

# SEA TURTLE FESTIVAL

## DIANI BEACH

### 2021 REPORT



THE ONLY CONSERVATION AWARENESS  
FESTIVAL IN KWALE COUNTY!

On Sunday 13th June 2021, we celebrated the second Diani Sea Turtle Festival at Safari Beach Hotel. The event was organised by the team based at the Marine Education Centre and held in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day. It was a huge success with people joining the festival from all along the coast, and eight conservation organisations were present showcasing their amazing work. Over 200 students from schools in Kwale spent the day learning about sea turtles, getting creative at the arts and crafts tent, making sand sculptures on Diani's award winning beach, and more! Many pictures were taken and many memories were made!

There were several activities and competitions for attendees to participate in, all sponsored by local businesses. We started with a Sand Sculpture Competition with 27 participating teams, and ended with a 'Sea Turtle Egg' and Spoon Race before the Awards Ceremony. An Art Competition for participants 14 years and younger received over 90 entries and was open for public voting throughout the day. We also had a Sea Turtle Scavenger Hunt, an Arts and Crafts Tent, Student Performances, and attendees could visit the various conservation organisations to learn more about their work on Kenya's coast. A commissioned Sea Turtle Art Awareness Piece made entirely from plastic and fishing gear collected and donated by Kwale Plastic Plus Collectors stood central in the festival.

We raised over Kes 360,000, and received many in-kind donations from local businesses. In addition to festival costs, this allowed us to assist the attendance of the 8 schools who joined us on the day, as well as distribute 200 free metal water bottles to students! Any remaining funds will go towards education and sea turtle awareness programmes at the Marine Education Centre.

We want to say a special thank you to all sponsors, volunteers, conservation organisations, and in-kind donors who helped make the day so special; please read on to the last page for full credits.



## OUR MISSION

The Sea Turtle Festival is an annual event held in Diani beach to spread awareness about sea turtles; what they are, the threats they face, and how we can better protect them. The festival falls on-or-close-to World Sea Turtle Day on June 16th each year, and is a free event with a variety of fun and educational activities for all ages.

*Students visiting the Art and Crafts Tent; schools that attended were sponsored by Swahili Beach Hotel, Base Titanium, and the Tourism Regulatory Board*

*Student refilling his gifted water bottle with free water sponsored by Aquelle*



*A selection of the Art Competition entries, sponsored by Valor to Virtue*



*Students playing one of the games at the Arts and Crafts Tent*



*One of the many crafts students could make at the Arts and Crafts Tent*

*One of the Sand Sculpture Competition entries, sponsored by Lantana Galu Beach*





*Our Art Awareness Piece created by local artist Polycap; trash was donated from Kwale Plastic Plus Collectors and its creation was sponsored by Moraway Adventures*



*One of the many performances from attending schools*



*Paul Wambi, Senior Warden of Kenya Wildlife Service, presenting at the Award Ceremony*



*Students competing in the 'Sea Turtle Egg' and Spoon Race, sponsored by Afro Chic*



*Hon Safina Kwekwe Tsungu, CBS Principal Secretary State Department for Tourism, presenting at the Award Ceremony*



*One of the many student performances*

The 'Sea Turtle Egg' and Spoon race, sponsored by Afro Chic



Students participating in the Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by Base Titanium



Sand Sculpture Competition being judged by the festival team, sponsored by Lantana Galu Beach



Students participating in the Scavenger Hunt, sponsored by Base Titanium

Photo board painted by local artist Hamadi and sponsored by Diani Hardware



Winners of the Sand Sculpture Competition also received a surprise Sea Turtle Cake from Jazzy Bakery



Volunteers watching the 'Sea Turtle Egg' and Spoon race, sponsored by Afro Chic



Mama Lorenza's talented musicians



Festivalgoers visiting the Diani Turtle Watch stall



The Oceans Alive team educating attendees on threats to sea turtles due to fishing



*Our amazing team of volunteers who helped run the festival*



*Students joining a volunteer in entertaining the crowd during the student performances*



*Trophies for the Sand Sculpture Competition made and donated by Pipeman*



*Mama Lorenza's students performing a dance and song, themed on threats to sea turtles*



*A community group that make seaweed products showcasing at the festival*



*Olive Ridley Project, one of the many organisations that joined us on the day*

If you would like to learn more please follow us on  
[www.facebook.com/DianiSeaTurtleFestival](https://www.facebook.com/DianiSeaTurtleFestival)  
or contact us at [info@marineeducationcentre.com](mailto:info@marineeducationcentre.com)

We would like to say a special thank you to all of our partners and volunteers in 2021, without you the Diani Sea Turtle Festival would not have been possible. We hope to see you again next year!



**And to our friends of the festival: Kinondo Kwetu, Marine Life Protectors, The Rufford Small Grant (32607-2), and Ljana & Michael**

A big thank you to Aquelle, Conservation Education Society, Diani Turtle Watch, Jazzy Bakery, Kwale Plastic Plus Collectors, Mama Lorenza Vocational Centre, Marine Education Centre, Oceans Alive, Olive Ridley Project, Pipeman, REEFolution Foundation, Terra Safi, and Valor to Virtue for joining us on the day, as well as the team at Safari Beach Hotel!