

Chumbe Newsletter, June 2007

We would like to send you our best wishes from our island paradise! Almost six months have passed already since our last newsletter and it time for an update.

I would like to welcome you to enter the diverse world of the Chumbe Island project. In this newsletter we will tell you about our island staff who have been travelling and sharing their knowledge with others. Island education ranger Khamis visited Lamu in Kenya and Head ranger Omari was invited to Jambiani on the East Coast of Zanzibar to survey the area and advise on the creation of a marine park.

In March we had the official launch of the Chumbe Challenge Environmental award which you can read about and we had a new energy saving stove installed in our staff kitchen. New Buoys were generously donated by an American NGO 'Seacology' and we were lucky to have a visit from board members and supporters of Seacology in February. Soil researchers Bodil and Malin came to Chumbe Island to make a 'phosphorus budget' and we are looking forward to their results.



We have two new staff since January. Miss Prisca David Laizer has joined the Chumbe team as our new reservations officer and since April Mr Juma Salum Said has become our newest guiding ranger. He is replacing Wadi who left due to health problems. Mansour Mshauri, our office environmental education co-ordinator also had to leave unexpectedly.



Thank you for all your support to our project and Karibu tena,
Best wishes

Helen

Project Manager

Sauti za Busara

Sauti za Busara this year was filled with energy with variety of music artists from all round the continents. Through Busara promotions CHICOP facilitated a group of Zanzibar youth musicians, 'Akhenaton family', to prepare for the festival 2007. Chumbe Island's General Administrative Assistant, David Murphy, performed in the band during the festival.



“We would like to say thank you to CHICOP that gave us the ability to participate in this massive festival because it really takes a lot to get ready for this annual event – Akhenaton Family Director”

A new energy saving stove installed!

In October last year we had two special guests – Christa and Agnes, two “fire ladies” from Germany and friends of Chumbe since a number of years. They occasionally work in Tanzania, especially with women groups, to show how fuel consumption can be reduced, by using an efficient stove. We invited them to come to Chumbe to build a “rocket stove” for the staff kitchen, to minimise our fuel consumption and the impact on our environment.

They analyzed and measured which pots were used in the staff kitchen, how often the different pots were used and what type of meals were cooked in them. They also checked for the best place for the stove to be built, so that the kitchen would be well ventilated. Our two cooks had complained, that the old stove was too high, so they discussed the most comfortable height, which turned out to be 35-40cm from the ground. This would allow for stirring the ugali and cook other dishes comfortably. In the end a stove with two separate fire chambers was built that would serve pots up to 38 cm width. One-pot-per-fire designs save more firewood as each firebox and pothole is only fired when needed.

To construct the stove, fire bricks left over from the old metal stove were used. Agnes and Christa brought two ceramic top plates that were fitted to the firebox. As mortar they used a mixture of sand, cement and ash, as ash makes a smooth mixture and is vary heat resistant unlike plain cement.

Christa and Agnes did not manage to complete the construction before leaving, but our skilled maintenance team managed to finish it so that our staff cooks Frida and Sophia could start using the stove early this year. Using the new stove doesn't only mean saving energy – to work with the stove also takes some extra work. For example the firewood used in the new stove has to be cut into smaller pieces, which increases the air-fuel mix in the fire and leads to a better combustion.



A good combustion means less smoke and heat inside the kitchen and a cleaner outdoor environment, because of lower harmful emissions. With the new stove we have reduced our fuel consumption by 50-70%, depending on the quality and dryness of the wood.

We want to thank Christa and Agnes for their superb design and hard work! For those who want to come and see the new stove – you just have to make it down to the staff kitchen and visit Frida, Sophia and Tatu. Karibuni!

Omari to Jambiani:

In the beginning of January 2007, Chumbe's head ranger Mr. Omari Nyange went to visit an NGO on the East coast of Zanzibar called JAMABECO. The leaders of the NGO had approached Chumbe to ask for assistance with environmental education for the local community in Jambiani. One of their long term goals is to create a marine park in one of the lagoons inside the barrier reef in Jambiani.



Omari assisted them to by making a basic survey of the area and concluded that some parts of the bay would definitely benefit from protection from fishing and change of destructive habits such as walking on the reef at low tide. Chumbe further assisted JAMABECO to write a project proposal for their continued work. We wish them all the best in the future and hope to be able to assist again if needed.

Staff Awards 2006

Every year in January we hold our annual staff awards ceremony where we pat everyone on the back and outstanding individuals are awarded for their dedication to work and team spirit – amongst other criteria. Judging is made by the project managers and it is an event which everyone looks forward to. The four recipients were Makame (patrol ranger), Kulthum (accounts assistant), Shabani (Porter) and Juma Mussa (maintenance assistant manager). Ali Bashir (maintenance) won the Manager of 2006 – 2007 prestigious award.



Seacology visit to Chumbe

Seacology is an American non-profit NGO with the sole purpose of preserving the highly endangered biodiversity of islands throughout the world. Indigenous people are all too often faced with the dilemma of choosing between protecting their precious natural resources, and economic development. Seacology searches for win-win situations where both the local environment is protected and islanders receive some tangible benefit for doing so. The non-profit organisation has generously once again sponsored three new demarcation buoys for the Chumbe Island marine park.



In February 2007, two groups from Seacology came to Zanzibar to visit Chumbe as one of the projects that they have supported. Both groups stayed on the island for 4 days and got to experience the everyday Chumbe activities such as the guided forest walks, reef snorkelling trips and got some exercise climbing the 132 steps of the Chumbe light house. The project

manager, the conservation coordinator as well as the maintenance manager were all involved when presenting the long story about the new buoys to the Seacology team. Due to logistical problems and delivery delays the buoys have still not been placed in the water, but should be so in the near future.

Khamis Khalfan to Lamu Island, Kenya

The exchange programme with other protected areas in the region has been further developed during the past six months. Our island based education coordinator, Khamis Khalfan went for a 10 day visit to Lamu in Kenya. His visit was planned so that he was there as a big turtle nest was hatching. He describes his visit as follows:

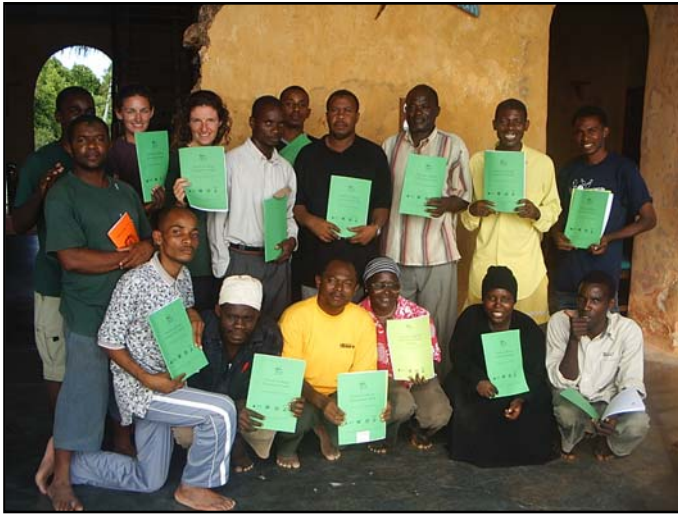
On 5th March 2007, I left for a study trip to Lamu Island in Kenya on behalf of the CHICOP Conservation and Education Programmes. The purpose of this trip was to learn about the turtle conservation project which is run by an organisation called LAMCOP.

After a long trip by bus through Tanzania and Kenya, I finally arrived to Lamu and was met by my host Mr. Atwaa Salim. He showed me around in the area, including towns like Shella, Lamu town and the LAMCOP facilities. The main activity of my entire trip was of course when we went to the coral reef island called Manda to see the turtle nest and the tiny hatchlings. It was very interesting to see how these endangered juvenile (only two days old) creatures were crawling from untouched beach into the sea with out their mother. Once in the water they disappear in the deep sea for almost 30-40 years and will not return to the same beach until it is time for them to lay their eggs. The visit to the turtle beach also included some lectures about turtles, a beach clean-up etc. I feel that I have learnt a lot more about sea turtles after my visit and I hope to be able to go back there one time.



Launch of the Chumbe Challenge Environmental Award

Kendra Collier volunteered with CHICOP for two years between March 2005 and April 2007 worked with the Education Programme. In the end of March she left Zanzibar to go back to the UK to teach. She writes the following about her work with CHICOP.



The Chumbe Environmental Education Programme (EEP) is very inspiring and I felt honoured to have been a part of it. Despite having returned to the UK I am hoping to continue my involvement with the project.

During my time at CHICOP I was fortunate to be able to attend an excellent EE training course at the Southern African Developing Countries Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC REEP), South Africa in September

*2006. As part of the course I developed some EE material specifically for CHICOP and the students of Zanzibar; **The Chumbe Challenge Environment Award Toolkit.***

This toolkit focuses on local environmental issues and aims to promote further environmental awareness and action among local students and their communities. It has primarily been developed to help those who have taken part in the Chumbe Island study excursion and who want to continue with their learning. The toolkit is designed to encourage observation and enquiry into environmental issues in the local context. It is hoped that this enquiry will lead to action towards a more sustainable future.

By responding to environmental issues and taking positive action students may be able to gain the 'Chumbe Challenge Environment Award'. The toolkit gives students and their teacher support and ideas on how to achieve this. It comprises of an Activity & Information Book and a Portfolio. The portfolio needs to be completed by all student environment groups who are working towards the Award. At the end of the year the portfolios will be judged by the CHICOP education team.

To obtain the Award students must take several steps. These are outlined below:

7 STEPS TO ACHIEVING THE CHUMBE CHALLENGE AWARD

- 1. Establish an Environment group.*
- 2. Carry out an Eco Audit.*
- 3. Develop an Environment Statement.*
- 4. Complete a Local Area Study.*
- 5. Choose at least one other focus area to investigate.*
- 6. Action.*
- 7. Review and complete a portfolio as evidence of action and learning.*

The award was launched on Saturday March 17th 2007 with a special training day for those pilots schools taking part. The training was very participatory and involved trying out many of the activities in the toolkit as well as practical guidance on completing the portfolios over the year.

I hope to return to Chumbe this summer to provide further support and see how the schools are progressing with their portfolios and environmental action! I have very special memories of Chumbe and all the team. I would like to give a huge thank you to all those involved past, present and future.

By Kendra Collier, May 2007

Two Swedish soil researchers on Chumbe

During February and March 2007 Chumbe had two master students from the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Bodil Lindstrom and Malin Pettersson. Bodil sampled data and collected information from the two kitchens and supply lists in order to make a “phosphorus budget” for the island while Malin took samples at the sediments in the mangrove pool to measure phosphorus levels. Together they studied the existing grey water system in the guest kitchen. The students write the following about their stay on the island.



We spent four shorter periods on Chumbe and had time to collect information and samples as well as snorkel on the amazing reef and walk in the dense forest with its specialized animals and plants. Since we lived in the managers' house during our visits we had “Coco-nut crab safaris” every night when walking back home.

When the heat became too much during the afternoons we often escaped to the upper floor of the Education Centre. The cool breeze under the enormous makuti roof helped us to think and work.

The simple, local staff lunch as well as the delicate guest dinners is something we really miss after coming back home again! Not to mention the view from the dining table, facing the ocean full of lighted fishing boats at night...

We spent as much time as we could with the lovely friendly staff who taught us not only some simple Swahili but also how to play keram. A big thanks to everybody in the island and at the office for making it possible for us to do this trip and the field study. We hope to come back and see you again sometimes in the future!

Newsletter compiled by Frida Lanshammar, conservation coordinator