



Reef stewardship: advancing ocean literacy and responsible tourism practices among local communities in Shimoni, Kenya

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Project Background

- ❖ Coral reef restoration as a relatively new marine restoration and conservation intervention.
- ❖ Lack of in-depth knowhow about on why coral restoration is crucial and how it is conducted among local communities.
- ❖ Limited knowledge on basic responsible tourism practises and inadequate guiding skills among the boat operators and guiding crew.

Methodology Approach

- ❖ Experiential (Hands-on) learning sessions
- ❖ Training workshop
- ❖ Marine dialogue forums
- ❖ Production of Swahili comic booklet

Objective: Advancing local marine stewardship through ocean literacy (coral reef restoration) and promoting responsible tourism practises among local communities in Shimoni, Southern coast of Kenya.

Pathway to Impact



Figure 1. A2 SENSE project timelines between July 2022 to August 2024

Target audience reached

- ❖ Local Beach Management Units (Mkwiro, Wasini, Shimoni & Kibuyuni).
- ❖ Boat operator's associations (Wasini Youth and Kisite Community).
- ❖ Youth conservation group (Shimoni Turtle Watch).
- ❖ Young learners from local primary and secondary schools.



Photo 1. Restored reef using artificial reef structures (cage & bottle reef) in the Wasini Channel, Shimoni.
Photo: Ewout Knoester

Societal relevance

- ❖ Local coastal communities highly depends on coral reef ecosystem and other marine ecosystems for their subsistence/commercial fishing and marine (eco)tourism activities.



Photo 2. a) Local subsistence fishers on the shores of the Wasini Channel, b) traditional dhow for marine ecotourism trips to the Kisite Marine Park, Shimoni seascape. *Photo: Ewout Knoester*

Project activities



Photo 3. a) Project committee, b) community leaders meeting, c) experiential learning session on reef restoration, d) & e) experiential learning participants' ready for snorkeling at restoration site, f) 2-days training workshop on basic responsible tourism practices, g) Swahili version 'Coral Heroes' comic booklet, h) and i) young learners from Shimoni Primary school during marine conservation outreach. *Photo: REEFolution/Dzivula Gube*

Societal impact

- ❖ Advanced ocean literacy with better understanding about coral reef ecosystem and reef restoration as an emerging marine restoration intervention.
- ❖ Enlightened and built capacity on basic responsible tourism practises.
- ❖ Increased willingness among the local communities to exercise local marine stewardship.
- ❖ Strengthened strategic collaborative synergies among the local actors.
- ❖ Broadened communication efforts and avenues about coral reef restoration (e.g., video, podcasts, newsbriefs and magazine articles).

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