

Keeping up with the sea turtles!



Zianna's migration to Somalia!

We have been following our satellite tagged turtles with a mixture of excitement and trepidation, hoping they would be safe during post nesting migrations to their favourite feeding grounds. Five of the tagged turtles traveled to feeding grounds within Tanzania while two were much more adventurous!

Mwisho migrated to a creek just north of Mombasa while Zianna settled on a feeding ground in northern Somalia, an impressive 3,200km from her nesting beach in Mafia! The turtles will remain at their feeding grounds for 2-5 years before returning to the same beach to begin their next nesting season.

World Fisheries Day celebrations

Sea Sense celebrated World Fisheries Day on November 21st with local communities in the Rufiji Delta which is one of the most productive fishing grounds in the country but also suffers from intense fishing pressure. Sea Sense organised tree plantings, beach clean-ups, football and netball matches and a range of fun challenges and competitions to help raise awareness of the importance of sustainable fisheries. Hundreds of villagers from all over the Delta participated in the event and local school pupils performed songs and drama pieces which directly addressed illegal and destructive practices such as dynamite and poison fishing, the use of beach seines and intensive mangrove clearance.



School pupils perform at World Fisheries Day

Community receives economic benefits from sea turtle conservation

A sea turtle ecotourism initiative, established by Sea Sense in Juani Island, Mafia District, has had a successful six months. Between July and December, \$3,115 was raised through visitor excursions to nesting beaches.

Revenue generated through the initiative is donated to Juani village by Sea Sense to support community development projects and highlight the link between resource conservation and development. So far, revenue from the project has been used to refurbish Juani Primary School, install solar panels at the village dispensary and purchase a maize grinding machine for the village. Juani villagers are very happy and proud that endangered sea turtles nest on their beaches!

Restoring critical habitats

Sea Sense would like to thank 'Roots and Shoots' from IST Secondary School in Dar es Salaam for helping a local community group to restore a degraded mangrove forest in Temeke District. Mangroves are a vital part of the coastal ecosystem, serving as nursery grounds for juvenile fish and acting as a natural barrier to erosion caused by storm surges and flooding.



The end of a hard days work!

Engaging Tanzania's decision makers

In August, Sea Sense was invited by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development to participate in the national Nane Nane celebrations in Dodoma. Staff seized the opportunity to share information about Sea Sense work with Ministers, MP's and Councilors to stimulate action to conserve Tanzania's marine biodiversity.



Sea Sense staff meet the Minister of Livestock and Fisheries

Acknowledgements

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