

Project Update: November 2012

Implemented activities

Sea turtle conservation

Through the community patrolmen, two turtle nests were identified. One nest was translocated to Mtsere beach and the other was left where it hatched but put under close monitoring and protection. The two community patrolmen were given badges for easy identification and also showing what they do once they are found early morning or late evening on the beach. After a closer monitoring of the nests which hatched in August 2012 and the two which hatched in September 2012, the project witnessed 168 hatchlings coming out from the translocated nests. These were the first two nests that were mapped out in July 2012 as shown in the table below.

Date	Place Hatched	Status	Expected Hatching Date
27/07/2012	Shakiko		Unknown
7/08/2012	Jambiani		30/9/2012
19/08/2012	Jambiani		12/10/2012
24/08/2012	Mtsere beach	Translocated	17/10/2012
6/9/2012	Jambiani		30/10/2012
6/9/2012	Mtsere beach	Translocated	30/10/2012



Hatchlings heading to the sea



Nest Excavation to count hatching success rate

The project has released one turtle in September and two turtles in October 2012.



A sea turtle caught by fishermen being released back to the sea

Two fishermen's meetings were conducted to create awareness on sea turtle conservation and also mobilise fishermen to form fishing groups in all landing sites where sea turtle conservation committees will be selected and trained. One committee has been selected and a Muyu wa Kae fishermen group composed pending registration

Thus the project has held four fishermen awareness meetings and four patrols to sensitise the fishermen and local community on how to save the endangered species. These awareness meetings were facilitated by KWS, KFS and the Fisheries Department. This is because of the interconnectedness of the marine ecosystem which lies under the custodianship of the three government arms. Awareness was done at Kinyaole, Jambiani, Muyu wa Kae, Bampwani and Bwana Saidi landing sites. The patrols involved the three institutions where KWS were looking at sea turtles, the Fisheries Department was looking at illegal fishing gears and KWS was on destruction of mangroves. In these patrols, there were no incidences seen apart from building of houses using mangroves which was not at an alarming rate but community members were told to be reporting any destruction to the newly elected VDFCCs officials.



Fisheries officer in a fisherman's meeting

In all the five landing sites visited, fishermen were helped and reorganised themselves to form fishermen groups. In every fishermen group there is a selected committee that will be in-charge of sea turtle conservation in that area. These committees will later be trained in sea turtle conservation and group dynamics.

Tree Planting

Following the scarcity of rains, most of the casuarina seedlings in nurseries were not planted during the long rains. Though this activity had been approved the time was not good due to late approval. Groups' members continued in attending to tree nurseries by watering and root pruning. As they had acquired knowledge in land preparation and planting, the community has been engaged in land preparation in readiness to plant during the anticipated short rains.



Tree planting (Woodlot establishment) in Kinyaole

In mangrove planting, the community together with stakeholders planted 3150 propagules. Species were *Ceriops tagal*, *Rhizophora mucronata* and *Avicennia marina*. Those who participated in the mangrove planting event were: Kenya Forest service, Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, DCs office, Watamu turtle, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and MACODEP. Community groups present were Upendo support group, Omega comedian, Muyu wa Kae mangrove conservation group, Kadzuyuni mangrove conservation group and Kinyaule conservation group. In total, 179 people participated of which 97 were women and 73 were men. Between the men and women, there were 38 youths all together.



Participants in a mangrove planting in Kinyaole

The beneficiary groups were engaged in land preparation and planting of trees. Out of the five groups, four groups started planting following the rains that poured for two consecutive days. In October 2012, a total of 2450 had been planted