

PWANI YETU

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Ntagazwa, Yona new state ministers VPO

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa has demonstrated his big heart for environment development and poverty eradication by appointing two senior and highly experienced leaders, Hon. Arcado Ntagazwa (MP for Muhambwe) and Hon. Daniel Yona (MP for Same East) as ministers of state in the Vice President's Office.

This is the general opinion of most members of staff in departments and institutions under the Vice President's Office who see the appointments as a government's focused move to strengthen the environment and poverty eradication sectors. Formerly, both the environment and poverty eradication sectors were under the stewardship of one minister, Hon. Edward Lowassa who has been assigned to a new ministry of Water and Livestock.

Hon. Ntagazwa who will stewardship the Environment and Union Matters, has been MP for his constituency since 1980. He has also served as Junior Minister for Finance, Junior Minister for Communications and Works and Minister for Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism. The minister is also the Chairman for the Parliamentary Permanent Committee for Law and Constitutional Affairs.

Hon. Yona, formerly the Minister for Finance will lead the Poverty Eradication and Non Governmental Organisations sectors. The Minister had also served as Minister for Planning.

"President Mkapa has demonstrated his focused vision and deliberate commitment in guiding Tanzania towards achieving sustainable development which entails living within environmental limits, achieving social justice and fostering economic and social progress. This time I am confident that environment and poverty related issues which are more complex than what many people understand will be more objectively addressed," observed one senior officer in the National Environment Management Council.

Explaining on the complexity of environment and poverty issues, the officer says that both environmental and poverty issues require a strategic and dynamic approach since in most cases the issues are cross sectoral in nature. There are many challenges in addressing the issues which, if care is not taken may lead into conflicts between sectors, and loss of economic and biological value of some of the country's natural heritages.

Bagamoyo, Pangani set pace for ICM action planning

The districts of Bagamoyo and Pangani have started action planning for local Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), which is the fundamental step towards effective ICM policy implementation at district and village level. Both districts, selected by TCMP to pilot the local ICM action planning, are undertaking this important activity under the guidance of the Local ICM Planning Guidelines.

Prepared by the TCMP Core Working Group, the guidelines were reviewed and approved by functionary officers of Bagamoyo and Pangani District Councils, led by District Executive Directors at a two days workshop held at the TEC Centre in Dar es Salaam from 28 to 29 November, 2000.

The guidelines aim to provide guidance to local governments in preparation and implementation of ICM action plans at the district level. They are considered as the major step towards effective ICM planning and implementation at local level since they provide a generic process in the preparation of District ICM action plans which offer consistency to all District Councils and create ownership. The essence of local ICM planning is to address local coastal and marine resource use and management issues through collaborative management approach

The proposed National ICM policy, which is awaiting government endorsement and adoption, calls for the preparation and implementation of district action plans as one of the mechanisms of its implementation. The core strategy of the district ICM plan is the application of action planning - the use of issue based plans, outlining specific actions targeted at either the cause or effects of problems, and providing detailed guidance on how they will be implemented, monitored and adapted over time.

At the workshop both districts, apart from reviewing and approving the proposed guidelines, they identified obstacles for implementation and proposed ways to deal with them; worked out how the districts could accommodate the ICM planning in their current planning; and made task planning for activities which, need to be done in District ICM Planning in the coming six months.

Shrimp trawling is still a burning issue to local coastal communities

At a semi-annual Local ICM Retreat meeting organised by the TCMP in early December, and attended by coastal management programs and projects as well as representatives of coastal district councils, some participants cried bitterly of unresolved concerns on shrimp trawling activities in coastal waters.

The bitter complaints against undesirable acts by trawling vessels left no doubt that shrimp trawling issues and conflicts need immediate concerted action.

Representatives from the Rufiji District, one of the most prolific areas for prawn fishery in Tanzania, did not muffle the words nor conceal their resentment on the unresolved issues on shrimp trawling, in particular the habit of discarding the bycatch fish in the sea.

"The issue of discarding fish in the sea is literally a pain to the Rufiji local communities which believe the concerned government authorities are not making enough effort to curb this unwarranted practise. It beats us in Rufiji when we helplessly see trawling vessels discarding tons of fish caught in the prawn trawling process, instead of landing the fish for sale to communities as the government regulations require them to do. Something has got to be done to reverse the situation," lamented Yusufu Kipengele, the Rufiji District Council Planning Officer.

Apparently, this was not the first time that coastal managers raised concern on problems of shrimp trawling. In a similar meeting held mid 2000, the issue of trawlers and related conflicts was reported by several districts and discussed.

Way back in 1998, coastal management experts who were collecting information to build on the coastal management policy development process, met bitter complaints of local fisher- folks on fishing trawlers which were said not only to cause marine environmental destruction but also wrecked fishing nets of artisanal fishermen.

Through TCMP the complaints and concerns on trawlers were presented to the Fisheries Division in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. In response, the Division of Fisheries, in collaboration with TCMP organised a 'Trawlers Conflict Resolution Meeting' that was held in Dar es Salaam in November 1999.

The meeting that was attended by various stakeholders including local fishermen recognised that shrimp trawling activities and associated environmental problems such as by-catch of living resources and detrimental impacts to coastal habitats including coastal people, was an issue of critical concern.

Though the meeting had no immediate solutions to the problems, stakeholders were inspired by the government endeavour in reducing the impacts of shrimp trawling fisheries through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project Development Fund (PDF). It was every participant's anticipation that apart from strengthening fisheries regulations to ensure that the shrimp trawling industry operates in a sustainable manner, the Division of Fisheries through the GEF project would make quick progress in addressing the impacts of tropical shrimp trawling.

But so far, the GEF project has not taken off. And as the shrimp trawling industry continue to prosper, there is no doubt that the bitter cries against shrimp trawling by coastal communities will continue until proper action is taken to ensure the shrimp trawling industry operates in an environmentally sustainable manner, its impacts not crushing the coastal people.

Enhancing Science for coastal management

By Dr. Amani Ngusaru

In the continued efforts to promote science for coastal management, the TCMP has revised the role of the interim committee - initially called Marine Ecosystem Assessment Committee (MEAMCOT) that was formed in 1998 to initiate work on science for coastal management, and formed a Science and Technical Working Group (STWG).

Formed by scientists and other experts from different disciplines, the STWG is expected to greatly enhance effective use of science in coastal management by providing advice and guidance related to scientific questions, studies, data management, and sampling and monitoring necessary to improve the scientific foundation of TCMP activities as well as cultivating the culture of using science in addressing coastal management issues in Tanzania.

The establishment of an intersectoral working group on science for management is also a recommendation of the proposed national ICM policy. The policy underlines the importance of effective coastal ecosystem research, monitoring and assessment that allows already available—as well as new—scientific and technical information to inform integrated coastal management decisions.

The sciences are vital not only to an understanding of how ecosystems function, but also on how to monitor the conditions and trends of coastal ecosystem health; to unraveling the causes and consequences of specific environmental and resource problems; and, on how to finding appropriate solutions to critical coastal issues. Science provides objective information that makes debate over contentious issues and gives legitimacy to selected policy options or lines of argument.

STWG is therefore the primary bridge between coastal managers and the science community studying coastal and marine issues at the local and national level. The group provides a clearinghouse mechanism for the integration of science and better coastal management.

Key parts of the STWG mandate include:

- * Promotion of information access and data sharing employing a range of communication and dissemination strategies;
- * Provide advice and guidance related to scientific questions, studies and investigations, data management, and sampling and monitoring efforts that are necessary to improve the scientific foundation for coastal management;
- * Develop recommendations and promote mechanisms for integrating and strengthening national coastal monitoring, assessment, and research and modelling; and
- * The use of the best scientific information available to relate status and trends to human causes and consequences

Some of the outputs that have already been realized by STWG include the production of a directory of marine scientists working in Tanzania; a reference location guide for marine science literature in Tanzania; and the annotated bibliography based on marine science literature in Tanzania. STWG has also collected a significant number of documents that were previously listed as grey literature. This is the most comprehensive collection of marine science grey literature in Tanzania.

Another important contribution of STWG to marine sciences in Tanzania is the production of a synthesis report on the current state of scientific knowledge of marine sciences in Tanzania, as well as a summary of coastal ecosystem profiles for Tanzania.

The documents are located in the STWG library at TCMP and at the IMS Library in Zanzibar. Efforts are underway to include these documents in the main Library of the University of Dar es Salaam. In order to guarantee wider distribution, the documents will also be available on a CD and on the TCMP web site.

In 2001 the STWG looks ahead to produce a comprehensive State of the Tanzania Coast report. The report that will be widely distributed will document the status and trends of coastal resources and people, and will provide a baseline from which to measure changes.

For further information please contact one of the following: Jeremia Daffa, TCMP Support Leader, Email: Jdaffa@epiq.or.tz or Dr. Amani Ngusaru, STWG Secretary, Email: angusaru@zims.udsm.ac.tz or Dr. James Tobey, STWG Advisor, Email: tobey@gso.uri.edu.

Kilwa on the move to conserve coastal and marine resources

By Godlove Mwamsojo

Kilwa district has taken an important step in planning the implementation of the Pew Fellowship Project on Community Based Coastal and Marine Conservation. The project initiated early 2000 under the Pew Fellowship, focuses on marine ecosystems, fisheries management, coastal conservation and marine contamination.

Managed and implemented under the stewardship of the Kilwa District Executive Director Mr. S. M. Muhando, the project's long term goal is to improve the quality of life of coastal communities in Kilwa district while maintaining the biological diversity and productivity of coastal ecosystems through promotion of sustainable utilization and conservation of coastal and marine resources of Kilwa.

In achieving this goal the project works to create an enabling environment where local agencies and communities can promote the conservation of coastal and marine resources. It further aims to bring into balance the demand and supply of resources including the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Focusing on the integrated coastal management approach, the project has made some progress in planning the project implementation. Apart from preparing a status-quo report and identifying issues to be addressed, a forum for inter-sectoral co-ordination has been formed.

Also a great deal has been done on the area of awareness creation that has built base for an aware and responsive constituency in sustainable management and use of coastal resources. This resulted in Kilwa's successful participation in the Coastal Environment Award Scheme (CEAS) for the first time.

Mafia Island Marine Park, 'by the people, for the people'

Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP) looks ahead to achieve its goal that aims at maintaining the essential ecological process and life support system upon which both human survival and national development depend following the great support it is getting from the Mafia community.

"Different from the early years of the marine park establishment, when the island's community clearly demonstrated resentment of the initiative, today the marine park is literally run by the village communities," explained Mr. Hisluck Mambosho the MIMP Community Development Officer.

According to Mr. Mambosho, who was presenting MIMP's progress report at a semi-annual Local ICM Retreat meeting organised by TCMP, the Mafia community had earlier misunderstood the concept of the marine park as a government's manoeuvre to deprive the villagers their free access to the land and sea. To them, the marine park was similar to the terrestrial National Parks in which the community is restricted from using the land.

But with time the situation has completely changed. "It is now very much encouraging to see Mafia Marine Park turning into a park by the people and for the people," Mr. Mambosho further explained adding that the communities now participate fully not only in development activities, but also in all management and conservation efforts.

According to Mr. Mambosho the marine park has successfully won the community hearts through its management structure that includes village liaison committees of all eleven villages within the park boundary.

"The village liaison committees are the engine for effective co-ordination and monitoring of management and conservation activities at village level. As a matter of fact we don't tell them what to do but we plan together and implement activities together," Mr. Mambosho says adding:

"Whatever the park plans, it has to be closely tied to the traditional resource use patterns of the people who live within the areas. To us, ecological knowledge of species and their habitat is no more important than a complete perspective of humans and their use of the local environment both in the traditional and modern senses.

Detailing on the activities undertaken in the past six months, Mr. Mambosho says the village communities have been taking a leading role in implementing the program of reducing unsustainable resource use, which has been introduced to ensure rational and sustainable use of marine resources.

"The program has greatly reduced destructive fishing practices, coral mining and mangrove cutting through village based monitoring and enforcement measures. Most village communities are now focusing their attention on alternative sustainable and environmentally friendly activities like seaweed farming, lime production by using fossil corals found on land and beekeeping which, in turn are supplementing incomes."

Established in 1995, Mafia Island Marine Park according to Mr. Mambosho, works to provide for human activities compatible with the overall conservation objectives. Its success relies on participatory approach involving all interested parties and users, especially the local communities.

Tanzania puts in place mariculture development guidelines

Tanzania looks ahead to benefit from mariculture industry, following the establishment of Mariculture Development Guidelines. The guidelines, which have been prepared by experts in collaboration with the Fisheries Division other government and private institutions with stake in coastal management will serve as guiding principles to promote the development and good management of sustainable forms of mariculture on the Tanzania Mainland coast.

Mariculture holds great promise in Tanzania. If properly developed and managed it can contribute handsomely in economic development and poverty alleviation. But according to experts who have been undertaking a two year comprehensive study on mariculture development, Tanzania is not able to undertake sustainable mariculture projects due to the lack of proper inter-sectoral co-ordination and inter-sectoral policy to address mariculture issues.

According to the experts whose study contributes to the national ICM policy development and implementation process, mariculture encompasses the cultivation of a wide variety of plants and animal species in wide range of habitats that form Tanzania's rich natural heritage. The scale of mariculture can range from small-scale, family-run operations to large-scale or industrial projects.

The mariculture development guidelines achieve the intent of the proposed ICM policy in promoting integrated and sustainable approaches to the development of major economic uses of the coast to optimise benefits and minimise negative impacts.

In elaborating on mariculture development challenges the guidelines document explains that mariculture is a complex industry that typifies many of the economic activities that

are increasingly exerting pressures on coastal areas. From a governance perspective, mariculture represents a multi-disciplinary field requiring close intersectoral coordination and cross-sectoral policy development. From an environmental management perspective, it exemplifies some of the more complex challenges, since it is often conducted where terrestrial and aquatic habitats meet, and is closely linked to other socio-economic activities and issues.

The guidelines will hence be a tool to ensure that mariculture activities and opportunities are developed according to the national and local needs. They will further enhance enabling conditions for project review procedures that are consultative, multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary in order to promote efficiency and transparency in the decision-making processes.

“The current approval procedure for mariculture projects is fragmented between institutions, contains gaps that may lead to environmentally damaging projects and is cumbersome for the investors. The guidelines establish a modified project review procedure that is efficient, safeguards the environment and coastal population, while encouraging investment in mariculture,” explains Mr. Godlove Mwamsojo, the Mariculture Working Group Secretariat.

Much as the mariculture guidelines will work to address issues related to both development and management of mariculture, the guidelines provide for positive means to improve institutional capacity by making recommendations and devising institutional arrangements to resolve critical challenges in mariculture management at all levels.

One of the areas addressed by the guidelines is the procedure of approving mariculture projects where a number of institutions are currently involved, or could be potentially involved in the process, but their roles and responsibilities are not clearly defined by policy or regulations. Also, there are gaps and overlaps in institutional jurisdictions.

Other important aspects being clarified in the guidelines are issues related to land acquisition and water rights, environmental impact assessment procedures, and site and species selection.

"The main aim is to make it easy for all parties including investors, the government agencies with stake in mariculture development and the general public to participate in the mariculture industry without unnecessary hurdles," notes Mwamsojo citing the now abandoned Rufiji Prawn Farming project which failed due to the lack of clear approval and review procedures. Apart from the Rufiji project, Mwamsojo reveals that there are other mariculture projects which are being impeded by approval red tapes and unnecessary bottlenecks.

Institutions with stake in coastal management have expressed satisfaction with the mariculture guidelines, which they see as the road map for reviewing and approval of mariculture projects and development in Tanzania. The institutions, including the Division of Fisheries, NEMC, TIC, Division of Wildlife, Division of Forestry, Tanzania

Harbours Authority, Division of Water and several others, have noted in their endorsement notes of the guidelines that they are substantive and a useful contribution in mariculture permitting and project review process.

The institutions which have been facing unresolved inter-sectoral conflicts in approving process of mariculture projects, have recommended that the guidelines should be put into effective use by mariculture investors and relevant national and local government authorities in clarifying the permit and review processes.

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 policy 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

Pwani Yetu Published by TCMP Editorial Team

Gratian Luhikula
Jeremiah Daffa

Mark Amaral

Mary Mbelwa

Saada Juma

Pwani Yetu

P.O.BOX 71886, DAR ES SALAAM

TEL:+255+22+2 667589/2666190

Fax: 2668611

Email:gluhikula@epiq.or.tz