



Sustainable Ocean Alliance



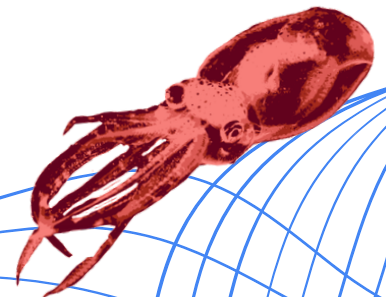
Sustainable Ocean Alliance

SOA Tanzania



5TH COHORT OF OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP

2025 PROJECT REPORT



Prepared By : **SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ALLIANCE TANZANIA**



www.soatanzania.or.tz



+255 793 468 079



oob@soatanzania.or.tz





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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 Vision

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 OCEAN BOOTCAMP TEAM



Ailars David
Hub leader



Yusufu Issa
Project coordinator



Amrani Nurudin
Project Assistance



Herberth Semkiwa
Communication manager



Nasra Nurdin
Grants and Finance Officer



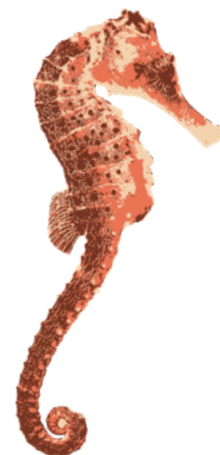
Paul Matonya
General Secretary and project Co Lead



Samira Hilal
project volunteer



Erick Mjwauzi
Fundraising Manager





Acknowledgement

The successful execution of the **Our Ocean Bootcamp 2025** was made possible through the dedicated efforts of many individuals and organizations. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to this impactful program. Special appreciation goes to the **Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA Tanzania)** team, including program organizers, coordinators, and facilitators, whose vision, meticulous planning, and tireless work delivered a comprehensive curriculum and seamless hybrid experience (virtual training combined with in-person workshops). Their passion for ocean conservation and youth empowerment enabled **50 young** Tanzanians to become the next generation of ocean innovators and entrepreneurs.

We are deeply thankful to our key supporters and partners, including **Sustainable Ocean Alliance (Global), VSO Tanzania, MTI Investment, Takt, Ovation, Tontoton, Acla Honey Ltd**, and other institutional collaborators, for their financial, technical and in kind contributions.

Heartfelt thanks also go to the guest speakers, trainers, judges, mentors, expert facilitators, local hosts, volunteers, and community stakeholders in Tanzania, whose knowledge-sharing, guidance, and support created an inspiring and productive environment, laying a strong foundation for lasting change in ocean conservation and youth-led innovation.

We are touched beyond words



Ailars David

Hub Leader
and Founder
SOA Tanzania

Thank you all.
Asanteni Sana.

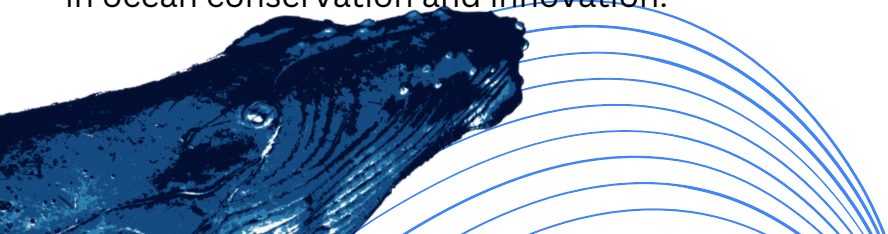


PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Our Ocean Bootcamp 2025, the **5th cohort** organized by the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA Tanzania), was a transformative week-long training program held in Tanzania from November 10th to 16th, 2025. It brought together **50 young participants** from across the country to build skills in sustainable ocean solutions under the theme "**Youth and Ocean Innovation.**" The program addressed critical issues like pollution, overfishing, and climate change impacts through a hybrid format: four days of virtual training followed by two days of in person workshops. Key focus areas included **ocean innovation and entrepreneurship, pitching and investment readiness, hands-on innovations and campaigns and advocacy**, equipping participants to become effective ocean stewards, innovators, and entrepreneurs aligned with blue economy policies and marine ecosystem conservation.

Generous support from partners such as **SOA Global, VSO Tanzania, Acla Honey Ltd, MTI Investment, Takt, Ovation** and others enabled the program's success. Participants engaged deeply with renowned experts, innovators, and entrepreneurs, including [Forbi Perise](#), [Barak Ekshtein](#), [Patricia Furtado](#), [Laura Meyer](#), [Thiery Hendrickx](#), [Prof. Ioannis Tsipouridis](#), and [Mr. Ailard David](#); who provided valuable insights, mentorship and feedback. Working in groups, fellows developed innovative ideas, refined them through pitching sessions in both virtual and in-person settings, and incorporated reviews from judges and experts to advance practical impactful projects.

The bootcamp concluded on the sixth day with hands-on action in Bagamoyo, where participants visited a blue economy startup and took part in a community empowerment activity. They learned about and contributed to a beekeeping startup integrated with mangrove forests, demonstrating sustainable entrepreneurship within marine ecosystems. The program ended symbolically with mangrove restoration in degraded areas, reinforcing commitments to ocean health and sustainability. Overall, the bootcamp empowered Tanzanian youth, strengthened networks, and laid a foundation for ongoing youth-led change in ocean conservation and innovation.



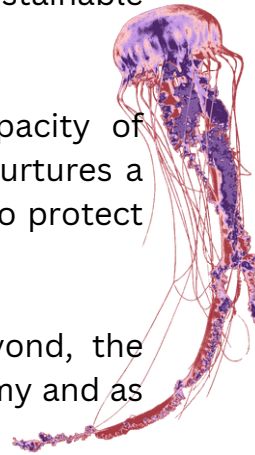
ABOUT OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP PROGRAM

Our Ocean Bootcamp is a capacity building program launched in 2021 that empowers Tanzanian youth with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to address ocean challenges and drive meaningful action for conservation and sustainability. The program targets passionate and motivated individuals, equipping them with a deep understanding of critical issues facing our oceans and fostering innovative approaches for the sustainable utilization of marine resources within the blue economy.

The Bootcamp offers practical training sessions designed to build the capacity of participants to innovate and implement solutions for ocean conservation. It nurtures a generation of active ocean advocates and change-makers who lead initiatives to protect marine ecosystems while promoting sustainable livelihoods.

By increasing youth engagement in ocean actions across Tanzania and beyond, the program aims to empower young people as leaders in a sustainable blue economy and as champions of ocean innovations that drive long-term impact.

Visit our website to learn more about the program: [CLICK HERE](#)



OCEAN BOOTCAMP IMPACT SINCE 2021

5 OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP COHORTS SINCE 2021

234

YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED ON
OCEAN LEADERSHIP,
OCEAN ACTIVISM AND OCEAN
INNOVATION

34 FELLOWS IN 2021
50 FELLOWS IN 2022
50 FELLOWS IN 2023
50 FELLOWS IN 2024
50 FELLOWS IN 2025

3 Topics Covered; Ocean Leadership,
Ocean Activism and Ocean
Innovation

6 New Innovative Ideas born out of the
our ocean bootcamp program

1000+ Bootcamp Reach on social media

10,000+

Mangroves Planted



ROADMAP TO CHANGE

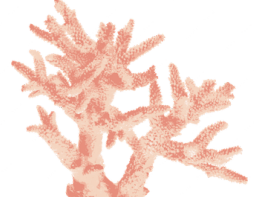
Our Ocean Bootcamp program addresses the urgent need to engage Tanzanian youth in ocean conservation, climate advocacy, and innovative blue economy development. Tanzania's coastal and marine ecosystems face threats from climate change, overexploitation, and habitat degradation, yet opportunities for youth to gain skills in sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, circular economy practices and marine innovation remain limited. The program bridges this gap by equipping young people with expertise, confidence and innovative mindsets to lead conservation, advocate for sustainable policies, and pioneer solutions in the blue economy including climate smart aquaculture, seaweed farming, waste to resource circular models and ecosystem restoration.

Since its launch, the program has trained **234** youth and fueled the expansion of SOA Tanzania's dynamic community of **800+** young ocean professionals, who drive action through diverse projects and initiatives. Participants gain hands on skills in ecosystem restoration, policy advocacy, climate action, sustainable fisheries management and circular economy approaches while leading impactful campaigns on issues like deep seabed mining, marine habitat recovery, and low impact innovations.

The program has sparked youth-led ventures that restore ecosystems, promote awareness, advance circular practices in marine spaces, and influence policy change at national and international levels. This expanding movement highlights the program's vital role in empowering youth to lead innovative, sustainable ocean actions, ensuring resilient marine ecosystems, thriving coastal communities, and inclusive blue growth across Tanzania and beyond.



PROJECT IMPACTS



Thematic areas of focus

In order to attain success accomplishments of the project goals and objectives, the program provided comprehensive learning experience in **ocean innovations and blue economy**, covering four key areas. participants were introduced to innovative approaches for tackling ocean challenges through sustainable business models, technology integration and entrepreneurial strategies, with case study of successful ocean start ups and ideation sessions focused on solutions relevant to Tanzanians coastal ecosystems. they also developed **pitching and investment readiness skills**, learning to craft compelling pitches, create financial plans and understanding funding opportunities, supported by interactive exercises to refine communications for real world investors scenarios.

hands on innovation workshop allowed participants to prototype practical related ocean solutions, such as eco friendly fishing tools and marine monitoring devices, through guided group projects, mentorship and experimentation. finally **advocacy and campaign components** equipped them with strategies for public engagements, policy influence, community mobilizations, digital campaigns and partnership with local organizations to amplify ocean conservation efforts. throughout the program, expert facilitators from SOA Tanzania and partners organizations, along with global guest speakers, Delivered high quality contents and insights.



Ocean innovation & entrepreneurship



Pitching & investment readiness



Hands on innovation



campaign & advocacy



OUTCOMES

The Our Ocean Bootcamp 2025 successfully achieved its objectives by equipping participants with actionable skills and inspiration to pursue ocean-focused careers. Key outcomes included:



6 innovative ideas developed in marine space



enhanced networking opportunities



awareness expansion to ocean advocacy



3 Beehive planted in mangrove forests

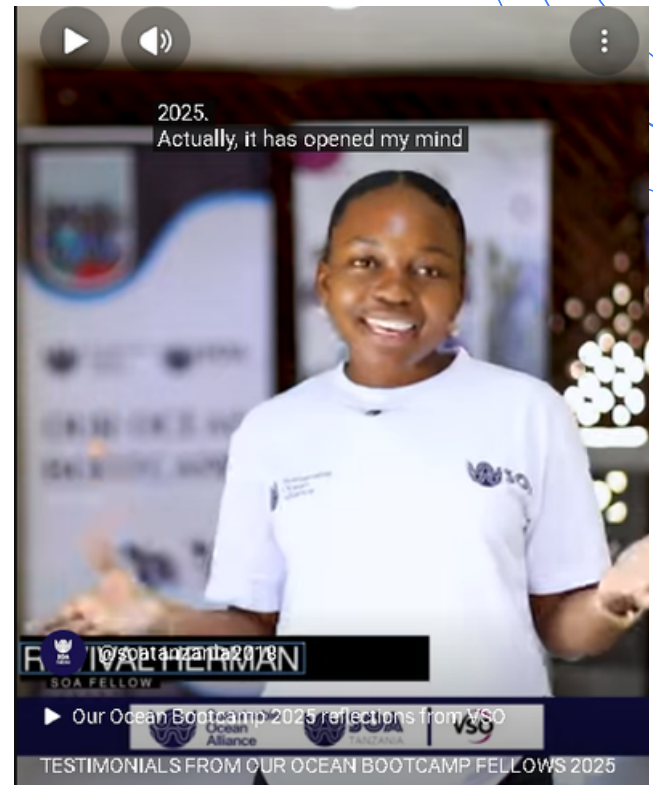


PROJECT VIDEOS AND TESTIMONIALS

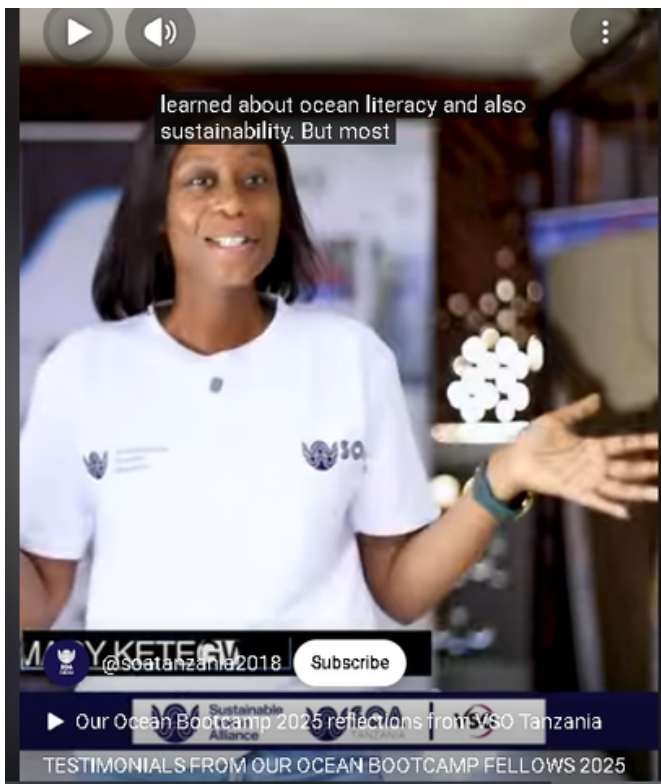
Kindly click on the link of each video below to watch them...!



<https://youtube.com/shorts/LoPo-Au6p38?si=b0HMhau1EqZVq-OS>



https://youtube.com/shorts/7GabF62hyJ8?si=-qwA9leLECNexX_F



https://youtube.com/shorts/7GabF62hyJ8?si=-qwA9leLECNexX_F



https://youtube.com/shorts/7GabF62hyJ8?si=-qwA9leLECNexX_F

OOB FELLOW TESTIMONIAL

”

The Bootcamp opened my eyes to how powerful youth innovation can be in protecting our ocean. I deepened my understanding of marine ecosystems and saw clearly how plastic pollution impacts ocean life and the wellbeing of coastal communities. Learning about mangrove beekeeping showed me how conservation and livelihoods can grow together.

“

MULHAT AYUBU



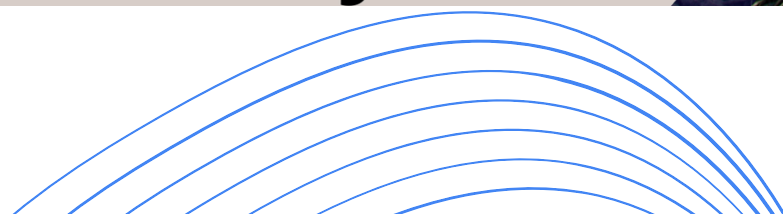
OOB FELLOW TESTIMONIAL

”

This Bootcamp helped me understand how innovation can become real impact. I learned how to develop creative ideas, took part in mangrove planting in Bagamoyo, and gained practical skills like installing beehives. It showed me how protecting the environment can also support community livelihoods.

“

CHRISTINA SHIJA



THE STATE OF YOUTH IN TANZANIA AND BLUE ECONOMY OPPORTUNITIES

AFDB FUNDED PROJECT IN ZANZIBAR

Tanzanian youth, particularly in coastal regions like Zanzibar, face significant challenges in the blue economy, including limited access to **quality skills training** and employability opportunities, leading to high unemployment rates and underutilization of marine resources. The sector, encompassing tourism, maritime activities, fisheries, and emerging oil and gas industries, holds vast potential but is hindered by skill gaps that prevent young people from securing well-paying jobs. Initiatives like the **AfDB-funded Skills Development for Youth Employability in the Blue Economy Project (SEBEP)** highlight this state by targeting **43,000 youth** to address these deficiencies through education and training, reflecting a broader recognition that current youth involvement is minimal and often confined to low-skilled, informal roles amid environmental and economic pressures.

Outstanding opportunities for Tanzanian youth in the blue economy include access to specialized training programs under **SEBEP**, which offers vocational skills in maritime, tourism, and sustainable resource management, potentially leading to employment in high-growth areas like oil and gas exploration and eco-tourism. With \$54 million in funding, the project provides pathways for entrepreneurship, apprenticeships, and certifications that align with national development goals, enabling youth to tap into grants, partnerships, and job placements. Scaling similar innovations, such as those in seaweed farming from prior UNDP efforts, could further unlock potentials in aquaculture and conservation, positioning youth to benefit from regional trade, climate-resilient practices, and international investments in Tanzania's expansive coastline.

<https://mapafrica.afdb.org/en/projects/46002-P-TZ-I00-003>



2025 OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP SPEAKERS, JUDGES AND TRAINERS



Thierry Hendrickx

Expert in Entrepreneurial Development & Digital Transformation, Ovation.eco



Barak Ekshtein

Founder at Tontoton



Luisa Schillinger

innovation ecosystem analyst & partnership coordinator



Frank Mirobo

Secretary General-WIO-ECSN & Marine Researcher



Forbi Perise

Regional Representative- SOA Africa



Pro. Ioannis Tsiouridis

Renewable energy consultant engineer & Climate Action Advocate



Patricia Furtado de Mendonca

Founder at ACQUA MATER



Laura meyer

Stakeholder Coordination Officer, UN Ocean Decade (IOC-UNESCO)



Photunatus Nyundo

Project manager at VSO TANZANIA

2025 OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP SPEAKERS, JUDGES AND TRAINERS



Adhitya Raghavan
Founder, Takt



Mercy Ndunguru
Head of Business Support,
MTI Investment AB



Claudia Morand
CEO Alca Honey



Mr. Godfrey Christopher
Seaweed and Aquaculture
Expert, Prime Minister's Office



OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP 2025 IS FUNDED BY:



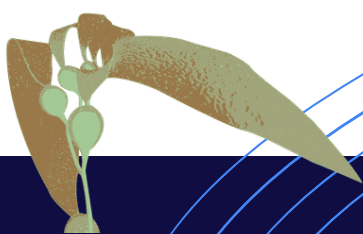
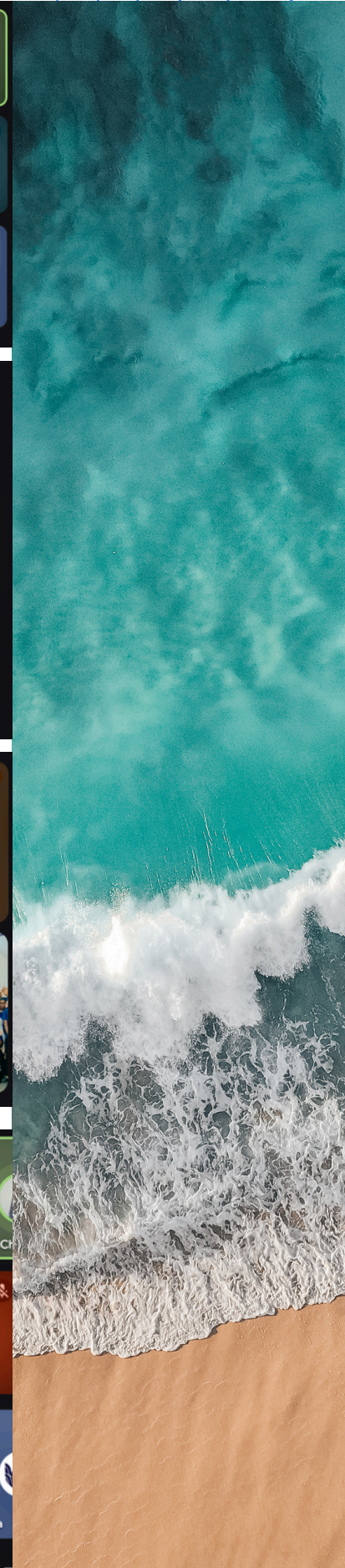
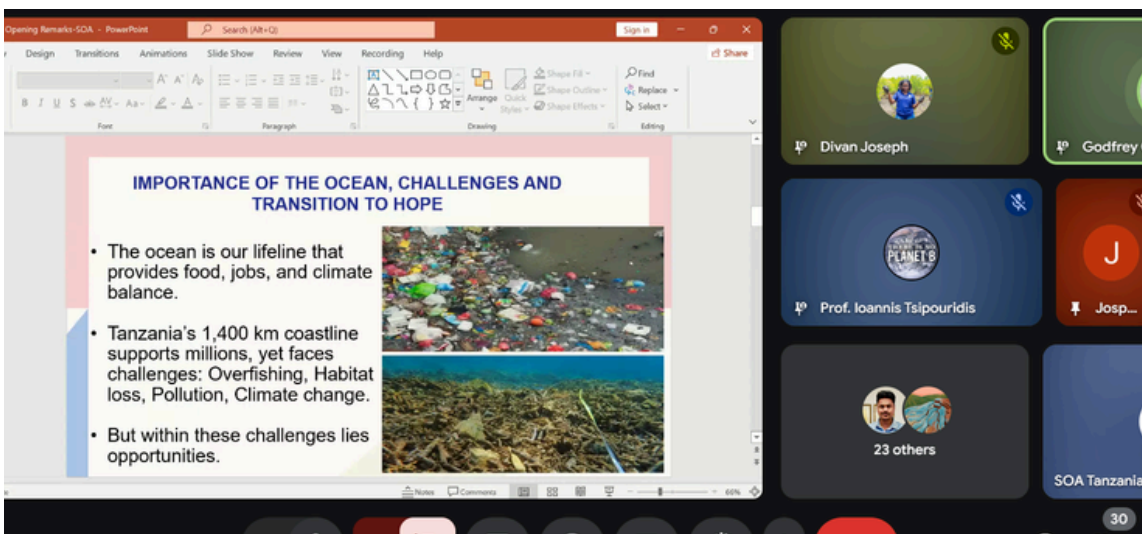
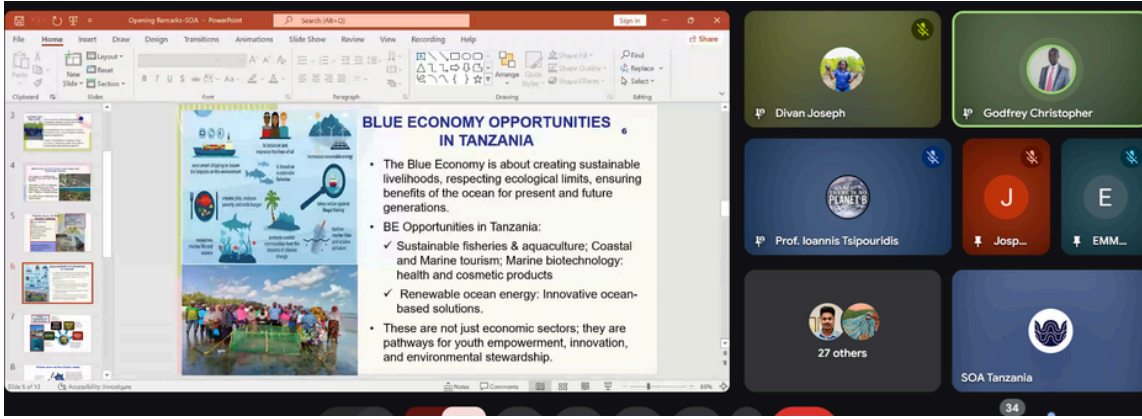
**Sustainable
Ocean
Alliance**



OUR OCEAN BOOTCAMP 2025 PATNERS:



ONLINE SESSIONS PHOTO GALLERY



IN PERSON SESSIONS PHOTO GALLERY



OCEAN ACTION DAY PHOTO GALLERY



WAY FORWARD

In the short term, after the 2025 bootcamp focused on youth and ocean innovation, the program could build on its success by introducing specialized modules on marine pollution. This might include hands-on training in waste reduction techniques, plastic cleanup strategies, and monitoring ocean pollutants. By partnering with local environmental groups and experts, participants can engage in real-world projects like beach cleanups and data collection, helping Tanzanian youth become active in reducing pollution while fostering innovation in eco-friendly solutions.

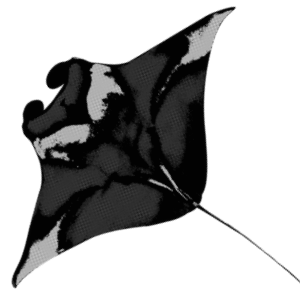
Moving forward in the next few years, the bootcamp should expand to coastal climate advocacy. This could involve teaching skills in community outreach, policy lobbying, and climate resilience planning for coastal areas. Youth leaders could learn to organize awareness campaigns, collaborate with government bodies, and use digital tools to advocate for stronger protections against rising sea levels and erosion. Strengthening networks with international organizations would provide mentorship and funding, empowering participants to lead local advocacy efforts.

By 2030 and beyond, the program could integrate comprehensive conservation strategies, creating a regional hub for ocean protection. This might mean expanding to East African countries, with a curriculum that combines innovation, pollution control, and advocacy through advanced tech like AI for marine monitoring. Alumni networks could drive policy changes and global collaborations, ensuring young professionals sustain long-term conservation while building a blue economy that benefits communities.



JOIN US IN MAKING IMPACT TO TANZANIAN YOUTH AND OUR OCEAN...!





**ASANTE SANA..!
GRACIOUS..!
THANK YOU..!
Merci Beacoup...!**



www.soatanzania.or.tz



info@soatanzania.or.tz



+255 793 468 079

