

## Project Update: May 2014

### Implemented Activities

#### **Consultative meetings and developing and registration of CFA and Management Plan and guidelines**

The project facilitated a consultative meeting for drafting a constitution for the area Community Forest Association (CFA). In attendance in the drafting of the constitution were members of the four Village Development Conservation Committees, a representative from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the project staff. The constitution has therefore been approved and adopted for the area CFA.

#### **Environmental education and awareness including cross-cutting national issues (HIV/AIDS) and gender through schools, youth groups and women groups**



A teachers meeting was organised and held to plan of the project activities for local primary schools. Ten teachers from the local schools attended the meeting.

An awareness event on issues regarding the environment and cross-cutting issues were presented. 120 children from five schools participated and made presentations through sort skits, artwork, poetry and songs. Presentations made had messages including, do not cut mangroves, plant more trees to mitigate climate change, do not kill turtles -

they have a right to life and do not kill fish with poison use the right fishing gears. The event was also attended by health workers who spoke on HIV-Aids, officer in-charge of wildlife clubs of Kenya and schools who spoke on the role of teachers and children in promoting environmental conservation and a local presentation that created awareness on environmental conservation and HIV-Aids through comedy. In attendance at that event were 12 school teachers, three interns and three project staff.

#### **Establishment of tree nurseries and on-farm woodlots and mangrove planting**

The project assisted in the establishment of community managed tree nurseries. A total of 20 trees nurseries have been established with a capacity of 150,000 *Casuarina* tree seedlings. These seedlings will be distributed to the community to plant in their farms. This will then ease pressure on the natural mangrove forest as it is assumed that when the tree



mature, most of the fuel and other wood demands will easily be met from their farms.

The project has also engaged the local community in establishing mangrove tree nurseries with a capacity of 20,000 seedlings, some of which will be planted during the World Environment Day.

### **Introduction and adoption of income generating activities (fishing, beekeeping and poultry)**



A total of 300 birds for community poultry activity were purchased and distributed to three groups. The beneficiary groups have a total of 75 members of which 75% are women. This activity in the next 6 months will start generate financial benefit for the members and thus serve as one of income generation hence reduce over-reliance on the marine ecosystem.

The project also purchased and distributed 75 beehives for starting a beekeeping project that will see community members harvest

and sell honey for income generation. Seven community groups benefited from this activity which will benefit a total of 140 families. The official handing over of the beehives to the local community was handed over by the County Executive member i.e. minister for Agriculture and attended by the local area member of the county assembly, chiefs and the media. The handing over event was captured in a national television which was a good publicity to the project impact on the area.

### **Monitoring patrolling, and bycatch release**

The project held meetings with the local fishermen on promoting sustainable fishing and protecting endangered sea turtles in the area. Fishermen assured the project staff that will play a great role in seeing the there is a reduction in bycatch and killing of the species. Under the mainstream Beach Management Unit, through their chairman, representatives from each landing site were put into task to report any sea turtle sightings and bycatch including nesting turtles and dead turtles. The project has so far released six turtles that were accidentally caught in fishing nets and handed over two injured turtles to Watamu turtle watch for rehabilitation and treatment.

### **Beach cleaning to protect nesting turtles and eliminate threats to turtles**

Over 600 kg of debris were collected for a 5 km beach line. This was organised by the project and attended by the local community members, fishermen, school children and teachers.