

Pwani Yetu Issue # 17 September 2002

Change behavior, protect coastal environment -Ntagazwa

"Without a health environment, life of many creatures, including us humans cannot be sustained. This is not an assumption but a reality. We have to change our behaviour and attitudes towards environmental management if we intend to improve our quality of life."

That was the emphasis by Mr. Arcado Ntagazwa, Minister of State, Vice President's Office, while officiating at a ceremony to award winners and participants in the Coastal Environment Award Scheme (CEAS) in Bagamoyo district. Attended by about one thousand people, the ceremony was colourfully adorned by speeches, songs and drama, all advocating for environmental safeguarding.

The minister who underscored that the significance of the occasion was that it reminds and urges people of Bagamoyo and all Tanzanians of their responsibilities in environment safeguarding, further noted:

"We have witnessed our earth being tormented by heartbreaking disasters. We have witnessed and we are continuing to painfully see people dying because of hunger. We have witnessed and we are continuing to painfully see dying because of hunger. We have witnessed people's property being destroyed by storms and floods. Every other day we hear of deaths caused by daheria, cholera, malaria and other diseases caused by unhealthy environment. We shouldn't allow this to continue. We should strive to change the situation - let's change behaviour by protecting the environment so that it also protects our livelihoods."

Underscoring the significance of the coast and its abounding resources, the minister noted that the coast was a rich and wealth area that for centuries has been attracting all walks of life. "This is something we the people of the coast can be proud of. But that pride can easily 'evaporate' if we will not take responsible measures to conserve and protect the coastal environment".

On the other hand, the minister expressed his delight to members of the community who were participating in sustainable coastal management initiatives at both local and national level. Commending community groups, schools, institutions and individuals in Bagamoyo and other districts who participated in the coastal environment award scheme, he said their actions are in inspiration to government efforts that aim at improved livelihoods of coastal communities.

Earlier briefing the minister on the district's participation in the award scheme, the Bagamoyo CEAS secretary Mr. David Kaijunga explained that the scheme was not only contributing in enhancing ICM and environmental safeguarding but also in motivating communities in taking economic development initiatives.

"The Bagamoyo community is responding positively to this scheme which, is not only supplementing our ICM initiatives, but also contributing greatly to natural resources management and community development. This is demonstrated by the increase of participants from 7,204 people last season to 12,172 people this season. We are highly encouraged by the community response, and every effort will be made to expand CEAS participation in the whole district."

Mollel, new PS VPO

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania H. E. Benjamin Mkapa has appointed Mr. Raphael Mollel new Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office. A senior government officer who has been working in the same capacity in different ministries since 1994, Mr. Mollel moves from the Prime Minister's Office. He replaces Mr. Abubakar Rajabu who has been moved to the Ministry of Labour, Youth Development and Sports in the same capacity.

Mr. Mollel who holds a Harvard University Masters degree in public administration has also served as a member of boards of directors in various national organisations, and has represented Tanzania at several international conferences and meetings.

Experts see Tanzania's bright future through ICM

Tanzania is expected to make a great stride in sustainable coastal management upon the adoption and implementation of the proposed Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Strategy. This is the anticipation of the Director General of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Dr. Magnus Ngoile and other local and foreign experts who were recently charting out Tanzania's coastal management future.

According to Dr. Ngoile, who was thanking participants at the end of a two-day intensive work planning workshop for TCMP's third phase in Bagamoyo, Tanzania was making wise decisions in promoting ICM which will enhance the protection and development of coastal ecosystems and resources.

"Our two days here have been of great importance in the national efforts to improve coastal management. I am personally convinced and inspired that what has been deliberated here builds a strong foundation for our future actions in sustainable coastal management that seeks to improve the quality of life of human communities," the NEMC chief said.

Thanking participants for their valuable contributions in the workshop, Dr. Ngoile expressed his satisfaction for the input that will not only guide TCMP's activities, but also the government of Tanzania in achieving effective coastal management.

Participants in the workshop facilitated by Mr. Richard Delaney, Director of Urban Harbors Institute of Boston USA, included top CRC officials, Mr. Stephen Olsen, Ms.

Lyne Hale and Ms Elin Torrel; USAID officials - Mr. Richard Volk and Mr. Daniel Moore; NEMC officials; representatives of various sectors and TCMP personnel.

"We have made wise and achievable future planning which, I am certain will guide Tanzania in achieving better management of coastal areas and associated resources. I pray that our partners in this endeavour, as well as the coastal community will continue to support us in our efforts," noted Dr. Ngoile while thanking participants, the USAID and CRC for the highly valued support of Tanzania's ICM initiatives.

Over the last four years, Tanzania, with substantial support from USAID, CRC, NEMC and other national institutions, through the TCMP, has created the enabling conditions for successful and meaningful implementation of a National Coastal Strategy. The Strategy, which is now awaiting adoption, provides an umbrella and important statement of intent as to how the coast should be developed and managed. Through the Strategy's formulation, Tanzania has established many of the preconditions essential for achieving significant positive outcomes for coastal people and environments in Tanzania.

The challenge now is to harvest the investments made in creating positive enabling conditions and move from planning to implementation; to advance from the possibility of more sustainable coastal development to its reality.

Mkuranga make progress in ICM action planning

By Rose Sallema

Mkuranga District is making progress in the ongoing Integrated Coastal Management Action Planning. Being the last of the three pilot districts in this important exercise that works to achieve one of the national ICM strategy's overarching goals - 'to preserve, protect and develop the resources of Tanzania's coast for use by the people of today and for succeeding generations to ensure food security and to support economic growth', the district has so far identified and prioritised issues.

According to the Mkuranga District ICM team leader, Mr. Samuel Mganga, the district ICM working team has finalised issue identification and now it is working to establish actions which will guide the district in addressing the issues. Along with the establishing of actions, the team is also working out the budget to facilitate the implementation of the actions.

Endowed with vast natural resources including mangrove forests, which cover an area of about 4000 hectares, rich fishing grounds and fertile land, Mkuranga has potential for sustainable community development if the abounding resources are effectively and sustainably managed.

"Through ICM action planning, it is our anticipation that we will be able to address key issues and find solutions to specific selected problems. The advantage of ICM action planning is that it does not only provide guidance to reach targeted goals, but it also

provides opportunity for community participation and empowerment in planning and implementing the actions," explains Mr. Mganga.

The Mkuranga ICM team leader names the three main issues to be dealt with after developing the district ICM action plan as: Conflicts between big fishers and artisanal fishers; Illegal and uncontrolled cutting of mangroves; and Beach pollution by human excreta and household refuses.

CEAS 2002

District officers appeal for further support of CEAS

District CEAS secretaries have appealed for the business community to support CEAS activities which, are potentially contributing to community sustainable development.

Making their remarks at a one-day evaluation workshop of CEAS implementation this year, the secretaries apart from seeing the scheme as a tool for enhancing sustainable natural resources management at local level, it was helping local communities in raising their incomes.

"The scheme is not only helping us in promoting wise use of the natural resources, but it is an effective tool in fighting poverty. Through participating in the scheme some people are undertaking projects which are eventually earning them some income. This is apart from contributing to environmental conservation," observes Mr. Ngaweje, the Lindi CEAS Secretary who is also the District Natural Resources Officer.

Mr. Ngaweje who however, finds there is a need to increase CEAS implementation resources so that many people may take part, prays to local business communities to support CEAS initiatives. "The local communities are so far responding impressively to the scheme. We pray for further support from the regional and district authorities as well as from the business community."

Elaborating further, the Lindi officer says that through the scheme, local communities are not only changing behaviour but they are also becoming innovative in creating environmentally sensitive projects. Much as this gives district administrations an added opportunity in enhancing environmentally sensitive initiatives, he appeals for every support in sustaining the award scheme.

DC Karamagi condemns charcoal burning, mnangu tree cutting

The Mkuranga District Commissioner, Mrs. Khanifa Karamagi has bitterly condemned unconfined charcoal burning and reckless mnangu tree cutting that is rendering colobus monkeys homeless.

The DC who was officiating at the Coastal Environment Award Scheme ceremony to award winners and participants in Mkuranga district, apart from condemning those destructive acts, she directed natural resources officers not to hesitate to take drastic action to any one violating laid out natural resources laws and regulations.

"Mkuranga is one of the most endowed districts in terms of natural resources and fertile land. But we have people, who due to their selfishness are destroying our natural forests and important trees through charcoal burning. The situation is alarming! Go to Nendenendeni and Kigobedi - the situation is terribly disappointing. Literally all trees have been cleared just for the charcoal industry. Charcoal burners, who I am sure you know and live with them, clear trees at one point, and just shift to another area to repeat the same. This has to end immediately," the DC was literally in a rage.

The DC equally bitterly decried the senseless cutting of mnangu trees, which are important habitats for the colobus monkeys. "I personally visited the island of Dendeni last year and gave clear directives to leaders and local community to refrain from cutting the mnangu trees. But I still hear that some cunning people are adamantly refusing to refrain from their bad habits. I take this opportunity to appeal to them to stop cutting the minangu and to refrain from reckless harvesting of mangroves. If people will not heed to this call, I'll be forced to take stern measures."

Later presenting prizes to winners in the CEAS, Mrs. Karamagi commended participants in the scheme and urged many Mkuranga residents to participate in the scheme in the next season. Describing it as a 'sensible motivation' to good actions, she observed that the scheme is an added working tool for district officers in their efforts to promote community participatory approaches in development initiatives.

Use CEAS to improve livelihoods - Senyagwa

The Kilwa District Executive Director Mr. Senyagwa has called on Kilwa residents to take full advantage of initiatives like the Coastal Environment Award Scheme (CEAS) to improve livelihoods.

Addressing Kilwa residents at the occasion of giving out prizes to winners and participants in the award scheme held at Miteja village, the executive director observed that CEAS was a tool, which, if properly used may potentially not only help change behaviour in environmental protection, but could also improve community incomes through sustainable projects.

"The scheme's purpose is to motivate coastal communities in taking development initiatives which are environmentally conscious. It gives everybody an opportunity to learn by doing. To people with a focus for development, CEAS is potentially a tool through which we can 'learn' and practice a wide range of sustainable development activities," Mr. Senyagwa noted.

Thanking national level support through TCMP, GreenCOM, the Pew Program under Dr. Magnus Ngoile, and other programs like UTUMI (forest management), the executive director took the opportunity to remind Kilwa residents that the district was potentially endowed with abundant natural resources which if properly managed and developed could easily pull the people out of poverty strings.

"Let's take advantage of initiatives being made at national level to improve our wellbeing. Kilwa is fortunately a highly endowed district. We have the sea, rivers, forests and a fertile land, all of which have potential for bright livelihoods for all of us. It is because of Kilwa's rich natural resources that natural resource based programs and projects are being initiated. We should complement these initiatives by participating strongly," Mr. Senyagwa appealed and called on district functionary officers to work harder in enrolling participants in the coming CEAS season.

Thanking Dr. Ngoile for participating at the ceremony and for guiding Kilwa in nature conservation through his Pew program, he assured him of every support from the district authority in his concerted efforts to establish a marine park in Kilwa.

Tanzania commends US initiatives to preserve marine turtle habitats

By Dorothy Ndunguru

Marine scientists and coastal managers in Tanzania have commended the US government initiatives to introduce a bill to preserve marine turtle habitats. Commenting on the US initiatives circulated through the TCMP E-Pwani (list-server email discussion group), coastal practitioners view that as a focused move to save the increasingly pressured marine turtles world wide.

"The US government has made a commendable move, which, I hope will assist countries like Tanzania that is grappling with unconfined turtle killings all along the coast," observes Chikambi Rumisha the manager of the Marine Parks and Reserves in the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

Recently introducing the bill to the US Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator James Jeffords said the bill (S. 2897 - The Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2002), is aimed at assisting in the recovery and protection of marine turtles by supporting and providing financial resources for projects to conserve nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries.

According to Senators Jeffords, the Act will assist in the recovery and protection of marine turtles by supporting conservation measures and preventing illegal trade in marine turtle parts. Explaining in detail on the importance of the proposed bill, he noted that it will help in preserving the endangered species throughout the world as they are in serious trouble now than before.

"Due to the immense challenges facing the marine turtles, the available resources are insufficient to cope with the ongoing loss of nesting habitat as human activities tremendously increase. Therefore, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2002 is modelled after the successful Asian elephant act, the African Elephant Conservation Act and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, which have established programs within the Department of the Interior to assist in the conservation and preservation of the identified species around the world."

He added that, more than 300 projects have been funded and generated millions of dollars in private matching funds from sponsors representing a diverse group of conservation ranging from purchasing anti-poaching tools for wildlife to implementing elephant conservation plans to aerial monitoring of the Northern white rhinoceros. The Legislation (S.2897- Marine turtles Conservation Act of 2002) will save a great deal of this ancient and distinctive part of the world's biological diversity globally.

Call for contributions

In order that *Pwani Yetu* achieves its goal of sharing across information, experiences and ideas on coastal management, it requires for a wider participation of the coastal stakeholders including coastal managers, practitioners of different sectors, leaders, natural resource users and coastal communities.

This is even more important at the present time when Tanzania is in the ICM development process, which relies on a collaborative and stakeholder participatory approach. Please don't hesitate to offer your contribution to Pwani Yetu.

Join E-Pwani

Since its introduction, the email discussion group (E- Pwani), has proved to be a very effective tool in information sharing amongst coastal managers and practitioners. For those who wish to join E- Pwani, Discussion Group just forward your application to: e-pwani_mod@crc.uri.edu

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