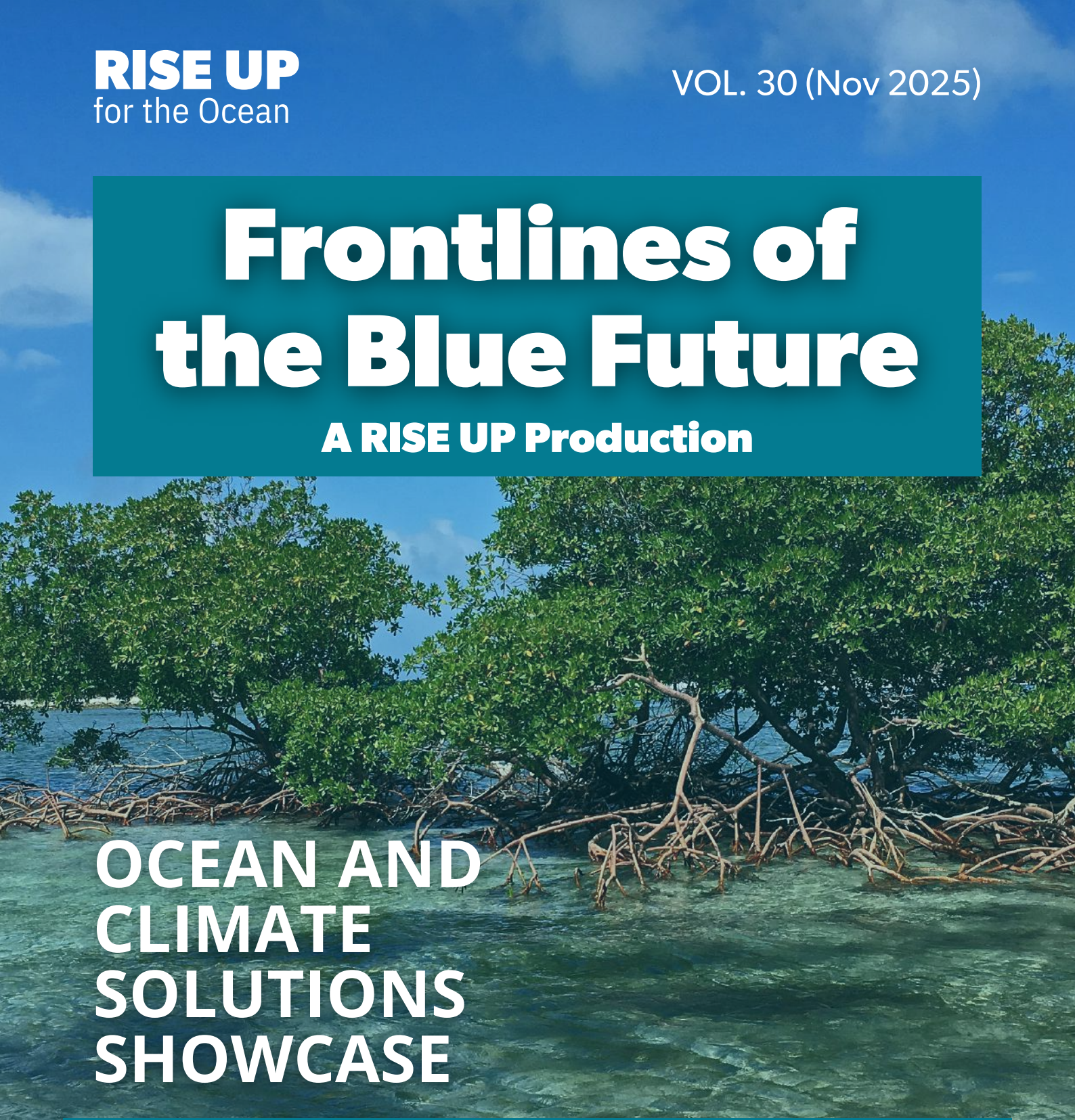
RISE UP
for the Ocean

VOL. 30 (Nov 2025)

Frontlines of the Blue Future

A RISE UP Production



OCEAN AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SHOWCASE

Featuring RISE UP's Ocean and Climate Cluster

These members are pioneering community-led, nature-positive and innovative solutions for climate resilience and adaptation

Restoration, recovery and monitoring projects

Including: Mangroves, seagrass, reefs, low-carbon fisheries, youth technology and community monitoring

www.riseupfortheocean.org

RISE UP
for the Ocean

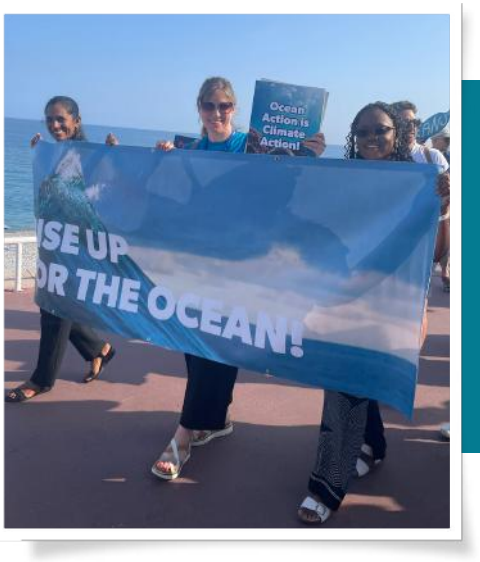
RISE UP for the Ocean is a global network uniting ocean advocates, NGOs, scientists, youth, Indigenous peoples and community leaders to drive urgent, science-based action to protect and restore the ocean.



It serves as a network and provides a common platform for ocean justice, amplifying voices often excluded from decision-making; urging governments, businesses and institutions to deliver bold commitments for a healthy, equitable and climate-resilient ocean.

Through collective advocacy, accountability and collaboration, RISE UP works to turn promises into meaningful change for people and the planet.

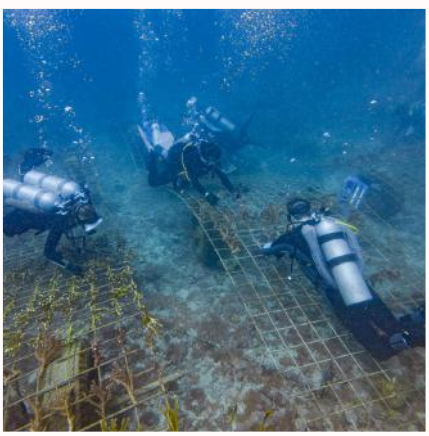
for the Ocean and Climate



Bringing the Ocean into the heart of climate negotiations at COP30 is essential. The Ocean regulates the global climate, absorbs most of the excess heat and a quarter of CO_2 emissions and sustains the livelihoods of billions of people - yet it has historically been overlooked in climate policy.

We are excited to be part of the COP30 Virtual Ocean Pavilion to help bridge this gap by making ocean knowledge, stories from those on the ground and policy priorities accessible to delegates and the wider public, including those unable to attend in person. Through the RISE UP network, diverse frontline voices - coastal communities, Indigenous peoples, small-scale fishers, youth and civil society - are elevated and connected, ensuring their lived experiences and locally-led solutions shape global climate decisions.

We invite you to meet some of those communities and individuals now in this special publication, which supports our aim to strengthen collective influence, drive accountability and promote ocean-climate solutions that are just, inclusive and grounded in the expertise of those most affected.









INSTAGRAM: @MARINEZSCHERER

Mutirão Azul

by Special Envoy for the Ocean for COP30

Mutirão Azul is a collaborative initiative dedicated to identifying and promoting innovative, ocean-based solutions to tackle the climate crisis, with a particular focus on coastal zones. It seeks to gather and showcase practical actions from a diverse array of contributors—including organisations, social movements, Indigenous peoples, academia, investors, companies and governments—that offer measurable and replicable climate benefits. The initiative welcomes solutions across several domains such as public policies, technologies, financial models and community-led projects. Key thematic areas include restoration and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems, decarbonisation of shipping, sustainable renewable energies, responsible fisheries, coastal tourism, coastline protection, ocean literacy, leadership of traditional communities and blue finance. All contributions are compiled in the document "Mutirão Azul – Local Contributions to the Global Climate Crisis" and presented to the COP30 Presidency, amplifying local voices and innovative actions on a global stage. Submissions received before a set deadline may be featured at COP30 presentations. Stakeholder participation is encouraged via a dedicated submission form, fostering broad collaboration for impactful climate action in ocean and coastal environments.



@DEEPCURRENTSCOLLECTIVE

Our Collective Seabed (2025)

by Deep Currents Collective

Coinciding with the 30th Session of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Assembly Session in July in Kinston, Jamaica, the Deep Currents Collective hosted a side event and exhibition called “Our Seabed Collective” (22 July 2025) at the National Gallery of Jamaica, in partnership with the Gallery and TBA21. The event brought together local, Caribbean, and international artists, as well as experts and scholars including Alex Moore-Minott (Cultural activist, Jamaica), Robyn Young (Marine Biologist), Prof. Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Dr. Susan Reid, Alejandro Limpo Gonzalez, Jonathan Galka, Dr. Mekhala Dave, and Dr. Giulia Champion.

Together, they explored how art, science, law, and history connect the ways we understand and care for the deep ocean, and how these entanglements are important to frame deep ocean governance for international waters. The exhibition highlighted both global and local perspectives, showing how the deep sea links communities across borders and generations.

The Deep Currents Collective is an international group of activists, artists, and academics who promote the deep ocean and seabed as a common heritage for allkind. We contest international governance regimes and extractive activities that pose any cultural and ecological threats to the deep ocean. We work to redress the absence of diverse voices, cultural knowledges and values at the International Seabed Authority (ISA) and beyond. We engage alternative approaches towards a more ecologically and culturally generative deep ocean future. Members include Prof. Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Dr. Susan Reid, Alejandro Limpo Gonzalez, Jonathan Galka, Dr. Mekhala Dave, Khadija Stewart and Dr. Giulia Champion.



PHOTO BY IISD/ENB - ANDRÉS FELIPE CARVAJAL GÓMEZ

Through art and dialogue, Our Seabed Collective attracted 70+ audience spanning from International Seabed Authority delegates to artists and scientists, and local audiences in Kingston, Jamaica.

INSTAGRAM: @SOATANZANIA
LINKEDIN: @SOATANZANIA
FACEBOOK: @SOATANZANIA



Grass Underwater Project

Grass Underwater is a UN Ocean Decade-endorsed initiative from Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania (SOA Tanzania). It is dedicated to restoring and conserving degraded seagrass meadows along Tanzania's coastline while empowering youth and local coastal communities through regenerative blue economy solutions.

Seagrasses are among the planet's most efficient nature-based climate solutions, capable of capturing carbon up to 35 times faster than tropical forests while providing essential nursery habitats for marine life, protecting coastlines from erosion, and sustaining local fisheries. Since 2021, the project has adopted and restored 100 square meters of seagrass meadows in Bagamoyo, engaging local fishers, women, and young people in community-led restoration, monitoring, and protection. Through participatory ocean stewardship, Grass Underwater strengthens both ecosystem resilience and community livelihoods. Beyond ecological restoration, the project integrates sustainable blue economy activities such as seaweed farming, environmental education, and entrepreneurship training enabling communities to diversify incomes while reducing pressure on marine ecosystems. To date, over 695 youth and community members have been empowered through training and awareness programs, fostering a generation of ocean stewards driving climate action from the grassroots. At COP30, Grass Underwater stands as a model of how local action and nature-based solutions can accelerate climate mitigation, adaptation, and social inclusion, demonstrating that protecting the ocean is protecting our collective future.

Center For Community Enhancement, Cameroon

FACEBOOK: @CENECCAMEROON

At the Center for Community Enhancement, we are committed to tackling marine pollution along the Cameroon coastline through a range of community-driven approaches.

Our work includes coastal and riverine clean-ups, as well as awareness-raising campaigns that empower local communities to protect their environment. Most recently, we introduced a circular economy initiative that encourages young people and community members to collect plastic bottles in exchange for meaningful support. Children receive school supplies to strengthen their educational journey, while adults are provided with financial incentives that help sustain their livelihoods.

Through these efforts, we are not only reducing plastic pollution, but also inspiring long-term environmental stewardship and improving the well-being of coastal communities.







MIHARI Network

MIHARI is a national network of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in Madagascar with over 200 communities in its membership.
Since its establishment in 2012 its overall purpose has been to bring LMMAs leaders together in order for coastal communities to gain increased access to the management of marine resources.
During this time, MIHARI has increasingly become an advocate for the rights of coastal communities as well as developing the capacity needed for LMMA leaders to become stewards of sustainable use of marine resources in their communities. MIHARI became a formally registered Malagasy association with a new governance structure in 2020.



MIHARI

MItantana HArena andRanomasina avy eny Ifotony

Villa Tsiriry, Lot VC 2 B Ambanidia Faliarivo
101 Antananarivo. Analamanga, Madagascar
info@mihari-network.org

www.**mihari-network.org**



Sargassum Sense by EcoSeas Caribbean

INSTAGRAM: @ECOSEASCARIBBEAN

Sargassum Sense is the communications arm of Tides of Innovation, designed to turn science and on the ground monitoring into clear, compelling stories and practical guidance across the Caribbean. It packages early warning insights into plain language explainers, short videos, radio spots and WhatsApp briefs for fishers, tourism operators, coastal residents and policymakers.

The project elevates community voices, supports journalists with media kits and briefings, and shares timely visuals, including maps, reels and photo essays that track bloom dynamics and impacts. By coordinating messages across partners and languages, Sargassum Sense drives public awareness, behaviour change and policy uptake while spotlighting locally led solutions and opportunities for resilience.

INSTAGRAM: @KNEYZUSENERGY

Tides of Innovation: Caribbean Sargassum Solution

The Tides of Innovation Project is a regional initiative led by Kneyzus Energy that bridges science, youth innovation and entrepreneurship to address the Caribbean's growing sargassum and marine waste challenges. The project promotes a "waste-to-wealth" approach, transforming environmental problems into opportunities for sustainable development, research, and job creation. Through hands-on activities, workshops and collaborative research, Tides of Innovation empowers students, young professionals, and community groups to explore practical solutions within the blue and circular economies. The initiative is structured around three main pillars: Sargassum Sense, which focuses on public awareness, education, and community sensitization; Sargassum for Science, which advances data collection, testing, and innovation-driven research; and the Innovation Station, which supports prototype development, product piloting, and entrepreneurship. Spanning from 2026 to 2030, the project aims to strengthen partnerships among academia, industry, and government while nurturing the next generation of sustainability leaders. By connecting local innovation with global sustainability goals, the Tides of Innovation Project contributes to building resilient coastal communities, promoting green job creation, and positioning the Caribbean as a model for science-based environmental innovation and circular economy growth.













PHOTO: RUNUL ROBERTS

Mertrina's Ocean Literacy Moments

Greetings, my name is Katrina Khan-Roberts and I am a 35 year old ocean literacy advocate from Trinidad and Tobago. Through my character Mertrina the mermaid I used my academic background of environmental science and marine biology, as well as my love for the ocean, alongside creative techniques to create publications that bridge the gap between advocacy and action. Even though I live on an island, there is a disconnection that exists between people and the ocean which I am trying to overcome through education, awareness and solutions building. Our young people are the future decision makers, so we must equip them for the difficulties to come in our human disrupted world. Youth are turning the tide because the Ocean is our future.

INSTAGRAM: @MERTRINATT





ABALOBI.ORG
FACEBOOK: @ABALOBI.ORG
INSTAGRAM: @ABALOBI_APP

ABALOBI: Evelevating small-scall fishers through data and technology



PHOTOS: ABALOBI

ABALOBI's vision is to cultivate thriving, equitable and climate-resilient small-scale fishing communities globally—through financial inclusion, collective social entrepreneurship and data-driven fisheries rebuilding. We support data collection and skills-building with fisher communities, NGOs and governments. Through our Fish With A Story platform, we connect fisher groups and cooperatives with fair local and global markets, as well as linked financial services. Our approach stimulates co-management, implements fisheries improvement programmes, and uses innovative data, traceability and market technologies to poise small-scale fishers for social, economic and ecological sustainability. We believe in participatory strategies for fisheries rebuilding that consider ocean life and livelihoods.



PHOTOS: AMÉLIE CONTY - TINTA



These efforts have increased SSFs effective participation in relevant decision-making spaces, and created pathways fo their traditional knowledge included in policies and action strategies.
Throughout the three years of implementation, the team facilitated the participation of SSF representatives in 5 international events, supported the preparation and delivery of several panels and speeches, and conducted training and mentoring sessions with SSF leaders. Additionally, 2 local campaigns in Chile and Africa were co-developed to mirror this global effort at the local level, including the construction of collaborative platforms with active participation of women, youth, and indigenous peoples.

A Seat At The Table

by Movilizatorio

A Seat At the Table (ASATT) is a project born in 2022 with the objective of empowering a global coalition of grassroots SSF to develop advocacy campaigns aimed at advancing common policy objectives. As such, ASATT is an organizing, communication and advocacy strategy that seeks to put Movilizatorio's expertise in movement-building and strategic communications at the service of SSF-led organizations.
Throughout its implementation, ASATT has contributed to the positioning of SSFs leaders as key stakeholders in climate action and biodiversity conservation.

INSTAGRAM: @ASEAT4FISHERS



This project has connected 80+ SSF and indigenous leaders and 170+ NGOs and partners to foster support for SSF communities as the best stewards of the water ecosystems.



Experiencia do Mar

by Tielle Salviano Haas

INSTAGRAM: @EXPERIENCIADOMAR



This project seeks to promote sustainable practices, engage the community in conservation actions, and provide scientific knowledge about marine biodiversity such as the identification of native algae and marine vegetables.

One of the main activities conducted is maritime expeditions. In these adventures, groups of volunteers and students are invited to explore different marine ecosystems, learn about local fauna and flora, and participate in scientific data collection practices.





The project also holds educational workshops and lectures - these events focus on topics such as marine biodiversity, the impacts of pollution on the oceans, and conservation strategies. Beach clean-up and conservation actions are another highlight of the project; these activities not only help to preserve the marine environment, but also serve as a way to raise public awareness about the impact of waste on the Ocean. Experiência do Mar also collaborates with various organisations, universities and NGOs. These partnerships highlight the importance of cooperation for the success of conservation initiatives, showing the amplified impact achieved through these strategic alliances. Since its inception, the project has achieved significant results, reflecting the growing community engagement and increased awareness of environmental issues. Participant reports, before-and-after images of clean-up actions, and data collected during expeditions are frequently shared to illustrate the project's progress and successes.



Citizen and Legal Empowerment of Coastal Communities in Chile

Chile's coastal marine ecosystems are essential for biodiversity conservation and carbon storage but face severe threats from climate change and industrial activities, particularly large-scale aquaculture. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, who have historically safeguarded these territories, rely on them for their livelihoods and cultural practices. In 2008, with the adoption of Act No. 20.249 (commonly known as the Lafkenche Act), the Mapuche Lafkenche communities achieved an important milestone in the recognition of their customary rights and the protection of the natural ecosystems within the coastal territories they inhabit.



INSTAGRAM: @MOVILIZATORIO

PHOTOS BY: MOVILIZATORIO



This legislation establishes a framework for the allocation of Coastal-Marine Spaces for Indigenous Peoples (ECMPOs), which are managed by the communities themselves to preserve their traditional practices and customs. Despite this achievement, bureaucratic delays, misinformation, and corporate opposition have severely hindered their implementation. This project, a collaboration between Observatorio Ciudadano, Movilizatorio, and FIMA, aims to address these challenges by providing comprehensive legal and communication support to Indigenous and local communities during the application and implementation of ECMPOs. This approach aims to tackle the legal and communicational challenges these communities face, thereby contributing to the protection and promotion of their territorial and cultural rights.



Our commitment lies with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who act in good faith to conserve their territories, utilize resources sustainably, and respect the rights of others, especially those of marginalized groups like small-scale fishers.

LINKEDIN: @DAHARICOMORES
FACEBOOK: @DAHARICOMORES

PHOTO: DAHARI



Dahari Marine Program

Dahari is the largest NGO in the Comoros, created in 2013 to support rural communities in restoring the country's ecosystems and improving livelihoods. The Comoros face some of the world's highest rates of deforestation and are among the most vulnerable nations to coral reef degradation, putting both biodiversity and local livelihoods at risk. Operating mainly on the islands of Anjouan and Grande Comore, Dahari works hand in hand with communities through three integrated programmes: forests, agroforests, and marine. The forest programme focuses on protecting key biodiversity and water catchment areas through conservation agreements with farmers. The agroforestry programme improves soil fertility and food security by helping farmers plant more than 50,000 trees each year in their fields.



The marine programme supports small-scale fishers to establish a network of community-led no-take zones, combining local knowledge with science to protect coral reefs. Dahari's mission is to build a future where rural communities across the Comoros can thrive alongside healthy forests, farmlands, and reefs—ensuring biodiversity conservation, food security, and resilience in the face of climate change.



PHOTO: CARLOS AGUILERA

Value Rescue in Mexican small-scale fisheries

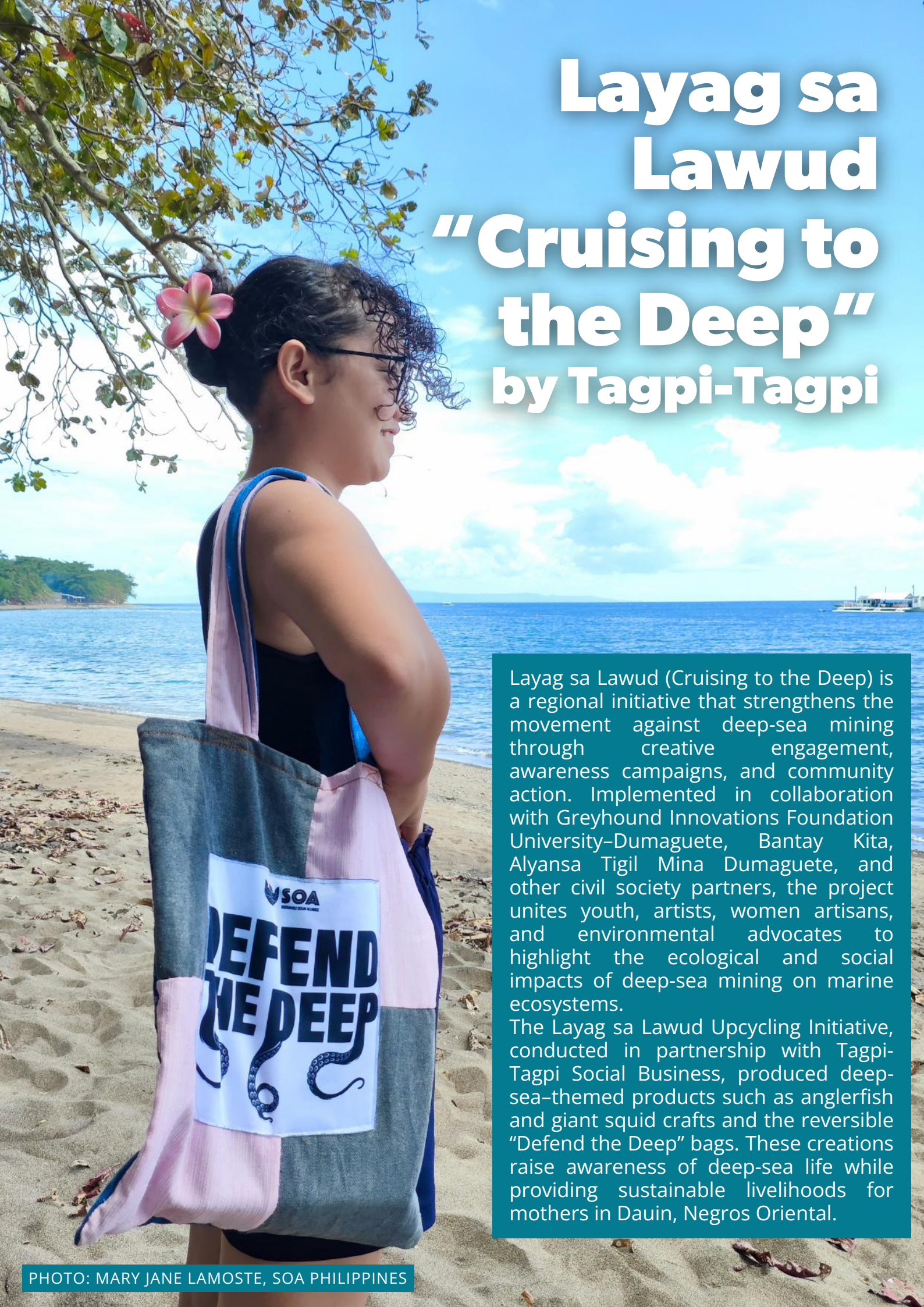
SmartFish Rescate de Valor A.C. is a Mexico-based non-profit that transforms small-scale fisheries into sustainable, thriving value chains. At the heart of our work is the Value Rescue Model (VRM)—a market-driven approach that helps small-scale fishing cooperatives improve their practices, reclaim lost value, and access premium markets that reward environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Through this work we advance three core objectives:

1. Increase supply of seafood that is environmentally sustainable and socially responsible.
2. Incentivize small-scale fishers involved in improvement projects or certifications.
3. Safeguard fishery resources for present and future generations.

By making sustainability inclusive and profitable, SmartFish empowers coastal communities to prosper while protecting marine ecosystems.

LINKEDIN:@SMARTFISHAC
YOUTUBE:@SMARTFISHAC
FACEBOOK:@SMARTFISHACRESCATEDEVALOR

Layag sa Lawud "Cruising to the Deep" by Tagpi-Tagpi



Layag sa Lawud (Cruising to the Deep) is a regional initiative that strengthens the movement against deep-sea mining through creative engagement, awareness campaigns, and community action. Implemented in collaboration with Greyhound Innovations Foundation University–Dumaguete, Bantay Kita, Alyansa Tigil Mina Dumaguete, and other civil society partners, the project unites youth, artists, women artisans, and environmental advocates to highlight the ecological and social impacts of deep-sea mining on marine ecosystems.

The Layag sa Lawud Upcycling Initiative, conducted in partnership with Tagpi-Tagpi Social Business, produced deep-sea–themed products such as anglerfish and giant squid crafts and the reversible "Defend the Deep" bags. These creations raise awareness of deep-sea life while providing sustainable livelihoods for mothers in Dauin, Negros Oriental.

PHOTO: MARY JANE LAMOSTE, SOA PHILIPPINES













The “DSM Chat Up” event convened over 250 concerned citizens to engage in dialogue and collective advocacy for ocean protection. Complementing this, the Layag sa Lawud Art and Poetry Competition brought together 30 creative youth leaders (ages 18–30) from diverse artistic disciplines—poetry, visual arts, and crafts—to express their perspectives on ocean conservation. Participants also experienced marine biodiversity firsthand through a series of snorkeling activities over two months, deepening their connection to the sea they aim to protect.

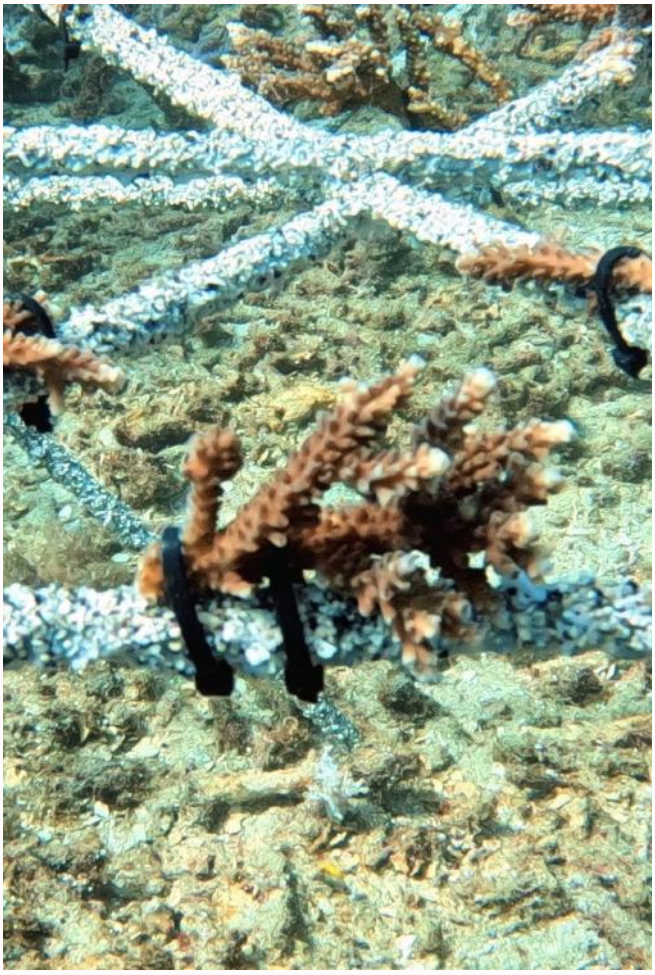
Showcasing both environmental advocacy and creative innovation, Layag sa Lawud has gained international recognition, with its outputs featured at the East Asian Seas Congress, United Nations Ocean Conference 2025, Our Ocean Conference 2025, and International Seabed Authority Meetings (July 2025).

PHOTOS: MARY JANE LAMOSTE, SOA PHILIPPINES



Livingseas Coral Restoration Site

The Livingseas Foundation is dedicated to coral reef restoration and conservation, operating from the coastal village of Padangbai, Bali. Our mission is to revitalize coral reef ecosystems affected by human activity and climate change - "Oceans as blue as the skies, teaming with life, not plastic waste." We are powered by a passionate team of local and international youth who work under the expert guidance of Singapore-born Leon Boey. Our main reef restoration site, the Livingseas Coral Restoration Site, lies just 10 min. by boat from the Padangbai harbor. Work on the site started in 2019, and the restored coral reef has since grown to over 6,000 square meters in size, creating a thriving habitat for a diverse array of marine life. Every day, we witness a significant resurgence in biodiversity, with various fish species returning to the reef, improving ecological stability and resilience.



INSTAGRAM: @LIVINGSEASFOUNDATION
FACEBOOK: @LIVINGSEAS.FOUNDATION

PHOTOS BY: BENJAMIN WOHLERT
@WOHLERTFOTOGRAFIE



An integral part of our successful reef restoration initiative is the active involvement of visitors and guests in our coral planting activities on the pontoon. From individual travelers to school groups or team building events, our coral workshops and planting activities help forge a connection with marine conservation. These collaborative endeavors not only support our restoration projects but also foster a community of dedicated individuals who recognize the importance of safeguarding our marine ecosystems.

Together, we are nurturing a culture of stewardship that extends beyond our reef restoration site, inspiring others to participate in the mission of preserving our oceans for future generations.

PHOTOS BY: LIVINGSEAS/BENJAMIN WOHLERT @WOHLERTFOTOGRAFIE



Assessment of Octopus Catch Trends and Challenges Faced by Fishermen.

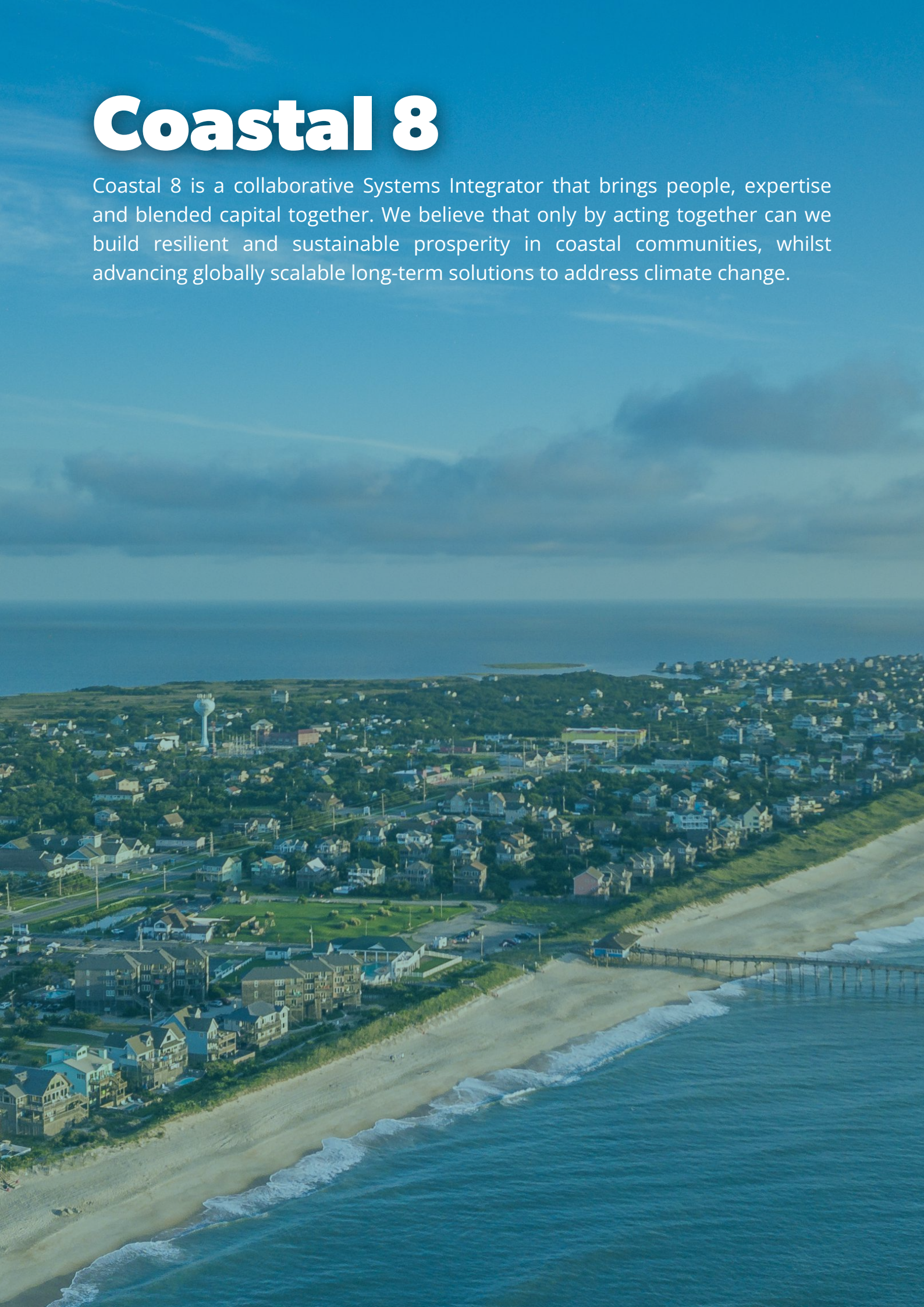
A case study of Zanzibar

This project explores how octopus are caught and preserved in Zanzibar, focusing on the daily practices of local fishers in areas such as Chwaka Bay and Nungwi. Octopus is an important source of income and food for coastal communities, yet challenges such as overfishing, limited storage methods, and changing market demands affect both quality and sustainability. The research aims to better understand how many octopus are caught, how they are handled and preserved, and which techniques help maintain freshness and reduce waste. The goal is to support improved fishing and preservation practices that protect livelihoods, ensure high-quality products and promote sustainable octopus management for the future.


A Film by Seastoria & Palau Blue Productions
Our film Palau, An Ocean Inheritance has won several awards and been screened at over 20 film festivals, and now we are exploring licensing options. This is Palau's first locally produced environmental film. Palau, An Ocean Inheritance is a short film that celebrates the powerful connection between Palauan culture and marine biodiversity, while also highlighting Palau's leadership in the global movement for Ocean Justice. Through the lens of community voices, iconic marine species, and traditional knowledge, the film tells the story of how one island nation continues to inspire a more just and sustainable future for our oceans.
SEASTORIA
DIRECTOR: RAYNE SULLIVAN AND SKYLAR CHEN
PRODUCER: IVORY VOGT
INSTAGRAM: @PALAU_OCEAN_INHERITANCE
An Ocean Inheritance
Palau
OFFICIAL SELECTION UNICA KOREA International Film Festival 2024
WINNER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE SPECIAL MENTION BEST SHORTS COMPETITION
AWARD WINNER Arctic Film Festival 2025
OFFICIAL SELECTION FRIDAY HARBOR DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL 2025
CAMBODIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2025 PACIFIC ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL SELECTION Colorado Environmental Film Festival 2025
2025 LWFF LOOKOUT WILD FILM FESTIVAL HONORABLE MENTION
Skylar CHEN
Alex WANG
Rayne SULLIVAN
Ivory VOGT
"A DAOB A DEMAD EA BELUU A DELAD."
THE OCEAN IS OUR FATHER AND THE LAND IS OUR MOTHER.

Coastal 8

Coastal 8 is a collaborative Systems Integrator that brings people, expertise and blended capital together. We believe that only by acting together can we build resilient and sustainable prosperity in coastal communities, whilst advancing globally scalable long-term solutions to address climate change.



The Climate Clock shows us that we have limited time to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, but climate action is urgent and necessary. This is why we need to #COMMITTOOCEAN at COP30. Ocean action is climate action, and we cannot allow conversations around the ocean and its health or its solutions be sidelined. Thousands of people recognize the significance of our ocean for our planet's health. Now it's time to demonstrate this support to our decision-makers. It's time to #COMMITTOOCEAN. We'll be counting on your voice to make sure COP30 produces ambitious outcomes for ocean-climate action.



by Blue Green Generation

INSTAGRAM: @OCEANSWARRIOR

PHOTO BY: RAUL DE LIMA



PHOTO: COIAB

Oil in the Amazon: A False Step Toward a Just Transition

LINKED IN: @SONIA VIOLANTE PTASZNIK

The Brazilian government has recently approved oil exploration at the mouth of the Amazon River — a highly sensitive region that hosts the largest reef system in South America, home to endemic species that thrive in the rare confluence of freshwater and saltwater. This unique ecosystem still requires extensive scientific research and protection.

Beyond posing a severe threat to marine biodiversity, this project also brings serious social risks to local communities that depend on artesanal fishing as one of their main sources of income. These populations may face growing insecurity, food shortages, and a loss of cultural identity as a result of environmental degradation. With this in mind, I am developing a project in collaboration with National Geographic and The Nature Conservancy to raise national and international awareness of the social and environmental consequences of this oil exploration.

My goal is to highlight how this initiative directly contradicts the UN's 30x30 conservation target and the principles of a just energy transition. Through interviews with scientists and local community leaders, I am collecting data and personal stories to inform and mobilize the public. By amplifying these voices, I aim to build collective pressure to halt fossil fuel expansion in the region and to protect one of the world's most biodiverse and culturally rich ecosystems.



PHOTO: INPE

LINKED IN: @DAMIEN NICOLAS

Damiens Nicolas



PHOTO: @CLIMATALK
@OBSERVATOIRETERREMONDE







PHOTOS: TEDXPOINTEÀPITRE
@L'EFFETPAPILLON

I am a climate justice advocate and Public Policy student from Guadeloupe, a French Caribbean island. My engagement for the French Overseas Territories began at La Sorbonne, where I chaired Sorb'Outremer, the association for students and the study of Overseas Territories. In 2020, I co-founded the Observatoire Terre-Monde, a Center for the Study of Political Ecologies in Overseas Territories and their neighboring regions, bringing together activists, researchers, and local communities. Within this pioneering initiative, I co-host a monthly seminar on decolonial ecology. I am also a Fellow of the Caribbean Climate Justice Leaders Academy, a program supported by Island Innovation and Open Society, designed to amplify youth-led climate initiatives across the Caribbean. In my master's dissertation, I explore the French Overseas Territories as an emerging political arena for climate justice. By analyzing issues of sovereignty, sustainability, and environmental justice, I argue that postcolonial perspectives remain essential to understanding adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage policies in these large ocean territories.

My advocacy focuses on advancing climate diplomacy between Subnational Island Jurisdictions, such as the French and European Overseas Territories, and their neighboring Small Island Developing States, particularly in the Caribbean. I work on transboundary challenges like the sargassum crisis, a key issue at the nexus of climate and ocean governance. As a TED Conference speaker, I delivered a talk on "Sargassum as an Emergent Common for a More United Caribbean", emphasizing the need for regional collective resilience. I aim to amplify the role of Overseas Territories in shaping a unified and equitable response to the climate crisis, ensuring their perspectives are both heard and valued.



Youth for the SDG's by Peace Boat US

Youth for the SDGs is an immersive learning and capacity building programme for activists and scholars advancing the Sustainable Development Goals across the United States and worldwide. Led by Peace Boat US, it strengthens meaningful youth engagement recognised as essential to delivering the 2030 Agenda. Endorsed by IOC UNESCO for the Ocean Decade, the programme welcomes participants of all ages, with limited scholarships awarded on merit and need to those already active on SDG work. Voyages are operated by Peace Boat, a Japan based partner, on a large passenger ship that sails regionally and globally, combining education and advocacy on disarmament, climate and sustainability with partners worldwide.

INSTAGRAM: @PEACEBOATUS

About one thousand participants join each voyage, and Peace Boat is a committed SDG campaigner and partner of the SDG Action Campaign. Typical programmes run for about two weeks, visit three to five countries, and focus on SDGs linked to climate and development aligned to the ports of call, blending onboard learning with field visits. There is a strong focus on SDG 14 Life Below Water and SDG 13 Climate Action, with blue economy, coastal resilience and ocean literacy threaded through activities. Onboard, participants hear from guest educators and staff, join workshops on media, networking, advocacy and policy, deliver their own presentations, and engage in cultural exchange with the wider community. In ports, they take part in experiential study visits with NGOs, universities, government agencies and local groups on climate and sustainable development.







PHOTO: ANDREW PARISH: @_SALTEDLENS_

ReGeneration Surf

ReGeneration Surf is a surfer-led initiative under the UN Decade of Ocean Science endorsed Citizens of Surf project, that empowers the global surfing community to protect, restore and monitor surf ecosystems while engaging in ocean advocacy. It encourages surfers to take part in conservation and community science at their local breaks, and to lend their collective voice to global campaigns such as supporting the High Seas Treaty and calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining. Surfers are uniquely placed to contribute to ocean–climate action because of their deep connection with the sea and the time they spend immersed in and observing changing ocean conditions. Their lived experience, strong sense of community and natural ocean literacy position them as powerful ambassadors for ocean regeneration and long-term stewardship.

INSTAGRAM: @REGENERATION.SURF

PHOTO: SEA STORIES PORTUGAL,

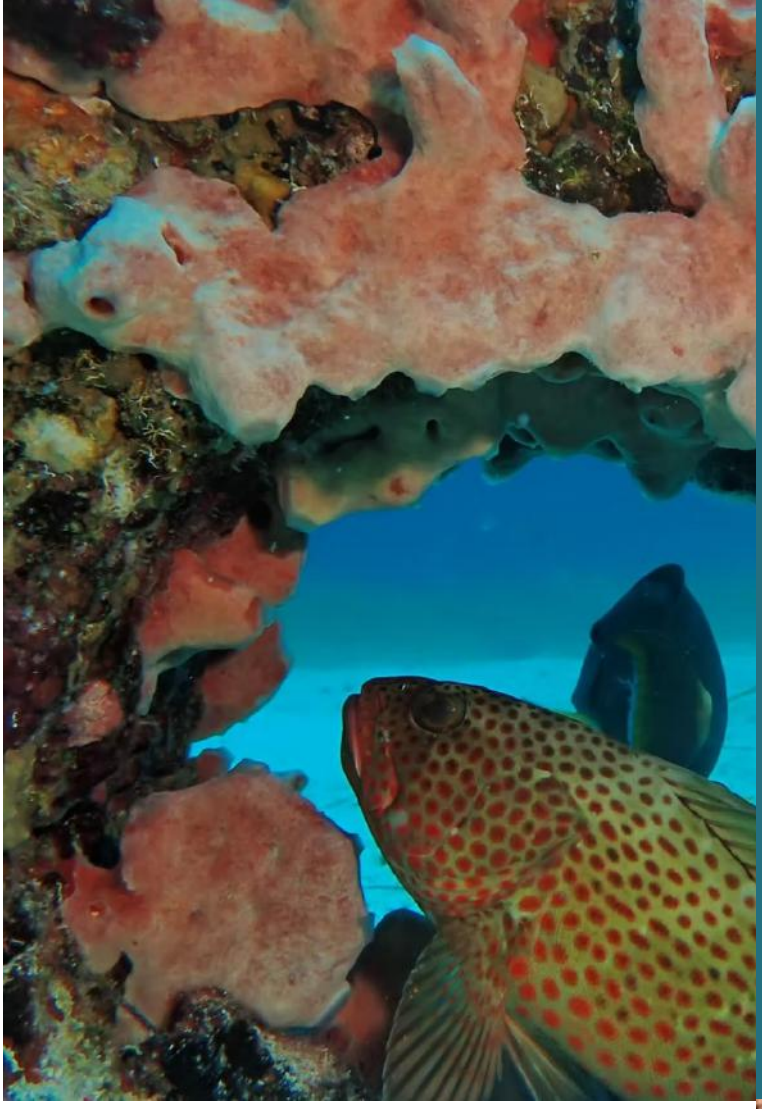






PHOTO: WSL PURE





IntelliReefs creates large-scale, biomimicking artificial coral reefs to increase biological and economic resilience, biodiversity, and available habitat, and has developed and proven a series of nanotechnology substrates called “Oceanite” for underwater construction and artificial reef manufacturing for restoration. Oceanite can be fine-tuned down to the nanoscale for site, species, and function requirements, increasing the ROI and high-impact results.IntelliReefs is currently researching and developing products for coral restoration that address disease mitigation, pre-seeding artificial coral reefs with small corals for accelerated restoration, and growth-enhancing substrates for coral gardening that are more resilient to storms, bleaching, and acidification.

IntelliReefs

by Reef Life Restoration & Foundation

IntelliReefs (a division of the company Reef Life Restoration, LLC) is the world’s first science-driven, nanoengineering marine restoration company. We are working to put the best technology underwater to build additional coral reefs that are more resilient in the face of climate change, disease, and ocean degradation. On 26 November 2020, we were recognized internationally, winning a Greening the Islands (GTI) award for sustainable tourism in Sint Maarten.





Thank you to everyone who contributed to this publication – we see you!

And thanks to all for reading.

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VOL. 30 (Nov 2025)



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