



About Oceans For All Alliance (OFAA)

The goal of the Oceans For All Alliance is to establish a global network of organizations working towards conservation and emotional health in low resourced, coastal communities. I AM WATER aims to train like-minded organizations on their ethos, environmental educational content, child protection policy, methodology and operations. I AM WATER plans to use their flagship Ocean Guardians Workshop as a model to formulate the training program. The training will take place at our headquarters in Cape Town and will enable the organizations to host their own safe, fun, educational and transformational ocean experiences. This alliance will allow I AM WATER to share their knowledge from over a decade of working in the field. Open sourcing all they have learned allows for growth for many new organizations and for I AM WATER itself.

Oceans For All Alliance envisions a consistently high standard for their affiliated partners to create a global community of Ocean Guardians. It is the objective to support these member organizations in not only training but also with equipment sourcing, monitoring and evaluation and access to funding. Interest has been expressed by organizations in Argentina, Spain, Miami USA, Maldives, Caribbean, Hong Kong and many African Indian Ocean nations. They hope to run their first training in the southern spring of 2021.

Objective: Extended reach and impact of the I AM WATER mission in a sustainable way.

Recruitment of Organizations

Potential partner organizations will be recruited through a research and investigation process. We have already received interest from potential partners from several countries worldwide. We are looking for like-minded organizations that are as passionate and enthusiastic about making people fall in love with the ocean as we are. We want to increase ocean access to low-income coastal communities and feel that increasing our global network is a powerful and effective way to do so. Our training program will be able to facilitate up to 10 guests, so depending on the number of members joining per organization we are expecting 5 – 10 partner organizations for the first training cohort. We hope to start the first training program in the southern hemisphere spring 2021. The organizations will complete an in-take and baseline survey which will provide data on the needs of the cohort and inform our training.

Project Activities

The two week training program is the main operation for the year with continued post-training engagement and mentorship online for the affiliated organizations.

The two week residential training will take place in Cape Town, South Africa. Partners will fly to South Africa and will be housed in accommodation nearby our offices which will be the venue for the training. The intention of the training program is to teach young, like-minded organizations how to develop and implement an outdoor environmental education program such as our flagship Ocean Guardian Workshops.

The two weeks will be split into interactive classroom activities, immersive outdoor adventures and simulated workshops. We will cover all aspects of the workshops and impart the knowledge we have gained through our ten years of refining and improving. We will cover topics such as our child safeguarding, water safety, emergency response protocol, staff training, logistics, scientific content, how to measure your impact, how to apply for funding, basic freediving training and a whole lot of fun. There will be guest speakers to provide expert advice for our members. Topics can range from water safety to public speaking. We decided on a two week program as

we require a certain level of excellence from our partners and want the safest and most professional experience for all future Ocean Guardians.

After we have covered all of the topics required to gain a holistic understanding of how an Ocean Guardians Workshop runs, we will run a two day workshop with our newly appointed partners. There will be some of our existing coaches present to provide guidance and mentorship. In these sessions we will be able to assess the understanding of the content from our partners and can show them the full experience firsthand. At the end of the training we will have a graduation dinner where we celebrate the achievements of our members.

Once the training is complete and all the members have returned to their respective countries, we will host monthly or bi-monthly online sessions to provide ongoing mentorship and support. Each session will be a chance to touch base with everyone and remain connected. We will cover different topics every time to keep us refreshed and continuously learning and growing from each other. We will also continue engagement and support through the creation of a Whatsapp group. Here partners can share questions, challenges and pictures on their progress.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

Outcomes

1. Organizations are more equipped to deliver ocean environmental education programs.
2. More Ocean Guardians trained globally.
3. Increased sense of community amongst organizations delivering environmental education programs.

The project is evaluated by measuring the extent to which our activities contributed towards our intended outcomes listed above. Various sources will be used to monitor, evaluate and learn from the program such as: attendance registers, in-take forms, surveys and interviews.

Funding

The funds from Once a Year will support the salary of our Community Manager who is designing, creating and implementing the training program. The ongoing community engagement after the training will require funds as we will be hosting monthly or bi-monthly check-ins with extended information and guest speakers to improve the organizations' outcomes. This will cover Zoom membership and data costs as well.

Other funds will directly provide for the two week training program. Costs involved with the training are subsidised flights, accommodation, food and transport of our guests. We will have excursions within the training to get our members comfortable teaching and learning in an outside environment which will be where they eventually run their respective programs. We will use the remainder of the support to accommodate the forex fees incurred for the donation and currency protection for the grant.