

Developing Sustainable Livelihoods

To reduce pressure on critical marine resources, Sea Sense works closely with local communities to develop alternatives to unsustainable fishing practices that threaten the survival of endangered sea turtles and dugongs. In November, Sea Sense organised a week long training programme for a group of women in Juani Island, Mafia District, who produce handicrafts for sale to visitors to the island. A weaving specialist from Dar es Salaam, trained a group of 40 women in the art of cutting, dying and weaving local grasses into beautiful bags and baskets.



Women in Juani Island show off their new products

The training caused a lot of excitement and interest in the village with large crowds gathering around to watch the women at work. The women have since received training from Mafia District Council in entrepreneurial skills including marketing, pricing and management of revenue. The project is helping to generate important revenue for the community and is supporting Sea Sense efforts to engage the wider community in marine conservation and protection.

Young Ambassadors for Marine Conservation

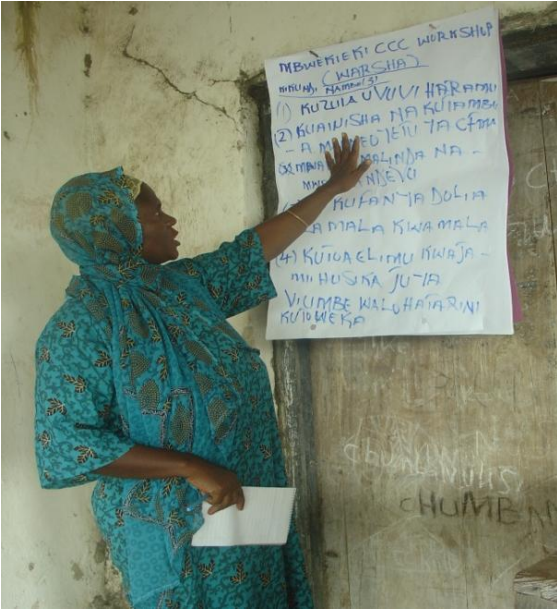


IST students during the beach clean up with some of the collected rubbish.

On International Beach Clean Up Day in September, a group of students from IST Secondary School in Dar es Salaam helped Sea Sense to conduct a beach clean up in Visikini in Temeke District. Many bags of rubbish were collected including lots of plastics which are extremely harmful to sea turtles and other marine life.

A group of students from Dar International Academy are working closely with Sea Sense as part of their Community and Service programme. They have been busy cleaning beaches near to Dar es Salaam and promoting the Sea Sense 'Adopt a Turtle Nest' initiative to help raise vital funds for turtle conservation.

Dugongs are Top Priority in Kilwa & Rufiji Districts



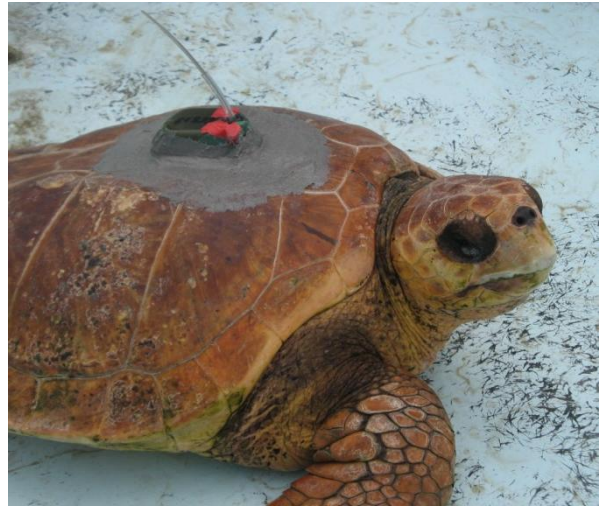
A workshop participant presents her ideas on dugong conservation

Workshops were held in Rufiji and Kilwa Districts to provide training and education to community leaders on the importance of dugong conservation. By the end of the workshops, the participants had a clearer understanding of the role of dugongs in the wider marine ecosystem and had developed some ideas about how to reduce the threat to dugongs from coastal fisheries. The participants presented their ideas to each other and entered into long and detailed discussions about dugong conservation. It was impressive to see such enthusiasm and interest in dugongs after only a short session of education.

Further education and awareness sessions are planned for early 2011 to build on this new level of understanding. Community leaders will be trained in data collection and monitoring of endangered marine species and methods to disseminate information to the wider community.

Regional Projects Move Forward

Due to the migratory nature of sea turtles and dugongs, Sea Sense is working closely with colleagues in other Western Indian Ocean countries to implement a region wide programme of research, management and conservation. Sea Sense staff have received training from international experts in dugong bycatch assessments, satellite tagging of sea turtles, tissue collection techniques for genetic analysis and the use of economic incentives in biodiversity conservation. Sea Sense will be putting the training into practice in 2011 when several new and exciting projects will be implemented. Watch this space for details of the first ever satellite tagged sea turtle in Tanzania! Where will she go? What will be the greatest threat to her survival? Find out here in future editions of Sea News!



A satellite tagged loggerhead turtle is prepared for release during a training session in Reunion Island

Acknowledgements

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Please help us to keep sea turtles alive by adopting a sea turtle nest!!

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