



FRIENDS OF MAZIWE

NEWSLETTER

5th Edition

July - September 2012

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Friends of Maziwe newsletter. This newsletter will bring you news and updates on the various projects happening along the Ushongo coast and the island itself. Maziwe is a Marine Reserve which supports a vibrant coral reef ecosystem and is a nesting ground for the Green turtle. We hope that this newsletter will help raise awareness and generate support for the coming years.

Nesting season has finally started

The nesting season has started again and Mungia, Mohamed and Rajabu relocated a total of 17 nests in the last weeks. An exciting reason to celebrate is the Anniversary of 100 turtle nests from Maziwe Island. The 100th nest was relocated on the 16.05.2012 with 132 eggs. The turtle program is a great success and Friends of Maziwe would like to thank everyone again for all the help and support to make it happen.

Nests at the Ushongo site	Date of Hatch	Nests at Kasa Divers	Date of Hatch
MZ 98	10.07.2012	MZ 99	11.07.2012
MZ 101	24.07.2012	MZ 100	11.07.2012
MZ 103	25.07.2012	KK 52	24.07.2012
MZ 104	25.07.2012	MZ 102	25.07.2012
MZ 106	27.07.2012	MZ 105	26.07.2012
MZ 109	07.08.2012	MZ 107	05.08.2012
MZ 110	07.08.2012	MZ 108	06.08.2012
MZ 111	07.08.2012	MZ 112	09.08.2012
MZ 113	25.08.2012	PA 3	17.08.2012
MZ 114	25.08.2012		

Ushongo Primary school

In the beginning of April a group of students from SIT: world learning (wildlife conservation and political ecology) stayed at Ushongo Beach for their university studies. Zoe Newbold conducted her research on the turtle Conservation program, interviewing Mohamed, Mungia and Rajabu about their work in the project, their opinion about conservation and other field interests they have. Zoe, Emma Hauser, Jenny Long, Maureen Mollay and Eliza Perry held an awareness event about the importance of our coral reefs, fish stocks and turtles in the Primary School in Ushongo. They discussed with the kids the negative effects of rubbish and dynamite fishing and all enjoyed the drawing of their favourite Marine Organism.

Johana Onesma Henga joined Zoe with her team interviews and went with the student group to the school to help translating for the kids. He also is volunteering together with Rama Lali to translate the Friends of Maziwe Newsletters into Kiswahili. Thank you both for your time and the great job you are doing!





News Center

- Total number of baby turtles released since the beginning of the project 10.690.
- Building benches and an Information Board for the Ushongo village hatching site are in progress.
- Fishing activities around Maziwe through the rainy season are leaving a lot of damage on the reefs.

Keep your eyes open for Humpback Whales

The Humpback whale season is starting again and Friends of Maziwe/Ushongo village are keeping a record of their sightings. Whales can be seen between June to December, mostly heading south to their feeding grounds in Antarctica. The most important spotters are the fishermen going out every day to various reefs and lodge guests visiting the islands for snorkelling and diving. If you spot a whale please inform Mohamed Mfaume (Pegwa) and fill out the reporting sheet with him. Tourists can also contact the Managers at the hotels or visit Kasa Divers. At the end of the year Friends of Maziwe is passing all the data to Matt Richmond (Samaki Consultant) who studies the whale population in Tanzania and East Africa. Please report and help us to get a better understanding of how many whales are travelling in Tanzanian waters.



Last year, Friends of Maziwe participated in the **Synchronised Whale Watching Day**, which will be hold again this year on the 4th of August. On this specific day different groups in Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique will keep their eyes on the Ocean and count whales. In 2011 whale watchers spotted around 50 whales in one day in Ras Dege (south of Dar es Salaam). Anybody interested in joining the whale day please inform Pegwa and a meeting will be held the day before to see which areas will be covered. Fishermen, Hotels and Private Houses are all welcome to join!

Year 6 Braeburn School on Maziwe Island

On the 12th and 13th of June 2012 the kids from Braeburn School Arusha (Year 6) went for their Snorkel Excursion to Maziwe Island Marine Reserve. Part of the program was an introduction to the turtle conservation project in Ushongo and the kids volunteered to check the island for turtle tracks and nests. They got very lucky on



both days and relocated a total of four nests from Maziwe to Ushongo Beach. All nests are due to hatch around the 6th and 7th of august and everyone is waiting eagerly to see how many baby turtles will make it to the sea.

Friends of Maziwe would like to thank Year 6 from Braeburn for supporting the turtle project and sponsoring the turtle nests.

You have saved them!



The 'Other' Friends of Maziwe

Basically nudibranches are snails with the difference that they have given up the protection of a hard shell in their adult stage and instead use a wide array of defences to protect their soft bodies in an Ocean full of predators. Many can swim if the need arises, poorly, but enough to get around looking for a mate or to escape from a predator. Mostly they are protecting themselves through camouflage or chemical warfare. Bright colours are often a signal for being noxious or even toxic. They feed on other invertebrates such as sponges, soft corals and anemones. One animal can act as male and female but are unable to self-fertilize, so they need to find a mature animal to mate. Most nudibranches lay their spawn ribbons in a spiral shape and the eggs vary in size, shape and colour (see small picture).

Source: Nudibranches of the World, by Helmut Debelius. IKAN. 2007.

