



# HUBS IMPACT REPORT 2023





SOA Tanzania Grass Underwater Project

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

[Sustainable Ocean Alliance](#) (SOA) continues to spearhead global efforts towards achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 'Life Below Water' through an expansive international network of more than 80 Hubs across six regions—North America, Hispanoamérica, Caribbean, Europe & Lusofonia, Africa, and Asia.

Driven by the passionate efforts of dedicated young ocean leaders and supported by strategic funding initiatives from SOA, our Hubs play a pivotal role in advancing SOA's mission **to activate young people, develop and implement innovative solutions, and mobilize a global movement to restore the health of the ocean in our lifetime.**

In 2023, SOA Hubs orchestrated a multitude of impactful actions and activities that colorfully illustrate the organization's overarching commitment to empowering present and future generations of ocean leaders. This includes, but is not limited to, ocean sustainability, ecosystem and species restoration, political advocacy, community engagement, educational outreach, ocean literacy, and more.

Showcased in this comprehensive Hubs Impact Report, this global network not only champions direct action but also fosters a collaborative approach to ocean governance that resonates across cultures and political landscapes. Throughout 2023, SOA Hubs have made significant strides in promoting sustainable ocean practices, influencing ocean policy, and empowering communities through education and advocacy.

These efforts collectively contribute to a broader understanding and appreciation of the ocean's critical role in regulating planetary systems, mitigating climate change, and promoting human well-being—reinforcing SOA's leadership in global ocean sustainability.

— *Brandon Levy, Head of Global Engagement*  
*Sustainable Ocean Alliance*

[EXPLORE THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF SOA'S HUBS](#) →



SOA Europe Hub members at deep-sea mining protest in front of the European Parliament



# AFRICA

SOA Cameroon Wouri River Cleanup

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### SOA CAMEROON

#### World Mangrove Day Celebration and Restoration

In collaboration with Light for Nature (Linat), SOA Cameroon celebrated World Mangrove Day (July 26) with a special community event to plant 100 mangrove trees along the coast. The goal of the event was to restore and protect vital mangrove ecosystems in Cameroon and educate the community on the importance of mangroves for coastal resilience and biodiversity.

#### Wouri River Cleanup

In partnership with Wetland & Ocean Rescue and SEE Turtles, SOA Cameroon organized a plastic cleanup event along the Wouri River in Douala. 800 kilograms of plastic bottles were removed from the river, preventing them from reaching the ocean for a cleaner, healthier marine environment.

### SOA KENYA

#### The Blue Academy Program

Spearheaded by SOA Kenya, the Blue Academy Program focuses on imparting knowledge about marine conservation to youth while concurrently raising awareness within the community through educational sessions, community campaigns, and hands-on projects. By fostering a deeper understanding and sense of responsibility for the protection of marine ecosystems, the Blue Academy plays a crucial role in shaping a more environmentally conscious and engaged generation.

#### Mangrove and Seaweed Restoration in Mombasa

SOA Kenya's commitment to environmental stewardship is evident through their active involvement in mangrove restoration. To date, the Hub has successfully restored over 3,500 mangroves and 500 seaweeds—contributing to the preservation of vital coastal ecosystems in Kenya.



Above: SOA Kenya Blue Academy Program

**SOA NIGERIA**

**Iwaya Coastal Cleanup**

SOA Nigeria, in partnership with Yali Network Nigeria, organized a coastal cleanup event in Iwaya to help spread awareness about the detrimental effects of improper waste disposal. With the help of participants—including children from the community—the Hub successfully removed trash accumulated in the drainage systems, preventing it from ending up in the surrounding waterways. The event was also attended by state government representatives with support of the Olu Iwaya to appeal for improved evacuation and safety protocols to protect the community from coastal flooding and lagoon incursion.

**Turning the Tides on Plastics Panel, The Wind Summit 2023**

Representing over 30 young people, SOA Nigeria Hub Leader Adenike Adeiga served on a panel at the Wind Summit 2023 in Lagos to highlight solutions to plastic pollution in Nigeria. During the panel, Adenike shared:

- How plastic contributes to greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)
- The importance of the ocean as a carbon sink
- The urgent need for transparent policy and collaboration among African countries to combat plastic and GHG pollution.

**Marine Pollution Literacy Training and Tree Planting**

SOA Nigeria organized an event in Idado to train 109 local fishers, community leaders, women, and 35 youth within the community on the impacts of pollution on the marine environment and how the ocean is not immune to their actions. Through the training, SOA Nigeria was able to communicate in the local dialect on the actions and behavior change needed to make a difference. At the end of the program, participants planted trees donated to by the Ministry.

**HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS**



SOA Nigeria Cleanup Event in Iwaya, Lagos



Above: SOA Cameroon Sustainable Fishing Campaign  
Below: SOA Zanzibar Mangrove Planting Event



## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### Seagrass Restoration in Bagamoyo

Through SOA Tanzania's Grass Underwater Project, 21 community participants planted 100 hessian bags of seagrass over 0.5 square meters in the Hub's adopted seagrass meadow in Bagamoyo. The effort involved the planting of seagrass species, including *Thalassian hemprichi*, *Cymodocea rotundata*, and *Syringodium isoetifolium*.

### Our Ocean Bootcamp 2023

30 Tanzanian youth participated in the third cohort of SOA Tanzania's Our Ocean Bootcamp 2023, resulting in the planting of 1,000 mangroves over 3,000 hectares in the Hub's adopted mangrove site in Bagamoyo. Mangrove species planted included *Avicennia marina*, *Ceriops tagal*, and *Rhizophora mucronata*.

### World Cleanup Day

SOA Tanzania removed 5,000 kilograms of waste from the ocean in commemoration of World Cleanup Day 2023, organized in Mafia Island and at the Msasani Fish Market in Dar es Salaam. A waste brand audit was also conducted, identifying the primary polluters and highlighting the pressing need to address single-use plastic waste in Tanzania.

### SOA ZANZIBAR

#### Mangrove Planting in Zanzibar Island

On International Youth Day, SOA Zanzibar organized a mangrove planting event in collaboration with the Youth of the United Nations Association (YUNA) Zanzibar in the northern region of Zanzibar Island. 60 students and Hub members planted 1,000

mangrove seedlings and restored 2 hectares of land. They also learned about the benefits of the sustainable blue economy and the importance of protecting natural resources for current and future generations.

Following the event, a committee was mobilized by the Hub to monitor the mangrove seedlings and work in collaboration with the local government to replace ones that do not survive.

## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA CAMEROON

#### Let's Fish Sustainably Campaign

Held in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and Fisheries, the Let's Fish Sustainably Campaign targeted fishers and community members in Idenua and Limbe to address unsustainable fishing practices and educate the community on the importance of complying with fisheries laws and regulations. Participants were successfully trained and educated on sustainable aquaculture techniques and fishing methods.

## SOA AFRICA IN THE NEWS

### SOA GHANA

**My Joy Online: SOA Ghana educates over 100 fishers and coastal dwellers against sea turtle poaching**

### SOA TANZANIA

**WIOMSA: Grass Underwater Project Celebrates First World Seagrass Day**



# ASIA

Mangrove education workshop with SOA Philippines Ocean Protection Caravan (OPC)

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### SOA HONG KONG

#### Sustainable Fisheries Training Program

In partnership with LifeJungle, SOA Hong Kong held a youth training program on sustainable fisheries to educate participants on marine biodiversity, threats, and solutions to restore and conserve marine ecosystems. Participants also explored and observed different types of sustainable fishing practices.

### SOA MY OCEAN HOPE (MALAYSIA)

#### Malaysia Aqua Archive (MAQIVE)

Launched by SOA Malaysia, the Malaysia Aqua Archive (MAQIVE) is a digital public resource that aims to preserve and record the unique marine species of the South China Sea. To date, the Hub has uploaded more than 5,000 individual species to the platform, surpassing their initial target. The Hub also hosted over 700 participants in a MAQIVE workshop and seminar training.

#### Crisis to Cuisine Project

The Crisis to Cuisine Project is an initiative created by SOA Malaysia that addresses the connection between food insecurity and climate change by exploring sustainable seafood alternatives such as sea urchin gonad. This project also helps to deepen the knowledge of sustainable urchin-algae co-culture and foster climate readiness within the local coastal community.

### SOA OUR CONSERVASEA (INDONESIA)

#### Bilingual Mangrove Encyclopedia

In an initiative to promote ocean literacy in Indonesia, SOA Our Conservasea translated and published a bilingual encyclopedia of mangroves.

### SOA PHILIPPINES

#### Ocean Protection Caravan (OPC) 2023

Funded by SOA's Grants Program and launched by SOA Philippines Hub Leader Lester Dellosa, the Ocean Protection Caravan (OPC) is a two-part educational training and capacity-building program to empower young Filipino leaders as champions of SDG14 'Life Below Water'. 30 participants from the Bicol region gathered in person at Lola Sayong Eco-Surf Camp to advance their capacity building, leadership training, and advocacy work in the ocean sector. In an effort to collaborate with fellow Hubs, SOA Philippines partnered with SOA Guatemala, Peru, and Sri Lanka to host this event.



Above: SOA Sri Lanka Hub member speaking at COP 28 UAE

**Learning Tide Webinar Series**

SOA Philippines hosted the first edition of the regional Learning Tide webinar series, an official UN Ocean Decade initiative held in partnership with SOA Global and the UN Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOP) Program. Attended by more than 50 participants, this webinar led an intergenerational dialogue to inspire young leaders to take action against ocean plastic pollution.

**SOA TIMOR-LESTE**

**The Importance of Mangrove Forests for Life Workshop**

Organized by SOA Timor-Leste, The Importance of Mangrove Forests for Life Workshop engaged 102 local community members, youth groups, and marine science students from East Timor universities. Following the workshop, participants helped plant 300 mangrove seedlings in Dolok Oan, Hera.

**Ocean Heroes Bootcamp**

SOA Timor-Leste organized a three-day Ocean Heroes Bootcamp to increase awareness and understanding of ocean conservation for local high school students. Through a variety of engaging and interactive activities—including mangrove restoration and sea turtle conservation—30 participants were educated and empowered around the global significance of the ocean, the threats it faces, and actionable steps to take to protect it.



SOA Timor-Leste Ocean Heroes Bootcamp



## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA SRI LANKA

#### Deep-Sea Mining Scientific Journal

In collaboration with the University of Wayamba Sri Lanka, SOA Sri Lanka launched the first-ever Sri Lankan scientific journal on deep-sea mining as a key document for local policymaking.

### SOA TIMOR-LESTE

#### Marine Pollution Campaign

With approximately 1,500 participants from various universities and institutions in the capital Dili, SOA Timor-Leste hosted a social advocacy event with Tropas ba Ambiente Saudável (TROBAS) to raise awareness on the impact and environmental consequences of pollution on marine biodiversity in and around the region.

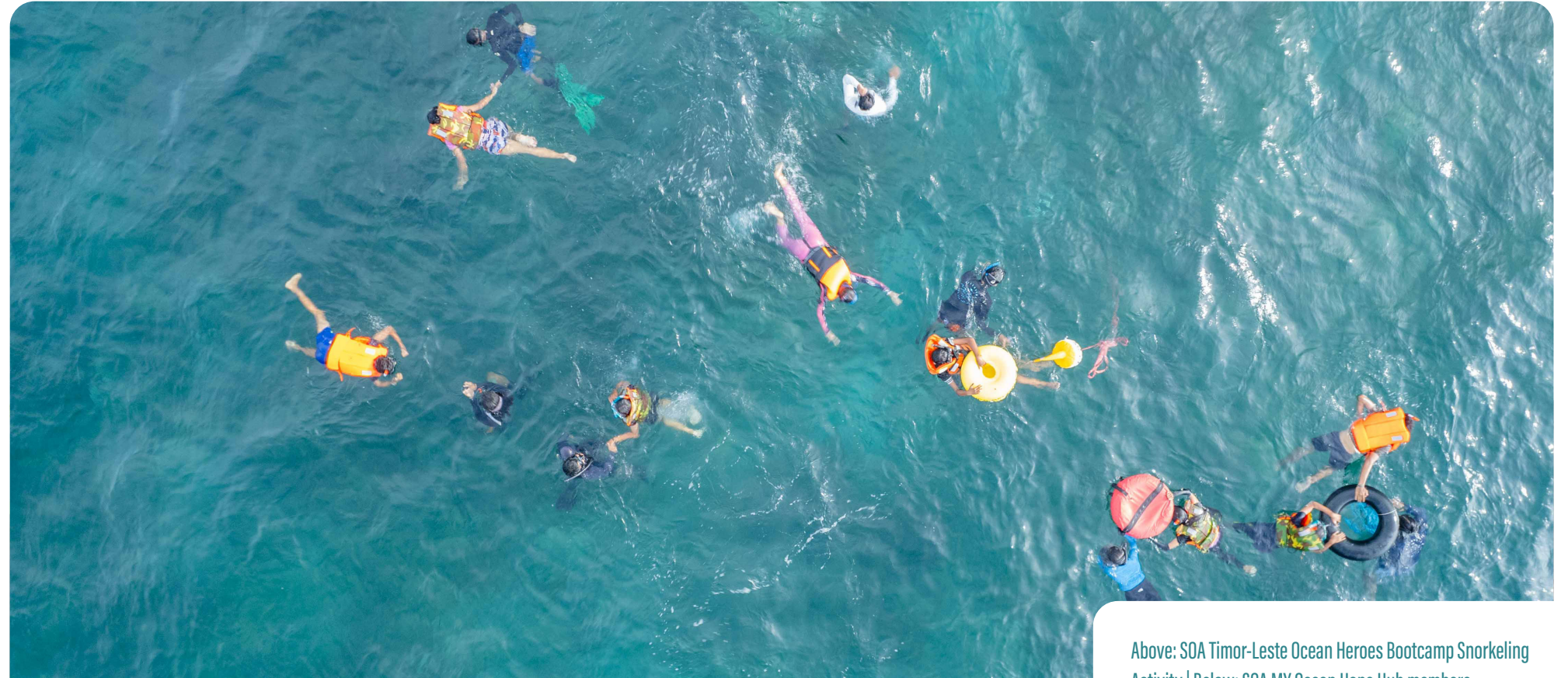
## SOA ASIA IN THE NEWS

### SOA MY OCEAN HOPE (MALAYSIA)

#### EcoCupid: [Malaysian Students Turning Trash into Treasure](#)

### SOA SRI LANKA

#### EarthLanka: [Mitigating the Environmental Issues of Deep-Sea Mining](#)



Above: SOA Timor-Leste Ocean Heroes Bootcamp Snorkeling Activity | Below: SOA MY Ocean Hope Hub members conducting an upcycling workshop





# CARIBBEAN

Coral gardening with SOA Caribbean in Grenada

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### SOA BARBADOS

#### Urchin Snorkel Day and Seaside Chat

Over the past year, a core team from SOA Barbados has been tracking the progress of a mortality event of long-spine sea urchins across the island. A snorkel day event was held at Sandy Lane Beach to introduce Hub members to an area densely populated by the species and highlight some of the key threats to the region's shallow reefs.

### SOA CARIBBEAN

#### International Coastal Cleanup Day

In recognition of International Coastal Cleanup Day (September 16), members of SOA Caribbean coordinated a beach cleanup event at a key sea turtle nesting site. The Hub successfully recovered over 100 pounds of trash from the beach. Representatives from Barbados Youth Development Council (BYDC), Raya34 Sports Inc., and Caribbean Community Youth Ambassadors Corps were also in attendance.

#### Kids Snorkel Day

SOA Caribbean, in partnership with Friends of Caribbean WaterWays, hosted a kids and family snorkel day to explore the marine life of Anse Cochon Reef and Pigeon Island. Led by SOA Caribbean Country Leader Monique Calderon, participants witnessed a diverse variety of corals, eels, and fish.

#### Diving into the Synthetic Sea

Aimed at raising awareness around plastic pollution in Trinidad and Tobago, Diving Into the Synthetic Sea is a storytelling initiative led by SOA Caribbean. For this project, youth participated in an underwater and onshore cleanup located off the Northwestern Coast of Trinidad, unofficially known as 'Down the Islands'. Participants captured unique footage of plastic pollution to later facilitate outreach programs highlighting and visualizing the extent of the issue.

#### World Seagrass Day Workshop

In celebration of World Seagrass Day, SOA Caribbean members in Trinidad and Tobago attended a seagrass workshop in partnership with the BES-NET TT Team and Dr. Kelly Kingnon. This workshop aimed to promote advocacy for the conservation of seagrasses with a focus on research on seagrass flowering and pollination in local waters.

#### The Dive & Conservation Festival

Held in Grenada, SOA Caribbean was a community partner for The Dive & Conservation Festival, a celebration of our ocean and the country's conservation efforts. The event featured inspiring talks from industry leaders, interactive workshops, exciting activities, and SOA Caribbean Trivia Night.



Above: SOA Caribbean hosting the Deep Sea Symposium during the International Seabed Authority 28th Session (ISA28) in Kingston, Jamaica | Below: SOA Caribbean seagrass restoration workshop in Trinidad & Tabago | Right: SOA Caribbean Snorkel Day in St. Lucia



## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA CARIBBEAN

#### A Dive Into the Deep Sea

Held at the Art Society of Trinidad and Tobago, SOA Caribbean hosted an art exhibition and presentation—gathering local scientists, civil society, young ocean leaders, and artists to witness the power of art as a tool to effect change and educate the community on the current state of affairs on deep-sea mining.

#### Deep Sea Matters Exhibition and Town Hall Meeting

In commemoration of International Environmental Education Day (January 26), SOA Caribbean held the Deep Sea Matters Exhibition and Town Hall Meeting in collaboration with the Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council, the University of the West Indies, the Institute of Jamaica, and Greenpeace. Attendees included students ranging from high school to graduate programs, officers from the Mines and Geology Division, media personnel, Jamaican delegates and government officials, as well as foreign delegates and ambassadors including the U.S. and Costa Rica. Hub Leader Robyn Young represented the Hub and participated on a panel alongside industry experts.

#### Deep Sea Youth Symposium

Held in parallel to the 28th Council & Assembly Meeting at the International Seabed Authority (ISA), The Deep Sea Youth Symposium was a five-day capacity building workshop co-hosted by EcoVybz Environmental Creatives in partnership with SOA Caribbean and SOA Hispanoamerica. The program's overarching goal was to utilize all forms of media as a means to bridge the knowledge gap and connect people to the importance of the ocean as well as create experiential learning on issues related to the deep-sea mining and its connection to SDG13 'Climate Action'.

## SOA CARIBBEAN IN THE NEWS

### SOA CARIBBEAN

Trinidad & Tobago Newsday: Caribbean Youth Rally to Defend The Deep Sea

Now Grenada: SOA Caribbean Partners with Grenada's Dive Conservation Festival

Barbados Today: Call to restore Graeme Hall through multi-sectoral approach

Jamaica Observer: Volunteers clear underwater 'garbage heap'





# EUROPE

SOA Europe Hub members at the #LookDown protest at Praça do Camões in Lisbon organized by SOA, WWF Portugal, and Sciaena

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### SOA BLACK SEA (ROMANIA)

#### Black Sea Day

In commemoration of Black Sea Day (October 31), SOA Black Sea Hub organized multiple events across the country to promote community awareness and understanding on the importance of protecting and conserving marine biodiversity. The Hub conducted six trainings on marine biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable living with more than 150 students from various educational stages.

### SOA SPAIN

#### Ibero-American Congress of Young Sea Researchers

At the Ibero-American Congress of Young Sea Researchers, SOA Spain Hub Leader Joseph Julca Mendoza presented his work, *Disseminating the Conservation Status of Mediterranean Sharks and Rays*, to the more than 160 young people in attendance from different parts of Spain.

#### Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change (LCOY) Spain

In preparation for COP28 Dubai, SOA Spain attended LCOY Spain, where Hub Leader Joseph Julca Mendoza met with 90 other young people to contribute to Spain's climate action agenda and COP28 proposals. The event addressed topics specific to the challenges and priorities of Spain, including the just ecological transition, emissions mitigation, Loss and Damage Fund, and more.

## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA GERMANY

#### #LookDown Norway Campaign Activation

On October 2, SOA Germany participated in SOA's #LookDown global activation to stop deep-sea mining in Norway by peacefully protesting in front of the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin and taking action on social media.



SOA Mozambique community educational workshop on ocean plastic pollution and sustainable recycling practices

# LUSOFONIA

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### SOA BRASIL

#### Beach and Underwater Cleanup

For World Ocean Month (June), SOA Brasil collaborated with Route Brasil to organize a beach cleanup at Aquele Abraço São Conrado with more than 2,500 participants in addition freediving underwater cleanup at Prainha Beach in Rio de Janeiro.

#### Diálogos Amazônicos

SOA Hub Leaders from SOA Brasil attended Diálogos Amazônicos—a pre-COP conference held in Belém, Brasil—to advocate on behalf of concerned youth regarding the interconnection of the Amazon rainforest and the ocean and protecting both from environmental degradation, exploitation, and biodiversity loss. SOA Brasil participated in “Amazon Free of Oil” march and had the opportunity to contribute to drafting the Pan Amazon Peoples letter that was later presented during the conference.

### SOA CAMPINAS (PROJETO TRANSFORMAR – BRASIL)

#### Scuba Diving & Ocean Education

SOA Campinas worked with approximately 100 youth from low-income families through environmental education activities and scuba diving opportunities. This year, the Hub partnered with Brazilian environmental agency ICMBio-Alcatrazes to host educational diving sessions in a conservation unit managed by the agency.

### SOA MOZAMBIQUE

#### Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Mozambique

Held in partnership with Blue Orb and Pedagogical University, SOA Mozambique co-organized the region’s first Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) on Climate Change where young people raised debates and proposed solutions around the impacts of climate change in Mozambique. The event included an audio-visual exhibition on the importance of the ocean, mangrove planting and restoration project, and an educational workshop with schools in Matola Rio on ocean conservation. Over the course of three days, more than 250 youth attended the event.



Above: Projeto TransforMAR scuba diving and educational activity with local low-income school children in Brasil

**SOA OCEAN HUB ALGARVE (PORTUGAL)**

**Saber A Mar Event**

SOA Ocean Hub Algarve hosted an all-day public, with the support of grant from SOA. The activities included birdwatching in the salt marshes, seminars with local ocean conservation organizations, exploring local ecosystems (dune and salt marshes), and increasing understanding about local flora and fauna and their ecosystem services.

**SOA OCEAN DEVOTION MADEIRA (PORTUGAL)**

**Wave of Change Mural**

Following a beach cleanup, SOA Madeira completed an 'artivism' mural entitled *Wave of Change* made from recovered ocean plastic pollution collected from the ocean and beaches in Madeira by Hub members.

**SOA PORTO (PORTUGAL)**

**Echoes of the Sea Event Series**

SOA Porto organized four highly successful 'Echoes of the Sea' events, all of which had almost full attendance. These events aimed to share the secrets of ocean through various projects contributing to ocean sustainability.

**SOA PORTUGAL**

**Mental Health & Ocean Workshop**

Held in partnership with Heal & Growth, SOA Portugal organized the Mental Health & Ocean Workshop to explore how the ocean impacts mental health and human wellbeing.



SOA Ocean Devotion Madeira 'Wave of Change' Mural made from recovered ocean plastic pollution collected by Hub members



Above: SOA Porto hub members at the 'Echos of the Sea' Event | Below: SOA Algarve hosting 'Saber A Mar' ocean education and outreach event with local school children



## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA ALGARVE & MADEIRA (PORTUGAL)

#### #LookDown Norway Campaign Activation

On October 2, SOA Algarve and SOA Madeira participated in SOA's #LookDown global activation to stop deep-sea mining in Norway by peacefully protesting in front of the Norwegian Embassy in Lisbon and taking action on social media.

### SOA BRASIL

#### Protecting the Amazon from Drilling Exploitation

In an effort to protect Amazonian ecosystems from drilling exploitation by Brazil's National Petroleum Agency (ANP), SOA Brasil and 159 other NGOs signed a letter to President Lula to stop ANP from auctioning off the drilling rights in 602 new exploration areas, including 21 in the Amazon River Basin. The Hub also went in person where the auction took place to support Arayara and record the points of view of the communities that would be most affected by this exploitation.

### SOA OCEAN DEVOTION MADEIRA (PORTUGAL)

#### Deep-Sea Symposium & Petition Launch

In collaboration with MARE Madeira, SOA Madeira co-organized a symposium on the deep sea, including the launch of a regional petition for a moratorium on deep-sea mining and an art exhibition where the Hub exposed their original art piece entitled, *Hope*.

### SOA PORTUGAL

#### Deep Knowledge Campaign

SOA Portugal developed the 'Conhecimento Profundo' (Deep Knowledge) Campaign to take action against deep-sea mining in Portugal. The Hub successfully collected 156 petition signature and created a robust social media campaign to debunk myths on deep-sea mining, spotlight Portugal's stance on the topic, explain what is the ISA, and share updates and new developments from the ISA 28th Session Meetings.

## SOA LUSOFONIA IN THE NEWS

### SOA BRASIL

**Corrieo Braziliense: Environmentalists protest against oil exploration in the Amazon River**

### SOA CAMPINAS (BRASIL)

**United Nations: Projeto TransforMAR receives official endorsement by UN Ocean Decade**

### SOA OCEAN DEVOTION MADEIRA (PORTUGAL)

**JM Madeira: Ocean Devotion Madeira launches regional petition against deep-sea mining**

**Madeira Island News: Madeira — A World Leader in Cetacean Heritage**

### SOA PORTUGAL

**Jornal De Negocios: Portuguese Parliament approves moratorium preventing deep-sea**



SOA Perú advocacy campaign to Stop Deep-Sea Mining in Peru

# HISPANOAMÉRICA

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### SOA COSTA RICA

#### **A Call to All Voices of the Ocean Report**

Led by Ocean & Climate Platform and Varda Group, SOA Costa Rica participated in the report, *A Call to All Voices of the Ocean*—an open consultation of 125 civil organizations to provide their input on defining a successful third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) to benefit the ocean, marine and coastal ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them.

#### **Deep Sea Ecosystems Special Interest Group (DSE-SIG) Annual Meeting**

SOA Costa Rica participated in the annual meeting of the Challenger Society's Deep Sea Ecosystems Special Interest Group (DSE-SIG). During this meeting, a panel was held to discuss the ongoing negotiations at the International Seabed Authority on deep-sea mining and the main challenges and tools for raising awareness about these critical ecosystems.

### SOA EL SALVADOR

#### **Rally for Wetland & Coastal Ecosystems**

SOA El Salvador held its first rally in 2023, focusing on pollution in wetland and coastal marine ecosystems. The event was a success with many people in attendance to learn about the impact of pollution on these delicate ecosystems.

#### **Shellfish Aquaculture Restoration**

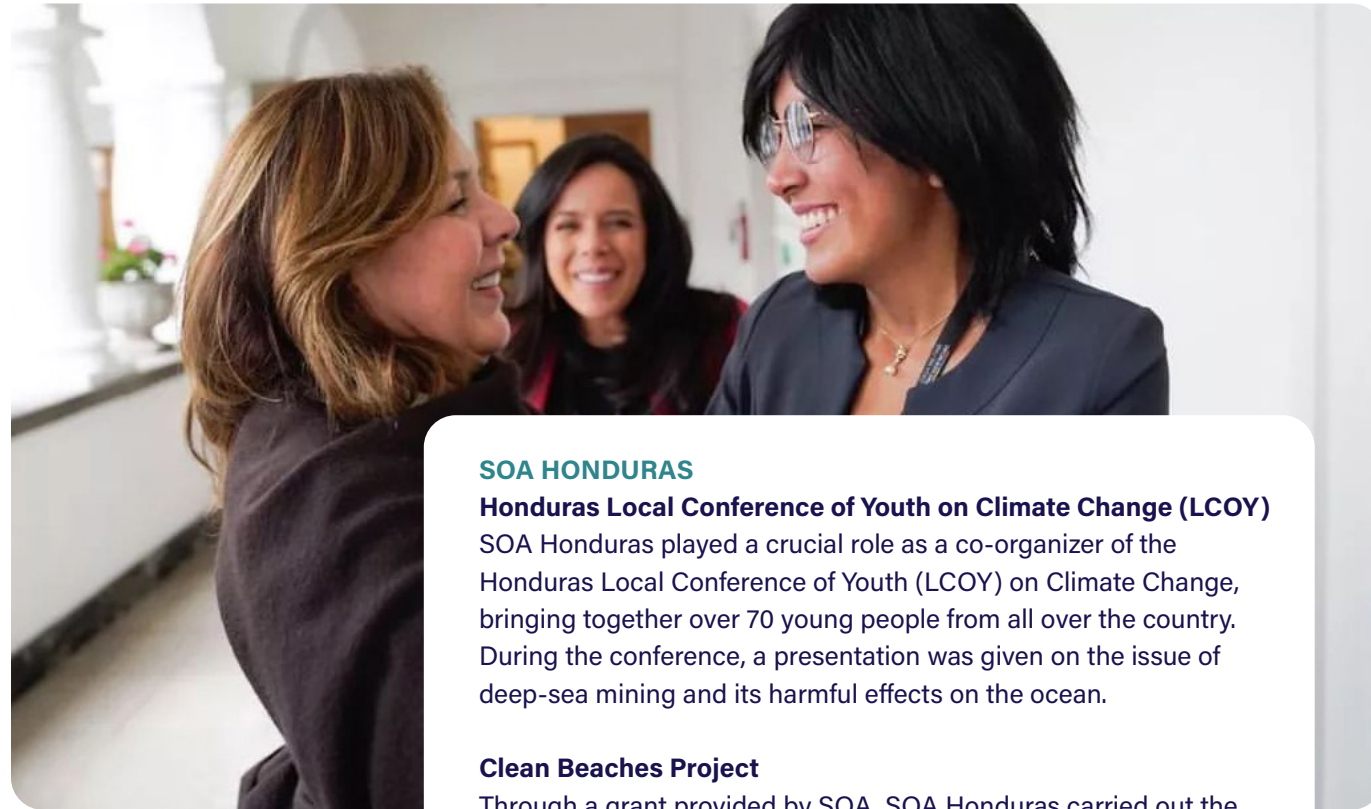
As part of their commitment to marine conservation, SOA El Salvador collected 400 glass bottles and provided them to a shellfish aquaculture center in Puerto el Triunfo for shellfish restoration. The center reuses these bottles for the restoration of microalgae graze-feeding bivalves to help reduce waste and improve the local economy. Overall, SOA El Salvador's efforts have made a significant impact on the environment and their community.

### SOA GUATEMALA

#### **Deep Rising Screening & Forum**

SOA Guatemala hosted a film screening for the deep-sea mining exposé documentary, *Deep Rising*, at the Alianza Francesa in Guatemala City. The event was followed by a 30-minute forum, during which distinguished experts shared their perspectives on the potential impacts of deep-sea mining, including 35 individuals from the public and numerous representatives from the Guatemalan Maritime Authority, Healthy Reef, Fundaeco, and more. The event provided a significant opportunity to raise awareness within the community about the importance of preserving critical ocean ecosystems and to foster dialogue on pressing issues such as deep-sea mining.





Above: SOA Ecuador Hub President Janice Márquez de la Plata Molina meeting with the First Lady of Ecuador to advocate for greater ocean protection in Ecuador

**SOA HONDURAS**

**Honduras Local Conference of Youth on Climate Change (LCOY)**

SOA Honduras played a crucial role as a co-organizer of the Honduras Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) on Climate Change, bringing together over 70 young people from all over the country. During the conference, a presentation was given on the issue of deep-sea mining and its harmful effects on the ocean.

**Clean Beaches Project**

Through a grant provided by SOA, SOA Honduras carried out the Clean Beaches Project where over 100 primary school children from were educated on plastic pollution and awareness.

**SOA LAMBAYEQUE (PERU)**

**Ocean Acidification Action Day**

For the fifth annual Ocean Acidification Action Day (January 8), SOA Lambayeque held several events to raise awareness on ocean acidification (OA), including a discussion on water sampling and analysis, designing experiments, and the available research networks in Latin America.

**Beach Cleanup Campaign**

SOA Lambayeque organized a beach cleanup campaign in collaboration with the District Municipality of Puerto Eten, Pedro Ruiz Gallo National University, Faculty of Biological Sciences, and Challway. The Hub collected over 80 kilograms of solid waste in across nearly 200 meters, including cigarette butts, face masks, plastic bottles, and more.

**SOA MEXICO**

**World Water Day**

On World Water Day (March 22), SOA Mexico and EarthEcho International organized an event with over 70 participants to identify ways to improve the health of their local water resources.



SOA Guatemala at the Climate Change Forum



Above: SOA Honduras beach cleanup with local youth  
Below: SOA Perú project to improve climate literacy through schools in fishing communities



## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA MEXICO

#### Mexico Moratorium on Deep-Sea Mining

SOA Mexico collected and presented over 146,000 signatures encouraging Mexico's government to say no to deep-sea mining. Following SOA Mexico's petition delivery to Mexico's elected official at the International Seabed Authority, the Mexican government declared their support of a moratorium on deep-sea mining on November 21, 2023.

#### Escazú Agreement Event

SOA Mexico Hub member Paola Ruiz was invited to attend an event for the regional Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America, organized by the Supreme Court Justice of Mexico. The event focused on promoting the participation of the judiciary in implementing the regional Escazú Agreement, with particular emphasis on female environmental defenders.

### SOA HONDURAS

#### Protect the Cisne Islands

SOA Honduras, together with human rights organizations, called out the Honduras government's proposal to build a penitentiary center on the Cisne Islands—a remote archipelago recognized as a protected national marine park with unique biodiversity. SOA Honduras invited the community to urge the government to respect environmental legislation, avoid socio-environmental conflicts, and explore sustainable alternatives for citizen security.

### SOA GUATEMALA

#### Rescue the Motagua River Basin

SOA Guatemala worked with several governmental,

international, and private institutions to promote projects, awareness campaigns, and technical cooperation to rescue the Motagua River Basin—a region with dramatic pollution affecting the second largest reef in the world, the Mesoamerican Reef. Following the Hub's efforts, the Alliance to Recover the Motagua Basin in Guatemala was signed.

## SOA HISPANOAMÉRICA IN THE NEWS

### SOA PERU

**Actualidad Ambiental: [Photographic exhibition opens on the impact of the Repsol oil spill in the Peruvian sea](#)**

**Congreso de la Republica: [First meeting of the Pre COP-28 working group](#)**

**El Comercio: [The campaign that seeks to protect the future of sharks from fin trafficking](#)**

### SOA MEXICO

**Mares de Mexico: [SOA Advances as an Observer at the ISA and Mexico Highlights the Importance of Scientific Research](#)**

**Greenpeace Mexico: [Mexican government to show its commitment to protecting the oceans and oppose deep-sea mining](#)**

### SOA ECUADOR

**One Young World: [SOA Ecuador wins the 2023 Youth United in Action National Prize](#)**

# NORTH AMERICA



SOA Hawai'i Hub leader Koda Daily hosting and speaking at the Deep Sea Summit in Honolulu

## HUB HIGHLIGHTS & KEY EVENTS

### CAROLINA OCEAN ALLIANCE (SOA CHARLESTON)

#### The Hope Summit

Founded by SOA Charleston, The Hope Summit is an annual conference and festival held in Charleston, South Carolina to create agency and hope through community-driven solutions. The 2023 Summit gathered SOA Hub Leaders from five different Hubs throughout the U.S. Carolinas region as well as 40 regional and local nonprofit organizations, community groups, government agencies, and sustainable vendors.

### SOA DUKE UNIVERSITY

#### Professional Development Workshops

In an effort to support its Hub members with professional development training, SOA Duke University hosted a variety of workshops like *How to Land an Internship* and more.

### SOA PACIFIC NORTHWEST (PNW)

#### Sustainable Clothing Swap

SOA PNW hosted a sustainable clothing swap at Oregon State University (OSU) that encouraged sustainable clothing consumption and educated students on the nexus between ocean conservation and sustainable fashion.

### SOA UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (UF)

#### Community Cleanups

SOA UF hosted five community cleanups throughout the year to remove trash and waste in various local water bodies in Gainesville and St. Augustine, collecting 65 kilograms of trash and recycling another 6.8 kilograms.

### SOA UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

#### Ocean Literacy & Education

SOA University of Maryland championed ocean literacy on campus through interactive activities to educate students about the environmental consequences of ocean issues such as deep-sea mining, non-biodegradable confetti, cruise ships, and fast fashion. The Hub also set up a pop-up thrift shop where they sold used clothes and miscellaneous items to promote a circular economy.

## POLICY ACTION & CAMPAIGN UPDATES

### SOA BOSTON UNIVERSITY

#### Postcard Delivery on Plastic Pollution Act

SOA Boston University wrote postcards to local politicians to call on them to support the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act.



**SOA HAWAI'I**

**Deep-Sea Summit**

SOA Hawai'i successfully led the first Deep-Sea Summit in Honolulu, Oahu where environmental and social justice groups gathered together to learn and take action against deep-sea mining. SOA Hawai'i played a crucial role in mobilizing their community to express support for legislation in Hawai'i for a moratorium on deep-sea mining at the state, national, and international level.

**SOA UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (UBC)**

**IMPAC5 Deep-Sea Mining Demonstration**

During the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) SOA UBC mobilized dozens of students to participate in a major protest against deep-sea mining in Vancouver. Joined by indigenous leaders and marine conservationists, SOA UBC's demonstration made national news and influenced Canada's announcement for a national moratorium on deep-sea mining.

**SOA UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

**Campus Greening and Policy Development**

SOA University of Maryland greened their campus by developing policies to prevent the sale and use of conventional confetti, addressing food waste from dining halls and local restaurants, and providing sustainable alternatives to disposable plasticware.

**SOA UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA (UNC) CHAPEL HILL**

**Deep Rising Screening**

SOA UNC Chapel Hill hosted a screening of the documentary, *Deep Rising*, to educate students about the dangers of deep-sea mining and encourage them to join SOA's campaign to #DefendTheDeep.

**SOA NORTH AMERICA IN THE NEWS**

**SOA UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (UBC)**

**CBC News: Vancouver protesters call for deep-sea mining ban at ocean conservation conference**

**SOA UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

**The Diamondback: UMD community members celebrate sustainability at Earth Fest**

**CAROLINA OCEAN ALLIANCE (SOA CHARLESTON)**

**CisternYard Media: 2023 Carolina Ocean Alliance hosts 2023 Hope Summit**



Left: SOA North America Hub members at Capitol Hill Ocean Week | Above: SOA University of British Columbia deep-sea mining protest at IMPAC5 | Below: Hub leaders from across the U.S. Carolinas region (SOA Charleston, SOA College of Charleston, SOA University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and SOA Duke University) at the 2023 Hope Summit





# THANK YOU

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Sustainable Ocean Alliance is deeply grateful for the support provided by our dedicated community, staff, mentors, and donors that make our work possible.

**For more information, please contact:**

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