Project Update: June 2019

As we come close to the closing of the project, several activities have been carried towards meeting our objectives. The project team organised for an event at Shelly beach where different community groups from Mtongwe, Nyali and Bamburi Pirate Beaches were invited. The event was attended with about 40 community members (10 from each beach) who participated in identification and mapping of critical turtle habitats outside marine protected areas in the region. Focused group discussions were formulated and conducted based on the beaches where each group drew the map of the region and marked the habitats as well as marine litter hot spots. The groups also discussed their understanding of marine litter, their sources, impacts and management. The feedback session was then run whereby each group selected a representative that presented their results. The results were then analysed and used to create a digital map showing turtle nesting sites in the region attached below. The event at Shelly was conducted in collaboration with CORDIO East Africa through their SDG Lab project and Kisiwani Conservation Network working on plastic pollution and based at Shelly beach.

Map of Study site showing critical turtle habitats (Map by James Mbugua, CORDIO East Africa)
Apart from mapping, the team continued with education and awareness campaign in the region. The project team visited Oshwal Academy-Junior School in collaboration with Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. The team held lectures on marine litter and later on organised the students in groups for discussion on different topics (sources, impacts and management measures) of marine litter. We also discussed about air pollution as the theme of this year’s World Environmental Day. The pupils were then divided into groups for focused group discussions on the topics that were wrote down in manila papers. The team left the discussion materials to be hung on the hall walls for reminder and learning by other students. The team also planted trees together with the school administration to commemorate the event. The team also participated in the World Oceans Day in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI).
Focused Group Discussions on the Description, Sources, Impacts and management of Marine litter.

Feedback session from the FGDs at Shelly Beach

SCHOOL EDUCATION & AWARENESS EVENT:

Student presentations during the event at Oshwal Academy

Lecture session during the education and awareness event
Student group discussions on Sources, Impacts and Management of Marine Litter

Displaying the charts developed by the students during the group discussions

Tree planting session in commemoration of World Environmental Day at Oshwal Academy