

# 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**

Identifying & defining the A2
Project challenge

A2 Project proposal & approval

Grant proposal, submission & approval (Nov 2022)

Project
Committee & 2level meetings
26 April & 5<sup>th</sup>
May 2023

Experiential learning sessions 15<sup>th</sup> May & 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Training workshops (i.e.  $7^{th} - 8^{th}$  Dec 2023

Production of Swahili version of the 'Coral Heroes' Comic booklet

Reflection:
Final A2
Report/Poster
Presentation

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

# Project activities







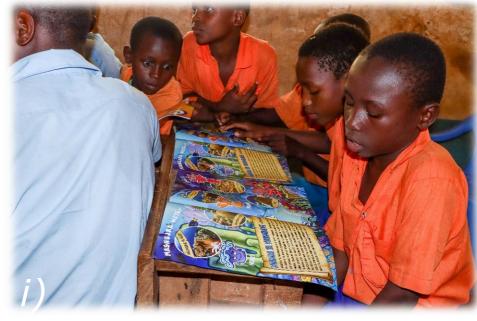












**Photo 3.** a) Project committee, b) community leaders meeting, c) experiential learning session on reef restoration, d) & e) experiential learning participants' ready for snorkeling at restoration site, f) 2-days training workshop on basic responsible tourism practices, g) Swahili version 'Coral Heroes'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

# Societal 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* 



## Acknowledgements

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## **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).