



East Africa Our Ocean Photo/Essay Contest

In support of Secretary of State Kerry's hosting of the global Our Ocean conference September 15-16 in Washington, D.C. (<http://ourocean2016.org/#event>), the U.S. Department of State's Regional Environment Office for East Africa is holding a regional ocean-related photo and essay contest.

The Our Ocean conference will focus on 4 key areas:

1. Sustainable Fisheries
2. Marine Pollution
3. Climate/Ocean Acidification
4. Protecting Ocean Areas

Applications will be accepted in two categories: photo and essay.

Eligible applicants include nationals of: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda who are currently living in any of the countries just listed.

Photo application rules:

To participate in the photo contest, an eligible applicant must submit a photograph that illustrates why one or more of the following themes - sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, climate/ocean acidification, and protecting ocean areas – is/are important. The photo must be accompanied by a short description of no more than 50 words explaining how the photo illustrates one or more of these four Our Ocean conference themes. All photographs submitted must be original work by the eligible applicant. Photographs should be submitted electronically in .JPEG, .jpg, or .png format. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard cropping will be disqualified from consideration.

Essay application rules:

To participate in the essay contest, an eligible applicant should select one or more of the four Our Ocean conference 2016 themes (sustainable fisheries, marine pollution, climate/ocean acidification, and protecting ocean areas) and write an essay of no more than 500 words. The essay should highlight why these theme(s) are important in an engaging way. All essays must be the original work of the eligible applicant. Essays should be submitted electronically in English and should be in Times New Roman 14 point font and double-spaced. Essays exceeding the 500 word limit or not abiding by the application rules will be disqualified from consideration.

Submission rules:

Photo and/or essay submissions should be emailed to REO_East_Africa@state.gov no later than September 1, 2016. All applicants should include their email address and phone number so that they may be contacted in case they win. All eligible participants who make an application give permission for their work to be displayed by the U.S. Government either online or at the Our Ocean conference in Washington, D.C. in September.

Selection:

Three photo winners and three essay winners will be selected. No eligible applicant may win more than one prize. Winners will be notified shortly before the September 15-16 Our Ocean conference.

Prizes:

All winners will receive an identical ocean-themed prize package containing multiple items like snorkel gear and books. Winners will be invited to the nearest U.S. Embassy in order to collect their prizes and their local transportation costs to the Embassy will be covered by the Regional Environment Office. Winners may have their work displayed online on U.S. Government websites or at the Our Ocean conference in Washington, D.C.