

The Conservation Education Society's monthly newsletter.



Photo of the Kibera group receiving a talk from Diani Turtle Watch's project coordinator at their Sands at Nomad nest relocation site

## Decluttering your home, your life and saving the planet!

Have you ever walked past a clothing store and seen a t-shirt in the display and just HAD to have it? Not because you have no clothes in your cupboard back home, just because it was too good to resist? For that sudden excitement of owning something new!

It's a great feeling most can agree, but let's take a step back and review this consumeristic nature of ours. I'm going to throw five statistics at you, take a moment and see how you feel about them.

- There is an average of 300,000 items in an American home
- 80% of these items are rarely or never used.
- 99% of materials used for production are used up, thrown out or obsolete within 6 months.
- 100% increase in materials goods over the last 50 years

Source: <https://mymoneywizard.com/12-fun-facts-junk-go-figure/>

A book I started reading recently – Sapiens, by Yuval Noah Harari – describes one of the biggest differences between our predecessors and modern day humans is the amount of possessions we own. If a historian was to uncover today's civilization 200 years down the lane, he or she would very accurately be able to describe our lives simply from the amount of possessions we had. In contrast, they have deciphered very little when it comes to our closest ancestors.

Modern day humans are obsessed with owning material things. If you've moved houses recently, you will know exactly what I mean! And the worst part is that we hardly realise the negatives this material obsession brings to our person. For example:

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- The direct hit it brings to our finances
- The stress of having to store and manage all these possessions
- The drain it has on our energy and mind because of the constant stimuli from multiple sources

## 2. Conscious consumerism

Ask yourself these 7 questions when you are about to purchase something:

- Where is this product made and shipped from? The further away it is manufactured, the bigger its carbon footprint. Search for local alternatives instead
- What is it made from? Opt for products that are made from biodegradable materials e.g. wood, bamboo, cotton, hemp, cork
- Where does it go at the end of its life cycle? Can it be repaired, reused, recycled or repurposed?
- Is the packaging compostable, biodegradable, reusable or recyclable?
- What does the manufacturing company do to help reduce the impact it's creating on the environment?
- How often will you use the product
- Can you buy it secondhand instead?
- The drain it has on our energy and mind because of the constant stimuli from multiple sources

And lastly, the significant effect it has on our environment. According to the statistics above, if only 20% of what we buy is being used effectively, we have 80% extra items just lying around. And where does it go? To landfills or for incineration with only a small portion being recycled or repurposed. Global waste disposal systems are failing our planet resulting in pollution and climate change. In simple words, the earth cannot sustain our waste.

From where I see it, it looks like this: Our minds are cluttered, Our homes are cluttered, Our earth is cluttered. A major overhaul is needed!

**Harveen Bansal is based in Nairobi and volunteers for the Conservation Education Society. To read more blogs from Harveen Bansal and our team, go to: <https://ceskenya.org/category/blog/>**

I see it

I like it

I want it

I remember that natural resources are precious and there's already plenty in the waste stream so I buy it used instead

*Photo: Gaud*

## What We Have Been Up To This Month!

In April, the Conservation Education Society has been working on several programmes, many in partnership with some amazing organisations. Here is what we have been up to;

- In early April we were joined by a group of students from Kibera for a half-day education programme. This entailed a beach cleanup, a degradation game, and activities all centered around marine conservation. We had a fantastic time with this enthusiastic and energetic team of students, removing a total of 616 items from the beach, of which 91% was plastic!
- We met up with some of the REEFolution team this month as we explore the possibility of a new education programme both in Diani and Shimoni, we look forward to developing this, watch this space!
- We are all working hard on the Sea Turtle Festival, currently, a big focus for us is securing sponsorship for the festival. If you want to become a friend of the festival, please go to <https://ceskenya.org/product/become-a-friend-of-the-sea-turtle-festival/> and purchase today.
- We are working on the second module for the Nature Guardian outreach programme, which will be all about marine life. This will start in the next couple of months and we can't wait to join the Kwale Plastic Plus Collectors team in implementing this.



Photos from left to right: Kibera youths learning about plastic pollution and how long trash takes to disappear in the ocean through playing our degradation game.

# Diani Sea Turtle Update

The Diani Sea Turtle Festival is nearly upon us and we have been helping the Marine Education Centre with the planning of the festival. We are excited to be celebrating again after a successful festival in 2019. We are still seeking sponsorship for the festival, all funds raised help fund the festival and allow us to bring in more students to join us on the day. The day is both enjoyable and educational and important for the community to come together and learn about this beautiful animal.

We have several packages on offer, to ensure that individuals, small, medium, and large businesses have the opportunity to support the festival. All sponsors will be acknowledged and logos will be displayed or business listed, depending on the package sponsored. To review the sponsorship packages go to <https://ceskenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/DSTF-2021-Proposal.pdf> and feel free to contact us to discuss further on [k.martin@ces-kenya.org](mailto:k.martin@ces-kenya.org). Any additional funds raised will be distributed amongst our programmes and turtle conservation partners.

If you are not able to help support the event financially, you can volunteer on the day and be part of the festivities. We need help to ensure that the day runs smoothly and that everyone enjoys the day. To learn more, please email your CV to [info@marineeducationcentre.com](mailto:info@marineeducationcentre.com).

# SEA TURTLE FESTIVAL DIANI BEACH



Become a sponsor or volunteer for the Sea Turtle Festival!

## MARINE CLUB CORNER

Welcome back to the Marine Club Corner! Our special section for the members of the Marine Club!

Hello Friends! Let's have a look at what's been

happening with the Marine Club!

April's Marvellous Marine Life topic was packed with lots of interesting information about marine creatures (at least the ones we currently know of!)

We sent the Marine Clubbers out on their own research mission on marine creatures, and Layla had an amazing experience learning about Dugongs or what most of us know them as - sea cows. Here's a cute drawing she made!

Feel like you're missing out? Join the Marine Club today!

Simply click on this link <https://ceskenya.org/product-category/sponsorships/> and follow the prompts or alternatively contact us on [campaigns@ces-kenya.org](mailto:campaigns@ces-kenya.org) and we'll sort you out!

Photos below: This is Layla's submission. Layla chose the dugong, often referred to as a sea cow!



In partnership with



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



DIVINGTHECRAB.COM



**Our Conservation Partners**



**The Marine Education Centre Opening Times**

Monday	2pm - 5pm
Tuesday	2pm - 5pm
Wednesday	2pm - 5pm
Thursday	2pm - 5pm
Friday	2pm - 5pm
Saturday	2pm - 5pm
Sunday	2pm - 5pm



**Remember**

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



Conservation Education Society

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