

Project Update: July 2016

Environmental Education

We have carried out 10 environmental education lessons in eight schools focusing on topics we had picked with the workshops with teachers. The manual we prepared to guide teachers was finalised and was sent to external editor. All the lessons were conducted outside of classroom setting to give students a field experience.

Community Awareness

We completed the community group workshops we had begun at the end of April 2016. We have done workshops with two more community groups which included operators working in the intertidal zone selling safaris, taking people to snorkelling. We also discussed with them strategies to better manage these vital habitats. In this stage we also involved Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the government agency mandated to manage the protected area. This is to promote cooperation and co-management with local communities. From this work we are now working with KWS to develop more frequent awareness workshops to promote more involvement of communities in the management of marine resources. All participants reported they had a lot to learn and that they are correcting what they had been doing wrong. We have set up a team to monitor their activities in the area they work in

Research Activities

We continued with monitoring of the intertidal zone and especially coral bleaching. It was interesting to note that bleaching was not as intense in the intertidal zone as it was the subtidal corals. We recorded limited bleaching for the rare endemic coral species *Anomastrea irregularis*. There was good recovery of bleached corals in the Intertidal zone. We have now started assessing the abundance and distribution of seagrass habitats in the Intertidal zone and comparing with the subtidal seagrass as well as comparing with sites that are outside the protected area.



Left: Community group members who attended a workshop with a KWS warden. Right: Conducting a Environmental Education Lesson at the beach.



Left: Conducting a workshop. Right: Schools children doing an Environmental Education class on the beach.