



Conservation Education Society

NEWSLETTER

Conservation Education Society's monthly newsletter
in partnership with the Marine Education Centre.



August was the Month we Celebrated World Photography Day!

The 19th August marked 'World Photography Day', and in celebration both the Conservation Education Society and Marine Education Centre launched their very first online photo competition. Between the 19th and 31st August, we received photo submissions from all over the world for three categories: Adults (18 years and over), Youths (13-17 years old) and Junior (12 years and under).

This year's online photo competition was themed 'It's a Beach Life', contestants sent a variety of photos, from beautiful beach sunsets to people engaging in beach activities. All submissions were sent to three professional photographers, who chose 2 or 3 finalists for each category. These photos are now up for public voting on the Conservation Education Society's Facebook page. Voting will take place between the 4th to the 10th September, with the winners to be announced on the 11th September.

This competition was a great opportunity for us to engage with our amazing supporters, as well as increase awareness of our work, and marine conservation. We also successfully raised Ksh 23,000 which will be used to support our conservation efforts along the Kenyan Coastline. We would like to take the opportunity to share the finalist photos with you and we strongly encourage you to visit our Facebook page to cast your photo for your favourite snaps. You can view the photos on the next page, as well as find the link to the photo album where you will be able to cast your vote by 'liking' your favourite!

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Junior Finalists



Photo by Alina Njeru, aged 9
Caption: New Life Begins



Photo by Aahil Shah, aged 10
Caption: Sky Above and Beach Below Peace Within

Youth Finalists



Photo by Keya Shah, aged 16
Caption: Don't Worry

Adult Finalists



Photo by Mir Shah, aged 15
Caption: An amazing view from a hotel window



Photo by Smit Sanghrajka, Caption: Elevations



Photo by Ayaz Lalani, Caption: Don't Worry, Beach Happy



Photo by Greg Scullion, Caption: Stormy Skies

We want to thank everyone who submitted photos and for supporting the competition, we have been overjoyed by the enthusiasm and support throughout. We would like to say a special thank you to our judges; Pareet Shah, Anthony Ochieng Onyango, and Carl Ruysaneer for volunteering their time and expertise. We received some fantastic photos but there can only be one winner, please help these talented photographers by voting, go to <https://bit.ly/327Oz0G> to cast your vote!

Join us for the Little by Little Campaign

Since our partnership with GlobalGiving, we have raised \$6,489 through the generosity of individuals around the globe. GlobalGiving will be launching another campaign, little by little, this September. This particular campaign is all about the small donations and GlobalGiving will be matching donations that are \$50 or less by 50%! This means if you donate, \$10, we will receive \$15! The campaign will be held between the 14th and 18th September and we will distribute further information leading up to the campaign. We are asking our supporters to donate if they are in a position to do so, as well as sharing the campaign with your community. We wanted to leave you with one of the marine teams' thoughts on what little by little means to her;

The words little by little remind me of an old Kiswahili saying that goes 'kidogo kidogo hujaza kibaba' which translates to 'little by little fills a pot'. The words little by little in Kiswahili mean kidogo kidogo. No act of kindness however little it is, is ever wasted! Be it a small monthly donation that you commit yourself to, a small act of kindness, better choices that help the environment, however little they are. That small donation you shy away to give, might just be the last that is needed to fill the pot! At the end of the day, what do you want to be remembered for? I for one want to be remembered as a person whose little acts of commitment made the world a little better place than it is. Live by example, call friends and family to join in and when it comes down to giving, give what I can, however little it is! "Remember, we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill - By Fatma Manyenze



The 30th of August marked International World Shark Day, a day to honour these majestic animals! This date is highlighted in every calendar year both to celebrate these gentle giants of the ocean, and to encourage marine conservation efforts of this beautiful species. We have put together a series of posts from footage taken during Diani's whale shark seasons, which is December to April each year, as well as fun facts, and news from researchers. You can see the posts by visiting our facebook page, [@MarineEducationCentre](#).

We are still learning so much about these ocean travelers; earlier this year a new study published its data regarding more accurate age estimates of whale sharks via traces of carbon-14 from the Cold War-era bomb detonations! You can read the full article here: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.00188/full> or a more reader-friendly publication here:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/animals/2020/04/whale-sharks-may-live-century-cold-war-bomb-dating-reveals>

Developments such as these are incredibly important for better global management of this endangered species.



Data collection from the end of our 2019-2020 whale shark season in Diani was interrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak, but with the help of Diving the Crab and other Diani operators, we recorded 25 whale shark sightings from 12th December to 24th March. The sharks ranged in size from 3 metres to 8 metres in length, and although in-water footage was only captured on six occasions, great ID shots resulted from each!

Did You Know We Have Free Shipping At Our Online Store?

Every month, Teemill offers a 3-day weekend of free shipping on their products! If you go online you will see that one of them is live right now, 4th til 6th September. But don't worry if you miss this one, the next free shipping days will be the 3rd, 4th, and 5th October. Shipping is only free on an order of any amount in the UK. Orders over £60 qualify for free shipping in Europe, and any over £100 receive free shipping globally. Check out our store here: <https://marine-education-centre.teemill.com/>. And remember, every item is made of 100% organic cotton and produced in a renewable energy factory, with a percentage of every sale coming directly to our projects.



News From Our Turtle Partners

The Olive Ridley Project team are still receiving photos of sea turtles in Diani from divers in the area, but no new individuals were found this month! You can find out more about the organisations valuable work throughout the Indian Ocean by visiting their website; www.oliveridleyproject.org. So far this year the Diani Turtle Watch team have located and monitored 55 sea turtles nests. 43 of these have hatched so far which leaves 12 still incubating. You can now support the work of both of these projects by adopting a turtle or turtle nest online here: <https://bit.ly/325GQQA> or here: <https://bit.ly/32YfIYg>.



To increase awareness of how we as humans affect the marine environment, we are writing a series of blogs which are posted on the CES website. So far, our topics range from selecting sustainable fish and seafood, and looking without touching, to reef-safe sunscreen, with more to come! The CES team have also written a series of interesting topics, all of which can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3jUrvs4>.

A special thank you to the following businesses, without them, our work would not be possible.



Marine Education Centre Opening Times

Monday	Closed until further notice
Tuesday	Closed until further notice
Wednesday	Closed until further notice
Thursday	Closed until further notice
Friday	Closed until further notice
Saturday	Closed until further notice
Sunday	Closed until further notice

Our Conservation Partners



Remember

If you see a turtle nesting or an injured turtle, please contact Diani Turtle Watch on +254 758 961 322



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www.youtube.com/channel/UCGCujsWA630vIbzZycsBaeA