

## Pelorus Foundation

Pelorus Foundation is a UK registered environmental and conservation charity (No 1189966). Founded in 2020 by a group of people who travelled the world extensively, witnessing widespread environmental damage and the destruction of wild places and animals, the mission of Pelorus Foundation is to empower individuals and local communities to preserve and protect the world's wildlife and wild places for future generations.

Through targeted donations and the sharing of expertise, we provide crucial support to frontline actors so they can continue to carry out vital work, maximise impact and reach. You can read more about our charity and projects [here](#)

### Inspiring a new way of working with and for the ocean in Kenya

Kenya's coastal region faces escalating degradation due to population growth, poverty, and rise in small-scale fishers. Overfishing has severely depleted local waters, endangering fragile reef ecosystems and fisher income. Destructive fishing practices and loss of marine biodiversity have resulted in reduced yields, exacerbating poverty. The negative effects of climate change and impact from the Covid pandemic have also intensified challenges on land, jeopardising local lives and livelihoods.

- *64% of fishing communities experience high poverty rates*
- *18% of fish catch damaged by handling*
- *36% of spoiled due to chilling*

Working together with our grassroots partner Oceans Alive Kenya, the project aims to boost local marine biodiversity, ensuring sustainable food and income for the community. Oceans Alive Kenya are based in Kilifi County, Kuruwitu, a coastal community in southeast Kenya. They work at the forefront of developing scalable community-led ocean conservation solutions. The scope of their work is huge, from developing a coral restoration programme, building a community garden, and developing alternative sources of income to those most reliant on the ocean.

Pelorus Foundation has been supporting Oceans Alive in the development of a sharable 'toolkit' that other communities will be able to use to implement similar projects and help re-invigorate the economic stream that the community derive from running an ecotourism venture in a community owned marine sanctuary.

## Mama Karangas

The aim of the project is to empower Mama Karangas leadership roles in the Kuruwitu area to recognise their hidden strength as the mainspring that drives the supply of fish inland and along the coast, enabling the women to become guardians of sustainable fisheries, and set up a Kuruwitu Mama Karanga network to share knowledge. This will be achieved through:



Educating Mama Karangas to reject immature fish and to support the use by fishers of legal fishing gear to reduce illegal, under-sized fish catches, and initiate their training in fish data collection and monitoring and evaluation.

Helping Mama Karangas buy the right equipment to better control weight, size, species and quality of the fish accepted from fishers and promote better handling of the catch, improving hygiene and handling techniques, and the health and well-being of the community, reefs and ocean.

Develop strategies for alternative income generation for Mama Karangas during low catch seasons, implementing trash for cash beach cleans, also training in farming skills, and developing backyard permaculture and kitchen gardens to improve nutrition and self-sufficiency.

Despite their low status in the area, Mama Karangas play a key role in driving the supply of fish both inland and along the coast by controlling the weight, size, species, and quality of the fish that they will accept and by promoting better handling of the catch, improving quality, and preserving freshness to reduce waste.



By helping Mama Karangas to recognise the strength of their position and help them to buy the right equipment and improve hygiene and handling techniques, this work with Oceans Alive Kenya will help improve the health and well-being not only of the communities themselves but also that of the reefs and ocean on which they depend.

**Examples of what a donation could support.**

<b>£6,000</b>	Could go towards the annual salary of a Fisheries Officer who would manage the work.
<b>£3,000</b>	Could help pay for 24 sets of reef shoes, fins, snorkels and masks for reef monitoring volunteers.
<b>£800</b>	Could help develop a replicable 'toolkit' for a community approach to protecting marine areas.
<b>£400</b>	Could help pay for new equipment for Mama Karangas to use for storing fish for market.
<b>£275</b>	Could go towards providing a Mama Karanga group training session.
<b>£100</b>	Could pay a day's technical support for a local community group.
<b>£55</b>	Could pay for the printing of Mama Karanga training aids.
<b>£30</b>	Could help provide refreshments at Mama Karanga meetings and training sessions.

Please consider donating towards this urgent and critical work. Your gift would be of great benefit, helping to ensure Pelorus Foundation can work with our local partners to combat wildlife crime.