

## **Project Update: March 2012**

### **Implemented activities**

#### **Activity 1: Enhancing Sea turtle conservation**

Majority of the fishermen doing their business within the project area have been affected by the security threats of the Al-shaabab. This has also had impact in project implementation because fishermen landing sites have been closed down for security reasons thereby forcing them to relocate to other area far from the project. The remaining fishermen have been fishing with fear of Al-shaabab attacks and fishing activities have not been as usual. All the same, the project has managed to protect two green turtles caught in fishing nets. These turtles had been infested with barnacles all-over the shells. Project staff removed the barnacles and then safely released them back to the sea. One strategic meeting with the local Beach Management Unit has been held and is currently yielding fruits following reports of destructive gear found fishing in the area. The fishermen have resolved to flush out all illegal and destructive fishing practices in their area and expressed their willingness to work with the project and other stakeholders to end such unsustainable practices are stopped.

#### **Activity 2: Woodlots establishment and Mangrove planting**

The project has helped establish five *Casuarina* tree nurseries with a total of 30,000 seedlings. These seedlings will be planted in community farms in the coming rain season i.e. April – May 2012. The trees will benefit a total of 500 households through the establishment of community managed woodlots. On the other hand, five mangrove tree nurseries with a carrying capacity 25,000 seedlings have been established. The project has resolved to plant mangroves through seedlings established in nurseries as opposed to direct planting of the propagules. This is because seedlings have a high rate of success in growing.

#### **Activity 3: Conservation education, awareness and advocacy**

A project sensitisation meeting was held that was attended by various stakeholders including the area District commissioner, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Fisheries Department, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute and Pwani University. Over 200 community members attended the meeting. The objective of the sensitisation meeting was to inform the community and stakeholders on the activities to be implemented and also create awareness on the importance of environmental conservation and the effects of environmental degradation.

Stakeholders present talked on their mandate in environmental protection/conservation and community empowerment. All messages were centred on sustainable practices for the benefit of the current and future generations. Community representatives present committed to ensure that they will support the project and work hand-in hand with other stakeholders to ensure that degradation of marine resources is reduced if not completely stopped.

Other three community awareness meetings were held to educate the community on best available practices towards environmental protection. Teachers planning meeting was held that saw the attendance of 13 teachers from seven schools. The meeting was to plan on activities

that will see how school children will be involved to enhance their learning of environmental education.

