

Project Update: May 2016

Environmental Education

We have concluded this term's environmental education before the school holidays in April-May 2016. We have continued with several activities in the schools and this term more actively involving teachers after the training workshop we had with them in the previous months. So far we have covered three schools in this phase. These are schools we had covered in the first phase. We have also concluded in the preparation of marine environmental education manual. Wildlife club patrons have provided their input and we are preparing the final version of the manual. It was also quite encouraging to note that the Patrons have started a very active forum on social media (WhatsApp) where they share their experiences in marine education content and their activities. In this phase we have involved two other local non-governmental organisations that are involved with marine environmental education and awareness around Watamu-Malindi area. These are Watamu Turtle Watch and African Billfish Foundation.



Community Awareness

We have carried out one training workshop with a community group comprising of various people working along the beach at Watamu (Watamu Beach Operators). This workshop involved basic marine ecology training to build their knowledge on the marine environment. It also focused on marine protected areas, good use practices, and community participation on the management of marine ecosystems. These workshops will proceed all through the next two months and involving other community groups.



Research Activities

We continue with biodiversity surveys in the Intertidal zone around the park as well as survey of bleaching corals in the area. We recorded some level of bleaching in this zone and both the temperature loggers and satellite data show abnormally high temperature both in the reef and the intertidal zone causing bleaching of the corals. We will continue monitoring these corals over the next month and record their recovery trends since the conditions have changed and it's a bit cooler now.



Challenges

We had a challenge getting the groups into the workshop due to their constant movements especially this made us reschedule for the workshops.

