

## **Project Update: June 2009**

### **1. Onsite training**

The communities have been given training on mangrove nursery establishment and each community has a capacity of more than 500 mangrove seedlings in the nursery. Also the communities have been given small training on casuarina tree planting and two communities (Dabaso and Majaoni) planted each more 500 casuarina seedlings while others have been distributed to the surrounding communities as an awareness incentive.

### **2. Crab, fish and boardwalks**

Fish farming using the acadja system has been initiated in Dabaso conservation group where also mud crab production is being supported using floating and drive-in cages. Crab production has realised more than \$100 per two weeks during the high tourist season. The group has also been assisted to construct 20 m of board walk to access their crab cages and for simple ecotourism for visitors to the silvofisheries site.

The walk way to majaoni crab culture site has been constructed close to the crab cages for monitoring, feeding and harvesting. The group has also received support in developing drive-in cages for mud crab culture. Though the group has had challenges in its crab production process due to mortalities which is being addressed through research currently. The fish culture is done in mangrove pools which have been scooped to allow water retention at low tide. The pools have been stocked with milkfish and they are being feed awaiting harvest. One of the downmangrove pools is under consideration for mud crab cultures by lining it with bamboos and nets.

At makongeni, the group has been assisted to renovate and extend its walk board to access the mud crab cages. The mud crab cages have consequently been renovated and new ones developed and are now ready for use in crab production.

### **3. Activities support outside the project specifications**

The majaoni youth group has been supported to buy a piece of land close to their culture site where they intend to put up an office in future. This was seen as a valuable asset for the group towards sustainability.

Makongeni conservation group has been assisted to develop a concrete signboard to direct visitors to their site with ease. This is a long-term aspect which will publicise the group's activities.

Dabaso conservation group has been assisted to modify their marine shelter for visitors and group members when working. They have also been given a computer for their office for documentation of their activities and future marketing aspects.

