

PWANI YETU

The Newsletter of the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership *Issue #1 – July 1998*

ICM Partnership Link

As Tanzania strives to turn the philosophy of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) into practice, the need for constant information exchange among ICM practitioners and other stakeholders is very important. Although there are many independent efforts to implement coastal management principles in Tanzania, there is not an easy or efficient way for these important efforts to share ideas and information. It is through information exchange that we can share knowledge, experience and even opportunities to enhance human and institutional capacity for coastal management. This becomes increasingly important as Tanzania increases its focus and attention on wisely managing the national coastal resources.

It is on the realization of this that *Pwani Yetu* has been established to provide a way to share information between the complimentary efforts being demonstrated by coastal communities in the stewardship of Tanzania's coastal and marine resources.

Pwani Yetu - 'our coast', will be produced every other month in both Kiswahili and English and circulated to all coastal management partners from national level, coastal communities and the private sector. *Pwani Yetu* will report on coastal and marine activities, including issues on conservation, environment, and social economic development.

TCMP's hope is that the newsletter will benefit all the coastal management practitioners working in Tanzania and the coastal communities. However, this can only be fully achieved through an ongoing process of information sharing between all coastal activities. Therefore, TCMP will be asking coastal managers and other stakeholders to contribute information to this newsletter on a regular basis. It is TCMP's expectations that *Pwani Yetu* will become everyone's newsletter, a true partnership. Only through a collaborative partnership will *Pwani Yetu* achieve its goal.

TCMP: Bracing for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

Tanzania, like many other coastal countries, is faced with an uphill task of sustaining its coastal and marine resource endowments. Though much of the country's coastline is relatively undeveloped, human activities, including unplanned coastal development, destructive fishing, uncontrolled harvesting of mangroves, and disposal of waste into the ocean, are causing alarming coastal degradation in an increasing number of areas.

As the coastal population continues to increase, resource exploitation practices that are destructive and unsustainable are bound to exert more pressure on the resource base.

In a move to help address this situation at the national level, the Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership (TCMP) was formed in 1997. Initiated through a collaboration between the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) on behalf of the Tanzania government, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resource Center (URI/CRC), the TCMP aims to assist the government of Tanzania in partnership with the ongoing coastal management programs working at the regional and district level, private sector and the NGO community to establish an effective coastal governance system.

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) was defined and by a group of the United Nations as a continuous and dynamic process that unites government and the community, science and management, and sectoral and public interests in preparing and implementing an integrated plan for the protection and development of coastal ecosystem and resources with the prime focus to improve the quality of life of human communities whose livelihood rely on coastal and marine resources. The central idea is to improve the quality of life for those living and working on the coast. As Tanzania works through this dynamic process during the next decade, the people depending on the coast will always be in mind.

The TCMP will strive to work with the existing ICM programs and practitioners including grass-root coastal communities, to facilitate a participatory, transparent process that will put in place ICM along the entire coastline of Tanzania. TCMP's targeted results include:

- * The formulation of meaningful ICM policy that is effectively applied to coastal problems at both the national and local levels;
- * The definition and application by government, business, and communities of sustainable practices for emerging coastal economic opportunities;
- * Mechanism in place to facilitate national support of effective local ICM;
- * Increased institutional and human capacity for ICM; and
- * Improved understanding of and support for ICM in Tanzania.

In working towards the successful attaining these results, TCMP will apply the following principals for coastal management:

- * Ensure that national and local communities take ownership of and are committed to the program;
- * There is participation of stakeholders in all phases of the program;
- * Activities focus on strategic issues and decision making;
- * Cross sectoral integration is sought;
- * There is utilization of policy-relevant scientific information and research;
- * A cadre of in-country professionals who can effectively contribute to the program is built;
- * actions that are concurrent with planning to test management and build program creditability are implemented; and
- * A program management approach is used that promotes learning from and adapting to program experience and approaches;

Currently, TCMP is striving to accomplish its Year One Tasks, which are enshrined on the first step of the ICM policy cycle - issue identification and assessment. Working closely with issue based intersectoral and multi-disciplinary working groups, the existing ICM programs and projects, external technical support and the private sector, TCMP will try to complete the following by June 1999:

- * Critical national ICM issues identified and national ICM goals set;
- * Inter-sectoral mechanisms for the promotion of sustainable, diversified mariculture industry that link wise profitable development with national and local needs developed;
- * Lesson drawing and feedback to national ICM policy formulation process completed at regular intervals;
- * National/Local implementation interface improved to ensure that local issues are adequately represented in national policy discussion;
- * Experience and learning shared among existing ICM activities in Tanzania;
- * Capacity within all of the entities that are essential for successful ICM implementation strengthened through active participation of working groups;
- * In-country ICM training capacity developed;
- * TCMP lessons in ICM practice promoted;
- * TCMP contributing to and learning from global ICM experiences; and
- * Participation in regional learning and sharing.

TCMP Working Groups have already made progress toward achieving these results. Most recently the members of the working groups participated in three weeks of field tours of the coast to identify critical coastal management issues. The tours, which were gratefully organized with the cooperation of regional and district government offices and coordinated by the Tanga Coastal Zone Conservation and Development Program (Tanga

Region), the Institute of Marine Science (Zanzibar) and the Rural Integrated Project Support (Mtwara and Lindi), were exceptionally successful.

This, according to TCMP Unit Support Leader, Jeremiah Daffa is an inspiring spirit of partnership in the efforts to brace for ICM in Tanzania.

The majority of the space in each newsletter will be devoted to reporting on activities outside of TCMP. This, we hope, will provide an opportunity for coastal managers and resources users to learn about what is happening –both the good and bad things- in other areas of coastal Tanzania. TCMP staff primarily compiled this edition's material. Our hope is that in the future you, the reader, will provide most of the information that will appear on these pages.

Coastal Ecosystem Conservation Education in Primary School Curriculum

In the continued efforts to arise awareness and to educate the public on the marine and coastal environment conservation, some primary schools in Tanga, Mtwara and Lindi will, starting the next school term include coastal ecosystem conservation education in their curriculum.

The Mangrove Management officers in Tanga and Mtwara while meeting with one of the TCMP's Working Group revealed this recently. According to the officers, the inclusion of coastal conservation education in primary school curriculum is a long-term strategy to build the sense of marine and coastal environmental protection in the young generation.

The program will take off with a few selected coastal primary schools and will be expanded gradually to other schools. Districts and regional governments have approved the syllabus and ground preparations including training of teachers in coastal ecology have been accomplished.

Shirikisho on the move

To the delight of Mtwara and Lindi coastal communities and the ever resourceful Rural Integrated Project Support (RIPS), Shirikisho la Kihifadhi Mazingira ya Bahari Kanda ya Kusini has been formerly registered as an NGO.

Popularly known as *Shirikisho*, the confederation is a community initiated organization with a mission to protect and develop marine environment on the coastline of Mtwara and Lindi.

Established in December 1996, following a workshop held at Msimbati, *Shirikisho* was formed on the strong foundation of the historical *Sudi Declaration*.

According to Gwaja, the Shirikisho Zonal Secretary the confederation is a result of an exciting collaboration and commitment of the Mtwara and Lindi people, which began in 1993. With the assistance of RIPS, a weeklong workshop held at Sudi village in Lindi brought together representatives of all coastal villages and local government representatives in Lindi/Mtwara. The workshop (held from 24-29 January 1994) resulted in the announcement of the *Sudi Declaration*, which remains a blue print for the community commitment in marine environmental protection.

"As a follow-up to the *Sudi Declaration*, another workshop was held at Msimbati in December, 1996 which resolved to form *Shirikisho*" Gwaja explained to the TCMP Working Group which was recently on a field tour in Mtwara and Lindi.

The *Shirikisho* Secretary who is also the Chairman of the Lindi District Council, told the TCMP working group that a work plan is being prepared to put *Shirikisho* in action. *Shirikisho* will function through mutual cooperation and community participatory approach, Gwaja said that registration of members in all coastal villages would be the first move. Member's registration cards, according to Gwaja were being processed by RIPS and were expected to be ready soon.

Fishermen in disharmony with trawlers

Local fishermen have expressed their disappointment at licensed fishing trawlers operating in Tanga and Kilwa. According to Tanga fishermen of Kigombe, trawlers are not operating in observance of time and area limitations as they sneak in close to shore waters sometimes at night. Trawlers, in accordance to laid out regulations are to fish only during the day and strictly not in shoreline waters.

The evidently annoyed Kigombe fishermen alleged that the trawlers did not only wreck fishing nets and seaweed farms, but they also harm coral reefs through siltation apart from dumping the by catch in the sea.

The Kigombe village chairman said that they have lodged their complains on trawlers contravening the regulations, but without being heard. Sharing the disappointment with the local fishermen, are the Tanga Coastal Zone Conservation and Development Program (TCZCDP) officials, Chris Horill and Solomon Makoloweka.

"We have officially notified the Fisheries Department by giving them names and registration numbers of vessels operating contrary to regulations, but is over five months now, our complaint has not even been acknowledged", explained Horill who further elaborated that only the Fisheries Department can take action against the reported trawlers.

Solomon Makoloweka appealed to high government authorities to demonstrate commitment and responsibility as a way of encouraging the local public in environmental conservation and protection. "It has taken us a long costly time in Tanga to arouse awareness of the local communities on the need to protect and conserve the fragile

coastal and marine environment. Now that people are responding well, every effort should be made to encourage them in whatever good activity they are doing" Makoloweka emphasized.

Kigombe is one of the coastal villages in Tanga striving to implement integrated coastal management.

Turtle Massacre at Somanga

Tanzania is fortunately among the few remaining places in the world that still harbors one of the world's most endangered marine species, the green turtle.

However, the continuing indiscriminate fishing for the turtles was painfully experienced by the TCMP Working Group team at Somanga in Kilwa, leaves no doubt that the turtles in Tanzania have a difficult future.

It was a shocking revelation as the marine biologists and fisheries experts bumped in several empty shells of recently slaughtered turtles at the Somanga port beach. As if that was not enough proof of the turtle massacre, the local fishermen bragged for catching turtles almost every day!

"You are only unfortunate, yesterday two turtles were slaughtered ...there is hardly a day that passes without a turtle kill here", said Hamisi Mohamed Hamisi in blown up smiles.

Asked if the fishermen knew that fishing of turtles was outlawed in Tanzania, Hamisi merely laughed before saying that the country has so many laws that are hardly put in practice.

"Some people may be aware that fishing of turtles is not allowed, but as long as there is no one enforcing the law, you wouldn't expect people to desist from taking the advantage of the laxity", Hamisi further said calmly, his expression leaving no doubt that marine conservation in Tanzania has a hard rough road to travel.

Apart from the turtle massacre the TCMP team was further shocked by seashells collection at the busy port. There were heaps of shells, which, were said to be waiting for shipment to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

"Shells are big business here. Seven dhows (with an average capacity of 20 tones), sent shells to Dar es Salaam last month", Hamisi told the TCMP team.

Excessive shell collection found at Somanga is just an example of the many challenges that lay ahead for Tanzania. There are no easy answers here – a law doesn't mean that the problem will stop. Instead a multi-faceted approach at the policy level, the regional, district and local as well as the individual level will be needed to successfully manage coastal resources

Introducing the Coastal Environment Award Scheme

The Tanzania Coastal Management Partnership (TCMP), in collaboration with USAID's Global Environmental Education Program (Greencom), will implement a Coastal Environment Award Scheme (CEAS). The scheme will be in commemoration of the International Year of the Ocean (IYO - 1998) which, as was proclaimed by the United Nations calls on the global community, governments, NGOs and every individual to take positive action during 1998 that will contribute to the protection and conservation of marine and coastal resources and the associated delicate environment

The awards program will run from July 1998 to March 1999 and will contribute to the IYO aspirations through promotion of public participation in environmental protection and coastal resource conservation. Its prime purpose is to raise public awareness on the vital need to implement integrated management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

The Coastal Environment Award Scheme will recognize ongoing efforts of local authorities, communities and other programs/projects to promote and implement coastal management and environmental conservation activities. During this first year, the scheme will be tested in the districts of Tanga, Muheza and Pangani in Tanga Region; Mtwara; Lindi and Kilwa (Lindi Region), and Mafia, Rufiji and Mkuranga in the Coast Region. If successful, the scheme will be offered to all coastal districts in 1999-2000.

Specific objectives of the scheme are:

- * To increase environmental awareness;
- * To promote public participation in coastal management;
- * To encourage the use of environment - friendly technologies
- * To demonstrate government's commitment in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM);
- * To reward individuals and groups/villages/organizations who carry out appropriate resource management practices.

CEAS will be organized and implemented by District Award Committees in collaboration with TCMP, GreenCom and existing development and or conservation programs on the coast, including; Tanga Coastal Zone Conservation and Development Program (TCZCDP), Rural Integrated Project Support (RIPS - Mtwara and Lindi), Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP), Rufiji Environment Management Project (REMP) and Mangrove Management Project offices in all district.

Ideally, the District Award Committees will be formed by each district and will include representatives of NGOs, public institutions, private organizations and any individual as may be desired. Some districts with established Natural Resources/Environmental Committees need not to form new ones. Regardless of how the committee is formed, the aim is to have an independent capable committee that will ensure the scheme benefits the local community. TCMP and GreenCom will provide awards, coordinate initiation and

implementation process and, in collaboration with the District Award Committees award prizes to winning applicants.

There will be four categories of competition all targeting at various activities carried out to protect or to rehabilitate the environment and or to prevent environmental degradation. The categories from which aspiring competitors will be free to choose activities to submit as competition entries include:

- * School competition
- * Group/Village competition
- * Individual competition
- * Commerce and Industry competition

Awards to the winners will include tools, equipment, fishing gear, sports gear to support and motivate communities in ongoing activities, and floating trophies (trophies that move every year to the newest winner).

Some of the activities in which participants can choose from include, clean up activities, tree planting, vegetable production, cooperatives management of waste, water and fuel, advocacy on environment safeguarding, use of environmentally friendly technology and the practicing of environmentally - sustainable projects. For information about participating in this competition contact your local district awards committee or, if there isn't one contact TCMP.

Mining coral for lime making in Mtwara shocks marine biologists

Marine and fisheries experts who were recently on an issue identification field tour of Mtwara and Lindi were surprised to find people in Mtwara and Lindi 'harvesting' tones of live corals to make lime.

"Coral mining was never on our priority list of pressures on resources. But we found it was probably the most disastrous human activity on the fragile marine environment right now," observes Lazarus Nhwani, a retired fisheries expert who was among the TCMP team which toured Mtwara and Lindi.

According to a field trip report by the team, coral mining, if not curtailed, may cause more serious harm to the marine environment than dynamite fishing. This is due to the fact that lime making is encouraged and promoted as an ideal income source alternative to the artisanal fisher folk.

"With public institutions like the Small Scale Industries (SIDO) promoting the lime industry and the government and political leaders participating in launching of group lime making projects, there are all reasons to fear for the worst for coral reefs in the southern coast", explains Nhwani.

Making matters worse, according to Nhwani, is that young men who were formerly engaged in the outlawed dynamite fishing are now turning to coral mining following the ongoing Navy crackdown on dynamite fishing.

"What even shocked the team more is that people there don't realize that mining live coral reefs, was also contravening the law and regulations as provided in the Fisheries Act and Policy", the fisheries scientist observes with concern.

The team estimates that one lime making site is capable of burning 180 tones of coral stones per month or 2160 tones in a calendar year. Both Lindi and Mtwara are said to have over forty sites which, could destroy over 80,000 tones of coral stone in a year.

Emphasizing that the core of the problem was due to lack of understanding and awareness on the negative impact of coral mining, the TCMP team say there is an urgent need to sensitize the local community as it has been in the case of mangrove conservation and dynamite fishing.

"There is no question about the local community understanding on mangrove preservation and dynamite fishing. But as the people are refraining from mangrove harvesting and dynamite fishing, they are wantonly mining live corals which they say regenerate easily and quickly like mushrooms", Nhwani elaborates.

The TCMP team's findings indicate that if this activity continues at its present pace it may cause unrepairable damages to the marine environment. with the seriousness of the problem is underscored by the realization that local fishermen in Mtwara and Lindi are said to be increasingly abandoning fishing in favor of coral mining which make better returns. About eight canoes found at a lime making site at Mikindani were said only specialize in ferrying coral stones from the sea.

Lime making which is a traditional livelihood activity some coastal people since time immemorial, was formerly produced from dead coral stones collected on the shore. But now dead corals are no longer in abundance, necessitating the local community to go for live corals below the sea.