

Call for Applications: Research Support for MSc Students on Restorative Seaweed Aquaculture in Zanzibar, Tanzania



Applications are invited for qualified MSc Students (with a background in fisheries, aquaculture, environmental sciences, marine ecology, social sciences or a similar field or equivalent combination of education and experience). The applications should be for MSc students who have successfully completed their coursework and are interested in and require research support for their thesis. The focus of the support is to advance socio-ecological and environmental [assessments](#) of restorative seaweed aquaculture in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

About the Research

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)'s focus in this opportunity is to enhance sustainable seaweed farming while supporting livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. The study will focus on:

- (i) Supporting the establishment of baselines on social-ecological and environmental conditions in seaweed farms.
- (ii) Assessing impacts and outcomes of restorative seaweed farming, focusing but not restricting on water quality, biodiversity, climate adaptation, ecosystem health, coastal communities and livelihoods.
- (iii) Investigating the role of seaweed farming in marine plastic pollution and its mitigation strategies.
- (iv) Contributing to the expansion of seaweed farming Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Scholarship Benefits

- (i) Research funding spanning 12 Months (from 1st June 2025) and covering costs related to fieldwork, data collection, and analysis, with no stipend.
- (ii) Technical guidance and mentorship through a highly stimulating work and learning environment from experts in marine conservation, aquaculture, and socio-ecological systems background.
- (iii) Collaboration between TNC and UDSM to build knowledge and capacity in science, research, and conservation impacts.

Eligibility Criteria

- (i) MSc Students who have completed coursework.
- (ii) Research project aligned with evaluation of impacts and outcomes of restorative seaweed aquaculture, including environmental assessments, climate adaptation, and coastal communities and livelihoods.
- (iii) Strong academic background in fisheries, aquaculture, marine ecology, or related disciplines.

Application Requirements

- (i) CV (max two pages).
- (ii) Letter of Motivation (explaining interest in the program and relevance to career goals).
- (iii) Reference Letter from an academic supervisor.
- (iv) Bachelor's Degree Certificates.
- (v) Proof of coursework completion from a recognized university in Tanzania.
- (vi) Applicants from disadvantaged groups are highly encouraged to apply.

Deadline for Application: 21 May 2025

Applications should be submitted electronically to George Maina through gwmaina@TNC.ORG, and a copy should be sent to Ayubu Singoye (ayubu.singoye@TNC.ORG).

21 April 2025