

## **My Biography**

My name is ACHARE Elvis AYAMBA, a Cameroonian by nationality. Holder of a Master's degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the Institute of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences of the University of Douala in Cameroon. A passionate and enthusiast early career conservationist with over 4 years of experience in the conservation of marine and aquatic ecosystems. My vision is to see a world where every individual has the right mindset to live in harmony with our blue planet earth.

I am the Founder & Executive Director of Environment and Food Foundation (E2F), with mission to promote sustainable management, conservation and use of marine and aquatic ecosystems of mangroves, wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers and oceans through: Environmental education and awareness raising in schools and communities, conservation of threatened habitats and species, collection and valorization of marine litter (plastics waste and invasive aquatic weeds), Conducting studies and research, the development of alternative sources of income that will eliminate primary reliance on the environment.

At E2F I am coordinating 03 programs, which include:

- 1) Collection and valorization of marine plastics waste in Douala, Cameroon.
- 2) Biodiversity conservation and restoration through communities participation in lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve, Cameroon.
- 3) Participatory management and restoration of mangroves forests ecosystems in Douala-Edea national park, Cameroon.

I have received the following awards, affiliation and international recognition as an early career marine conservationist:

- Awarded by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) as «Top 100 Young African Conservation Leader».
- Young Professionals Committee member of the fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC<sub>5</sub>).
- Awardee of EE 30 Under 30 by North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).
- Member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN), Youth Initiative.
- Member of the Blue Communities initiative of Plastic Oceans International (POI).
- Young Ocean Leader and alumni of Sustainable Oceans Alliance (SOA).
- Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) at Heirs to our Oceans.
- President of Net Impact Douala professionals, an affiliated chapter of Net Impact Central in U.S.