



PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT Completion Grant

Project Name:

Enhancing the Conservation of Sea turtles and Mangroves in Kenya

Reporting Period: May - August 2016

Project Number: 1107-C



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Title: Project Coordinator

Project Summary

The project "Enhancing the Conservation of Sea Turtles and Mangroves in Kenya " seeks to contribute significantly to the conservation the coastal marine through an effective model for participatory community involvement. The project works with the local community to reduce threats globally faced by threatened sea turtles. Education and awareness meetings are planned and held at school levels and fish landing sites where school children and the community are sensitized on global climate change, reforestation of mangrove degraded areas and conservation of sea turtles. The project main objectives are (i) To strengthen local capacity including strengthening environmental governance systems (ii) To enhance mangrove forest protection and management including reforestation and livelihood enhancement and (iii) To protect and conserve Sea Turtles and their habitat

Implemented activities

Enhancing Sea turtle conservation

Through the sea turtle release programme, the project together with local fishermen released a total of 30 green sea turtles back to the sea. All of these turtles were caught in fishing gears by these fishermen who would have killed them in absence of this project. This is a big achievement that the project is contributing by reducing threats facing these endangered sea turtles in the area. 12 of turtles released had big tumors on their carapace and 5 had big tumors on their eyes which were successfully removed by the field officers who have experience owing to their conservation work in the past.

Beach patrols have been conducted during early hours of each morning to identify nesting turtles with the main aim of protecting these turtles and their nest from poachers. The project through the educated fishermen and local communities found five turtle nests along the beach within the project area.

The project held meeting with the local community to establish ways of scaling-up community participation in sea turtle conservation. In these meetings, it was suggested that in future, this sea turtle conservation project can be used as an ecotourism activity to attract tourists and visitors to the area which would enable the local community earn an income and see the benefit of conservation.



Mangrove Restoration

Restoration work has been ongoing with the degraded areas with active participation of local communities. Community groups were engaged in mangrove nursery establishment to raise seedlings for planting. Planting sites were identified by local people who know the area well and they could easily keep on monitoring after planting. There are two mangrove nurseries that were established in the month of May this year which are to be planted in October. Seedlings that were in the nurseries since February were planted before establishing new nurseries. Within the period of May – August, the project has supported the planting of 2758 mangroves in the area. At the beginning of this project few years ago, it was not easy to have local people participating in mangrove restoration. The situation has now changed and the same local communities are now on their own engaged in seed collection, nursery establishment and planting of trees after being educated on the benefit of a healthy ecosystem in supporting their livelihoods.



Income Generating Activities

Poultry

Community Women groups were trained on poultry farming and management. The training educated them on:

- Sustainable Indigenous poultry Husbandry
- Innovative Poultry products and marketing
- Poultry housing and hygiene
- Routine and disease management practices

Beekeeping

Monitoring of apiaries was done at the groups' level where group members checked on the status of the hives and if honey harvesting is ready.