

# FRIENDS OF MAZIWE

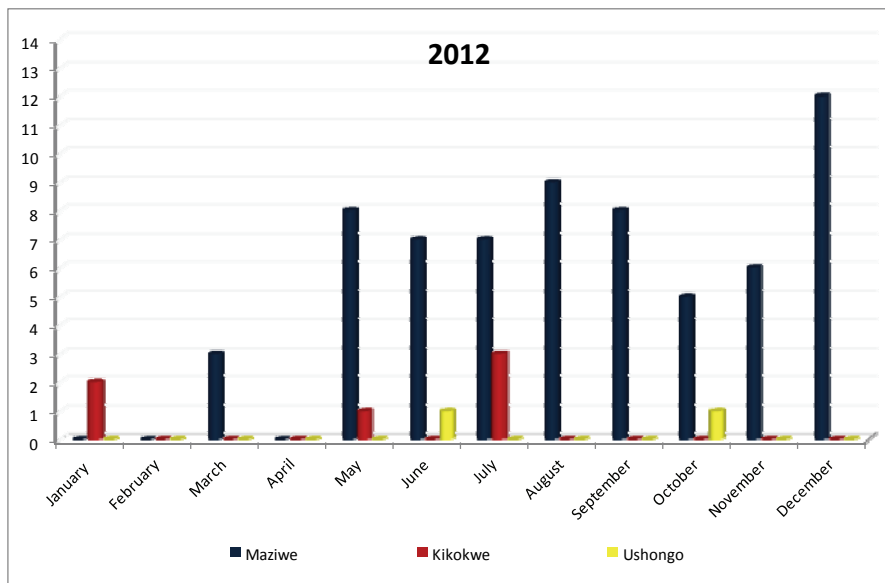
## NEWSLETTER

7th Edition

January - March 2013

Welcome to the seventh 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.

### Turtle conservation in Ushongo 2012



Maziwe remains an important nesting site for green turtles and in 2012 a total of 65 nests were laid, which is the highest amount of nests since the beginning of the project. The year started very slow with only two nests between January to April but from May onwards the turtles were keeping Mohamed, Rajabu, Mungia and Hatibu in action.

Further nests were relocated from Kikokwe (6), Pembe Abwe (1) and one natural nest was laid close to The Tides Lodge. The turtle conservation team recorded therefore a total of 73 nests with 9234 eggs. Since August no further nests were relocated from Kikokwe. The village wished to relocate the nests to an suitable beach

closer by and take care of them during incubation and hatching. This positive development is important for a long term approach for turtle conservation and all nests are remaining now in Kikokwe.

The hatching success rate has increased from 62% in 2011 to 77% in 2012. Mainly because less turtle nests got inundated by high tide water on Maziwe and both hatching sites got a shaded area for the hot season during November to March. Only four nests had a success rate of 0 - 10 % due to heat and inundation.

Incubation temperature is playing an important role in turtle conservation efforts, as it has a direct influence on the mortality rate of the embryo in the eggs. Monitoring nest temperatures over the past years has shown that especially during the dry and hot season the temperature increases to over 35 degrees C. with a mortality rate of over 95%. A change in climate in Tanzania will affect the reproduction of Green turtles in different ways. A raise in temperature increases the sand temperature and nests will reach more often the upper limit of nest incubation (34 degrees C.). Temperature also determines the sex of the egg during incubation and higher temperatures bias the sex ratio towards female turtles.





## News Center

- Total number of baby turtles released since the beginning of the project: 17.078
- Boat anchors damage more corals around Maziwe Island Marine Reserve

### Mortality of Sea Turtles

Last year 32 dead turtles were recorded along the Beach in Pembe Abwe and Ushongo, that means 10 turtles more than in 2011. Gill and mash nets remain the biggest threat to Tanzania's turtle population and while there are not enough protected areas where turtles can feed and forage many more will end up drowning in the nets. Sufficient protection of Coastal sea grass habitats may help to reduce the mortality on grazing green turtles. Last year more turtles were seen in the shallow waters around

Ushongo Reef and therefore it is necessary to find ways not only protecting the nests and hatchlings but also the juveniles and adult turtles.



### Fishing on Maziwe Island

Fishing and other illegal activities reached their peak in 2012. Nearly every day fishing boats were recorded around the island of the Marine Reserve. Ring net fishing, octopus fishing, turtle poaching and even dynamite fishing took place, damaging new areas and leaving nothing behind then dead corals. Especially the reefs on the western site of the island show a tremendous increase off freshly broken corals. Even more frustration is the fact that fishermen totally lost all respect towards the protected area. Preparing their nets for the daily catch on the island, right next to guests who came to Maziwe for great snorkelling and an enjoyable day. It has been a frustrating year as many attempts to change and stop all these activities had no results. Meetings with Stakeholders and Marine Parks will be organised this year again, trying to get the situation under control.

We depend on Maziwe and Maziwe on us!

### Thank you to all Friends of Maziwe supporters!

Friends of Maziwe would like to thank all their supporters for their help, advise and assistance to sustain the conservation efforts on Maziwe Island and in Ushongo. You all ensured that turtle officers conducted over 100 patrols to Maziwe, 65 nests got relocated and 7.151 baby turtles found their way safely into the water.

And the work is not done yet. We are heading into a new year 2013 with lots of energy and new ideas. The turtle team will continue to rescue turtle nests from Maziwe, more school kids will visit Maziwe Island and explore the amazing underwater world and we will continue conducting Beach Clean Ups. A proper patrol system for Maziwe is in planning, hopefully the Educational Mangrove Forest Walk for guests will be open by mid 2013 and the turtle conservation area in Ushongo will be rebuilt with an additional information board for our guests. The highlight in 2013 will be a trip to Saadani National for our 5th class Primary School to discover African's natural wonders.



### Pembe Abwe Fishing Competition

On the 21st of October 2012 Pembe Abwe residents held their annual fishing competition. Starting time was at 5 am and all fishers had to return to Richard's house in Pembe Abwe by 5 pm ending a great day with a BBQ and the Winner selection.

1. Most fish caught: **Bella & Jan on Sijui**
2. Biggest fish caught: **David and Cruise Control crew**
3. Hottest Boat/Crew and ECO prize: **The Black Pearl lead by Captain Ekko**

All participants raised 400.000 Tsh and donated it towards the turtle conservation project.

Na shukuru sana!