




BAHARI YETU FESTIVAL

October
2026



An annual Ocean Decade Activity that aims to enhance ocean literacy by inspiring the next generation, spotlighting current fisheries practices, community livelihoods & sustainable alternatives, since 2022!

TWO-DAY OCEAN FESTIVAL

Uvuvi Day: Fisheries and Sustainable Livelihoods Festival Day

Watoto Day: Ocean Festival Day for Kids

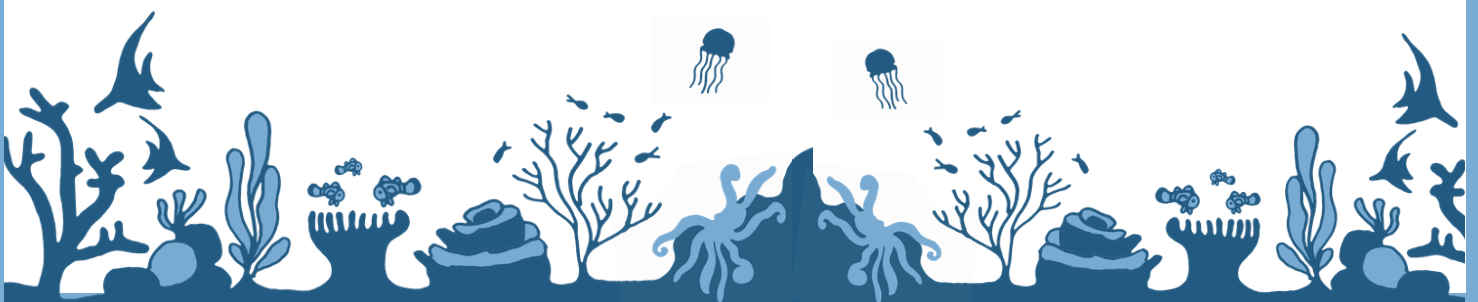
'Voices of the Ocean'

Our theme for 2026

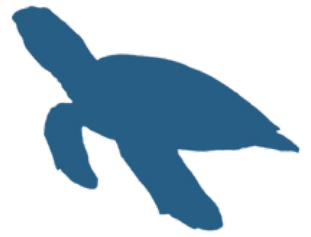
FOUR WORKSHOPS

Ocean Literacy Training for Teachers with KMFRI
Kids Conservation Photography Course with TonyWild
Conservation Photography Masterclass with TonyWild
Cinematography & Storytelling Lab with NEWF

**[Click here](#) to find out about
Bahari Yetu Festival 2025**



THE FESTIVAL



Uvuvi Day

Uvuvi Day is a fisheries & sustainable livelihoods day, where we bring together over 200 community members from villages across the Lamu Archipelago. This includes members from the 10 Beach Management Units (BMUs) we have been working with in the co-management plan of the Kinyika marine ecosystem. This year, we aim to invite them again, with these agendas:

Presentations

The Kinyika JCMA Project & Seasonal Closures

Panel Discussions with Community

Community Role Plays

Success Stories of BMU leaders including:

Outstanding data collectors, chairpersons & trainers of trainers

Exhibiting Stalls

Local Conservation & Sustainable Livelihoods Organizations

Community Income Generating Activities

Community money saving groups

Fisheries value addition projects

Performances

Lamu Arts & Theatre Interactive Play

BMUs Skits

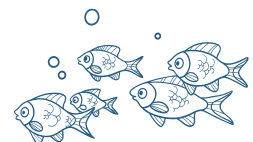
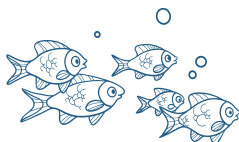
Local Dances & Music

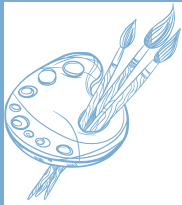
Prize Giving

Recognise Community Achievements in

Sustainable Fisheries & Conservation

October 2026





Watoto Day



For the past four years we have held the Watoto Day, the flagship day of the Festival, focused around kids having fun with a purpose. Last year, we sponsored attendance of over 310 kids between the ages of 5-16, from 16 schools across 4 islands in the Lamu archipelago. This year, we intend to do the same with 360 kids, with the following activities on the lineup:

Recycled Art Competition

Schools compete to create the most creative recycled art piece based around the festival theme.

Games on the Beach

Swimming Competition

Sand Sculpture Competition

Zidau za Mwau (Model Dhow Race)

Magari ya Miti (Recycled Car Race/Tyre & Stick Race)



Stalls

Photography Workshop Photos, Underwater VR videos,
Conservation Contest Displays From Students
Face Painting, Interactive Art & Ocean Pledges
Conservation films screening room

Performances

School Talent Shows

Buni Media Puppet Show

Lamu Arts & Theatre Interactive Play

Prize Giving

Recycled Art Competition

Games on the Beach

Photography Workshop Best Photos

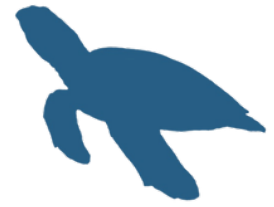


October 2026





WORKSHOPS



Ocean Literacy Training

This Ocean Literacy Teacher Training will bring together 28 patron teachers from the Environmental Kindness Clubs across 14 schools in the Lamu Archipelago. The workshop provides a collaborative platform for educators to engage directly with ocean scientists from Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), deepening their understanding of key marine concepts and strengthening their confidence in delivering ocean literacy in the classroom.

By equipping these teachers with accurate, locally relevant marine knowledge, the training strengthens their ability to guide students and, in turn, their wider communities, toward informed ocean stewardship.

Training

1 day course

28 teacher from Environmental Kindness Club Schools

3 LaMCoT Education Team

9 KMFRI Scientists and Researchers

Topics

The Blue Economy

Oceanography and food chains

Mangrove environments

Seagrass environments

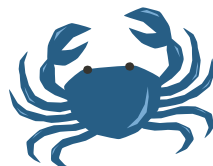
Coral reef environments

Aquaculture

Importance of fisheries

Citizen science and collaboration opportunities.

Request Proposal from KMFRI for more information



Photography Workshops



The Visual Ecological Literacy Program (VELP), a collaboration between Lamu Marine Conservation Trust (LaMCoT) & TonyWild Foundation, empowers talented young individuals with advanced photography skills, knowledge, and confidence to tell compelling conservation stories.

This year, in a bid to address the critical gap in access to specialized tools & training, the program will support two groups of participants:

Kids Conservation Photography Workshop

- 10 students between 13 -18 year old
- 3 TonyWild Photography Trainers
- 4 LaMCoT Team Members
- 4-Day Course (In-person)

Conservation Photography Masterclass

- 5 young adults between 19 -25 year old
- 3 TonyWild Photography Trainers
- 3 LaMCoT Team Members
- 6 online sessions and 3 Days In-person sessions

Objectives

To engage young people in conservation through photography.
To raise the awareness of young people about nature and wildlife as well as how they can conserve them.

August 2026



Storytelling & Film Workshop



This year we aim to host the second NEWF Storytelling Lab, combining cinematography, film production, and music composition to bring the theme “Voices of the Ocean” to life. The Lab is delivered in partnership with NEWF, whose vision is to empower African storytellers to share narratives that celebrate and protect natural heritage. Through its collaboration with National Geographic via the Africa Refocused program, NEWF supports locally led storytelling that reframes how African environmental stories are told and shared globally.

Film Production

Five fellows from Lamu will collaboratively produce a 10–15 minute documentary film. Supported by NEWF mentors, participants will lead the process from concept to final edit, gaining skills in storytelling, cinematography, and professional production workflows.

Music Composition

In collaboration with youth from Anidan, participants will co-create the film’s musical score, which will also be performed live at the festival. Beyond technical training, the Lab will amplify local ocean narratives, elevate conservation voices, and inspire youth engagement in storytelling as a tool for environmental stewardship.

Final Outputs

- One 10–15 minute documentary film
- Film Premiere & Musical Performance at Bahari Yetu Festival 2026
- Community screenings and digital distribution
- Submission to regional and international film festivals

