

SEA TURTLE TRAINING PROGRAM - ZANZIBAR

1. INTRODUCTION

The Menai Bay Conservation Area (MBCA) is intended to conduct training on Sea Turtle conservation in Zanzibar. The training will be conducted in all districts of Zanzibar targeting all stakeholders that play major role on sea turtle matters.

Sea turtle conservation has been expressed worldwide as a major issue that need serious protection due to its high declining of their population. Currently, there are many international organizations, private institutions, NGO's and government institutions involving on their conservation.

2. THE MAIN STAKEHOLDERS IN ZANZIBAR INCLUDE:

2.2. Government institutions:

- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Environment
- Institute of Marine Sciences
- State University of Zanzibar (SUZA)
- Zipa
- Media (TV, Redio, News papers)
- Lands and Survey departments
- Tourism
- Local government authority (Sheha, District)
- KMKM, TPDF, and JKU
- Local communities
- Religions leaders

2.3. Private sectors include:

- NGO's International and local
- Hoteliers
- Tour operators

3. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS TRAINING INCLUDE:

- Raising awareness to the public at all on the need to protect sea turtle.

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4. SEA TURTLE LIFE

- Sea turtle is living in the sea for the entire of their life
- Female has to come on the beach during the nesting time.
- After lay its eggs then leave the beach back to sea.
- Sea turtle is one among the living organism
- It life span may go up to a centaury.

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- Lay an eggs when reach between 15 to 30 years
- They lay every may be 2 to 8 years, do not lay yearly
- Female sea turtle may able to conserve/restore the seamen of male for whole period of nesting
- Female sea turtle may able to produce eggs between 100 to 200 per time and the for one season may able to lay up to 1000 eggs.
- Female sea turtle can able to lay eggs between three to seven time per breeding season.
- Hatching may take place after two months depending very much on the weather
- After hatching the offspring help each other to come up from the hole
- Once they reach the size of plate then they have to come to the shallow water for its entire life.
- They breed in heredity (lay eggs at the same place where they were hatched)

5. SEA TURTLES AND TABOO IN ZANZIBAR

- Taboo is anything that is hindering some activity that leads to control the uses of certain species not to be affected or used
- Taboo sometime may be used for conservation purpose to conserve animal or plant species and mostly used for positive way rather than negative in conservation matters.
- For example, most of the people in Zanzibar believed that the eggs of sea turtle hatching different organism e.g. Monitor lizard, Platted lizard, snake etc. this terms used for the purpose of people not to use certain species.
- Taboo may have both advantages and disadvantages depending on the nature of the species.

6. SEA TURTLE LIFE CYCLE

- Sea turtles differ from one species to another. They have different level of maturity. Example, **Hawksbill** is almost 3 years, **Loggerheads** 12 to 30 years and **Green turtles** 20 to 50 years.
- The evidence shows that some turtles continue to grow after reaching sexual maturity, while some stop growing after reaching maturity.
- The incubation period for sea turtles is two months (60 days)
- Female nesting during the warmest months of the year, except **Leatherback** turtles which nest in fall and winter.
- Female usually lay between one ad nine clutches (groups) of eggs per season.
- The probability of surviving after hatching is small due to nature of sea turtles predators, e.g. one may survive out of 1000 youngs.
- Most of female return to the same nesting beach each year.
- Some female of same species will visity more than one nesting beach in a season.

7. TYPES OF SEA TURTLES FOUND IN ZANZIBAR

There is seven sea turtle species found in worldwide. Currently, Zanzibar is accommodating five species that are also found in Indian Ocean namely:

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7.1 Green Turtle (Kasa wa Kawaida)

- Green turtle is the most available species as compared with other type of sea turtle in Zanzibar.
- They normally, found in the warm sea areas.
- The colour of this species is green, brown, black, white and reddish while in the lower part it colour is milky.
- They feed on sea grasses.
- They lay eggs between 100 to 200 eggs per clutch.
- This species lay eggs when they reach between 30 to 50 years
- The maximum weight is 235kg and length of 110cm

7.2 Hawksbill (Kasa Ng'amba)

- They normally found in warm sea water.
- It is the second species to be found in Zanzibar after green turtle.
- They population is bit small as you compare with Green turtle.
- They are the most attractive figure or body as compared with others.
- The colours are mixed with white, red, black and gold and the lower part is the mixture of white and yellowish.
- They prefer feeding on soft coral reefs and other sea organisms.
- They lay eggs between 50 to 150 and it size is about 4cm
- They dig a small hole during hatching.
- The maximum length is 94 cm (3 feet) and weight is about 80kg.

7.3 Loggerhead (Kasa Duvi/ Mtumbi)

- They can be found in both warm seas and temperate areas.
- They are seldom found in Zanzibar.
- They are very rare in the world.
- They are the biggest sea turtle as compared with the two above.
- It colour is the combination of red and brown while the lower part characterised with white and yellow.
- The main foods for species are: crabs, shells, lobsters, fishes, jelly fish and other marine organisms.
- They do not lay eggs in Zanzibar.
- It length is about 100cm and maximum weight is 160kg

7.4 Leatherback (Kasa Ngozi)

- They can be found in both warm seas and temperate areas.
- They are frequently found in Zanzibar and believed that their origin is from South Africa where they do lay eggs.
- This type of sea turtle is the biggest as compared with all species found in the world.
- Unlike other sea turtles, they body covered with skin.
- The colours include black and whitish while the lower part of the head is the combination of white, WARID and light blue.
- They feed on jelly fish and other marine organisms.

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- They do not lay eggs in Zanzibar.
- It length is about 300cm and weight of 1 tone

7.5 Olive ridley (Kasa kasa/Kigome)

- They found in the warm sea areas.
- They found only in Indian Ocean.
- There only little information that they lay eggs in Zanzibar.
- They are the smallest than all other sea turtles species in the world.
- They have green and light yellow on the top while the lower part. characterized with light yellow.
- They lay eggs between 100 to 110 at a time.
- They feed on lobsters, crabs, small fishes and jelly fishes.
- The maximum length is about 75cm and its weight is 41 kg.

The rest of two other species that can not been seem in Zanzibar and thus include: Flatback (Kasa bapa) and Kemp's ridley (Kasa wa kijivujivu)

8. IMPACT OBTAINED DUE TO SEA TURTLES FEEDING

- The participants will be divided in to groups with marker pens and flip charts.
- The group will outline the impact of eating sea turtles in Zanzibar.
- The group should able to prioritise and rank their impact outlined themselves.
- The group should able to come up with precise list of impacts and present it to other groups.

9. POTENTIAL NESTING SITES – EXISTS

- Initially, sae turtles were nesting almost all areas with beaches around the Zanzibar Island.
- The introduction of tourism and other development along the costal contributed to destroy their nesting sites.
- Presently, there are few areas where the sea turtle nesting in both Unguja and Pemba Island.
- Examples of those sites are: Mnemba Island, Matemwe, Menai Bay for Unguja while Pemba include Misali, Kiuyu, Makongwe, and Kisiwa Panza.

10. POTENTIAL NESTING SITES THAT DO NOT EXISTS

- Many areas where the sea turtles were used for nesting before does not exist.
- Example: Jambiani, Bwejuu, Paje, Fumba, Kiwengwa, Pwanimchangani, etc. while Pemba include: Vitongoji, Mkoani, Kangani, Kangagani, Tumbe etc.

11. IDENTIFICATION OF SEA TURTLES GARDENS

The identification of sea turtles gardens will be conducted for the purpose of:

- Establishing their feeding and resting sites.

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- Establishing eco-tourism activity for the benefit of local.
- Intensive conservation for those areas and provision of monitoring their trend.
- It will promote different researches on sea turtles daily life.
- Easy to protect against any illegal activity in collaboration with local villagers.

12. SEA TURTLES CONSERVATION (International and local)

- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international treaty developed in 1973 to regulate trade in certain wildlife species.
- CITES protect all sea turtles species in the world.
- All sea turtles species considered as threatened or endangered.
- Fisheries Act, 1988 and The Environmental Management for Sustainable Development Act, 1992 are strictly prohibited to capture sea turtles or sells it products for any uses.
- All acts direct that once the sea turtles captured by net should be released immediately.

13. HOW SEA TURTLES MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECO-TOURISM

- The identification of sea turtles gardens in Zanzibar will help local to the eco-tourism.
- Local will be trained on how handle tourist to watch sea turtles in their wildness.
- Local will earn income through sea turtles eco-tourism.
- Provisions of employment, boat hire and tour operators also will be benefited.
- Conservation of the sea turtles gardens will maintain good environment and their habitats.

14. PROBLEMS FACING SEA TURTLES

- Participants will be divided into groups with flip chart and maker pens to list sea turtle problems
- Participants will outline problems facing sea turtles in Zanzibar
- Each group will present their findings
- After each group presentation their results then they will rank them to come up with one list of problems
- Prioritisation of problem will be done by all participants after their presentation to come up with one precise list.

15. WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

- The participants will divide into groups with maker pens and flip chart to draw some measures that can be done to conserve Zanzibar sea turtles.
- Each group will present their measures.
- After presentation of each group then the participants will rank all measures and come up with one list.
- The list form the participants will be combined and used in the national strategies on sea turtles conservation.

16. FUTURE STRATEGIES

- Strengthening awareness for the public and leaders at different level
- Productions and distribution of sea turtles posters in different areas
- Involvement of NGO's and Environmental clubs on sea turtles conservation
- Establish school competitions on sea turtles conservation
- Increase number of sea turtles conservation program in the radio and TVs
- Intensive protection of the conservation of the existing sea turtle nesting sites
- Establish Eco-Tourism through sea turtles conservation
- Identification and listing/outlines all sea turtles gardens in Zanzibar