment

From July 18th to July 21st, 2024, **30 participants, including 20 youth and 10 women from local coastal communities**, gathered in Bagamoyo for an intensive training program. This training was led by **Mr. Godfrey Christopher**, an expert from the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA-MBEGANI), with over 14 years of experience in seaweed farming, climate change science, and coastal resource management. Participants received hands-on training on seaweed cultivation, harvesting, processing, and market access. The training included practical sessions on value addition, where participants learned to make various seaweed-based products, including **seaweed soap, organic fertilizers, seaweed-based cosmetics, and nutritious food supplements**. By equipping them with technical skills and business knowledge, the project enabled them to generate sustainable incomes while preserving marine biodiversity. Additionally, the project conducted awareness campaigns on the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable blue economy practices, fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership among young people in coastal areas.

PROJECT FUNDER



KIJANA NA MWANI PROJECT PHOTOS

click this link to learn more about the Project: [KIJANA NA MWANI RECAP BLOG](#)



04 OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP





4TH COHORT OF OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP 2024

The 4th Cohort of Our Ocean Bootcamp 2024, organized by SOA Tanzania, was an impactful initiative aimed at equipping young Tanzanians with the knowledge, skills, and tools to become ocean and climate leaders. Held from **23rd to 29th September 2024**, the Bootcamp combined virtual sessions, an in-person workshop, and an ocean action event to create a transformative experience for participants.

Supported by Africa Europe Foundation, The Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMI Fund), and The Social Change Nest (SCN), the program trained 50 youth from diverse backgrounds, building on SOA Tanzania's legacy of empowering **a total of 130 young ocean leaders since 2021.**

The Bootcamp addressed critical topics such as ocean conservation, climate advocacy, and community action. Participants engaged with experts and thought leaders, including Mr. Nikos Therapos, Mr. Patrick Arnold, Mr. Forbi Nyosai, Ms. Hellen Kuria, Ms. Jasmin Kapwani, Ailars David, Mr. Brandon Levy, Ms. Simone Phore and Mr. Mark Haver. Sessions focused on key global issues like deep seabed mining, climate justice, and the high seas treaty, preparing participants to lead three thematic campaign working groups within SOA Tanzania. During the Bootcamp fellows also gave their inputs and reflections on the **2024 State of African Europe report.**

The program concluded with a practical ocean action event in Bagamoyo, where participants contributed to mangrove restoration efforts by planting trees, symbolizing their commitment to ocean health and sustainability.

This Bootcamp has reinforced SOA Tanzania's mission to build a resilient community of ocean leaders and advocates, setting the foundation for lasting environmental and societal impact.

OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP 2024 IMPACT IN NUMBERS

The 2024 Ocean Bootcamp focuses on measurable outcomes to demonstrate its impact in empowering Tanzanian youth and advancing ocean conservation. Key impact metrics include training 50 participants as ocean leaders, forming three campaign groups dedicated to critical issues like deep seabed mining, climate justice, and the high seas treaty. The program also tracks community engagement by measuring the number of people reached through awareness campaigns and restoration activities led by participants. Restoration efforts are quantified through the number of mangrove trees planted during the ocean action event, while skill development is assessed through pre- and post-Bootcamp surveys to measure improvements in participants' knowledge, leadership, and advocacy abilities. These metrics ensure the program's effectiveness in creating lasting change for Tanzania's marine ecosystems and coastal communities.



**50
YOUTH
TRAINED**



**3
CAMPAIGNS
DEVELOPED**



**1500+ PEOPLE
REACHED ACROSS
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA**



**20,000
MANGROVES
PLANTED**



THANKS TO OUR 2024 OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP SPEAKERS AND TRAINERS



Simone Phore
Program Executive for Climate and
Development Africa Europe
Foundation



Brandon Levy
Head of Global Engagement
SOA Global



Hellen Kuria
African Regional Rep for High
Seas Alliance



Mark Haver
SOA North America Regional
Rep



Forbi Perise
SOA African Regional Rep



Patrick Arnorld
Founder 10 Billion Strong



Nikos Therapos
Founder DoTank Plus



Jasmine Kavenuke
Founder Mojafam Organization



Sisay Lukas
Hub Leader SOA Ethiopia

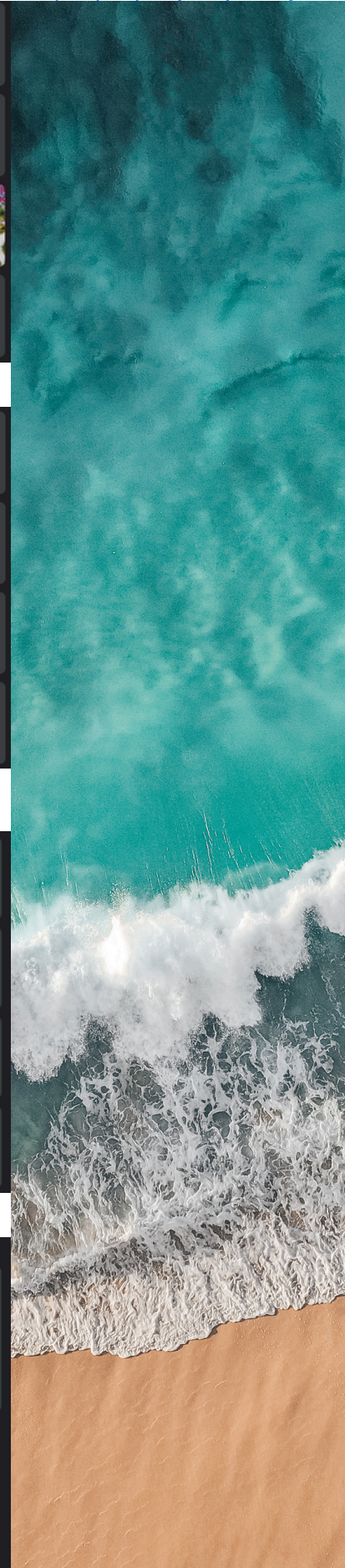
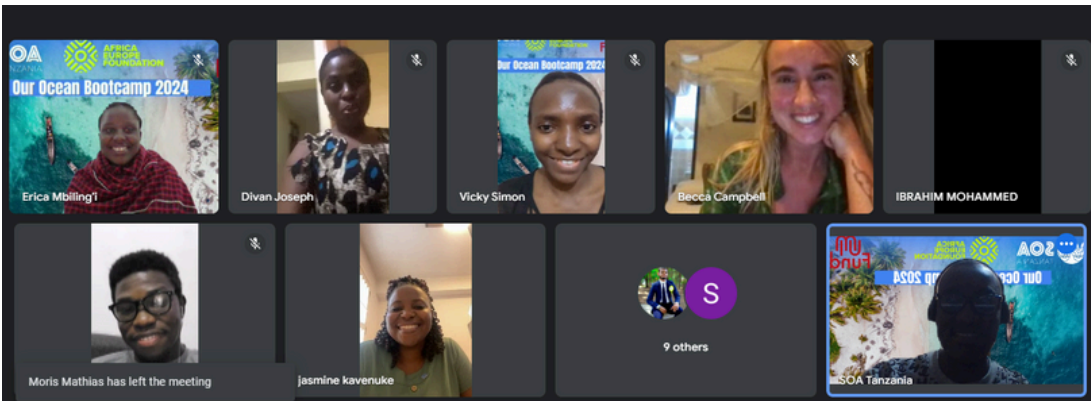
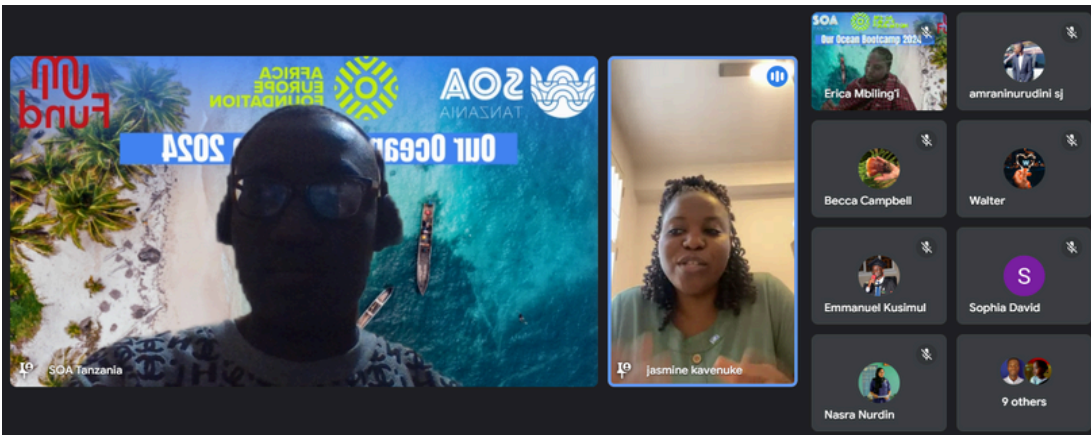
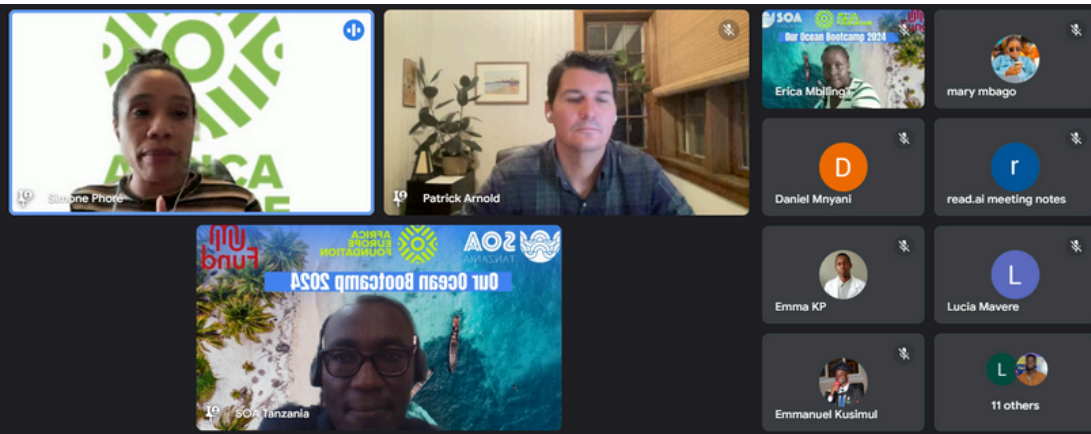
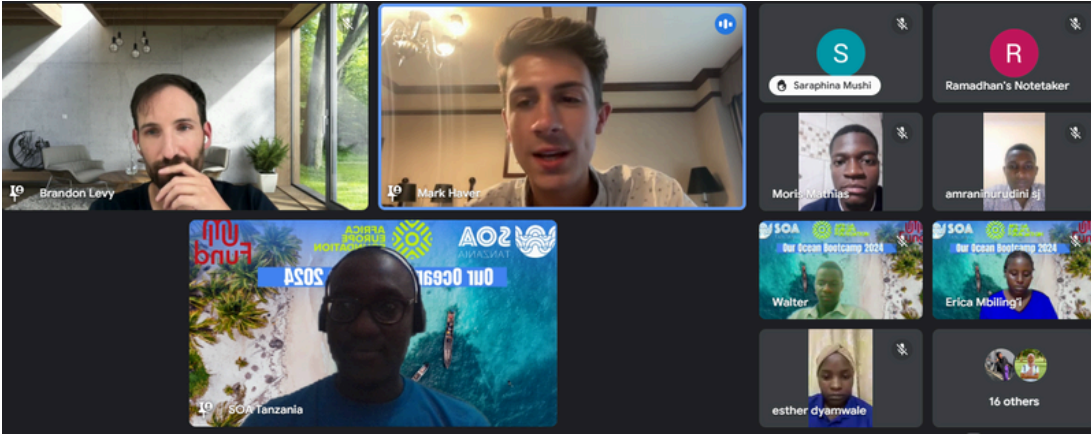
OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP 2024 WAS FUNDED BY:



OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP 2024 PATNERS:



ONLINE SESSIONS PHOTO GALLERY



IN PERSON SESSIONS PHOTO GALLERY



OCEAN ACTION DAY PHOTO GALLERY

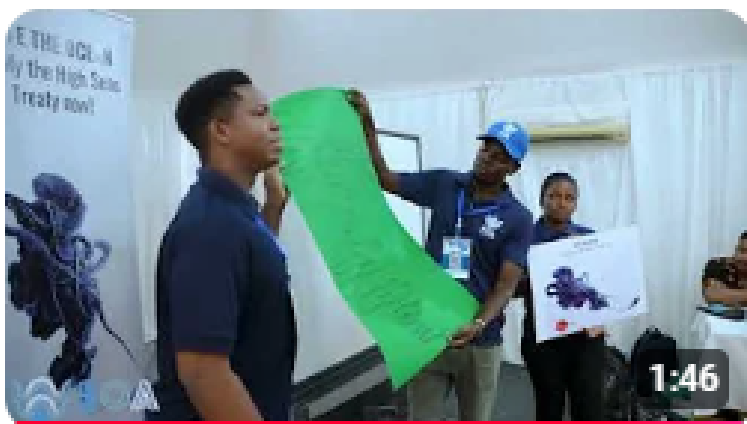


PROJECT VIDEOS AND TESTIMONIALS

Kindly click on the image of each video below to watch them...!



4th cohort of Our Ocean Bootcamp 2024



Our Ocean Bootcamp 2024 Feedbacks from Patners



Mangrove Restoration



Our Ocean Bootcamp 2024 ..!



Climate Justice Campaign



High Seas Treaty Campaign Video



Deep seabed mining campaign..!

CBC-MSR 2024

海上丝路国家滨海蓝碳生态系统碳封存潜力评估与能力建设

International Training Workshop on the Carbon Sequestration Estimation and Capacity Building of Coastal Blue Carbon Ecosystems in Maritime Silk Road

2024年9月
September

中国·上海
Shanghai, China

单位 / Host: 中华人民共和国科学技术部国际合作司
Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology

指导单位 / Guider: 上海市科学技术委员会
Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality

协办单位 / Organizers: 上海师范大学
Shanghai Normal University

SKLEC
State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Science and Technology

05

CARBON SEQUESTRATION WORKSHOP

Introduction

From September 7 to 21, 2024, Livinus Renatus, SOA Tanzania's Fundraising Manager, participated in the International Training Workshop on the Carbon Sequestration Estimate and Capacity Building of Coastal Blue Carbon Ecosystems in Shanghai, China. The workshop, organized by the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, the Institute of Eco-Chongming at East China Normal University, and IMBeR IPO, brought together experts and researchers from 13 countries to enhance knowledge and technical skills in blue carbon conservation.

Workshop Objectives and Content

The training focused on the role of mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. It covered cutting-edge techniques in carbon estimation, sediment and pore water sampling, and coastal ecosystem restoration. Participants engaged in expert-led lectures, hands-on laboratory training, and field visits to coastal wetlands, salt marshes, and mudflats, gaining practical insights into blue carbon ecosystem management.

Key Learnings and Applications in Tanzania

Through this training, Livinus strengthened his expertise in blue carbon assessment techniques, which are crucial for SOA Tanzania's ongoing conservation projects. The skills acquired will enhance mangrove restoration and seagrass conservation initiatives, improving carbon sequestration monitoring and reporting. Additionally, the knowledge gained will be shared with Tanzanian youth and local coastal communities, empowering them to actively participate in climate action and blue economy opportunities.

Impact on SOA Tanzania's Conservation Efforts

This workshop has significantly contributed to SOA Tanzania's mission of advancing scientific research, community-driven conservation, and climate resilience. By applying the knowledge from this training, SOA Tanzania aims to strengthen policy advocacy, promote ecosystem-based approaches to conservation, and collaborate with global partners to enhance blue carbon restoration projects.

Acknowledgments

SOA Tanzania extends its gratitude to East China Normal University, the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, and the Chinese government (Ministry of Technology) for organizing this impactful training. We also appreciate the support of Sustainable Ocean Alliance Global, which made Livinus' participation possible. The insights gained from this workshop will help drive tangible conservation outcomes and promote sustainable ocean health in Tanzania.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUNDER



06

OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE



OUR

YOUTH LEADERS

GREECE



AN OCEAN OF POTENTIAL



OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2024

From April 15-17, 2024, Ailars David, SOA Tanzania's Hub Leader and Founder, represented Tanzania at the 9th Our Ocean Conference and the 7th Our Ocean Youth Leadership Summit (OOYLS) in Greece. This prestigious event, hosted by Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) in cooperation with Our Ocean Greece, brought together global leaders, scientists, and youth advocates to discuss marine conservation, climate change, and ocean sustainability.

Ailars actively participated in panel discussions, networking sessions, and high-level dialogues, emphasizing the role of youth in ocean governance and conservation. He joined 100 youth delegates worldwide in advocating for marine protected areas, high seas agreements, and ocean restoration efforts. His interactions with key ocean leaders, including Dr. Sylvia Earle, Dr. Rebecca Hubbard, and Markus Knigge, provided valuable insights into advancing conservation initiatives in Tanzania.

SOA Tanzania is committed to amplifying youth voices in marine conservation and urges Tanzanian youth to engage in such global initiatives. Ailars' participation has strengthened SOA Tanzania's network, advocacy strategies, and conservation impact, reinforcing our mission to protect and restore Tanzania's coastal ecosystems.



07

Voice up for the High Seas





HIGH SEAS ALLIANCE STRATEGIC PLAN MEETING 2024

In 2024, Ailars David attended the the High Seas Alliance meeting held in Kenya, where global leaders and ocean advocates came together to push for the protection of the high seas and the ratification of the High Seas Treaty. This crucial treaty aims to safeguard 30% of the world’s oceans by 2030, ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources and protecting biodiversity. During the meeting, Ailars highlighted the essential role of youth in pushing for this global initiative. He emphasized that young people, with their energy and innovative ideas, are key to advocating for the protection of the high seas, pushing governments to take action, and engaging communities in conservation efforts.

At SOA Tanzania, we are at the forefront of empowering youth to lead the charge in high seas conservation. Through our Ocean Bootcamp and other initiatives, we are equipping young Tanzanians with the knowledge, skills, and platforms to raise their voices for the ratification of the High Seas Treaty and the broader protection of ocean ecosystems. Ailars' participation in this meeting reinforced SOA Tanzania’s commitment to nurturing the next generation of ocean advocates who are not only advocating for the high seas but are also actively driving policy change and grassroots conservation initiatives. By involving youth in global efforts like the High Seas Treaty, we can help ensure a thriving, protected ocean for generations to come.



08 welcoming our new partners and supporters



We are delighted to share some exciting developments at Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania (SOA Tanzania) and extend a warm welcome to our newest collaborators and supporters.

Joining the Global EverGreening Alliance:

In our commitment to environmental restoration, SOA Tanzania has become a member of the Global EverGreening Alliance. This coalition comprises hundreds of organizations worldwide dedicated to large-scale environmental restoration projects. Through this alliance, we aim to enhance our efforts in combating land degradation and promoting sustainable land-use practices.

Membership with the Global Mangrove Alliance

We are proud to announce our official membership in the Global Mangrove Alliance as of 2024. This partnership unites us with numerous organizations focused on the conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems. Mangroves are vital for coastal protection, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, and our collaboration will strengthen initiatives to preserve these critical habitats.

Welcoming Our New Funders: Africa Europe Foundation and the Urban Movement Innovation Fund

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our newest funders:

- **Africa Europe Foundation:** Their support has been instrumental in advancing our mission to foster sustainable ocean practices and youth engagement.
- **Urban Movement Innovation (UMI) Fund:** Their backing has significantly contributed to the success of our 2024 Ocean Bootcamp, empowering young leaders in marine conservation.

We are enthusiastic about the opportunities these partnerships bring and look forward to collaborative efforts in driving positive environmental change.





09 WAY FORWARD



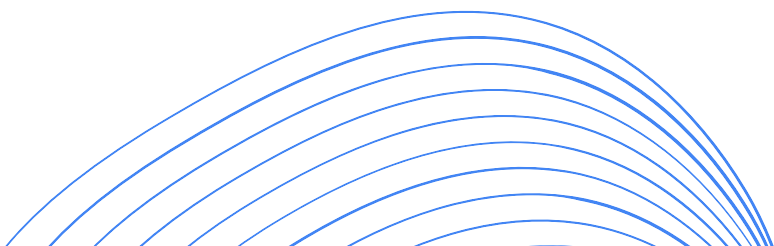
SOA Tanzania: Our Vision for 2025

As we step into 2025, we envision a year of **bold growth, deeper impact, and strengthened collaborations in our mission to restore ocean health and empower youth and coastal communities in Tanzania**. This will be a year of expansion and action, where we scale up our restoration efforts, train more young ocean leaders, and drive forward policy advocacy for marine conservation. We see 2025 as the year SOA Tanzania cements its place as the largest youth and coastal community network in Tanzania dedicated to ocean restoration and sustainability.

In 2025, we will grow by strengthening our blue economy initiatives, expanding our mangrove and seagrass restoration projects, and enhancing our youth training programs to equip even more young people with the skills to lead climate and ocean action. Through strategic partnerships, increased advocacy, and innovative conservation solutions, we will work to ensure that coastal communities have the tools and knowledge to protect and sustainably benefit from the ocean.

Join Us in Restoring Our Ocean!

To make this vision a reality, we invite funders, partners, and ocean advocates to join us in this transformative journey. Whether through funding support, technical expertise, or collaborative projects, your partnership will be key in empowering Tanzanian youth and coastal communities to lead sustainable ocean solutions. Let's work together to build a future where our ocean thrives, our communities are resilient, and youth are at the forefront of marine conservation. Be part of the movement—2025 is the year to take action for our ocean!



Meet Our Team

Soa Tanzania is a youth led NGO with 12 permanent staffs and 695+ members working on a common mission empowering YOUTH and Local Coastal communities to restore our Ocean.



Ailars David
Founder and Hub leader



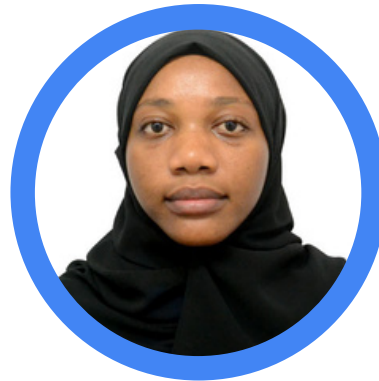
Benjamin Bitta
Founder and Chairman



Paul Matonya
General Secretary



Livinus Renatus
Fundraising Manager



Shadya Ngrini
Community and global
partnership manager



Amrani Nurudin
Blue Economy and Innovation
Officer



Herberth George
Communication Manager



Nasra Nurudin
Coastal Community Officer



Clara Robert
Author



Samira Adam
Finance Officer



Yussuf Isa
Policy Officer



Emmanuel Kato
Project Manager

Meet Our Advisory Board

SOA TANZANIA' s Advisory board is a team people with over 10 YEARS of experience in ocean science, conservation and projects who works to mentor us and guide us in our works



Ms. Patricia Furtado de Mendonca
CEO Acqua Mater



Mr. Bahati S. Mayoma
Lecturer University of Dar es salaam



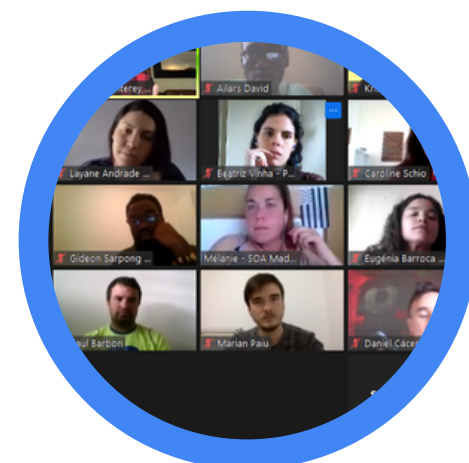
Ms. Maria Pentzel
Marine Warden Mafia MPA



Dr. Liberatus Lyimo
Lecturer Sokoine University



Dr. Mariam Hamisi
Lecturer Sokoine University



SOA mentorship program with over 70 mentors

We couldn't have done it without your generous support.



Archer, Evrard & Sigurdsson



GLOBAL MANGROVE ALLIANCE

2024 Impact Photos...!





**ASANTE SANA..!
GRACIOUS..!
THANK YOU..!
MERCII...!**



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