

Project Update: February 2016

Environmental education in schools

We have carried out Environmental education in eight primary schools that are around the Watamu Marine National Park and Reserve. These schools are Dongo Kundu, Watamu, Chipande, Jacaranda, Kirepwe, Mida, Mzizima and Kanani. We have also carried out field excursion on the intertidal area with two of these schools to provide them with hands-on experience of the marine environment. The lessons covered general marine ecology and it's interaction with people living around the areas.

We have also started development of Marine Environmental Education Manual to be used by teachers in the schools. The manual covers various habitats, species and issues in the marine ecosystem. We held a 1 day workshop at our Education Centre to discuss the content with patrons of wildlife clubs who run environmental education in the schools. We also took the teachers for the field excursion in the protected area. The content of the manual are currently being revised by the teachers. The teachers were very enthusiastic about the programme and they discussed on starting a forum for them to champion and share activities for environmental education among themselves and in their schools. We have worked with two other local organization involved with environmental education.

Research Activities

We have continued with our research on the ecology of the intertidal area. We have installed the temperature/light loggers in the area and we continually download the data and we will correlate it with the population patterns of corals and other benthic characteristics. With predicted coral bleaching beginning February in the western Indian Ocean and as part of our monitoring activity we have set to monitor the coral bleaching in the intertidal zone to document the response of the corals thriving in this zone.

Kate England who offered to be a mentor for the project visited and offered immense advice and materials on working with communities and schools.



Left: A student with a model of a coral made from waste papers. Middle: Conducting environmental education. Right: Conducting marine workshop to discuss marine manual content.



Left: Environmental education teachers on a field excursion. Right: Students being fascinated by marine creatures while on a field excursion.