



Newsbrief

WIOMSA-sponsored Students Graduate with MScs!

Two students registered at the University of Dar es Salaam and fully funded by projects implemented by WIOMSA, have successfully completed their MSc degrees. This is the first time, graduate students have been involved in the implementation of WIOMSA's projects as part of their degree programmes.

Since its establishment, WIOMSA has implemented a number of large, regional, long-term projects (at least three years duration). Recent projects include the Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (SUCCESS) Programme, which WIOMSA is implementing in collaboration with the Coastal Resource Center (CRC) of the University of Rhode Island and the Transboundary Networks of Marine Protected Areas for Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development: Biophysical, Socio-Economic and Governance Assessment in East Africa (TRANSMAP) Project, in which WIOMSA was one of the twelve institutions from within and outside the region responsible for different components of the project.

A variety of approaches have been used by WIOMSA and its partners to implement these large projects. Part-time staffs, short-term consultants and volunteers, have been used to implement various aspects of the projects. For the first time, three years



Ms Sallemma in the field

ago, WIOMSA started supporting MSc students to implement some of the aspects of these projects. The approach taken by WIOMSA is beneficial to the students in that it provides an opportunity for them to be involved in detailed research -which would otherwise have been implemented through other methods- while providing them with scholarships to enable them pursue their MSc degrees.

WIOMSA, through its competitive research grant, MASMA as well as the Marine Research Grant (MARG) programmes, has been providing funds to successful individuals and institutions to be used in supporting research projects. Some part of these grants has ended up being utilized by students to fund their MSc and PhD degree programmes either partially or fully. However, through SUCCESS and TRANSMAP programmes, WIOMSA has for the first time ever directly provided scholarships for three students to enable them to undertake their MSc degrees at the University of Dar es Salaam. The three students were: Ms. Rose Sallemma of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Mr. Jairo Mahenge of Mnazi Bay Ruvuma Estuary Marine Park (MBREMP) and Mr. Redfred Ngowo, also from MBREMP. Ms. Sallemma and Mr. Mahenge's were fully funded by the Transmap Project while Mr. Ngowo's scholarship came from SUCCESS. Ms. Sallemma and Mr. Ngowo, successfully completed their degrees in 2008, while Mr. Mahenge is finalizing his thesis.

Ms. Sallemma's thesis is entitled "Population Distribution and Differentiation of Mangrove and Rocky Shore Gastropods (*Littoraria* Spp) in Dar Es Salaam, Mnazi Bay-Ruvuma Estuary and Inhaca Island in Mozambique". As the title indicates, the study assessed the spatial scale variation of both mangrove and rocky shore littorinid species (*Littoraria scabra*, *L. pallescens*, *L. subvittata*, *L. intermedia* and *L. glabrata*) based on species' population distribution and differentiation in these areas. The study revealed a significant difference in littorinid population distribution and differentiation at both low and high spatial scales where factors such as increased habitat (mangrove) fragmentation and distance between habitats might have affected the dispersal of the planktonic larvae of these species. Also, the lack of shape differentiation among rocky shore populations compared to mangrove species may indicate that, similar ecological pressures are acting in a local scale, conditioning the development of specific morphological characters.

Mr Ngowo's thesis was on "Role of Small Scale Community-Based Marine No-Take Areas in Conservation of *Anadara Antiquata* Linnaeus 1758



Mr Ngowo presenting results of his research to the villagers in Menai Bay

(Pelecypoda: Arcidae) in Fumba Peninsula, Unguja Island". It focused on assessing the performance of small scale community - based marine no-take areas in conservation of cockles (*Anadara antiquata*). The study analysed the "before" and "after" effect in the reserve, adjacent and control sites of Nyamanzi, Bondeni and Chaleni in Unguja Island. Biological studies on morphometry, reproduction, and larval dispersal were also conducted to samples of *A. antiquata* to assess their reproductive output and factors affecting them. The study found that the mean number of cockles was significantly higher after the establishment of no-take areas than it was before and the mean density of cockles in the reserves is higher than in the control sites. This study has many management applications such as the setting of a minimum size limit for cockles to be collected and based on the information on spawning seasons for cockles, one of the recommendations given was adaption of the seasonal closure of collection grounds to allow spawning to take place.

At least four manuscripts from these two theses have been submitted to different peer-reviewed journals for publication.

WIOMSA wishes to congratulate Ms. Sallemma and Mr. Ngowo for completing their theses within the set timeframe and more importantly for writing good theses! We are also grateful their supervisors, Professors Yunus Mgaya and Jose Paula for Ms. Sallemma and Drs. Rashid Tamatama and Nariman Jiddawi for Mr. Ngowo, for all that they did to help them complete in time. We also commend Mr. Brian Crawford and Prof Michael Rice for working with Mr. Ngowo from the proposal development stages, through data analysis and eventually to the thesis writing. Asanteni sana!

Historic Nansen voyage enters final stage

By Claire Attwood

The Norwegian research vessel, *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*, embarked on the fourth and final stage of its historic four-month voyage in the western Indian Ocean when it steamed out of Pemba, Mozambique on November 28. The final leg was completed in Durban on 17 December.

Since it departed from Durban, South Africa on August 22, the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* has provided a platform for more than 50 scientists from four countries in the region to conduct intensive oceanographic surveys off Madagascar and Mauritius and over the remote Mascarene Plateau. It has also hosted receptions and open days in the ports of Toamasina, Madagascar; Port Louis, Mauritius and Port Victoria, Seychelles, thereby raising awareness of the ship's historic voyage in the countries of the region.

"It has been a busy three months, but we are absolutely delighted with the hard work and the high levels of enthusiasm demonstrated by the scientists at every stage of the voyage," says Dr David Vousden, Director of the ASCLME Project.

"Once the voyage is complete, the really difficult job of analysing data and capturing new knowledge about the Agulhas and Somali Large Marine Ecosystems will begin."

The United Nations-flagged *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* is on loan to the western Indian Ocean region from Norway. Its 2008 voyage began on the east coast of Madagascar, where bad weather and rough seas did little to dampen the enthusiasm of a team of South African, Malagasy and Norwegian oceanographers and biologists. On this leg of the voyage, a wide range of oceanographic measurements were taken, zooplankton samples were collected and a number of demersal trawls were conducted. Bottom trawls were deployed in tandem with acoustic surveys in an effort to establish the productivity, biodiversity and biomass of the marine ecosystem. Specimens collected in each trawl were carefully counted and identified. Rare species were preserved and stored for further analysis and tissue samples were taken for genetic analysis and to contribute to the Barcode of Life project. This project aims to improve the capacity



South African scientist, Bradley Flynn, holds a specimen of a type of light fish identified as *Phosichthys argenteus*. It was trawled in deep water off the south coast of Madagascar

of biologists to identify marine species, says James Stapley, IT and Communications Coordinator of the ASCLME Project:

"The idea is that, when technology moves forward, you'll be able to buy genetic "barcode scanners" and with a small piece of tissue, get a readout on the species you're dealing with in a few moments, without recourse to keys or even taxonomic experts."

You can read more about this project at www.fishbol.org.

Humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae*, with their distinctive long pectoral fins and knobbly heads, were sighted off southern Madagascar and at times surrounded the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*, affording both scientists and crew with a thrilling eyeball-to-eyeball encounter with these magnificent mammals.

Humpback whales feed in Antarctica and migrate to the tropical waters of Madagascar to breed and calve.

A short, four day cruise around the island of Mauritius comprised the second stage of the Nansen's 2008 voyage. This was largely an oceanographic survey, conducted along eight transects perpendicular to the island of Mauritius. A range of oceanographic measurements, including water temperature, oxygen, salinity and nutrients were taken and samples of zooplankton were collected. A single pelagic trawl collected a small number of fish including some lantern fishes (Myctophidae), a few juvenile barracudas (Sphyraenidae), tobies (*Lagocephalus* sp.) and flounders (Bothidae) - confirming the acoustic survey which showed almost no visible registrations over the entire four-day survey.

On the third stage of the voyage, scientific endeavours were yet more varied. Scientists investigated a remote ocean region known as the Mascarene Plateau. Located in the south western Indian Ocean, the Mascarene Plateau is about 2,200km in length and runs from the Seychelles Bank at 4°S to the island of Mauritius at 20°S. The long, fractured plateau is thought to form a barrier to the predominantly westward flow of the South Equatorial Current, causing it to split into a number of tributaries. The team on board the Nansen was hoping to answer a range of questions about the influence of the South Equatorial Current on the Mascarene Plateau and deployed a network of CTD stations, multinet stations and bongo nets, and also conducted a number of demersal trawls. A lot of new information is already coming to light regarding bottom topography, current movements and productivity in this predominantly unknown area of the Indian Ocean. This includes the discovery of a number of new species previously unrecorded or unknown to science.

Two oceanographic drifters were deployed on the third stage of the Nansen voyage. The drifters collected information such as sea surface



A basket of splendid alfonsino, *Beryx splendens*, trawled in deep water off Madagascar

temperature, current speed and direction, air temperature and air pressure and relayed this data to a satellite. Eventually, the transmitted information will help oceanographers to gain an improved understanding of the strong current that flows from east to west through a deep channel north of Mauritius. They believe that the current is a major tributary of the South Equatorial Current.

Stage four of the Nansen voyage began in Pemba, Mozambique on November 28. Over 18 days, the scientific team sampled dipole eddies in the Mozambique Channel. The survey also continued studies of the upwelling cell in the Delagoa Bight region which were started by the African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme (ACEP). This upwelling cell dominates productivity in the southern part of Mozambique and most of the



Fisheries scientist, Jessica Escobar-Porras, is pictured with a catch of squaliform sharks



Scientists sort the catch on the trawl deck of Dr Fridtjof Nansen

east coast of South Africa. ACEP was a major sponsor of leg four and a key participant in the ASCLME Project.

A partnership between the ASCLME Project and the FAO's EAF-Nansen Programme made the 2008 voyage of the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* possible. This partnership will be continued in 2009 and 2010, providing a unique opportunity for African scientists and their international partners to gather new and important information about the oceanographic characteristics of the Agulhas and Somali Large Marine Ecosystems. This information is critically important to the development of long-term management strategies for marine resources within these large marine ecosystems. The data and knowledge collected from these oceanographic cruises will provide the foundation for the negotiation of regional-level management agreements between the countries of the western Indian Ocean.

With thanks to James Stapley, Tommy Bornman and Isabelle Ansoorge

FOJO and WIOMSA hold Environmental Journalism Course

FOJO (The Institute for Further Education of Journalists) of Sweden, in cooperation with WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association) recently held the first of a two part training course for environmental journalists. The objective of the course was to train journalists on environmental reporting focusing on coastal management in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region and its relation to the global environmental situation. The course attracted 16 journalists from Tanzania, Kenya and Seychelles and was held in Zanzibar from the 3rd to the 14th of November 2008.

Tools of the trade

The course equipped the journalists with some of the basic tools in covering environment issues with special emphasis on the coastal and marine environment. The journalists were introduced to methods of reporting and planning environmental stories. This was done through presentations from the course leaders on how to be environmental journalists, the Maestro Method of reporting stories and instructional video presentations.

The journalists got the opportunity to interact freely with scientists and experts involved in the region's environmental and coastal sectors and to benefit from their vast knowledge pool. Ten prominent scientists were invited as guest speakers to deliver lectures on topics of interest such as social dimensions of Marine Protected Areas; an introduction to coral reefs; and the impact of human activities to corals; mangroves; fisheries partnership agreements; pollution in coastal waters; oil and gas exploration on the east coast of Africa; impacts of climate change on coral reefs of the WIO; ecotourism and research on tourism: the case study of Chumbe Island Coral Park and finally the challenges and opportunities for artisanal fisheries in Zanzibar. The scientists got a rare and unusual opportunity to package their scientific jargon in a language that the participants could easily understand and also to present this in a way that was considered interesting to journalists and their readers alike.

Thawing of relations

Another objective of the course was to establish a network between scientists and journalists for future

communication and interactions. The course accorded the journalists and scientists a chance to engage in a lively panel debate that succeeded in demystifying the two professions and thawing of the relationship between journalists and scientists, that is often chilly in nature and shrouded in mutual suspicion. The journalists carried out a study visit of the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS). They received presentations about the Institute and its activities, and toured the laboratories aquarium and the various offices.

Field trips

The course also included a number of field trips where participants had a chance to experience practically some of the issues that were presented and discussed during the course. The field trips included a visit to Bawe Island to learn about coral reefs, a trip to Kizimkazi Dolphin Tourism Association to learn about sustainable dolphin tourism and a boat tour to view the dolphins, a visit to the Kidoti Village sea weed farming project where participants learnt how the local women

farm seaweed and make soap for sale and finally a field trip to Menai Bay to the pearl farming and jewellery making project.

Journalists happy

The journalists took a very active part in the training course engaging in discussions, brain storming sessions, practical exercises and a very impressive story telling night at the end of the workshop. According to the journalists, the training was a successful blend between very informative presentations and interesting field trips and was well worth their time. One participant summed up the experience in the following terms; "*Many thanks to WIOMSA, FOJO and our trainers Par and Eva for your time.....The course is starting point of creating awareness on environmental issues via journalism and we are looking forward to the second part of the course.*"

The second part of the course will be held from the 27th of April to the 1st of May 2009 and participants have been assigned projects to be presented and explored during this follow up course.



Participants with the villagers at Menai Bay Pearl Farming Project

Environmental Journalism Course: A Participant's perspective

By Lucas Liganga - Zanzibar

To quote the wise words of the UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, the media continue to play a strategic role in raising environmental awareness, channelling environmental information and inspiring environmental action. Indeed, because of the dynamic nature of environmental information, environmental reporting must be concerted, consistent and informed.

"I think the course was very beneficial to the trainees. We gained a lot of knowledge on marine and coastal resources. For example, we learnt about coral reefs, various types of fish found in the sea, and other marine organism" says Deodatus Mfugale, Features Editor with The Guardian, Tanzania's daily English broadsheet.

He adds: "We also learnt about the threats facing the abundant marine resources in Tanzania - threats arising from natural processes like climate change but also man-made threats like pollution, gas and oil exploration and drilling, and dynamite fishing."

"Coastal communities have always been poor regardless of the abundant resources they have, but from what we learnt during the training, government, non-governmental organisations and other groups could help them access these resources and alleviate poverty," further comments Mfugale.

He says the case of women groups in Bweleo working with the Sustainable Coastal Community and Ecosystems (SUCCESS) project is a testimony to this.

Mfugale made these observations at the end of a two-week Environmental Journalism Course - focusing on coastal management in the Eastern African region and its relation to the global environmental situation that was held in Zanzibar from 3 to 14 November, 2008.

The course, jointly organised by the Institute for Further Education of Journalists of Sweden and

the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) attracted 16 print and electronic media journalists from Tanzania, Kenya and the Seychelles. The journalists, six females and 10 males, were a mixture of old hands in the journalism profession and newcomers whose contributions were beneficial to both groups.

During the course facilitated by two veteran Swedish environmental journalists-Pär Nord and Eva-Pia Worland, we journalists had an opportunity to interact with scientists and experts well versed with coastal and marine environment issues of the region. The scientists and experts came from WIOMSA, the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS-Zanzibar) of the University of Dar es Salaam, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania, the Kenya Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Chumbe Island Coral Park and Dr Matt Richmond, from a consulting company, Samaki Consultants. We were able to establish a network linking ourselves and the regional scientists for future communication and interactions. They agreed to work closely with us by enabling journalists to access and analyse scientific information and explore ways to repackage it to interest the general public.

Various scenarios of the impacts of human activities on the coastal and marine environment



Participants of the Environmental Journalism Course

were presented and discussed. Opportunities and benefits provided by this environment were highlighted during field visits to Bweleo, some 60 kilometres south of Zanzibar town, and Kidoti.

In addition, we were also taught about the Maestro method, which I think can be applied in reporting not only environmental issues, but also any other issue.

Generally, we completed the course more knowledgeable about the coastal and marine resources than before. It is an open secret that the course has sharpened the journalists pens to raise coverage of marine and coastal issues which do not get much coverage in the media in the Eastern African region.

At the end of the course we were assigned some investigative environmental stories which will be presented during the follow-up course to be held between April 27 and May 1, 2009, at a venue to be decided later.

Transdisciplinary workshop on tropical seascapes – an IFS/WIOMSA initiative for young scientists By Maricela de la Torre Castro and Johan Eklof



Participants to the IFS/WIOMSA Workshop

As part of the ongoing collaboration between the International Foundation for Science (IFS) and WIOMSA, a transdisciplinary workshop was held in Zanzibar at the end of October. It brought together an international and multidisciplinary group of young scientists and managers to discuss the ecology and management of tropical seascapes. The scientific planning and organization was done together with the Department of Systems Ecology, Stockholm University.

The concept of the 'tropical seascape' originally focused on the biogeochemical interlinkages between tropical coastal ecosystems like mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. It has since then been broadened to encompass the important interplay between humans and coastal nature through use of ecosystem goods and services, as well as ecosystem-based management of coastal landscapes.

The main aim of the workshop was to transfer knowledge on the ecology, resources and management of WIO tropical seascapes between researchers and managers. The second aim was to discuss how to put theories of cross-ecosystem and social-

ecological interactions into practice. Another important aim was to facilitate the initiation of new international and transdisciplinary research cooperation projects. This was done by bringing together 40 young and promising WIO and Swedish researchers with natural, social and political sciences background.

To set a baseline for discussions, the workshop started with invited keynote presentations on various topics ranging from fish migration along the seascape, coastal mariculture, resource conflicts, governance and decentralization. All participants then held much appreciated short presentations of how their own work fitted into the general seascape concept.

After setting the base-line, a three-day scenario exercise was initiated with a field trip to Nyamanzi (south-east Zanzibar). The main objective was to explore the three main tropical coastal ecosystems in situ. The participants first visited the mangrove forest and learned about its associated activities, such as fire-wood collection and bee-keeping. This was followed by a walk through an intertidal and highly species diverse seagrass bed, where seaweed farming is also conducted by local women. Finally, the participants went snorkeling on Tele reef by boat, inspecting a small pearl farm along the way.

The participants were then divided into working groups (each including natural and social scientists as well as managers). The

group worked for 2 days, analyzing five highly plausible and important scenarios relating to the development of coastal zones:

- i) transformation of coastal forests into a sugar-cane farm for ethanol production in mainland Tanzania
- ii) large-scale developments of shrimp farming,
- iii) novel aquaculture activities in the region,
- iv) tourism and benefits to local people, and
- v) conflicts between fisheries and marine protected areas.

Each scenario was analyzed from a seascape perspective through review of reports, gathering of collective knowledge and discussions among team members. The results of each scenario discussion were presented during a plenary session on the last day of the workshop.

The main conclusions from the workshop were:

- a) The seascape concept is very useful to discuss difficult and complex problems in tropical coastal areas. It brings together different elements, facilitating collaboration between social and natural scientists.
- b) The seascape concept is very good for research planning and understanding of complex interactions.
- c) The seascape concept is a holistic tool that can be used both in science and policy making.
- d) The seascape can be seen both as a concept and as a management approach.

- e) The seascape approach is not in collision with the broader Integrated Coastal Zone Management, but they rest and focus on different issues. The seascape approach stresses the dynamic links and interactions between ecosystems, as well as between humans and nature.

Some comments from participants:

"I work with population genetics, and to me the seascape approach was very useful"
Oskar Henriksson, Sweden.

"The three best things about this workshop were: networking opportunities, exposure to the concept and to other disciplines and schools of thought"
Gavin Gouws, South Africa.

"I may incorporate the seascape concept into mangrove restoration & conservation including management and implementation"
Mwita Mangora, Zanzibar, Tanzania.

"I appreciate the mix of natural and social scientists, the composition of the program including theory and practice and the positive and hard working presentations"
Anonymous.

"The short presentations of the participants, the scenario exercise and the final discussion were my top three"
Anonymous.

Information on the biology and ecology of sea cucumber improving By Nyawira Muthiga and Joan Kawaka

The sea cucumber fishery has been active in the Western Indian Ocean region for many decades and its contribution towards supporting the livelihoods and income of the fishing community cannot be underestimated. Since sea cucumbers are solely harvested for the export market, the fishery generates foreign exchange and

also forms an important component of international trade. Despite their importance, information on the biology and ecology of sea cucumbers that is useful for management is scarce.

In October 2005, WIOMSA, through the Marine Science for Management (MASMA) grant provided funding for

a regional sea cucumber project led by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the University of Reunion. Scientists from the Universities of Dar-es-salaam, Reunion and Sweden, IH-SM in Madagascar, the Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute and the Seychelles Fishing Authority composed a multi-disciplinary team that contributed to different aspects of the research.

The project commenced in 2006 with the production of a comprehensive regional review (Conand & Muthiga 2007) and culminated in a regional workshop that was held from the 28th to 30th October 2008 at the Baobab Holiday Resort in Mombasa. The main components of the project included species inventories and distribution patterns, the impacts of marine protected areas, the reproductive biology of the key commercial species, the socio-economics and management of the fishery and training in taxonomy and management of the sea cucumber fishery. Although the project concentrated mainly in Kenya,



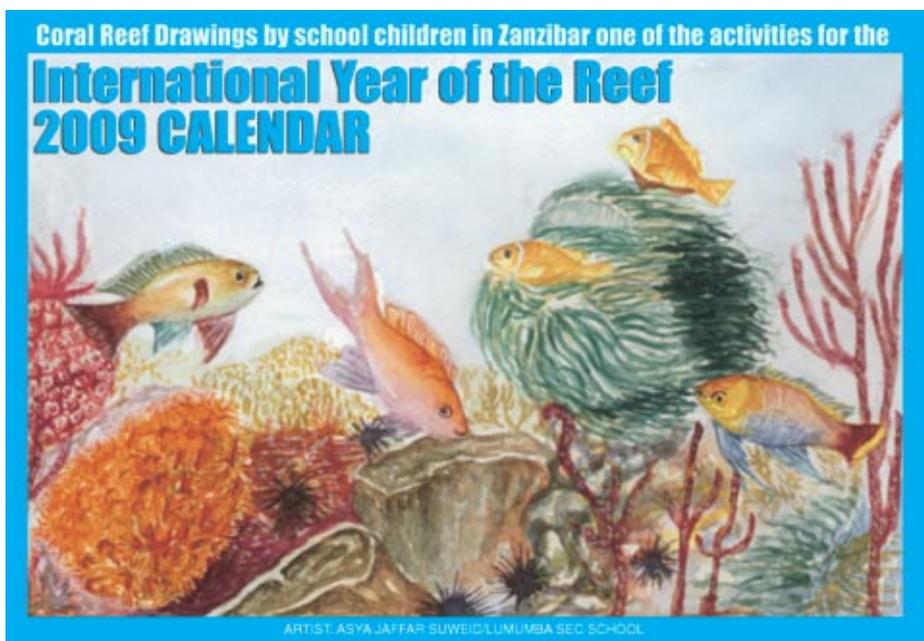
Participants to the regional Sea cucumber Project

Madagascar, Reunion, Seychelles and Tanzania, the nature of the fisheries within these countries should provide information that is also relevant to other countries in the region. Major findings from the project have been published in peer-reviewed journals and in the South Pacific Commission Beche-de-Mer Information Bulletin (www.spc.int/coastfish), a global outlet for sea cucumber information.

Thirty-three participants attended the Final Project Workshop from Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sweden and Tanzania. They included fisheries officers, NGO representatives, lecturers and scientists with a stake in the management of marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean. The workshop drew on the knowledge gained through the regional sea cucumber project as well as other

relevant information on sea cucumbers from the collective experiences of the investigators. Recommendations obtained from the workshop will be widely distributed and should contribute to strengthening the management of the sea cucumber fisheries in the region. The project investigators would like to acknowledge MASMA and all collaborators for their support.

WIOMSA participate in the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR)



The ICRI International Year of the Reef (IYOR) 2008 is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them. As in 1998, when the IYOR was marked for the first time in Zanzibar, the IYOR 2008 was successfully marked by the implementation of activities aimed at promoting, to both the local people and tourists, the need to conserve and protect coral reefs for the present and future generations.

In Zanzibar a group of people representing a wide range of interest groups from private companies (Chumbe Island Coral Park, One Ocean and Bahari Divers); NGOs (WIOMSA and CODECOZ); academic institutions (Institute of Marine Sciences), and ministries and government departments (the Ministry of Education, Commission of Tourism and Department of Fisheries) came together and formed the IYOR Committee. The Committee identified and facilitated the implementation of several activities throughout the year.

Among the activities that were carried out included: collection of Crown-of-Thorn Starfish (COTS), awareness workshops

for local fishermen, and a drawing competition, held for school children, on coastal and marine environment with special emphasis on coral reef.

On the 1st of June 2008, a COTS collection day was organized on three reefs of Bawe, Murogo and Nyange, which are located close to the Stone Town. The main purpose of the activity was to raise people's awareness of the COTS problem and the value of healthy coral reefs. The event was attended by volunteers and representatives from IMS, Department of Fisheries, One Ocean Divers, Bahari Divers, and Chumbe Island Coral Park. Zanzibar TV and the Swahili Coast magazine covered the event for the media. At the end of the day a total of 721 COTS were collected!

The drawing competition involved 26 secondary schools in both Unguja and Pemba, who submitted a total number of 87 drawings. Out of these, a jury of experts selected 12 of the best drawings that have been included in a 2009 calendar. The main objectives of producing the calendars were to raise awareness on coral reefs and to raise funds from their sale. The funds from the sale will go towards implementing activities designed to raise awareness on the need to protect coral reefs.

Implemented activities were funded by WIOMSA, the private companies that were members of the IYOR Committee and the Coral Reef Targeted Research Programme through IMS.

Malagasy Community Leader Wins Prestigious Award

In October 2008, Mr Roger Samba, a community leader of the remote village of Andavadoaka in southwest Madagascar, was announced winner of the prestigious Getty Prize for Conservation for 2008. From 2003, through his efforts he has created a model for seasonal closures as well as for empowering local communities to take on management of coral reefs and related habitats, which is being emulated in Madagascar and other parts of the world. He was also behind the village being awarded the 2007 UNDP-administered Equator Prize.

This is a very competitive award with nominations received from all over the world and reviewed by an independent jury of distinguished experts. The award which includes a prize of US\$ 200 000, is administered by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and is intended to encourage conservation innovation and heighten public awareness of the need for conservation. The 2008 Getty Prize was centred around the theme of community leadership; one of three rotating themes of the award, the other being political leadership and scientific leadership.

Mr Samba who was nominated by the Blue Ventures (a UK-based NGO working in southwest Madagascar), was awarded the prize in recognition of his leadership in establishing the community run no-take zone for octopus in his village as well as for influencing the Malagasy government to enact legislation that provides for and recognizes seasonal closures. Alasdair Harris, the Director of Scientific Research at Blue Ventures, was quoted as saying "based on the experience of Andavadoaka, eight neighbouring



Mr Samba and his family

villages have also created their own protected areas for octopus. The government of Madagascar has also used the Andavadoaka model to create similar seasonal closures across the country."

The award is unique in that it not only recognizes today's leaders in conservation but also helps develop conservation leadership for tomorrow by establishing graduate fellowships in the name

of the winner and J. Paul Getty. Samba will use his award to establish fellowships for students pursuing masters, doctoral, and post-doctoral degrees in conservation-related fields at a university of his choice in Madagascar.

WIOMSA congratulates Mr Samba for this outstanding achievement and wishes him the best of luck in his work.

MARG and MASMA Grants issued

WIOMSA Marine Research Grants II and III

WIOMSA approved 33 MARG II and III projects out of 57 applications received

During May – October 2008, WIOMSA received and processed 9 MARG II applications from Comores (1), Kenya (3), Mauritius (1) and Tanzania (4). Among these, 6 were approved and the successful projects were implemented in Japan, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden.

During the same period 48 MARG III applications were received from various countries including Australia (1), Eritrea (1), France (1), Kenya (13), Madagascar (1), Mauritius (2), Portugal (1), La Reunion (7), Seychelles (1), South Africa (3) and Tanzania (17). A total of 27 successful applicants from six countries from the Western Indian Ocean were awarded financial support to participate and present their research findings in various conferences, workshops and symposiums around the world.

MASMA Open and Commissioned Competitive Research

In 2008, some 149 open research and 15 commissioned research applications received

Unlike the previous years, WIOMSA announced two Calls for MASMA Open Competitive Research Proposals in 2008. For the first Call, WIOMSA received a total of 93 open competitive applications that included 5 proposals to produce publications, 12 proposals to hold training courses and workshops and 76 Letters of Intent to conduct research. Among the LoI received, a total of 13 were selected by the MASMA PC and invited for development into full proposals. The submitted full proposals were then reviewed further by both the PC and also the external reviewers who approved 5 for funding as follows:

- i) Is there a Western Indian Ocean "Coral Triangle"? - David Obura and Melita Samoilys, Coastal Oceans Research and Development in Indian Ocean (CORDIO)
- ii) Small-scale community-based, grow-out aquacultures of mud crabs *Scylla serrata* as a sustainable livelihood in East Africa - Per Moksnes, University of Gothenburg and David Mirera, Kwetu Training Centre
- iii) Incorporating reef fish spawning aggregations into optimal designs for no-take fishery reserves: Strengthening fisheries management and coral reef resilience in the Western Indian Ocean - Jan Robinson, Seychelles Fishing Authorities and Melita Samoilys, CORDIO
- iv) A molecular consideration of Western Indian Ocean marine fish connectivity and differentiation at multiple spatial and temporal scales and its implications for conservation and resource management - Gavin Gouws, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity and Jérôme Bourjea, Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer

- v) The spatial behaviour of artisanal fishers. Implications for fisheries management and development - Tim Daw, Overseas Development Group, University of East Anglia, Joshua Cinner, James Cook University and Andrew Wamukota, Wildlife Conservation Society

Four commissioned topics were announced in 2008. These attracted 15 research proposals. Three proposals were approved for funding as follows:

- i) Migrant Fishers and Fishing in the Western Indian Ocean: Socio-economic dynamics and implications for management - Innocent Wanyonyi, CORDIO

- ii) Global Markets and the Livelihoods of Coastal Communities in the WIO Countries: Implications for Sustainable Coastal Management - Huruma Sigalla, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam
- iii) Analysis of Benefits from Coastal Resources and Mechanisms for Equitable Benefit Sharing in Selected WIO Countries - Pius Z. Yanda, Institute of Resources Assessment, University of Dar es Salaam and Rachel Wynberg, Environmental Evaluation Unit, University of Cape Town

For the second Call, a total of 56 applications were received comprising 2 for producing publications, 9 for training courses and workshops and 45 letters of intent to conduct research. One application for publication and one for training courses were selected for further development where as 8 letters of intent were invited to develop full proposals. The Programme Committee is meeting in early February 2009 to discuss these full proposals.



SEASON'S GREETINGS AND
BEST WISHES FOR YEAR 2009



The Executive Secretary
Western Indian Ocean
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(WIOMSA)

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