

Marine Muse

Where digital expression
meets conservation

**Educating Girls for
Climate Action - Colombo**

Working together to protect our planet!



Credits and Acknowledgements

Marine Muse is a collective celebration of creativity, learning, and leadership — made possible through the dedication, collaboration, and inspiration of many individuals and partners.

Project Partners

This magazine is a product of the **Educating Girls for Climate Action (EGCA)** initiative, a collaborative project between:

- **The British Council** - For their commitment to climate education, youth empowerment, and for providing the resources, expertise, and platforms that brought this vision to life.
- **The Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association (SLGGA)** - For their unwavering belief in the potential of girls, and for fostering an environment where young changemakers can lead with confidence and creativity.

Special thanks to:

The UK's Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) for funding the project Educating Girls for Climate Action.

- **Youth Climate Ambassadors and Non-Formal Education Youth Climate Alumni**
For their mentorship, encouragement, and peer leadership that helped create a supportive and empowering learning space for all participants.
- **British Council English Teachers and Facilitators**
For their engaging sessions, subject expertise, and for nurturing climate literacy and leadership throughout the programme.
- **All participating Girl Guides**

Digital Campaign Team

This e-magazine was led and curated by the **Digital Campaign Team** — a group of young participants from the EGCA project who came together with a shared goal of telling the story of our collective journey. We extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- **Content Creators, Visual Designers, Editors, and Coordinators**

Your teamwork, creativity, and leadership brought this magazine to life.

Final Note

To all the families, guide leaders, schools, and communities who supported the Girl Guides throughout their EGCA journey — thank you. Your encouragement laid the foundation for this impactful experience. Together, we celebrate not only a project completed, but a movement begun — one that places girls at the heart of climate action, equipped to lead and ready to inspire.

Welcome Note

Dear Reader,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Marine Muse, a digital magazine created as part of the Educating Girls for Climate Action (EGCA) project — a collaborative initiative between the British Council and the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association.

This publication is proudly led by the Digital Campaign Team, formed within the EGCA programme itself. As young participants of this inspiring journey, we came together with one shared goal — to creatively capture and share what this experience has meant to us and to our fellow Girl Guides across Sri Lanka.

In these pages, you will find a vibrant collection of digital posters submitted by Girl Guides from across the island, each themed around marine life, the importance of marine wildlife, and mangrove restoration. These posters reflect the creativity, care, and climate awareness growing among young people today.

Alongside these visuals, we are proud to present a few pictures that offer a deeper look into the EGCA journey — from learning about climate change to building leadership and finding our voices as young changemakers.

This magazine is not only a celebration of creativity and learning, but also a reflection of what young girls can achieve when given the space to lead, create, and inspire. Thank you for taking the time to explore our work. We hope it leaves you feeling informed, uplifted, and hopeful — just as we felt throughout this journey.

Warm regards,

The Digital Campaign Team

Educating Girls for Climate Action (EGCA) Project

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About the Project: Educating Girls for Climate Action (EGCA)

Educating Girls for Climate Action (EGCA) is a collaborative initiative between the British Council and the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association. The project was funded through the UK's Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP). It was launched in March 2025 to empower young girls across Sri Lanka to actively engage in addressing the climate crisis.

This project was designed to enhance climate literacy, strengthen leadership, and provide girls aged 12 to 17 with the tools and confidence to become informed, articulate, and action-oriented climate advocates. Over 100 Girl Guides from across the island — including Colombo, Jaffna, Kandy, and Matara — took part in a series of interactive sessions led by British Council expert teachers and supported by trained youth climate leaders.

The programme placed a strong emphasis on experiential learning. Beyond classroom-based knowledge, participants were encouraged to apply their learning through social action projects. These projects gave Girl Guides a platform to design and lead their own climate initiatives within their communities, transforming theory into practice, and knowledge into impact. From awareness campaigns and community clean-ups to poster creation and public speaking activities, these experiences allowed the girls to take meaningful steps towards change.

A vital part of the EGCA journey was the involvement of Youth Climate Ambassadors and Non-Formal Education Youth Climate Alumni, who served as mentors and facilitators. Their guidance enriched the learning environment and created a strong sense of peer-to-peer support throughout the programme.

By the end of the initiative, the participants had not only deepened their understanding of key environmental issues such as marine ecosystems, mangrove restoration and climate resilience, but had also grown in confidence and improved communication skills, ready to share their insights with the wider world.

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This e-magazine, Marine Muse, is one of the creative outcomes of the EGCA programme. It features a vibrant selection of digital posters submitted by Girl Guides across Sri Lanka, focused on marine life and mangrove protection, alongside a collection of blogs and articles reflecting on the participants' journeys throughout the project.

Together, these contributions stand as a testament to the passion, creativity, and leadership of Sri Lankan Girl Guides — and their growing role in shaping a more sustainable future.



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#YouthConnect #GirlsforClimateAction

EVERY FIN MATTERS



Our oceans are home to over half of all life on Earth — but plastic, pollution, and overfishing are pushing marine animals toward extinction.

Every dolphin, turtle, coral, and fish plays a role in keeping the ocean alive. When they vanish, we vanish too.

No wildlife, no balance. No balance, no future.
Let's be their voice.
Protect marine life. Let the ocean breathe again.

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Aamina ifsal
Muslim Ladies College
Grade - 09

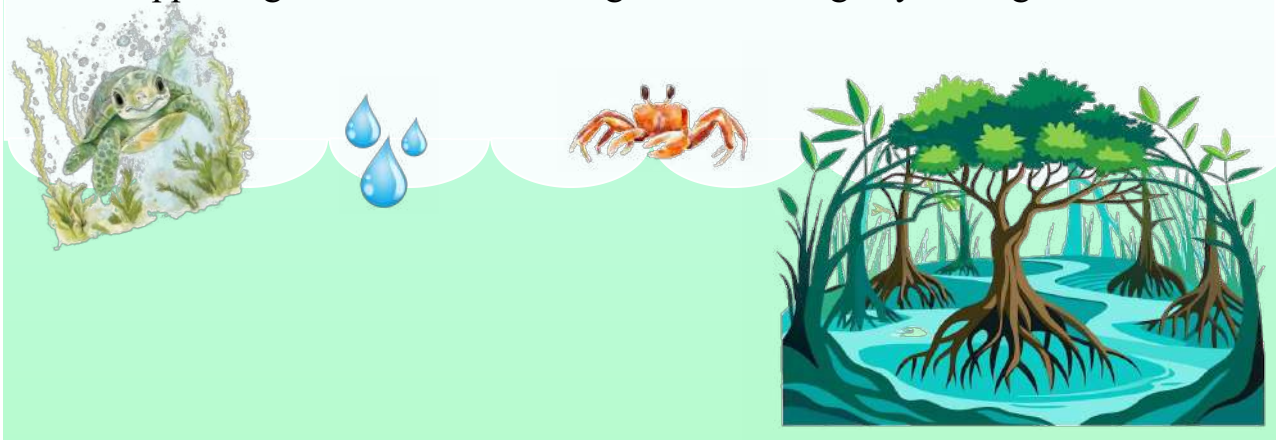
Protect Mangroves, Preserve Habitats.



Every seedling
planted is a
promise to the
planet.

Mangroves are nature's coastal guardians! Their dense roots anchor shorelines, preventing erosion and storm surges. Acting as a living shield, they protect communities from flooding and rising tides. Beneath their canopy, mangroves shelter countless marine species—from baby fish to seahorses—providing food, breeding grounds, and safe nurseries.

Restoring mangroves means restoring balance—defending biodiversity, supporting fisheries, and battling climate change by storing carbon.



PLASTIC POLLUTION

A NATIONAL COASTAL CRISIS

Sri Lanka generates over 5,700 tons of solid waste daily, with 15% being plastic. A shocking 168,000 metric tons of plastic enter our ocean every year — threatening our marine life, coral reefs, and livelihoods.

SAY NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS.
SAY YES TO CHANGE.



40k

"More than 40,000 sea turtles and marine animals suffer every year due to plastic waste."



310,000 T

"Every year, Sri Lanka generates over 310,000 tons of plastic waste, choking rivers and oceans."



168 000 Mt

"168,000 metric tons of plastic enter our ocean from Sri Lanka every year."

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Fathima Azra Numan
Maryam Girls College
Grade - 10

WHAT IF NATURE DOESN'T NEED SAVING JUST SPACE TO SAVE US?

THE DAY THE **TSUNAMI**
STRUCK, THE
MANGROVES
STOOD STRONG

NATURE'S BARRIER COMMUNITIES' HOPE



MANGROVE FACTS RESTORATION



Mangroves shield 15 million lives, soak up carbon, and breathe life into our coasts. In Sri Lanka, early planting efforts failed, until we stepped back and let nature lead. At Anavilundawa, a forgotten shrimp farm transformed. Fish returned, waters sparkled, livelihoods revived. And with a 90% survival rate, the trees spoke for themselves.

This isn't just restoration.
It's a comeback story, written by nature.

Buddhima Shaindi
(Girl Guide of 92nd Negombo)

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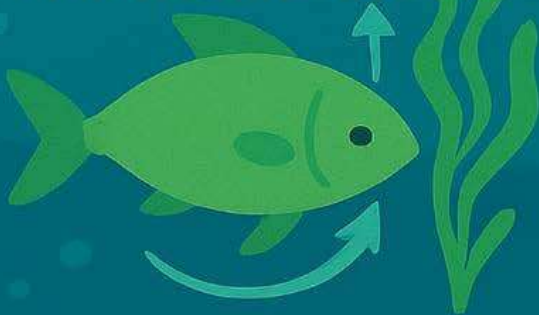
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Buddhima Shaindi
ST Nicholas International College
Grade - 09

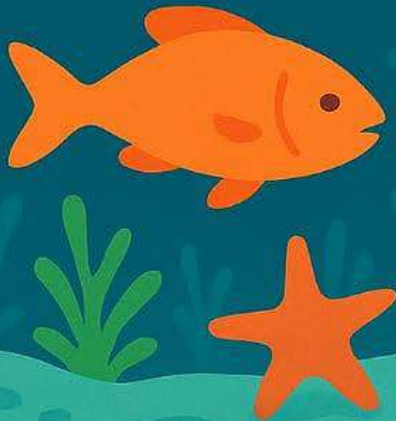
HEALTHY OCEAN, HEALTHY PLANET

OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

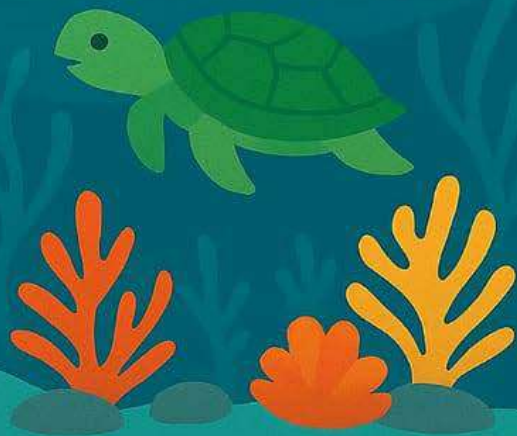
**OXYGEN
PRODUCTION**



FOOD SOURCE



ECOSYSTEMS



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Gayuni Gehara Thambavita
Holy Family Convent
Grade - 10

Importance of **MARINE WILDLIFE**

Marine wild life encompasses all organisms inhabiting the ocean and other saltwater environments, ranging from the tiniest microscopic plankton to the largest whales. This expansive ecosystem comprises a diverse array of species, including fish, mammals, invertebrates, crustaceans, corals, and various marine plants.

WHY ARE MARINE LIFE SO IMPORTANT?

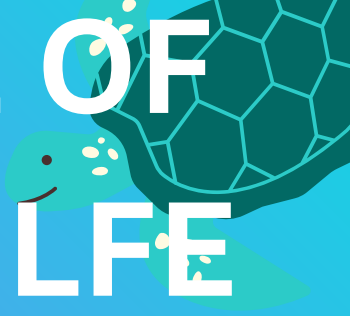

- **Biodiversity:** Marine wildlife enhances biodiversity and helps stabilize ecosystems.
- **Oxygen:** Oceans are responsible for producing more than half of Earth's oxygen.
- **Climate:** They absorb carbon dioxide, playing a crucial role in regulating climate change.
- **Food:** Marine wildlife serves as a vital food source for billions of people.
- **Economy:** The marine industry significantly contributes to the global economy.
- **Culture:** Oceans provide immense cultural and recreational value.



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Roshael Chrysostom
St. Bridget's Convent
Grade - 09

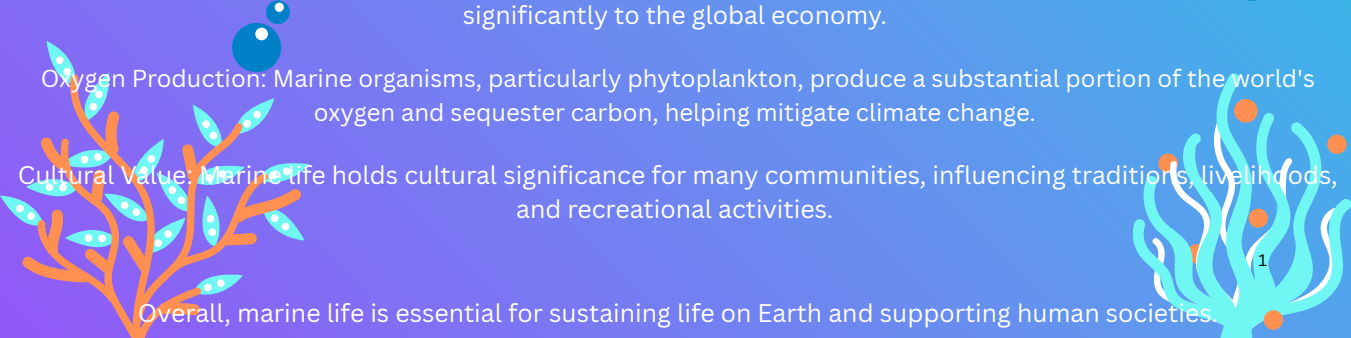


IMPORTANCE OF MARINE WILDLIFE

The importance of marine life is multifaceted and crucial for both the planet and humanity. Here are some key points:

- Ecosystem Health:** Marine life, from the smallest plankton to the largest whales, plays a vital role in maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems.
- Climate Regulation:** Oceans cover 70% of the Earth's surface and help regulate climate by transporting heat and capturing carbon.
- Economic Benefits:** Marine ecosystems provide resources for fishing, tourism, and transportation, contributing significantly to the global economy.
- Oxygen Production:** Marine organisms, particularly phytoplankton, produce a substantial portion of the world's oxygen and sequester carbon, helping mitigate climate change.
- Cultural Value:** Marine life holds cultural significance for many communities, influencing traditions, livelihoods, and recreational activities.

Overall, marine life is essential for sustaining life on Earth and supporting human societies.



Sanuji Bethanya Fernando
St. Bridget's Convent
Grade - 07



THE SOLUTION IS LESS POLLUTION

Oceans hold countless creatures, turtles and fish to coral and mangroves. Pollution, overfishing, and climate change destroy balance. Millions of tons of plastic enter oceans yearly, harming marine life and ecosystem. Without action, future generations may lose these wonders. Protecting marine life isn't just about animals; it's about saving ourselves. Clean water, fresh air, and a healthy planet all depend on it.

Let's reduce plastic, support conservation, and raise awareness. Say no to plastic and join beach cleanups. Our generation has the power to make real change.

Defend the deep

Topic : Marine Environment

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Fathima Hana Nisfan
Ilma International Girls' School
Grade - 09

Importance of Marine Wildlife

What is Marine life?

Marine life encompasses all living organisms found in saltwater environments, including the oceans and seas. This includes a vast array of plants, animals, and microorganisms, from single-celled plankton to massive whales. Marine life plays a crucial role in the health of the planet, influencing everything from oxygen production to nutrient cycling.



What is the importance of marine life?

Marine life absorbs massive amounts of carbon dioxide, helping to regulate the atmosphere and slow the pace of climate change. Meanwhile, marine plants like phytoplankton quietly work away beneath the surface, producing over half of the oxygen we breathe. Marine life is also an engine of livelihood, transport, commerce and energy production



How can we protect marine life?

Reduce the use of plastic and non degradable materials

Proper waste disposal

Save water

Save energy

Avoid using ocean harming products

Minimize chemical use



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know 50% of earth's oxygen is supplied from the ocean.

Did you know 37 out of 50 critical minerals are found in the ocean.

Did you know the ocean floor moves and the ocean influences and regulates the climate of the earth just like a heart.


Did you know 95% of the ocean is unexplored.



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Dineka Maria Collom
St. Bridget's Convent
Grade - 08




IMPORTANCE OF MARINE WILDLIFE

• MAINTAINS OCEAN BALANCE

Marine animals help control species populations and keep ecosystem functioning





Eg: Parrotfish eat algae, protecting coral reefs from being smothered. Sharks are top predators; without them, prey species like rays can overpopulate and destroy shellfish beds




• INSPIRES CULTURE AND RECREATION

Marine wildlife has long inspired human storytelling, religion, art and adventure. Today, oceans are also vital for mental health and recreation.

Eg: Dolphins, whales, sea turtles and other creatures appear in ancient myths and modern films like "Finding Nemo, Moana"









LEADS TO MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

Marine species offer unique chemical compounds.




Eg: The cone snail produces venom used to develop powerful non-addictive painkillers. Cancer drugs like "cytarabine" come from Caribbean sea sponges



PROVIDES FOOD AND JOBS

Marine ecosystem feed billions and support coastal economies

Eg: Over 3 billion people rely on seafood as their protein source. Coral reef fisheries generate food and income for over 500 million people in developing countries

J.A. Nevinka Karunaratne
St. Bridget's Convent
Grade - 08

IMPORTANCE OF MARINE WILDLIFE

WHY IS MARINE WILDLIFE VITAL FOR HUMANS AND THE PLANET?

MAINTAINCE EARTH'S BALANCE



Oceans regulate climate by absorbing CO₂. Marine creatures like plankton produce over 50% of our oxygen.

PROVIDES FOOD & LIVELIHOODS



Over 3 billion people rely on seafood as a major protein source. Fishing supports millions of jobs globally.

SUPPORTS BIODIVERSITY



Mangroves and coral reefs protect coastlines from storms, erosion, and flooding.

SOURCE OF MEDICINE



Marine species are used in the development of life-saving drugs (e.g. cancer, antibiotics, painkillers)

PROTECT MARINE LIFE = PROTECT OURSELVES!

Let's reduce pollution, avoid overfishing, and support marine conservation efforts.

♥ SAVE THE OCEAN - SAVE OUR FUTURE!

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Fathima Zikra Ilham
C/Khairiya Girls' College
Grade - 11

IMPORTANCE OF MARINE WILDLIFE

Marine life is vital to life on Earth. From tiny plankton to giant whales, these species help produce oxygen, regulate our climate, and support food chains that feed billions. But the vibrant underwater world is under threat – from plastic pollution, over fishing, and climate change. As these creatures disappear, so does our planet's balance.



Protecting marine life isn't just about saving animals – it's about securing our future. The UK, as a global ocean leader, can inspire real changes. Through conservation, sustainable practices, and international cooperation, we can protect marine ecosystems.

IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVES



Protects coastlines

- Prevents erosion and reduces storm damage.

Act as barriers

- Reduces the impact of tsunamis and strong waves.

Store carbon

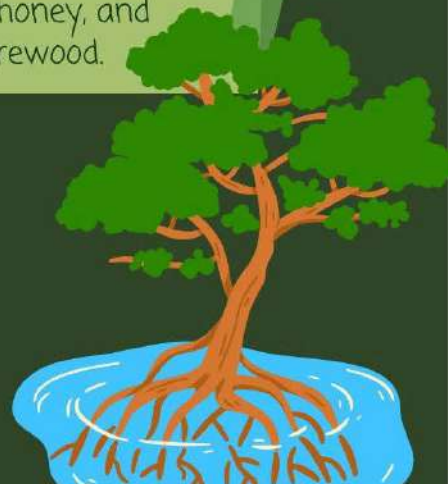
- Absorbs carbon dioxide and help fight climate change.

Support biodiversity

- Provide habitat for fish, crabs and birds

Support livelihoods

- Provide resources like fish, honey, and firewood.



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Minuli Mansandi Rathnayake

Lindsay Girls' School
Grade - 10

A glimpse of Our Journey



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#YouthConnect #GirlsforClimateAction

A glimpse of Our Journey



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Disclaimer

The content presented in this e-magazine reflects the personal views, creative expressions, and learning journeys of the participating Girl Guides and contributors. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the British Council and the Sri Lanka Girl Guides Association do not take responsibility for any unintentional errors or omissions. All factual information should be independently verified where necessary.