



Newsbrief

Two large regional projects launched!

All the three regional inter-linked projects financed by Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in the Western Indian Ocean region are now operational. The first is the project "Addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO-LaB)", which was formally launched in May 2004 and is implemented by UNEP through the Nairobi Convention. WIO-LaB is designed to address some of the main environmental problems and issues related to the degradation of the marine and coastal environment due to land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. The other project is the Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME), which was formally launched in November 2007 and addresses productivity, ecosystem processes and offshore and coastal oceanographic processes as well as persistent organic pollutants and near shore fisheries. ASCLME is implemented by UNDP.

The third project is the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), which is implemented by the World Bank and was formally launched in June 2008. SWIOFP deals mainly with offshore fish and fisheries.

In this issue of *WIOMSA Newsbrief*, two of these projects, SWIOFP and ASCLME are presented.

For more detailed description of the third regional GEF-funded project WIO-LaB and its activities, please visit its website:

<http://www.wiolab.org/www.wiolab.org>

ASCLME project funds "voyages of discovery"

The longest, and possibly the most ambitious research cruise to take place in the western Indian Ocean, begins on August 15, when the Norwegian research vessel, *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*, steams out of Maputo harbor carrying a full complement of oceanographers, most of them from African countries.

The 118-day cruise is the first of a number of research voyages that will be funded by the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) project and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations over the next five years. It begins in Mozambique and includes a full survey of the marine and coastal environment of Madagascar, Mauritius, the Mozambique Channel and a remote ocean region known as the Mascarene Plateau.

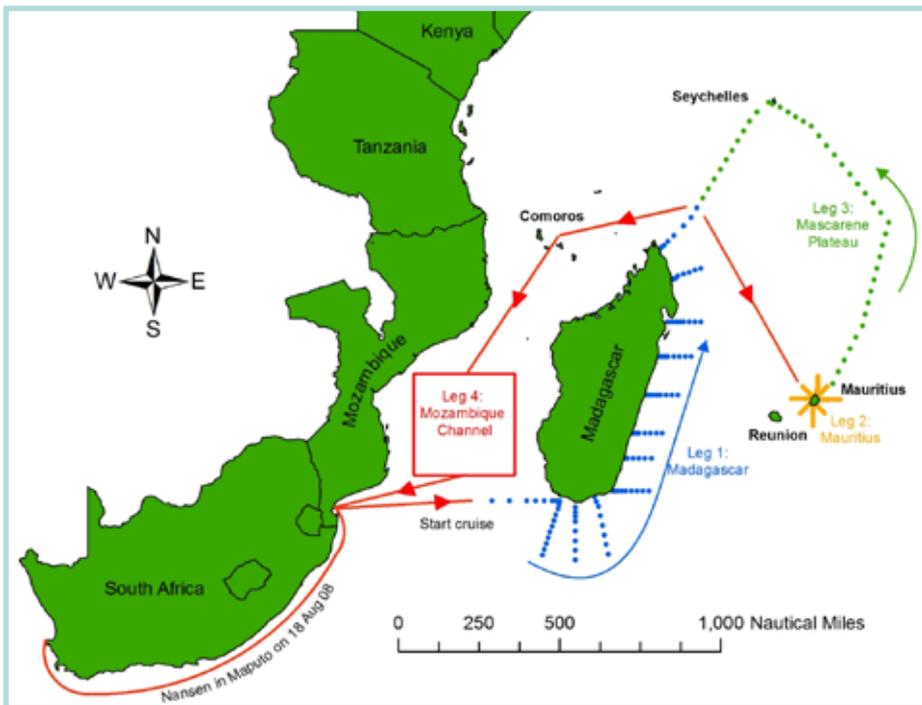
"This is one of the least studied ocean regions in the world," says Professor Johann Lutjeharms, an oceanographer at the University of Cape Town in South Africa who has been involved with planning the research cruise.

Professor Lutjeharms has spent a lifetime studying the oceanography of the Agulhas Current and believes that the forthcoming cruise of the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* will provide oceanographers with a unique opportunity to gather baseline information about the two large marine ecosystems (LMEs) of the Western Indian Ocean: the Agulhas and Somali Current LMEs.

"This is fundamental, pioneering research that you can't do anywhere else in the world," says Professor Lutjeharms, "it is vital for the countries of the region because you can't manage an ecosystem unless you have a basic idea of what the currents are doing and the effects they have on biota."

Indeed, gathering information about the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the two LMEs, with the long-term goal of better managing their resources, is what the ASCLME project is all about. Over five years, the project will coordinate the efforts of eight countries - Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Tanzania - helping them to compile a comprehensive scientific analysis of the transboundary environmental problems that affect the two LMEs. This analysis, termed a "Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)" will be used as a starting point for the countries to set out a "Strategic Action Programme (SAP)" or a roadmap for tackling these problems

"Scientific findings will lay the groundwork for the eight countries of the region to develop a strategy for collectively managing the resources on which their people and economies depend," explains Dr David Vousden, director of the ASCLME project. "This research cruise and those that will follow in 2009 and 2010, are integral to achieving the aims of the ASCLME project."



A visual representation of the 118 day research cruise that will be undertaken by the Norwegian research ship, *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* between August and December 2008.

The ASCLME project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Project headquarters are in Grahamstown, South Africa, where the project coordination unit is being hosted by the world renowned South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB).

Training and capacity building are an integral part of the ASCLME project and, in preparation for the forthcoming Nansen cruise, 10 trainees from national institutions, universities and ministries in Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa, participated in an intensive 25-day training course between 23 June and 18 July. During the course, the trainees participated in a demanding schedule of lectures and practical activities on board the South African research ship, *Africana*, as well as the smaller, inshore research vessel *SeaLab*, belonging to the Maritime Research Institute. They also attended the four-day Southern African Marine Science Symposium, held at the University of Cape Town where they gained a valuable opportunity to meet 400 other marine scientists from southern Africa and beyond.

The next challenge facing the trainees is to participate in the forthcoming cruise of the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*, which consists of four discrete legs. Leg one is a pioneering survey of the oceanographic conditions

off the East coast of Madagascar. It will help oceanographers to better understand the physico-chemical structure of water masses and the pattern of current flow in this poorly studied area. The second leg of the expedition is a comprehensive oceanographic survey around Mauritius. Leg three is a survey of the remote Mascarene Plateau, an oceanic ridge that is thought to influence the flow of the South Equatorial Current. In-situ measurements, which will be taken along the 2 000km length of the Mascarene Plateau, will help oceanographers to better interpret remote sensing data and improve computational models of the region. On leg four, scientists aim to comprehensively study the massive eddies that move water through the Mozambique Channel.

The *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* will return to Maputo on 11 December, after which scientists, students and technicians who took part in the various legs of the cruise will analyse data and generate reports which capture knowledge and improve understanding of the oceanography of the region. These reports will ultimately contribute to the ASCLME project's goal of developing a TDA and SAP for both the Agulhas and the Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems.

For more information on the forthcoming cruise of the *Dr Fridtjof Nansen*, visit www.asclme.org



Young oceanographers from five African countries participated in an intensive training programme in South Africa in June and July.

Fisheries research project launched

A fisheries research and management project within a Large Marine Ecosystem framework of the South West Indian Ocean has been launched.

The South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project (SWIOFP), a regional fisheries research and management project was developed by the countries of Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The global environmental objective of SWIOFP seeks to promote the sustainable use of fish resources and adoption of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Management in the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems. This project was officially launched by the Kenyan Minister for Fisheries Development Dr. Paul Otuoma, during the First Session of the SWIOFP Steering Committee Meeting held in Mombasa, Kenya on 19th June 2008.

The preparation of the project brief was a collaborative and transparent country-driven process, with individual countries taking the responsibility for coordinating key portfolios. Scientific research proposals reflecting country needs and falling within the broad SWIOFP objectives were submitted by individual countries, and were collated into distinct project components, so as to create the basic structure of SWIOFP.

SWIOFP, however, has three specific objectives; that are to identify and study exploitable offshore fish stocks within the SWIO, more specifically, to determine existing fishing pressure on these stocks and to investigate the role of environmental influences on the life histories, seasonal variability and health of stocks in order to differentiate between environmental and anthropogenic impacts.

The second objective is to develop institutional and human capacity through training and career opportunities; and the third one is to develop a regional fisheries management structure and associated harmonised legislation in collaboration with the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC).

SWIOFP is designed so that each member country participates in the core fisheries management components and selects only those other components relevant to its own context. It will be implemented through six components, which are aimed at achieving the objectives of the project.

The components are; Data gap analysis, data archiving and information technology;



The Minister for Fisheries Development in Kenya, Hon. Dr. Paul Otuoma, M.P launching the SWIOFP.

Assessment and sustainable utilisation of crustaceans; Assessment and sustainable utilisation of demersal fishes (excluding crustaceans); Assessment and sustainable utilisation of pelagic fish; Mainstreaming biodiversity in national and regional fisheries management and Strengthening regional and national fisheries management.

SWIOFP implementation will take place in three stages. The initial 12-18 months focuses on collection and analysis of relevant existing data, and setting up a regional database. This phase seeks to synergize with the ASCLME sister project (oceanographic and productivity data), develop data collection and analysis procedures and commence training and capacity building. The phase strategically includes a data-gap analysis, to assist in developing work plans for component-based sampling at sea to collect new data.

The second implementation phase (24-36 months) involves intense shipboard sampling to collect data identified in the gap-analysis. Research cruises and observers on commercial ships will survey areas presently fished, and areas with possible untapped resources. The surveys aims at collecting information on new and exploited fish stocks, their distribution, stock status and potential, biological parameters and genetic structure.

The third period of 18-24 months is set aside for data analysis and preparation of a Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis

(TDA) and Strategic Action Plans (SAP). Adoption of the TDA and SAP assessments will mandate future regional research, management, governance processes and investment within an ecosystems framework. This stage would also lead to the development of long-term follow-on projects to SWIOFP.

SWIOFP is closely aligned with the priorities identified in marine resource research and management by several regional agreements, institutions, organisations or projects (e.g. the Agulhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem Project (ASCLME); the Western Indian Ocean Land Based Impacts on the Marine Environment Project (WIO-LaB); the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC); the Nairobi Convention, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA); the Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Indian Ocean Countries (ReCoMaP); the FAO Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Nansen Project (EAF-Nansen); and WIOMSA, to name a few, which operate in the ASCsLMEs region, with mandates addressing a variety of developmental and fisheries concerns.

For more information about SWIOFP, please visit <http://www.swiofp.net/www.swiofp.net>

Call for the rights-based approach to fisheries

A recently concluded fisheries workshop has called on governments of the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to adopt a rights-based approach to small-scale, artisanal and indigenous, inland and marine fisheries in the region.

A statement issued at the end of the workshop demanded that fishing communities should enjoy rights provided in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007). They provide for rights for fishing communities to have access to safe drinking water, sanitation, health and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services, as well as education and various skills.

The workshop organized by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) in collaboration with the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Masifundise Development Trust and the World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) was held in Zanzibar from June 23 to June 27 2008.

It was held under a theme: "Asserting Rights, Defining Responsibilities: Perspectives from Small-scale Fishing Communities on Coastal and Fisheries Management in ESA region, and attended by 45 participants from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and hosts Tanzania.

The participants were mainly small-scale, artisanal and indigenous fishing communities engaged in inland and marine fisheries; fishing organizations and non-governmental organizations; researchers; activists; as well as some representatives of government institutions from the ESA region.

The main objective of the workshop was to develop a shared perspective on the rights-based approach to fisheries in the context of the FAO Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries, to be held in Bangkok, from October 13 to 17 this year.

The statement said a rights-based approach to fisheries should recognize the customary rights, local knowledge, traditional systems and practices, and the rights to access marine and inland resources by small-scale, artisanal and indigenous fishing communities, as well as the right to

land for homes, fishery-related, and other livelihood-related activities.

Furthermore, such an approach should enhance collective, community-based access and management regimes, it stressed.

"All the rights and freedoms that are agreed to as relevant for rights-based approach to fisheries, should apply equally to all men and women of fishing communities," it said.

"The fishing rights should not be treated as a tradable commodity but should be seen as an integral part of human rights. A rights-based approach to fisheries should not lead to the privatization of fisheries resources," it added

It stressed specific measures be taken to address, strengthen and protect women's right to enable them to participate fully in the fishery industry. The measures, it added, should work towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and should secure their safety against sexual and other forms of abuse.

It underscored the importance of management of inland and marine fishery resources to be devolved at local level in the region, and programmes for devolution of fisheries management be preceded, and accompanied, by capacity-building programmes for fishers' and fishing community organizations to enhance negotiating power as well as build up capacity for responsible fisheries management.

The Statement noted that for the effectiveness of a rights-based fisheries approach, it was necessary to recognize the indivisibility of fishery access and user rights, post-harvest rights and human rights.

"We believe that the development of responsible and sustainable small-scale artisanal and indigenous fisheries is possible only if they are addressed in an integrated manner," the statement said.

The statement was concluded by the workshop participants calling upon governments and FAO to ensure that the principles, mechanisms, and measures proposed be recognized in the development of a rights-based approach to small-scale, artisanal and indigenous, inland and marine fisheries in the ESA region.



Some of the participants to the workshop.

Prof. Ntiba picked PS in Kenya ministry

Prof Micheni Japhet Ntiba, one of the founding members of WIOMSA has been appointed Permanent Secretary in Kenya's Ministry of Fisheries Development.

This follows the formation of Grand Coalition Government in Kenya in April this year, where by the Ministry of Fisheries Development was carved out of the old Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development.

His appointment, according to fisheries experts, was both timely and appropriate. A statement issued by WIOMSA said his appointment was timely because the new Ministry requires someone with wide knowledge in fisheries science and vast experience in its application in order to guide the Ministry as it establishes its own departments and develops policies to articulate issues related to fisheries development in Kenya as well as in the eastern Africa region and the world at large.

"The appointment is most appropriate because Professor Ntiba's training and expertise is on fisheries and marine biology," the statement said.

Prof Ntiba as member of WIOMSA has contributed in various roles including being the first WIOMSA Country Coordinator for Kenya and members of several Committees and Task Forces. He participated successfully in numerous activities aimed at developing the coastal and marine environment of Kenya and the Western Indian Ocean region. Key among these was the establishment of the regional Forum for Academic and Research Institutions (FARI).

Aware of challenges ahead, Professor Ntiba told WIOMSA: "The greatest challenge is to establish a functional ministry to respond to the main issues related to fisheries

worldwide. These include, environmental problems relating to fisheries since sustainable fisheries cannot thrive and support the livelihoods of people and economies of nations without taking due regard to the conservation of the aquatic environment of our swamps, rivers, lakes, coastal and oceans".

He named other issues as human based impacts on fisheries, including over fishing, and other inefficiencies including poor governance and the lack of community participation in matters relevant to integrated coastal management in general.



Prior to his new appointment, Prof Ntiba was the Director of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Nairobi where he was also teaching and conducting research in Zoology. His current research interest is the interaction between land, freshwater and the marine ecosystems as a basis for socio-economic development of Kenya and the larger East Africa.

After completing his B.Sc. and M.Sc. at the University of Nairobi (UoN) he obtained his PhD in Fisheries Biology from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of East Anglia in UK. He has conducted extensive research on the ecology and biology of tropical marine and fresh water fisheries and near shore ecosystems such as mangroves. He headed the Marine Science Project in the School whose objective is elucidating the structure and function of a tropical mangrove ecosystem at the Kenya coast. This is in line with his current research interest.

During his career at the University, Prof Ntiba was appointed as the first Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), one of the institutions of the East African Community (EAC), to establish and operate its Secretariat in Jinja, Uganda. In June 2006, he was appointed a member of the National Steering Committee to review Kenya's Wildlife Act and Policy. He was also a member of the Board of Management and Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRRI) up to November 2007.

He was born on August 7th 1958, and is married with three children.

"My word to all is that the future of sustainable living marine and freshwater resources will depend on

man's ability to take care of and maintain a healthy environment. This should be the responsibility of all governments and its people. A lot of awareness in environmental conservation is key in this regard. Let each one of us do our bit no matter how small" Professor Ntiba said.

WIOMSA on behalf of all its members takes this opportunity to congratulate Professor Ntiba and to wish him all the success in his new appointment.

Swedish Ambassador pays courtesy call on IMS, WIOMSA

Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania

His Excellency Mr Staffan Herrstrom, paid a courtesy call to the Institute of Marine Science (IMS) and WIOMSA. Accompanied by the First Secretary responsible for Higher Education and Research at the Embassy, Prof. Marie-Teresa Bejarano, Mr Herrstrom visited the institutions on May 16th, 2008.

The purpose of the Ambassador's visit was mainly to familiarize himself with activities of IMS and WIOMSA, which have been among the key beneficiaries of Swedish funds in the Western Indian Ocean region over several years. At the airport, the Ambassador and Prof. Bejarano were received by the IMS officials led by the Director, Prof. Alfonse Dubi.

The Ambassador took the opportunity to visit various research activities linked to the Swedish Bilateral Programme. Prof. Dubi presented the institutional profile of IMS and its various research programmes.

He categorically revealed that with its new status as the regional Centre of Excellency in marine sciences, IMS was poised to start churning out Msc and PhD degrees as an independent institution of the University of Dar es Salaam.

"IMS has metamorphosed from a humbled institution in the 1980s to the reference centre for mariculture in eastern Africa and with well trained staff comprising 14 PhD holders and two Professors", explained Prof. Dubi, stressing that much useful research that had now been translated into viable income generating projects like, milkfish farming and culturing of pearls would not have been achieved without support from WIOMSA.

The Executive Secretary of WIOMSA, Dr Julius Francis also took the opportunity to highlight activities done since the inception



Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania HE Mr Staffan Herrstrom (centre) with Prof Marie-Teresa Bejarano, the First Secretary responsible for Higher Education and Research at the Embassy(left) and Dr Christopher Muhando, Senior Research Fellow at IMS.

of the Association 1993, and the fact that the Association was now highly regarded as the region's 'Research Council' for coastal and marine sciences through its MASMA programme.

Thanking the Swedish Ambassador for the support, Dr Francis stressed that Sida's support have been instrumental in building not only of the organizational capacity of WIOMSA but more importantly of building capacity of the individuals researchers through providing financial support to enable them to pursue MSc and PhD degrees. Furthermore, "through the Sida's

support WIOMSA IMS have successfully been able to develop networks that have enabled the successful linkage of various academic and research institutions in the region with other institutions within and outside the region," he said.

The Ambassador took the opportunity to visit community projects in Fumba-Menai Bay where he witnessed local communities participating in economic activities funded by both Sida/SAREC and USAID and implemented by WIOMSA and IMS. The projects include pearl farming, which is now championing the fight against coastal poverty.

Prof. Dubi commends WIOMSA, pledges more support

The Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) Prof. Alfonse Dubi has commended WIOMSA for the good job it has been doing and pledged his full support to the Association.

In an exclusive interview with *WIOMSA News Brief* Prof. Dubi expressed his appreciation for WIOMSA contribution in enhancing research in the region, and pledged continued support of the association's undertakings.

"Personally, and also all the research staff of IMS are proud of the existence of WIOMSA. We consider the Association as one of the major products of our Institute," he said.

"We have benefited immensely from WIOMSA especially through its grant schemes MARG and MASMA. One area that we call upon WIOMSA to consider is providing research grants in decision support tools. These include computer application in environmental modelling,

hydrology and other related fields of research".

He said that IMS in strong collaboration with WIOMSA has been contributing immensely to Tanzania's prime policy of war against poverty and has been participating fully in poverty reduction strategies enshrined under the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP), popularly known as MKUKUTA.



“Through community mobilisation, WIOMSA using research expertise from IMS has successfully involved Wananchi in community based mariculture projects that have resulted in successful seaweed farming, pearl farming and the manufacture of soap from marine resources”, he said.

The Director said that it was the belief of IMS staff that the development of coastal and marine sciences in the region is the responsibility of scientists themselves and that it was out of this belief that the Institute has taken the responsibility to pay WIOMSA membership fees for its academic staff for two years, making it the first institution in the region to do so.

“Over the years, IMS has provided support for its staff and students to present papers and participate in the biennial WIOMSA Scientific Symposium. I promise that next year I shall again ensure that this support is provided. I suppose that this decision will probably be one of the gestures to demonstrate my intention as Director to strengthen, support and involvement of IMS in the activities of WIOMSA,” he said.

“Organisation of WIOMSA events has always been excellent and continues to improve. The only issue I would like to point out is that the recognition of efforts by the local scientists and those hailing from other countries in the region has not been given the deserved prominence. It must be appreciated that local scientists work in very difficult conditions compared to their counterparts in the North, so this fact should be taken into consideration when rewarding achievement” he added.

WIOMSA participates at the Swedish National Day

WIOMSA was among the institutions invited at the colourful cocktail hosted to mark this year's Swedish National Day (*Sverige Nationalsdag*) hosted by His Excellency the Ambassador Mr Staffan Herrström at his residence in Oysterbay, Dar-es Salaam.

The event was attended by high profile guests representing the Government of Tanzania among other nations. High ranking guests from the Tanzania Government included the Minister for Finance Hon. Mustafa Mkulo and the Minister for Home Affairs Hon. Lawrence Masha. Other invited guests included representatives of various academic and research institutions including those that receive financial support from the Government of Sweden, including the University of Dare Es Salaam, WIOMSA, and various NGOs.

Held at the beautifully manicured lawn decorated in Sweden national colours - blue and yellow - the evening provided Swedish traditional snacks such as “inlagd sill” (pickled herring), “renköttbullar” (Swedish meatballs from reindeer), “kallrökt lax” (cold-smoked

salmon), prinskorv (small sausages) and the rich Swedish “Västerbotten” cheese. The evening was further highlighted by Swedish music. Sweden sceneries were vividly projected large on a screen, showing people, the country side, landscape and wildlife. But perhaps it was the singing of both governments' national anthems that stole the limelight. As His Excellency the Ambassador and his family led the guests in singing both the Tanzanian Anthem: *Mungu Ibariki Afrika* God Bless Africa, as well as the Swedish Anthem, whose opening line: *Du gamla, du fria du fjällhöga nord*, that means: *Thou ancient, thou free, thou mountainous north* - was sung with much enthusiasm and nostalgia by especially the Swedish nationals invited from all over Tanzania.

In his speech, the Ambassador praised Tanzania, the current Chair for the African Union, as the leading light in Africa for maintaining its rich cultural heritage and the tradition of hospitality on the continent of Africa.

He invited the congregation to toast to the continued prosperity of Tanzania, and for the long lives of President Jakaya Kikwete and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf.



Some of the invited guest at the cocktail.

WIOMSA products attract attention at the ZIFF

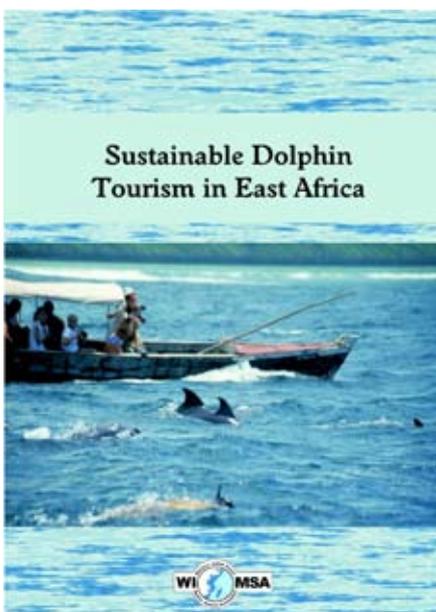
WIOMSA recently enjoyed a moment in the limelight when it successfully participated at the 11th Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF). This historic participation was motivated by the recent growing involvement of the local coastal communities of Zanzibar in WIOMSA activities and the successful selling of indigenous handicrafts and other products made by various community based groups.

It marked the successful culmination of work that was started by scientists in the laboratory, tested in the field and eventually translated into real economic ventures by the local community.

Many of the exhibits at the WIOMSA stand during the ZIFF were the end products of years of research that WIOMSA has supported locally geared towards improving the well being of the coastal communities.



The WIOMSA wrap around (Khanga).



Copy of WIOMSA book on dolphin displayed at the ZIFF.

A book titled: Sustainable Dolphin, based on collaborative research conducted by the local scientists from Zanzibar and overseas partners between 2003 and 2006 was among the products at the exhibition. The results of this research have proved most invaluable in improving community based tourism at Kizimkazi, and also contributed essential data and information crucial for the management of Menai Bay Marine Area.

Among the most popular items on display at the WIOMSA stand was the wrap-around cloth, the famous *Khanga*. *Khanga*

a traditional wrap-around that never fails to catch the eye of any visitor in Zanzibar, is commonly worn by coastal women. The male equivalent to the *khanga*, is the *Kikoyi*. This *Khanga*, designed to promote WIOMSA and to generate funds from its sale, depicts the WIOMSA logo and the Indian Ocean marine life. Like all *khangas*, the WIOMSA *Khanga* carries a message that promotes the ocean: "*Bahari ni mama, Ukiichezea utazama*", which, when roughly translated to English it means: 'we must not take our ocean for granted, lest we drown in it'.



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