

Waste Management Education in Mafia

Effective management of waste is essential for the conservation of marine species. Without a proper waste management strategy, most waste ultimately ends up in the ocean where it poses a significant risk to marine species including sea turtles, dugongs, whales and dolphins.

In May, Sea Sense conducted a waste management education programme in Mafia Island. Students from four secondary schools learnt about the 4 R's: refuse, reduce, reuse recycle. Their new knowledge was soon put to the test when they joined Sea Sense on a clean-up on one of Mafia's most important sea turtle nesting beaches. The students collected piles of flip-flops and other plastic waste and were soon finding other uses for them. Did you know that plastic bottles can be turned into hand washers, rain gauges and fly-traps??!!



Students show off their new hand washer!

Community Takes the Lead on Dynamite Fishing Awareness

Earlier this year Sea Sense joined forces with Sand County Foundation, WWF and Youth Vision Kigamboni to make a documentary about the impacts of dynamite fishing. The film was produced using a technique called 'Participatory Video' whereby villagers are trained in the use of cameras, tripods and microphones, interviewing, filming and editing. In this way the villagers explore issues relevant to themselves and document their own stories.

10 village leaders in Buyuni, 40km south of Dar es Salaam, were trained and conducted numerous interviews and discussions with members of their community who had been affected by dynamite fishing including an interview with a fisherman who had lost both his arms in a dynamite fishing accident. The material was edited and the final version was shown to the community during an evening awareness raising event. Sea Sense has also shown the film in several other villages along the coast to encourage communities to take action against dynamite fishing.



Villagers in Buyuni receive training on interview and filming techniques

Teacher Training in Pangani



Environmental education is non-existent in many schools along the coast due to limited knowledge amongst education providers. In April, Sea Sense conducted a teacher training workshop for primary school teachers in Pangani District to equip them with skills and knowledge to take back to their classrooms.

32 teachers from 16 schools attended the three day workshop which included a series of lectures, presentations, environmental games and field trips. The teachers became students themselves, learning how to deliver creative and interactive education programmes with only minimal resources. The workshop was great fun and despite some initial nerves, the teachers were soon designing their own lessons plans and games to take back to their own communities. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience and have requested a follow up workshop later in the year.

Teachers learn ways to teach the sea turtle life cycle

World Sea Turtle Day

World Sea Turtle Day is celebrated on June 16th each year to coincide with the birthday of the great Archie Carr who is widely regarded as the father of sea turtle research.

Sea Sense organised a community event in Mafia Island which is the most important nesting site in Tanzania for endangered sea turtles. Football and netball matches were hotly contested in front of crowds of spectators from local villages. The winning teams were presented with t-shirts and new sports equipment and hundreds of sea turtle posters were distributed amongst the community. Many villagers also took part in a beach clean-up to help conserve local nesting beaches. Sea turtles really do bring the community together!



'Kasa' and 'Nguva' netball teams battle it out!

Acknowledgements

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

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