

Our Vision



KEA envisions an informed and empowered citizenry, local and global, that will advocate for conservation of East Africa's unique marine and coastal biodiversity.

This environmental stewardship will drive economic opportunity through sustainable resource use for generations to come. While KEA's efforts are community-focused, we envision a broad impact on the global environment.



www.keainc.org

Kaskazi Environmental Alliance

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To learn more and join our efforts,
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Winds of Change...

Environmental Stewardship
in East Africa
Through Marine Science Education

About KEA

Kaskazi Environmental Alliance (KEA) is a U.S. based nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing environmental awareness, stewardship and conservation of East Africa's coastal resources through marine science education.

KEA was formed in response to continued devastation of marine and coastal regions in East Africa resulting from pollution, destructive fishing practices, and over-exploitation of natural resources exacerbated by a virtual lack of environmental awareness.



These combined threats have resulted in a severe decline in many marine species and an unprecedented degradation of critically important habitats, such as mangroves and coral reefs. The destruction of entire ecosystems have undermined the well being of the local people.

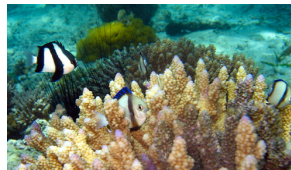
Environmental awareness locally and globally is essential to conserve, preserve and restore East Africa's diverse marine and coastal ecosystems. Through comprehensive, hands-on marine science education and programs provided to communities and schools, KEA fosters positive change in environmental awareness and in the lives of the people in this region.



Coastal East Africa

The inshore waters of East Africa support more than 11,000 known species of plants and animals, an estimated 10% to 15% of which are thought to be native to this region.

Coral reefs, mangrove forests, sea grass beds and other marine ecosystems constitute 192 million acres of coastal East Africa, almost double the size of California. East Africa's coastal communities, over 30 million in number, depend on the natural resources produced by these ecosystems for subsistence.



The widespread destruction of coastal and marine habitats in East Africa began in the 1970's and has continued to this day. Degradation of East Africa's marine and coastal regions threatens the survival of thousands of species, including humans.



Environmental education is essential to preserve these important resources. However, most communities lack the resources to provide such education. KEA's mission is to help fill this need.

KEA Programs

Mangrove Restoration

Over the past several decades, thousands of mangrove forests have been wiped out entirely due to widespread overexploitation of the land. One small settlement on the coast of Kenya, Ngomeni, witnessed firsthand the mangrove devastation when human activity on the land led to massive destruction on their coast. The community suffered as evidenced by a sharp decline in their fisheries. In response, KEA launched the **Ngomeni 20/20 campaign** to help with mangrove restoration. Working hand in hand with the Ngomeni community, we have planted many hundreds of mangrove seedlings to date.



Youth Programs

Bringing together youth through environmental education is a cornerstone of our mission and advances STEM education. One of KEA's key initiatives is to connect schools in the United States with partnership schools in East Africa to engage in cross-cultural and academic exchanges. The level of these partnerships are determined by individual participating schools. Examples include:

- **Underwater robotics (ROV's)** as a collaborative tool to promote marine science and ecology. Students build ROV's from scratch and design, launch and share their ocean research projects in a cross-cultural exchange
- **Floating Classrooms** provide interactive marine science education on a dhow / sailing vessel
- **Shoreside Learning Centers, Mangrove Discovery field trips and more....**

Contact KEA for information on how your school can participate.