

## Project Update: February 2015

### Executive Summary

The project " *Enhancing the Conservation of Sea turtles and Mangroves in Kenya*" seeks to address global priority issues of climate change adaptation and mitigation on local livelihoods and natural resource initiatives, livelihoods support, biodiversity conservation, strengthening of local capacity environmental governance systems and structures, forest protection and management including reforestation for livelihood enhancement. The project works with the local community to reduce threats faced by global threatened sea turtles. Education and awareness meetings are planned and held at village levels and at school levels where the community and school children are sensitized on social behaviors that may lead one to be infected. Also, those already affected are educated on high best to live with the virus. The project aims at (i) Strengthening local capacity to adapt to climate variability and change including strengthening environmental governance systems (ii) Enhancing mangrove forest protection and management including reforestation and livelihood enhancement (iii) Protecting and conserving Sea Turtles and their habitat



This report shows what has so far been accomplished from September to December 2014.

### Implemented activities

#### Sea turtle conservation

Through Kenya Wildlife Society (KWS), a sea turtle training was held targeting mostly fishermen and the local community resides along the beach. Mobilization of participants was done that ensured participants were drawn of all of the four landing sites in the area. Mobilization was done through the beach management unit (BMU).

The training was based on Sea Turtle Handling, Nest Protection and Sea Turtle Ecology covering:

- Sea turtle ecology and threats they face
- Nest mapping, translocation, protection and monitoring
- Turtle handling and safety

Participants were clearly shown the various threats that sea turtles are facing both in-water and out of water. Most of these threats are human caused and this is as a result fishing practices by local fishermen.

#### Achievement

21 people were trained in sea turtle handling and nest protection

## **Challenges**

Willingness of fishermen to release turtles caught in their fishing gears and to give information on nesting turtles.

## **Tree Planting**

The project managed to distribute seeds and planting bags to community groups for the establishment of tree nurseries. The groups were assisted by the forester to set up seed beds for raising the seedlings before transplanting them to the pots. Seeds distributed were of three varieties i.e. casuarina species, neem species and the aborea species. Nine groups benefited from tree nursery establishment and management.

Established woodlots have been attended to and trees planted are doing well. To enhance tree nursery management and water supply, the project constructed five shallow wells for five groups.

In mangrove rehabilitation, community members have been engaged in mangrove seed collection and nursery setup.

## **Achievement**

- A total of 42000 casuarina seedlings are in nurseries, Five seedbeds with over 20000 germinated seedlings setup
- 6845 mangrove propagules have been collected and planted
- Thirty community woodlots and seven plots have been established in local schools

## **Challenges**

- Most of the neem and aborea seeds did not germinate because of their viability had expired.
- Some seedlings were affected by diseases

## **Community Capacity Building in Natural Resource Management**

### **Community Forest Association training workshop**

CFA training was organized where representatives of the four VDFCCs were trained on participatory natural resource management and informed of the roles and responsibilities of CFAs in natural resource management. This training was conducted by the Kenya Forest Service.

### **Achievements**

- 20 officials trained and aware of their roles
- Leadership capacity of officials enhanced
- Community aware of participatory forest management

### **Challenges**

Illiteracy level of some of the officials is high

### **Fishermen training**

A fishermen training on sustainable fishing practices was done by the Fisheries department. This training focused on sustainable fishing practices, destructive fishing practices, threatened fish spp for protection and conservation, and trained fishermen on conservation of the marine biodiversity for productive fisheries

### **Achievements**

- 20 fishermen and 3 local elders trained.
- Fishermen aware of sustainable and destructive fishing gears

### **Challenges**

- Willingness of fishermen to discard their illegal and destructive fishing gears

### **Conservation education, awareness and advocacy**

The project organized and facilitated for two awareness barazas that were held in Ngomeni and Msumarini. This meeting was attended by the forester in-charge of mangroves and the fisheries officer. Apart from addressing issues related to the environment and fisheries, others mainstreamed issues addressed include HIV-Aids, gender, leadership and governance.

Environmental Education and awareness combined with HIV/Aids awareness was done in schools within the project areas. Children were gathered together and the project staff together the community health workers spoke to children on those issues.

### **Achievements**

- One community awareness baraza held and 32 community members reached
- Twelve teachers & over 800 pupils reached

### **Challenges**

- Being a farming season, many community members were fully engaged in their shambas

### **Income Generation Activities**

#### **Beekeeping**

Monitoring of the apiaries has been ongoing with technical support from the area livestock officer. Regular hive inspection has been done and in every apiary, quite a number of beehives were colonized. The colonized beehives were later harvested and a total of thirty liters was realized which was later sold to individuals and ten litres sold to Kipepeo project.

#### **Achievement**

- 75 percent of beehives are colonized
- Thirty litres of honey harvested and sold
- Community started benefiting from the beekeeping activity

## Challenges

- Lack of experience of the beekeeping activity

## Poultry

The project mobilized and recruited beneficiary groups for poultry activity. These groups were later mobilized for one day training on construction of a poultry structures and care of the birds. The beneficiary groups began to construct poultry houses with technical back-up of the area livestock officer.

## Achievements

- Two poultry beneficiary groups identified
- Groups trained poultry house construction and management

## Challenges

Diseases associated with poultry poses the greatest challenge in this farming.

