



CHUMBE ISLAND CORAL PARK NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004



Greetings to you from all the Chumbe staff!!!

This letter has succumbed to Swahili time and is a tad late. This is due to an unexpectedly busy opening season and the decision to move office which was a massive undertaking and we are still in the throes of it. The team's hard work over the last year has really paid off and Chumbe received three accolades internationally and nationally in the last six months. The education project continues to thrive and has been featured on Zanzibar television and the conservation and research programmes have also been very active.

Global and local recognition:

The Chumbe Island project was very proud to receive its first local award in Zanzibar from the Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture. Chumbe Island was presented with a certificate of recognition as the 'best investment project for the protection and conservation of the marine natural environment and biodiversity for the year 2003/2004', in Zanzibar. The certificate was formally presented to Sadik Ali Magwiza, Island lodge manager, on World Environment day, June 5th by the Hon, Minister of Agriculture.

Chumbe Island was the recipient of another prestigious certificate as one of three finalists in the World Legacy Award, held in Washington DC, USA. In the category of Nature Travel, Chumbe Island was recognised internationally for its positive contribution to the conservation of natural areas and biodiversity through eco-tourism. The certificate was awarded to the project manager in Washington DC by Her Royal Highness Queen Noor of Jordan. The awards were sponsored by the National Geographic

Society magazine and Conservation International. By participating with 100 other organisations both Chumbe Island and Zanzibar were recognised as international leaders in conservation lead eco-tourism.



Staff:

* All the staff have been sterling during this busy season, the island was full for the whole of June, July and August. Sadick was busy making our guests' favourite cocktails and John King, our head chef, has been plied for his recipes. We hope that in the near future we will have a Chumbe cookbook for guests to take home with them.

* The rangers - Carol's team have been working hard looking after the guests, schoolchildren, researchers and local fisherman. Omari and the rangers have been very busy on the island and they have also been able to attend relevant workshops. Khamis Khalfan attended the World Wildlife Fund regional environmental education workshop and Omari Nyange attended the International Symposium on Duiker and Dwarf Antelopes in Africa.

In the last six months there has been a lot of movement within the ranger team. From the patrol rangers, Shabani Pande is now working with two new patrol rangers, Yussuf and Hamimuu. Yussuf was a fisherman from one of the local villages near Chumbe, Dimani and Hamimu started recently. They both enjoy the work and fit in well with the team.

The guiding rangers have also been in flux. Godfrey Mrona left at the end of his contract to pursue business interests in Dar es Salaam and Khatibu Said has decided to move on after four years. We currently have a new trainee guiding ranger, Khamis Ndorobo, who previously worked as a tour guide and took guests snorkelling to see the dolphins in Kizimkazi. Omari says that he is particularly skilled with the marine side of the job and is currently learning all about the Chumbe forest. We are expecting a new ranger, Jaku, to start in the near future.

* Marketing, bookings and reservations -We now have Ms Generose Mgulimi as our new front lady and she has walked in to one of the busiest seasons ever in Chumbe Island history. She is a very determined Tanzanian lady who has a thirst to promote and provide the best service possible.

* Last and by no means least Eleanor Carter is continuing with her studies at Cambridge University where she is studying Environment and Development and her key thesis will be onChumbe Island!!

Education Programme.

The education programme continues to thrive and since January there have been 22 visits by Zanzibari education institutions including Nkurumah Teacher Training College, the University College of Education, and various schools. Outreach work at local schools has continued with impressive results.

In January environmental education staff members participated in a World Wildlife Fund regional environmental education workshop and Chumbe was seen as a good example of environmental education in practice. Both Mafia Island and Misali Islands' environmental education teams visited Chumbe to observe and share ideas for further development of their environmental education programmes.

One school in particular, Chukwani School (located directly opposite Chumbe island), has developed an Environment and Coral Reef Club as part of their participation in the Chumbe Island Education Programme.



During April and May the island was closed for maintenance and so few activities were arranged, but the highlight of this period was the filming of Chukwani School students by local TV, Television Zanzibar (TVZ). TVZ made a short film on Chumbe Island for World Environment Day on June 6th, featuring students from the newly formed Coral and Environment club, talking about local environmental issues. The students also sang a song that they had composed themselves, about Chumbe Island and the importance of caring for the environment.

Conservation and Research Programme.

The Conservation programme has been very active and Carol Daniels presented an interesting paper which was an update of the Ader's Duiker population to the International Symposium on Duiker and Dwarf Antelope in Africa, February 17th - 19th. The conclusion of the presentation was that the Ader's Duikers seem to be in very good health and that there may be a new generation in place of the originally translocated individuals from 2000. Chumbe hosted delegates of the Symposium on the island so they could explore the forest trail and learn about the camera trapping methods and duiker vegetation.

Ranger training has continued, concentrating on imparting scientific skills which will lead to long term, regular monitoring surveys within the forest and marine sanctuaries. In August, three volunteers from Holland came and worked with the rangers on using ReefCheck methods. Their overall conclusion is that the Chumbe's fringing coral reef is full of superb corals and a wide variety of marine life. All their scientific information will be sent to the central ReefCheck office in the USA and will be added to international research on coral reefs.

Guest feedback:

We have had a lot of positive feedback from our many guests and the following e-mail from the **Miller family**, from the UK, written on July 2nd really sums things up:

'..... we want to say a big Thank You to the Chumbe team. You were so helpful and enthusiastic when we booked and we just LOVED all the staff on the island. They looked after us so well and the meals were DELICIOUS. They were professional, friendly and very helpful. The snorkeling was just great and likewise the interesting forest walk. We wished we could have stayed longer! Nothing could have prepared us for the beautifully built and attractive simply decorated bandas, which held everything one needed. As you know we are very keen on conservation and to see eco tourism in Africa in action and in situ., was an eye opener. If only you could replicate it in more places!! Congratulations to everyone involved.' The Miller family.

Final note:

A big thank you to all the people who have helped make the Chumbe Island project so successful and have helped the staff and local community support this project. The awards received by Chumbe Island reflect the hard work, ethics and dedication of all involved from the Project Director to the local school child and we will continue to work together to continue these achievements.

Best wishes,
Helen Peek
Project Manager