



CHUMBE ISLAND CORAL PARK NEWSLETTER

JULY 2005



Welcome to the New Season from the Chumbe team!!!

Since January, Chumbe Island has won two more prestigious international awards, the staff have been perfecting their English language skills and the education team has hosted numerous school trips and been working closely with local government. The conservation team has been monitoring the reef closely and receiving researchers. The project also hosted a British Executive Service Overseas (BESO) volunteer and his wife during the six weeks that the project closed in April. The island opened in June for the new season and the team in the office and on the island have been very busy since. I would like to say a big thank you to all staff and Chumbe Island supporters.

Awards!

All the hard work by the staff of Chumbe Island has produced wonderful results in the following awards - **Best Website for Sustainable Tourism Products 2005**. The Project Director, Sibylle Riedmiller, received the award at the Hanover Reisepavillon Travel Fair in February in Germany. You can see a photo of our web-master Jan Fichtmueller with the award when he visited Chumbe earlier this year (<http://www.chumbeisland.com/links/links.html>). A huge congratulations from the Chumbe team to Jan on his recent marriage to Andrea.

To Do! 2004 Award for socially responsible tourism. The announcement was made at the International Tourism Exchange 2005 in Berlin, Germany on March 13th, where Mr. Sadik Magwiza, our lodge manager, was presented with the award from the organisers on behalf of the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. The organizer of the contest was the Studienkreis für Tourismus und Entwicklung V., Ammerland/ Germany (Institute for Tourism and Development). For more details on this prestigious award and photos of Sadik go to:

<http://www.studienkreis.org/engl/wettbewerbe/todo/preistraeger.html>

Soon all the possible awards will have been won - if you know of any possible awards that we could apply for please email us with any information.

Staff

Sadik, as previously mentioned, went to Berlin in Germany to pick up the To Do! 2004 award - he was very well looked after by his hosts and toured the numerous historic sites of Berlin.

We have a new marine biologist, Mikala Peters, working with the project. Mikala is Dutch, brought up in Indonesia and has studied at the prestigious James Cook University in Australia. Welcome to the team Mikala, and you can see her on the top left hand corner of the staff photo.

John King the Chumbe chef has nearly finished his cookbook and it should be on the boutique shelves in the very near future!

The Chumbe team were delighted when the Honourable Minister of Trade, Marketing, Industry and Tourism, Zanzibar, visited and gave his full support to the project in February.

The staff have all been studying English like mad with our volunteer teacher Karen, see her contribution below. Phil Hurt, an English teacher from the UK, will be coming to continue the good work with the staff later this month.

Conservation and Education Programmes

Conservation

A marine biologist from Australia, Mikala Peters, has joined the Chumbe Team since May, and is working together with the rangers to develop the monitoring system further. Monitoring the health of the Chumbe reef continues to be a task of high priority. The rangers have spent many hours in the water surveying the coral health, as well as the populations of Crown-of-thorns sea star and sea urchins. Many areas around the world are experiencing different levels of coral bleaching and/or outbreaks, and all research data collected on coral health and the population dynamics of Crown-of-thorns sea star and sea urchins add to the understanding of why bleaching / outbreaks occur and which management plan is best. The rangers are currently implementing a Crown of Thorns removal programme.

In April, Chumbe had the pleasure of welcoming two young researchers from the School of International Training, Roger Putnam and Hillary Smith, who focused their projects on Crown-of-thorns sea star and coral bleaching, respectively. Hillary concluded from her results that coral bleaching levels are within the normal level, which is great news! Roger monitored the movements of the sea star and concluded that they can move relatively fast on the reef, and can possibly move between reefs! A big thanks for all their hard work, they did a great job!

Education

The Education Programme was in full swing the past six months. In total, approximately 250 students from 7 different schools visited Chumbe island. All the rangers did a great job guiding the students, and opening their eyes to the wonderful marine life! Molly O' Bryan, introduced in our last newsletter, did a fabulous job organising the education trips. Molly has now moved to Kenya to work with refugees.

Vivian Klein, a teacher in the USA, visited the island last year and she was so inspired that she started a project in her school to encourage students to support the Zanzibari students that visit Chumbe Island. After fund-raising by making sandwiches etc.....the students sent funds for new snorkelling equipment for the education programme. Here are some of the supporting words from her students:

"What you are doing is great! Take care of coral reef. Keep it up!" Andrea Martinez

"It made me feel good to know that I was helping children in your country by raising money for you to take care of the coral reefs and enjoy your snorkels. I hope that you and your family stay healthy for years to come!" Marissa Langevin

" I hope we helped out. I hope you have fun. I am happy that I helped out." Sophie Rose Staryos



The Eliot Montessori School, Massachusetts, USA

The Education Programme was also presented with a solar radio courtesy of Freeplay as part of the Mambo Elimu Education project (<http://www.tenzero.net/~freeplay/displayarticles.php?id=82>)

The focus of this year's Education Programme is to provide inspiration and ideas to teachers to incorporate outdoor activities in their teachings on Environmental Education. Several groups of teachers, and teachers in training, visited Chumbe to share their ideas on this topic. In the meantime, the Ministry of Education, together with CHICOP, is continuing its work on the development of the Environmental Education booklets, to be printed later this year.

Environment Clubs have become the flavour of the year, with 22 new Environment Clubs established at schools in Zanzibar! The Coral and Environment Club at Chukwani school is very active in spreading the

word and with CHICOP's help they have now established a partnership with Robinson O'Neal Primary School in the British Virgin Islands, with whom they exchange information on life, culture and environmental issues on the respective islands. Check out these websites!

<http://www.robinsononeil.com>

http://www.robinsononeil.com/our_partner_in_zanzibar.htm

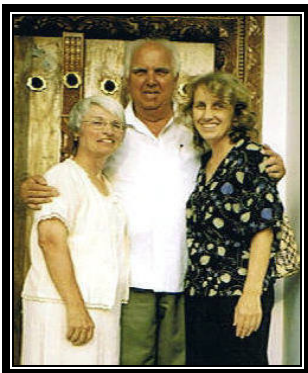
In April a series of workshops for young fishers on Sustainable Fishery and Environmental Conservation was held in Zanzibar, in association with UNESCO and a local NGO, Zayedesa. Sixty young fishers, both men and women, from nearby villages, were invited to discuss issues such as coastal environmental conservation, fisheries laws, AIDS, and fish preservation, they spent one full day on Chumbe Island. The workshops and evaluation supported the fishers in distinguishing between sustainable fishing and unsustainable fishing, understanding the importance of corals and conserving the marine environment.

Volunteering on Chumbe Island: Karen and Ken Wyatt (BESO)

Ken Wyatt, technical expert in waste water systems came to work with Ali Bashir and the maintenance team on the Chumbe Island grey water system. We are always looking to improve our eco-technological systems and we are in the process of implementing this new system. His wife Karen decided to come along for the experience and had the most wonderful time.....

Karen Wyatt:

"My husband was going to Chumbe Island on a four-week volunteer placement with British Executive Services Overseas (BESO) and although I was very much looking forward to accompanying him, I wondered how I would keep myself amused for four weeks on a 'desert island'. I offered to help out in any way and it was decided that I should conduct informal conversational English classes for the staff. What followed was one of the most enjoyable experiences I have ever had.



On Saturday, 9th April, we crossed by small boat from Zanzibar to Chumbe—an experience in itself! The first two days on the Island were spent 'acclimatizing' and meeting everyone. On Monday, Niva Mahushi, our waiter for that week, broke the 'English lesson ice' by asking me to explain a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. Thereafter, informal English lessons were in full swing and rather than just conversational English, they wanted--and I might say, 'craved'-- introductory and remedial instruction as well. A senior intermediate grammar textbook materialised (thanks to Juma Mussa and Jaku Abdalla) for use by the intermediate and advanced students and I delved back to my own early school days to design instruction for the beginners.

Karen and Ken Wyatt with Helen

Rotating work schedules and the wide range of English ability (from a few words and phrases up to O level standard) made arranging group classes difficult and one-to-one sessions worked best. Waiters, boat and forest rangers, cooks, housekeepers and maintenance staff met with me whenever they could. On many occasions, the teacher-student roles reversed as they coached me in Swahili and we had many a giggle at my pronunciations. I must commend all of them for their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Their positive attitudes and good humour, even after a long day of work, made the activity a real treat and a great deal of fun.

Tourists have talked and written about the delights of Chumbe—delicious food, fantastic sunsets, fabulous snorkelling, unique eco-bungalows—all true. But for me, the time spent with these wonderful

people each day by far surpassed all the other highlights of my Chumbe-Zanzibar experience and I thank them for it. Asante sana!"

Karen Wyatt, England

A big thank you to the Eliot Montessori School, USA, and Ken & Karen for their contributions! Finally, our heartfelt thanks to our key supporters who make this project possible... our guests, and here is a quote from one of our younger guests, Julia Shaw, aged 11 from Aboyne, Scotland:

"Lovely place, felt at home here. Coral and sea animals fantastic and well cared for. Food was fantastic, suited whole family. Accommodation amazing! Staff very knowledgeable and friendly. Nicest place we've ever stayed! Don't want to leave! (ps. Wouldn't want to meet one of those coconut crabs on a dark night!)"

Karibu Chumbe to all our new and previous guests, staff, volunteers, students and researchers. Chumbe Island is a very special place.....

Helen Peeks

Project Manager