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OceanLove, the World's Largest and Most Inclusive Ocean Innovation Award, Announces the 10 Finalists for 2025

Sunday 26 October, 2025

From April 1 to September 30, 2025, the global non-profit initiative **OceanLove** welcomed submissions for the second edition of the **OceanLove Innovation Award**, inviting individuals and organisations worldwide to submit ideas for new products, tools, campaigns, or initiatives that can measurably contribute to conserving the ocean, seas, and marine ecosystems.

Now in only its second year, the award received a record-breaking number of applications, with this edition attracting an impressive **260 submissions from 64 countries**— more than triple of last year's total. This milestone positions the **OceanLove Innovation Award** as the world's largest and most inclusive ocean-related innovation award.

Applications were assessed by a panel of globally acclaimed judges.

This year's applications were reviewed by a team of internationally recognised scientists and environmental activists who generously volunteered their time and expertise.

The panel includes **Alexander Turra (Brazil)**, Professor at the Oceanographic Institute of the University of São Paulo and Head of the UNESCO Chair for Ocean Sustainability; **Laura Guimarães (Portugal)**, scientist and Head of the EcoSignal team at CLIMAR and Coordinator of the UNESCO Chair Ocean Expert at the University of Porto; **Maria Murcia Diaz (Spain)**, a multidisciplinary marine biologist and oceanographer; **Sian Owen (Canada)**, Executive Director of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition; **Khadija Stewart (Trinidad and Tobago)**, Founder of EcoVybz and EcoSeas Caribbean, and Senior Campaigner for RISE UP for the Ocean; **Mohamed Kamal (Egypt)**, Director of the Greenish Foundation and environmental activist; and **Saad Abid (Morocco)**, Environmentalist and Founder of the Bahri Association, winner of the OceanLove Innovation Award 2024.

The Top 10 Finalists

The **top 10 ideas** come from a truly global wave of changemakers spanning **Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and Europe** – from the coral reefs of Fiji and the Philippines to the rivers of Egypt, the coasts of Tanzania and Cameroon, and the laboratories of Cyprus. These finalists represent diverse approaches to ocean conservation, showcasing amazing ideas from a variety of countries and communities. They are:

Sustainable Network Egypt

Led by Nadine Wahab from EGYPT

Naidiri Marine Biodiversity Park – “Reconnecting with the Reef”

Led by Gauri Salunkhe from FIJI

Sachet, Away!

Led by Lester Dellosa from the PHILIPPINES

The Ocean Knows My Heart

Led by Beyond Borders Collective from EGYPT & TANZANIA

Kick-Out the Debris: Youth-Led Action for Marine Biodiversity Protection

Led by Che Divine Nsoh / Association for Community Awareness from CAMEROON

Turning River Waste into Opportunities

Led by the VeryNile Team from EGYPT

Bahari Yetu Magazine: Connecting Science, Tradition, and Sustainable Livelihoods

Led by the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) from TANZANIA

ClimatePod

Led by the Oceanography Centre from CYPRUS

Women Fisherfolk Leadership Corps (WFLC)

Led by Mark Joseph Laceste from the PHILIPPINES

Matumbawe Hai: Revitalising Livelihoods in SOMAKI-CFMA

Led by Husna Amimu Msola from TANZANIA

The Award Ceremony

The **OceanLove Innovation Award Ceremony** will be taking place on **November 6, 2025**, at the **Smart City Expo World Congress**, during the [**Tomorrow.Blue Economy World Congress**](#) in **Barcelona, Spain**.

During the event, the Top 5 winners will be announced, with the #1 winner receiving €10,000 in seed funding to support project development, and each winner receiving one year of coaching to help turn their ideas into reality.

In partnership with **OCEANOVIATION** and the **World Ocean Council**, the Tomorrow. Blue Economy is expected to attract more than 25,000 ocean experts, including investors, companies, policymakers, and scientists.

About OceanLove

OceanLove was launched in 2021 by Dutch social entrepreneur and Dive Master **Ilco van der Linde** and is managed by Egyptian free diver **Raghda Ezzeldin**. Its global network of ambassadors, judges, advisors, photographers, and board members volunteer their expertise to promote ocean conservation.

Leading as **Global Ambassadors** are **Dr. Sylvia Earle**, the world-renowned marine biologist, oceanographer, and founder of Mission Blue, celebrated for her lifelong dedication to ocean exploration and protection, and **Paul Polman**, former CEO of Unilever and a global advocate for sustainable business and climate action, who recently joined as a Global Ambassador.

The **OceanLove Innovation Award** is endorsed by the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** and collaborates with international partners, including the **Marine Biological Association (UK)**, **Mission Blue (USA)**, **ECHT Community (Netherlands)**, **Afrilabs** and **KMT House (Egypt)**, **Perempuan Indonesia Maju (Indonesia)**, and the **MasterPeace Global Network**.

Funded by the **Fred Foundation (Netherlands)**, **Stichting Nieuwe Waarde**, and the **OOF Foundation**, the award continues to grow each year, mobilising more participants, more creativity, and more solutions for a healthier ocean.

Press and partnership inquiries:

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Learn More About the Projects of the Top 10 Finalists in the OceanLove Innovation Award 2025

Sustainable Network Egypt

Applicant: Nadine Wahab | Egypt

Category: Pollution Reduction

A pioneering national network uniting sustainability practitioners across Egypt to share resources, amplify impact, and collaborate on joint action. The initiative promotes collective, non-competitive environmental stewardship, strengthening ties between Red Sea and Mediterranean projects.

Naidiri Marine Biodiversity Park – “Reconnecting with the Reef”

Applicant: Gauri Salunkhe | Fiji

Category: Education

An Indigenous youth-led ocean literacy program integrating traditional and scientific knowledge. It empowers students and communities to understand coral reef ecosystems through peer-led education, expeditions, and hands-on learning across Fiji.

Sachet, Away!

Applicant: Lester Dellosa | Philippines

Category: Coral Reef Protection

A creative comic and digital learning series teaching ocean literacy and deep-sea mining awareness to youth. Co-created with local artists and students, it blends art, science, and advocacy to spark action across six coastal regions.

The Ocean Knows My Heart

Applicant: Beyond Borders Collective | Egypt & Tanzania

Category: Pollution Awareness & Education

A co-created children’s storybook and learning toolkit blending art, emotional literacy, and ocean awareness. The initiative links Sinai and Tanzania communities, empowering children to express environmental care through storytelling.

Kick-Out the Debris: Youth-Led Action for Marine Biodiversity Protection

Applicant: Che Divine Nsoh / Association for Community Awareness | Cameroon

Category: Pollution & Youth Engagement

A youth-driven campaign engaging 200 young leaders in five coastal communities in Limbe. Combining education, cleanups, and the “Ocean Biodiversity Cup” football tournament, it turns conservation into a source of pride and action.

Turning River Waste into Opportunities (VeryNile)

Applicant: VeryNile Team | Egypt

Category: River Plastic Solutions

Africa's first large-scale Nile-based initiative turning river waste into livelihoods. Local fishers collect and recycle river plastics before they reach the sea, creating green jobs and promoting circular economy models across Upper Egypt.

Bahari Yetu Magazine: Connecting Science, Tradition, and Sustainable Livelihoods

Applicant: Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA) | Tanzania

Category: Education & Local Entrepreneurship

A Swahili-language magazine translating ocean science into community-friendly stories and visuals. It preserves traditional knowledge, supports eco-entrepreneurs, and inspires pride in conservation across Bagamoyo's coastal villages.

ClimatePod

Applicant: Oceanography Centre | Cyprus

Category: Climate Change Research

A modular wet lab transforming a shipping container into a marine research and education hub. The "ClimatePod" empowers scientists and students to monitor Mediterranean warming and ocean acidification while engaging local communities.

Women Fisherfolk Leadership Corps (WFLC)

Applicant: Mark Joseph Laceste | Philippines

Category: Biodiversity & Women's Empowerment

A social-ecological initiative empowering women in Palawan through leadership training, coral monitoring, and sustainable fishing education. It builds community resilience and gender equity in marine conservation.

Matumbawe Hai: Revitalizing Livelihoods in SOMAKI-CFMA

Applicant: Husna Amimu Msola | Tanzania

Category: Coral Reef Restoration

A holistic community-led model combining coral restoration, sustainable fishing, eco-tourism, and financial inclusion. It empowers local divers and women to restore reefs and build economic resilience across the Kilwa Seascape.

For more details on each project or to support these initiatives, contact us at:

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