

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene. In the foreground, a sandy beach meets the ocean at low tide. Several traditional wooden sailboats (dhows) with large white sails are moored in the shallow water. Some people are standing near the boats or walking along the shore. The ocean extends to a distant horizon under a clear blue sky.

2018

ANNUAL REPORT

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SEA SENSE MISSION

To ensure the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in Tanzania for the preservation of marine biodiversity and the health and prosperity of coastal communities.



HOW DOES SEA SENSE ACHIEVE ITS MISSION?



1	Marine wildlife research and monitoring to generate data for science based conservation, management and decision making.
2	Education and outreach programmes to improve access to information and create networks of environmental champions.
3	Community capacity building on marine and coastal resource conservation and management to support sustainable fisheries based livelihoods.
4	Advocacy work to strengthen local governance systems and advance the role of women in marine resource conservation and management.



ALIGNMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS



Sea Sense work programmes are strongly aligned with international agreements including the UN **Convention on Biological Diversity** (CBD), the **Convention on Migratory Species** (CMS) and the UN **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

The FAO **Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries** (SSF Guidelines) is the first internationally agreed instrument dedicated entirely to the small-scale fisheries sector and seeks to address a wide range of issues relating to small-scale fisheries including poverty eradication, food security, resource management, governance, value chains, climate change, and gender equality.

Tanzania is among the first countries in Africa to develop a road map for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Sea Sense works closely with the SSF Guidelines National Task Team and uses the SSF Guidelines as a framework for the implementation of strategies to strengthen fisheries management, improve gender equality, and deliver education to coastal communities on biodiversity conservation, climate change and fisheries.



OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

In 2001, Sea Sense established a community 'Conservation Officer' network in Mafia Island to act as a link between Sea Sense and the wider community. Conservation Officers are democratically elected by their communities to work alongside Sea Sense and promote community stewardship of marine resources. The network was expanded in 2004, 2008 and again in 2017. It now has 38 active members in four of the five coastal regions in Tanzania.

Conservation Officers receive regular training from Sea Sense and are the lead implementers of marine wildlife research, education and conservation initiatives. Their conservation knowledge and expertise is well respected by their fellow citizens and they are viewed as 'ambassadors for conservation' in their community. Many have been elected on to village councils or into other local leadership positions.

Once per year, Conservation Officers come together for a three day meeting to share ideas and experiences, discuss solutions to common challenges and identify emerging issues. In 2018 we were very happy to welcome five new Conservation Officers from Tanga Region who have recently joined the network and are doing great work in their communities.

Conservation Officers from Kigamboni and Pangani Districts identified coastal development and the associated increase in beach lighting as an emerging threat to nesting sea turtles in their areas.



RESEARCH & MONITORING



412 green turtle nests and one hawksbill nest recorded and monitored by Sea Sense Conservation Officers.



34,711 sea turtle hatchlings safely reached the sea.



2 nesting green turtle population assessments conducted at Tanzania's two largest rookeries.



USD 7,485 raised through sea turtle ecotourism.



108 sea turtle strandings recorded by Sea Sense Conservation Officers.



1 dugong aerial survey conducted in Rufiji Delta-Mafia Channel.



0 live or dead dugong sightings.



1 whale shark mortality recorded by Sea Sense Conservation Officers.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



7,000 people across 10 villages participated in the Sea Sense marine wildlife road-show.



3,600 people watched community theatre performances and joined in community debates.



1,020 school pupils participated in school education programmes.



330 community members contributed to Focus Group Discussions on marine resource conservation.



4 communities celebrated World Environment Day, World Sea Turtle Day, World Fisheries Day and World Clean-up Day.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

The Government of Tanzania has adopted a participatory co-management approach to natural resource management which recognizes and promotes communities as vital partners in resource planning, management and development.

Sea Sense works closely with community bodies known as Beach Management Units and Village Liaison Committees to strengthen their capacity to implement the roles and responsibilities that have been devolved to them through the Fisheries Act 2003 and the Marine Parks and Reserves Act 2004.

Sea Sense capacity development programmes focus on building an understanding of how marine ecosystems function as a means to improve understanding of why resource management is important. The programmes also aim to improve understanding of the links between resource conservation and sustainable livelihoods and the importance of good governance of natural resources.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR BEACH MANAGEMENT UNITS



95 Beach Management Unit leaders in Kilwa District participated in capacity building sessions on marine ecosystems, fisheries management tools and fisheries governance.



16 Beach Management Unit leaders in Kigamboni District participated in a two day training session on fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).



3 Beach Management Units in Kigamboni District received financial support for patrolling and enforcement activities.



22 Beach Management Unit leaders in Kigamboni District participated in a capacity building session on sea turtle conservation.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR VILLAGE LIAISON COMMITTEES

- **16** Village Liaison Committees in Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park participated in capacity building sessions on marine biodiversity conservation and management.
- **8** Village Liaison Committees in Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park formulated Local Biodiversity Action Plans for their village.
- **94** Village Liaison Committee representatives from Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park participated in a joint meeting to share experiences, challenges and solutions for improved marine biodiversity conservation.



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP



Community stakeholder groups such as Beach Management Units (BMUs) and Village Liaison Committees (VLCs) have a major role to play in local governance of marine and coastal resources. In order to become effective in the areas of fisheries management and biodiversity conservation, they must not only build their technical capacity but also improve their overall legitimacy as representative and accountable bodies.

In 2018, Sea Sense trained 286 BMU and VLC members on the concepts of good governance and strong leadership and facilitated discussions on the common obstacles to good governance. The same training was delivered to eight village councils at the same locations in order to build a common understanding of what it means to be a local leader and serve the interests of their communities.



A REVIEW OF 2018

2018 was a good season for **nesting green turtles** with Conservation Officers recording 412 nests, 11 of which were laid on a newly discovered nesting beach in Mkinga District. Nesting green turtle populations continue on an **upward trend**, largely due to the extraordinary commitment and dedication of Sea Sense Conservation Officers. There was one incidence of nest **poaching** (in Mafia Island) which is always very disappointing for the Conservation Officer team but **predation** by wild animals poses a bigger threat to incubating eggs . In 2018, 23 nests were predated by monitor lizards, honey badgers, domestic dogs and red ants. Sadly, **dugongs** appear to be on the brink of extinction in Tanzania. There have been no live sightings reported by the Dugong Monitoring Network since 2015. Aerial surveys conducted in 2018 did not yield any sightings of animals or feeding trails. In 2018, Sea Sense, in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries organized the first **dugong national stakeholder meeting** which brought more than 40 stakeholders together to share information and identify strategies to reverse the decline in dugong populations.

In 2018, Sea Sense projects succeeded in reaching a wide variety of **marine and coastal stakeholders** and helped to improve understanding of the linkages between biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries, coastal livelihoods and food security. Sea Sense observed increasing levels of **citizen engagement** in marine resource conservation which has had a positive impact on marine wildlife and their habitats. Marginalized groups including **women and youth** were active participants in all education and outreach initiatives.

As a direct result of Sea Sense **capacity building** programmes, Beach Management Units and Village Liaison Committees have been able to implement their roles and responsibilities more effectively and elicit support from their communities for marine wildlife conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. **Blast fishing** has been eliminated due to strengthened **enforcement efforts at a national level** as well as improved **collaboration between stakeholders** and a greater commitment to **good governance** at a local level.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Sea Sense uses a combination of evaluation methodologies to assess the impact of projects on target beneficiaries. The methodologies use a qualitative approach and include Focus Group Discussions, semi-structured interviews and collection of personal testimonies to measure changes in attitudes, behaviours, relationships and power dynamics.



One of the key messages that Sea Sense uses to drive changes in attitude and behaviour is the concept of personal accountability whereby communities understand that they have a right to participate in marine resource conservation and management but they also have responsibilities as resource users.

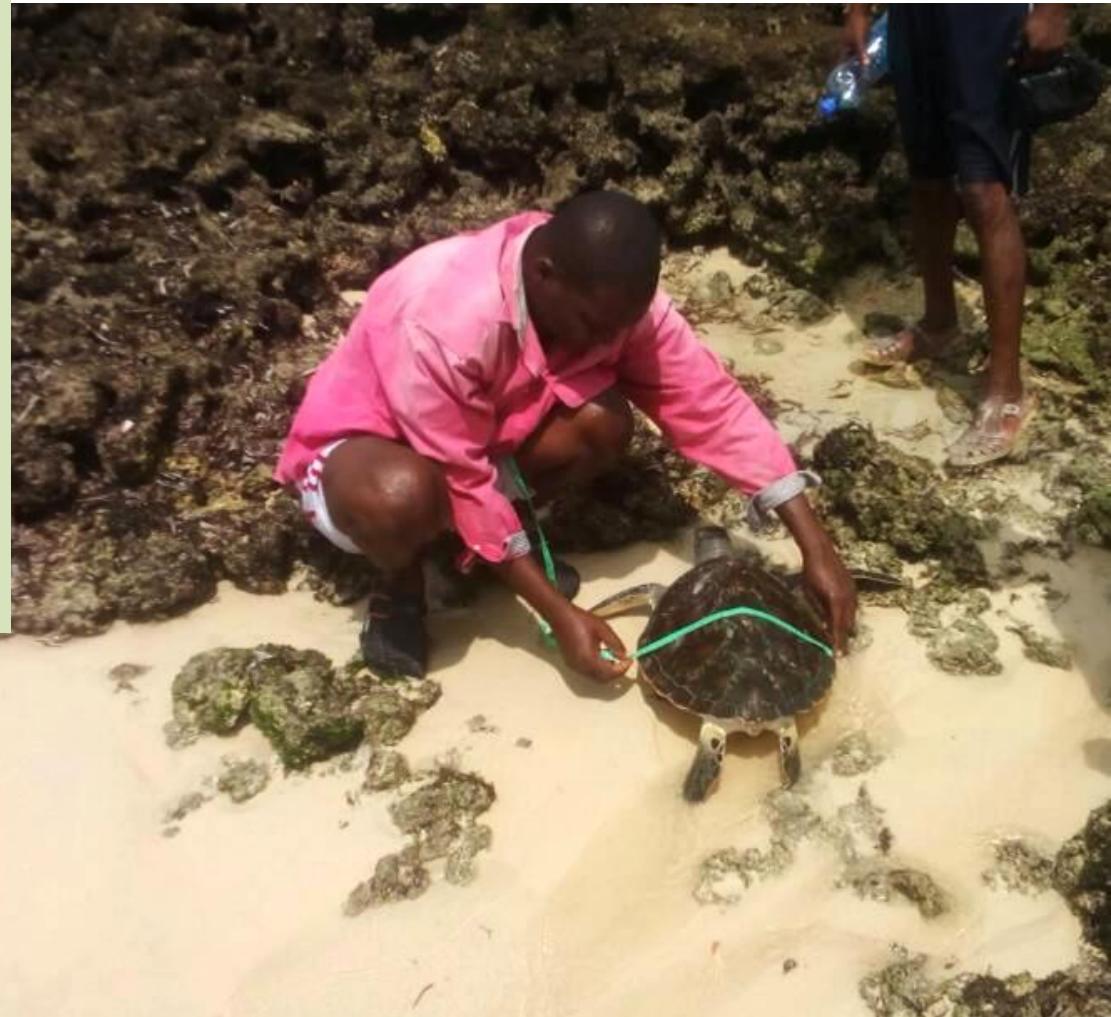


"Being able to monitor 11 nests and witness 1,520 sea turtle hatchlings successfully reach the ocean shocked me, our village leaders, the community and the District Authorities. In the past it wasn't easy to observe sea turtle hatchlings reaching the ocean safely because poaching was so widespread. Local fishers now give me full support by notifying me of sea turtle mortalities as well as new nests so that I can quickly relocate them to a safe place. We appreciate the impact that this project has brought. It is my privilege to be a Sea Sense Conservation Officer and I feel lucky to be involved in this conservation mission."

Juma Khatibu, Conservation Officer, Boma Subutuni Village, Mkinga District.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION OFFICER NETWORK

FROM THE FIELD



FROM THE FIELD



"I thank Sea Sense for bringing together fisheries stakeholders. This is a great opportunity for us to meet together and enjoy our day while we are discussing our challenges and finding the solutions to our challenges. I have been very impressed with this event as I have heard many messages promoting legal fisheries. If the fishermen are going to focus on legal fisheries then the income of every individual fisherman will increase".

Mwantumu Mohamed, Fish processor, Mafia Island.

**WORLD
FISHERIES DAY
2018
MAFIA ISLAND**



FROM THE FIELD



"I'm happy to see a dugong and the two types of sea turtle which nest in our country. These lessons are so useful to me and my fellow students. I advise my fellow students to protect our marine and terrestrial environment and reduce the regular spread of plastic pollutants as we have all learned that they had a negative impact on marine biodiversity".

Shineni Shuali, student at Mlongo Primary School.



MARINE WILDLIFE ROADSHOW MAFIA ISLAND



"Sea Sense has enabled us to bring Beach Management Units and village council leaders together in group discussions and workshops which have helped them to clear their differences and work together as a team to conserve and protect marine resources".

Ahmad Habib, Kilwa District Fisheries Officer.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FISHERIES STAKEHOLDERS IN KILWA DISTRICT

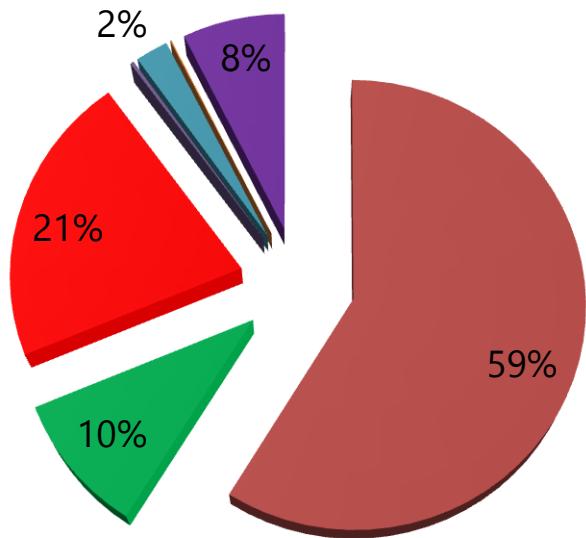
FROM THE FIELD



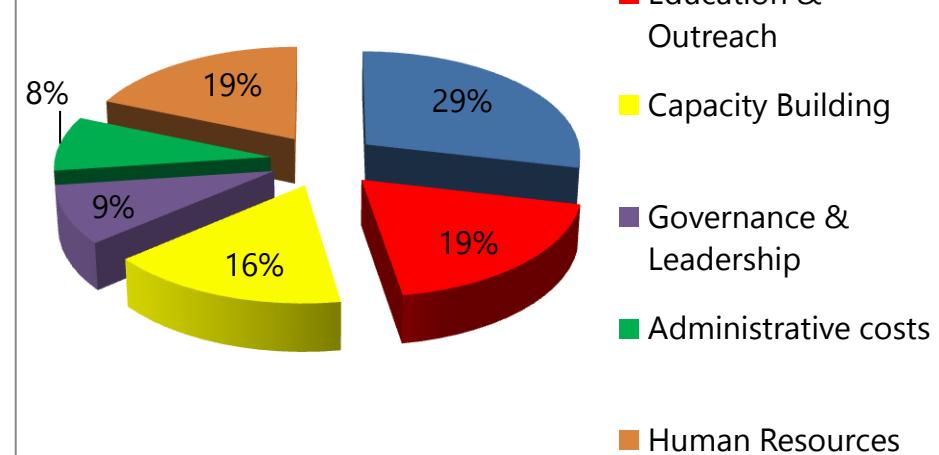
SEA SENSE FINANCES

In 2018, Sea Sense received funds from seven main sources: international development partners; charities and foundations; corporate sponsors; research partners; private donations; sea turtle ecotourism; and through the sale of Sea Sense merchandise. Income for the year was USD 327,184 which is an increase of approximately USD 105,000 on 2017. The increase was due to the renewal of support from the UKAID funded AcT Programme and new funds from USAID. Expenditure was USD 313,258.

Income 2018



Expenditure 2018



Sincere thanks to all of our donors and supporters whose financial support enabled Sea Sense to achieve so much in 2018. Our sincere thanks also go to our Conservation Officers who work tirelessly to conserve marine wildlife in Tanzania. Thanks also to Village Chairpersons, Council Members, Beach Management Units, Village Liaison Committees, District Authorities and the Government of Tanzania for helping to protect marine wildlife and critical coastal habitats in Tanzania.



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