

## TANZANIA ANNEX X. DLIST SUMMARY REPORT – KILWA

Kilwa is one of the oldest towns in East Africa, with the earliest records of settlements dating back as far as the 9<sup>th</sup> century. It was a famous trading centre where Arab traders shipped ivory, slaves and other valuables from the African continent. Archaeological investigations were initiated in the 1950s and in 1981 the ruins of Kilwa (Kilwa Kisiwani) were declared a World Heritage Site. The modern part of Kilwa (Kilwa Masoko) is a small town in the Lindi region in Tanzania, around 240 km south of Dar es Salaam. Data from the 2002 National Census for Kilwa district indicates that there were approximately 171,850 inhabitants in the district. Administratively, it is divided into 6 divisions, 20 wards and 97 registered

### *At a glance – Kilwa Kisiwani*

Two field trips have been undertaken during the first half of 2010. The first was a brief introductory visit in January 2010 to get an overview of the area and the second trip, which was longer, was arranged in June 2010. During this visit, the ASCLME Focal Point, Ms Rose Sallema-Mtui from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) participated. The DLIST team also consisted of marine biologists, experts in indigenous knowledge, national TV journalists, and specialists in tourism and LED planning. Two community meetings were arranged to ensure that the community wanted to take part in the DLIST ASCLME project. So far a total of 75 individual interviews have been undertaken to give input to the LED plan for the area. One film festival has been shown in the school on the island and 130 community members attended this event. The team also met with the District Administration office in Kilwa Masoko to obtain valuable input from them, mainly related to the site selection process. Other organisations involved so far include the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Antiquities, projects such as MACEMP and NGOs like WWF. A third site visit is taking place already in August 2010 to meet with stakeholder groups and to conduct more individual interviews to give

villages. Among these, 31 are coastal villages. The most famous villages/areas are Kilwa Masoko, Kilwa Kisiwani and Kilwa Kivinje. The community in the modern Kilwa are generally poor and highly dependent on the coastal and marine resources for food and income. Fish is the main sources of protein in the district. Virtually all fisheries production is from the marine fisheries.

The Marine Fisheries Frame Survey carried out in 2007 observed a total of 18 landing sites (15 permanent and 3 temporary) in Kilwa District, which supports around 2,267 artisanal fishers (2,110 fishers using crafts and 157 foot fishers). Nowadays there is an increase of other sea products being harvested such as lobsters, seaweed and seas shells for export. Seaweed farming is however on the decrease since 2007 due to a problem of seaweed die-off. Tourism is not a big industry in this area as it is difficult and expensive to get from Dar es Salaam without chartering a private plane, but the main road

is being upgraded and this is expected to contribute to growing opportunities for alternative livelihoods in the area.

The area has extensive shallow water areas with several Islands, mostly sandy, that are all surrounded by coral, seagrass, seaweeds and mangroves on the coast. Most of the coral reefs are pristine and rich in biodiversity and fish catches are high compared to many other regions. The sandy islands are also important breeding sites for sea turtles. Large marine animals in the district include dugong, dolphin and turtles, which all have high conservation values. To secure the future of these species as well as the rich marine resources it is important to ensure that fishing continues in an environmentally sensitive manner. Kilwa is said to have the best fishing grounds in Tanzania (together with Mafia) and fishermen are now coming into the district, from as far away as Mtwara, because local fish stocks are high in comparison with the depleted stocks elsewhere. Two major institutions play part in the development of local coastal communities in Kilwa. These are WWF through Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape Programme (RUMAKI) and Marine and Coastal Environmental Management Project (MACEMP).

Important stakeholders in Kilwa Kisiwani are:

- i. The community on the island (including the fishers, the women, the elders, the students and other groups in the village);
- ii. The school and the Madras (religious school) on the island;
- iii. The Department of Antiquities;
- iv. The tourism industry in the area (there are hotels and guesthouses around Kilwa Masoko that organise visits to the island for the tourists to see the ruins);

- v. Local Government;
- vi. Programmes, projects and NGOs such as WWF and MACEMP.

## 7.2 Can the marine and coastal resources support the community?

The community in Kilwa Kisiwani - the DLIST demonstration site for mainland Tanzania has around 1200 inhabitants which are almost entirely dependent on fishing and small scale farming activities for their livelihoods. In the interviews conducted with members of the community it was clearly pointed out that the fish catches have decreased in the recent years. The fishers also complain that there are fishers from outside who come to the reefs and areas around Kilwa and compete for the same, ever declining resources. These outside fishers often use destructive fishing methods and even if the community in Kilwa Kisiwani have a very negative attitude towards existing marine conservation efforts, they would appreciate support to address this issue. The fishers are complaining that it is getting more and more difficult for them to support their families on the catch they bring home. In general the local farming is not very diverse and the population lack proper food security.

Around Kilwa Kisiwani, people have not observed many changes in the environment. The only really obvious change for them is the coastal erosion and the sea level rise. This is a problem for the people on Kilwa Kisiwani because the erosion is a major threat to one of their biggest assets – the famous ruins (see Figure 4). The people in the community don't know much about why this is happening to them and they have expressed an interest in more environmental education – both for the children in the school and as adult classes. The films shown during the DLIST film festival were much appreciated.



**Figure 12: Coastal erosion along the shoreline poses a**

As previously mentioned, the people on Kilwa Kisiwani have very little trust in the existing marine conservation efforts that exist in the area. Their common attitude seems to be that anything that has to do with marine conservation is just ideas made up by foreigners who want to come and “take the reefs and fishing grounds away from the community”. The resistance to the conservation efforts has been very strong and even on the border to violent when WWF and representatives of national government wanted to launch a Beach Management Unit for the area. To change these attitudes, a totally new approach is needed and the initiative must come from the community members themselves.

## 7.3 Alternative livelihoods options leading to poverty reduction

With the current situation on Kilwa Kisiwani the community does not have many options to adapt to changes in the environment. They have very few alternatives for income/food generating activities and have very limited buffers to sustain the families if the fish catch is poor or the crops fail. The people have however identified a number of opportunities that could contribute to the well-being of the community. The following is a list of identified opportunities;

1. Improved fishing through better boats and gear as well as training;
2. Improved farming through training in good agricultural methods and diversified crops (composting, use of fertilisers etc.);
3. Good potential for chicken and goat keeping;

4. Tourism (many possibilities were suggested such as guided tours in the ruins, dolphin trips, hippo viewing trips, bird watching walks as well as visits to the caves on the island);
5. Skills for handicrafts are common among the women and this could be developed;
6. A market area for the women to sell handicraft to the tourists.

The community on Kilwa Kisiwani sees tourism as the main alternative livelihood options, with the ruins and enormous heritage value as the main asset of the island. The main obstacle to this activity is the fact that Kilwa is not a major tourism destination, due to difficulties in accessing the place from major tourist hubs such as Zanzibar or Dar es Salaam.

#### **7.4 Weaknesses and opportunities for sustainable community development**

In a community meeting that was attended by almost 70 adults (28 women and 40 men and many children), several issues that constrain positive development in the village were listed. These include problems related to basic health care being one of the most important. The existing clinic is run down and lacks basic resources and staff. They also stated that the school has insufficient capacity for the number of children in the village. And for the older children it is difficult to get from the island to the secondary schools in Kilwa Masoko. Lack of reliable water supply, lack of electricity and problems with coastal erosion are other issues that were listed by the community as major challenges that the community is facing. A list of the challenges identified by the community is found below;

- a. No secondary school on the island and insufficient capacity of the existing primary school. Also lack of assistance for students to travel to the secondary schools on the mainland
- b. Insufficient health (clinic/dispensary) facilities;
- c. Lack of electricity;
- d. Lack of capital for small businesses;
- e. No good water supply (the wells are good, but the distance people have to walk to fetch water is long);
- f. Coastal erosion and sea level rise destroying .....?;
- g. No community meeting hall;
- h. No community government office;
- i. No market area;
- j. The jetty is not in a good condition – possibility of accidents (disaster waiting to happen);
- k. The ruins are not benefiting the community.

Opportunities for an improved situation on the island were identified as follows;

- a. Improve fishing (better gear and boats as well as training);
- b. Improved agriculture;
- c. Promote tourism development;
- d. Establish a market for handicraft.

,In terms of the community's vision on the future of Kilwa Kisiwani agreed- they envisaged a community with reliable source of running water and electricity; a primary school that is expanded and children to have easy access to a Secondary school, – either through arranged and well functioning transport to Kilwa Masoko or a secondary school on the island. Improvements to the hospital and doctors' accommodation were pointed out as something very important for the well-being of the people on the island. In addition to improved infrastructure and education facilities, a grocery shop and a market area with running water and electricity came up as something people would like to have on the island.



**Figure 13: Well preserved mosque ruins on Kilwa Kisiwani**

Considering that Kilwa Kisiwani lies at the heart of a most impressive World Heritage Site (see Figure 5), tourism, undoubtedly is a major possibility for alternative livelihoods to fishing. The approach to tourism and livelihoods however needs a more drastic decisions e.g. by giving to the community certain areas of control e.g. boat trips to the ruins for a more reliable income source. The DLIST team has now involved two tourism experts to do a preliminary investigation into tourism products, heritage tourism, routes, marketing and the willingness of the private sector to

engage in tourism development with entities on the island. These studies are in progress and the third field trip is scheduled for the first half of August 2011 when much more input into the MEDA for Tanzania is expected.

### **7.5 Bottom-up and top-down communication**

When asked about how communication is spread in the community, people noted that they often hear about news when they meet in the mosque. The teachers in the school and villagers who leave the island for some time were also reported as people who bring news from outside. In general there is no central and clear way for information dissemination to the community.

One of the interventions that have been mentioned in relation to improving the communication in Kilwa is the creation of a community information centre. This centre could be situated in or near the school, which is also where visitors from the outside are likely to arrive when they first come to the island. The centre should be equipped with a computer and internet as well as tourist information about the island, the history and the heritage. It could favourably be combined with other DLIST activities such as film festivals and training sessions and it could become a “DLIST node” for the southern coastal region of Tanzania.

