



PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Completion Grant

Project Name

Enhancing the Conservation of Sea turtles and Mangroves in Kenya

Reporting Period: January - April 2016

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

Fishermen Awareness Meetings

We have together with the local fishermen and the County Fisheries Officer held several meetings in different landing sites within the project area. Within these meetings, the fishermen shared experiences they have had and the challenges they are facing. In these meetings, we shared with the impact the project has brought to the marine ecosystem and the benefits to the livelihood of the local fisherman. We discussed on how to regulate the harvesting of pelagic fishes using sustainable ways and how to improve the net income for fishing community. Further to our meeting, we discussed on how to promote co-management of the fishery; data collection and development of marketing strategies for their products.



Environmental Education and Awareness to Schools

We continued with the schools outreach programme where we visited four schools and talked to students focusing on Increasing and enhancing public awareness, knowledge and participation on environmental conservation within local communities, school children and the general public and Mainstreaming environmental issues into school curriculum and get school children involved in environmental education especially at ecologically sensitive areas.



Establishment of tree nurseries and mangrove planting

The project staff has been involved in surveys for identifying mangrove seedlings/samplings that are mature for collection. As the season for mangrove saplings is now starting, community groups working with the project in mangrove restoration have been engaged in seedling collection ready for nursery establishment. Surveys have also been undertaken to select degraded sites that need to be restored. Together with the new Community Forest Association, Beach Management Unit and the Kenya Forest Service, the project staff surveyed all areas with potential for restoration and selected two sites that the project will restore through this project.



Alternative livelihood income generating activities (fishing, beekeeping and poultry)

The project has been supporting three income generating activities i.e. poultry, beekeeping and fishing. Youth, Women and Men have benefited from these activities through employment creation. Introduction of these activities have reduced pressure to the marine ecosystem which had been on constant destruction by the local community. The project is currently supporting beekeeping, poultry and fishing activities for locals to earn an income. The project has purchased birds, fishing gears/storage facilities and beehives and distributed to targeted beneficiaries. So far, the project is supporting five community groups for poultry, eleven beekeeping groups and the area Beach Management Unit which has over 100 fishermen. Honey is harvested, refined and packaged for marketing while fish caught are sold to the local fish mongers and sometimes transported to tourist hotels. We have done trainings to the beneficiaries in managing a successful poultry and beekeeping enterprise. These trainings have been done in-collaboration with the county government departments of livestock and fisheries.



Sea Turtle Conservation

The project held meetings with the local fishermen on promoting sustainable fishing and protecting endangered sea turtles in the area. Fishermen are now aware of the benefits and importance of protecting sea turtles and their nests. Through the Beach Management Unit, fishermen have selected within them people who will be taking charge of sea turtle issues and report to the project officer in-charge. From January 2016 to-date, the project has released 17 sea turtles safely back to the sea and protected 2 nests. Six of the sea turtles had big tumors on their carapace and two had big tumors on their eyes. The project staff and fishermen removed the tumors and released the turtles back to the sea. Eleven of the sea turtles had some barnacles on their carapace and plastron which were easily be removed and released as well.

