



SEA SENSE ANNUAL

REPORT 2024

About Sea Sense

For over 20 years, Sea Sense has worked to create a future where coastal communities and marine biodiversity thrive together. Our vision is a society where marine wildlife flourishes and coastal livelihoods are sustainable, supporting both well-being and prosperity.

Marine biodiversity is essential not only for the survival of iconic species like marine turtles but also for the millions of people who depend on healthy oceans for food security and livelihoods. By conserving biodiversity, we help safeguard economic opportunities and promote sustainable coastal development.

Since its inception, Sea Sense has engaged thousands of coastal residents in conservation efforts. Former marine turtle poachers have become dedicated conservation ambassadors, and Tanzania's central coast is now recognized as a regionally significant site for marine turtles. These achievements demonstrate that overcoming conservation challenges is possible through community-driven action, education, and strong partnerships.

Looking ahead, Sea Sense remains committed to strengthening marine conservation, expanding sustainable livelihood initiatives, and ensuring that biodiversity conservation continues to benefit both people and the environment.

OUR PROJECT SITES



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Message from our Executive Director

At Sea Sense, we believe that coastal communities and marine biodiversity can thrive together. By working closely with local communities, we are protecting Tanzania's marine ecosystems and safeguarding endangered species, while enhancing livelihoods and promoting sustainable development.

Our commitment remains strong as we continue to strengthen community-led conservation and expand sustainable livelihood programs. We recognize our responsibility not only to the marine environment but also to the people who depend on it. Through collaboration, innovation, and dedication, we are creating lasting change.

Thank you to our partners, supporters, and coastal communities. Together, we are making a difference.



" We are dedicated to protecting marine biodiversity while empowering coastal communities Through collaboration and innovation, we are creating lasting change for both people and the ocean."

Executive Director
Gosbert Katunzi

Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring 2024

Sea Sense Conservation Officers, located across 35 coastal villages, conduct year-round monitoring of sea turtle nesting beaches. Their daily patrols are vital for protecting sea turtle nests from tidal inundation and reducing threats from wild animal predators such as monitor lizards and mongoose. In 2024, Conservation Officers recorded 192 green turtle nests. Their monitoring and protection efforts enabled 22,096 sea turtle hatchlings to safely reach the sea.



In 2024, Sea Sense repeated the annual nesting green turtle population assessment in Juani Island during the peak nesting months of April and May. The assessment involved night-time beach patrols by Sea Sense Conservation Officers and community members. Each nesting turtle was marked with a numbered tag so that individual turtles could be identified and counted.



The teams encountered a total of 16 nesting females. The annual assessment generates crucial data on nesting behaviour and is contributing to a better understanding of green turtle nesting trends in Tanzania, as well as the effectiveness of current conservation measures.



Tanzania Strengthens Marine Turtle Conservation 2024

Marine turtles in Tanzania face increasing threats from habitat loss, illegal harvesting, bycatch, and plastic pollution. In response, Sea Sense, in partnership with the Government of Tanzania and with funding from USAID, developed the National Action Plan for Marine Turtles 2024–2029.



Shaped through extensive stakeholder consultations and a series of collaborative workshops, the Plan provides a clear framework for conserving marine turtles through habitat protection, community engagement, and stronger policy measures.



To drive awareness and action, the Plan has been disseminated across coastal communities in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, supported by an educational campaign that equips locals with the knowledge and tools to protect these majestic ocean dwellers.

The Launching



Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Hon Abdala Ulega, officially hands over the National Action Plan for Marine Turtles during its launching to key stakeholders, emphasizing its importance in ensuring effective implementation of conservation efforts

With 1,000 copies of the plan (500 in Swahili and 500 in English) shared, all stakeholders including Beach Management Units (BMUs) and Village Liaison Committees (VLC) have embraced the initiative, leading grassroots conservation efforts. This collaboration marks a significant step toward securing a sustainable future for marine turtles and preserving Tanzania's rich coastal ecosystems.



Thank You for Supporting Sea Turtle Tourism!

A huge thanks! to everyone who has visited and supported sea turtle tourism! Your curiosity, love for nature, and willingness to learn have helped protect these incredible marine creatures. By witnessing Marine turtles hatch and journey to the ocean, you've played a part in raising awareness and promoting conservation.

If you haven't visited yet, we welcome you to join us! Come experience the magic, learn about Marine turtles, and enjoy the beauty of our coastal ecosystems.

Every visit makes a difference! 🌿💙

See you by the shore!



Marine turtle 20
Status 24

Total number of nests 196

22,096

“ The total number of Marine turtle eggs laid on the beaches ”

“ The total number of Marine turtle hatchlings that successfully reached the ocean from the beaches ”

16,351

Nests per District

PANGANI 42

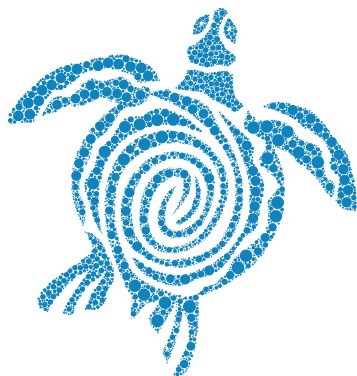
MKINGA 06

KIGAMBONI 37

MKURANGA 06

MUHEZA 03

MAFIA 102



96 Marine turtle Mortalities

School Outreach 2024



To empower students as frontline ambassadors for marine conservation, they received training on protecting endangered species like sea turtles.

2024

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENT

10

Environmental clubs formed

160

Pupils reached

360

Students reached



They also had the unique opportunity to visit nesting sites, witnessing firsthand how turtle eggs are safeguarded, deepening their understanding and commitment to ocean conservation.



Women at the Forefront of Marine Conservation

20
24

Across Tanzania's coastline, conservation is gaining momentum and women are leading the way. In 2024 alone, Sea Sense has reached 22,176 people in coastal communities with marine conservation initiatives. Notably, 30% of this total of over 6,600 women have been empowered through training, leadership opportunities, and sustainable livelihood programs.



From the shores of Mafia Island to the coastal villages of Lindi, Pwani, and Tanga, women are stepping up as guardians of the ocean. Through Sea Sense's support, they are learning to manage marine resources, lead conservation activities, and develop sustainable businesses like seaweed-based soap production.

The transformation of the Matumbawe women's group in Jojo Village, Mafia Island, and the Ushongo village women's group in Pangani, Tanga, is a testament to the power of change. Once disconnected from conservation, these women are now passionate defenders of sea turtles, inspired by witnessing hatchlings make their way to the sea at Shungimbili Island and Ushongo Beach.

This shift reflects a growing wave of women leading the charge in marine conservation along Tanzania's coastline. Through empowering women, Sea Sense is not only preserving marine life but also fortifying coastal communities, ensuring that conservation efforts and sustainable livelihoods thrive hand in hand.



Community Engagement 2024



2024

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1,389 BMU, local village leaders, and district officials reached

39 BMU and CFMA Management plans developed and reviewed

5,544 Coastal community fishers reached



09 BMUs implemented reef closures

3.69t Earned from the reef closures



7,500\$ Were generated from the reef closures

22,176 Community members reached

993 People reached by outreach activities



321 Women fishers working group members reached

Sustainable Livelihood 2024

In Mkuranga District, Sea Sense launched Eco-Credit for the first time in Boza and Kuruti villages, providing each group with an initial capital of TZS 2 million to support sustainable livelihoods while committing to environmental conservation.



In 2024, a total of 57,369 mangroves were planted, with both groups actively participating in planting, protecting, and raising awareness within their communities on the importance of mangrove conservation. Their efforts contribute to conserving the local environment and promoting healthy marine ecosystems.



After one year, the initiative has shown positive growth, with the Kuruti group increasing their funds by TZS 622,000 and the Boza group by TZS 1,032,000, demonstrating the potential of community-led financial empowerment in conservation efforts.



Our Partners



We extend our deepest gratitude to our valued partners and supporters for their unwavering commitment to marine conservation. Your collaboration and generosity enable us to protect endangered species, empower coastal communities, and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Together, we are making a lasting impact on the health of our oceans and the well-being of future generations



Supported by:



Federal Foreign Office



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag





We thank you for your
continued support in
our efforts to contribute
to Marine Conservation

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