



# FRIENDS OF MAZIWE

## NEWSLETTER

2nd Edition

October - December 2011

Welcome to the second issue of the Friends of Maziwe newsletter. This newsletter will bring you news and updates on the various projects happening along the Ushongo coast and the island itself. Maziwe is a Marine Reserve which supports a vibrant coral reef ecosystem and is a nesting ground for the Green turtle. We hope that this newsletter will help raise awareness and generate support for the coming years.

### Synchronised whale watching day

It was the first year that Friends of Maziwe participated in the Synchronised whale watching day on the 17.09.2011 which was organised by Matt Richmond (Samaki Consultant; Dar es Salaam). Different whale watching groups along the coast in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique were keeping an eye on passing Humpback whales. Ushongo fishermen and the FOM team went out and tried to find some of the "Giants". Mohamed Mfaume was the only whale spotter, seeing an adult whale on his way back from Zanzibar to Ushongo on the Speedboat.



Matt Richmond's research concentrates on Humpback whale population, the migrating routes these huge mammals are travelling every year and their conservation. Humpback whales are staying in the tropics for mating and calving and then they swim back to the polar waters for feeding. Each year humpback whales are seen in Tanzanian waters between June and December, on their journey south back into cold and nutrient rich water.

### Primary School visiting Maziwe Island Marine Reserve

Friends of Maziwe invited the 7th class of the Primary School in Ushongo Village for an excursion to Maziwe Island Marine Reserve. On the 10th of September, 11 kids from Ushongo, their teacher and the FOM/Turtle team headed off to Maziwe to explore the under water world. The excitement was amazing as it was the first time for all of them. During the trip the kids and their teacher learnt about the history of Maziwe Marine Reserve, the turtle conservation project and got an introduction in the marine life surrounding Maziwe. The highlight of the day was the snorkelling itself. Even those not very comfortable swimming, took the chance to get a glimpse under the surface and snorkelled with assistance in the shallow waters, watching parrot fish, butterfly fish, Banner fish cruising around the beautiful coral reefs. It was an impressive and wonderful day for the kids, a good combination of learning and having fun at the same time.

Friends of Maziwe team is planning the next trips to Maziwe Island in October, this time 31 kids from the neighbouring Primary School in Kikokwe village are invited.





## News Center

- **First Humpback Whale this season spotted around Maziwe 28.07.2011**
- **The largest turtle nest to date, with 185 eggs, has been found and relocated from Kikokwe to the Ushongo nesting site!**
- **Turtle Poaching as well as increased fishing activities on Maziwe in August and September**
- **Kikokwe village is participating in the Friends of Maziwe / Ushongo Village Turtle Conservation**
- **Just over 9.000 baby turtles hatched in Ushongo since the beginning of the project**



### Many visitors at the Village site

The turtle conservation area in Ushongo village is attracting more and more people, coming to learn about Sea Turtles and the Conservation Project.

Perfect timing on the 31th of August, when the community was celebrating the end of Ramadan and a turtle nest was ready to hatch. The news about the coming turtles was passed on quickly and in the late afternoon more than 80 guests surrounded the nesting area, waiting eagerly for what would happen next. After an introduction in the project and the importance of turtle protection, the first baby turtles emerged out of the nest. An exciting moment for everyone, especially those seeing it the first time.

### Thank you for your support

Friends of Maziwe launched the turtle nest adoptions in the beginning of July and it has been very successful so far. The turtle nests were adopted by Nathalie Séchaud, Gregory Low, Michael Heeb, Marianne Séchaud, James Clegg, Yannick Lenferna, Florian Heeb, Jean - Francois Lenferna, Luke Clegg, Abi & Sean Gildenhuys, Antoinette Coltsmann, Helene & Wilson Fon Sing and Yann & Pearl Hardy. At the moment there are still three nests on the site for new parents. Thank you very much for the support in the turtle conservation program.

Friends of Maziwe would like to thank Daniel Simonson for his great work and support in the conservation program in July. He stayed at the beach and created the first edition of the Newsletter, translated educational materials for the information board to Kiswahili and joined the team on their daily patrols to the island. It was a pleasure to have him here, karibu tena!

### The 'Other' Friends of Maziwe

Flatworms, or Pseudobiceros, are magnificently colourful worms, easily missed by many divers, because of their small size. The body consists of a few cell layers with just a couple of sensory folds on their front margin. Flatworms are so thin that they can survive without gills, relying instead on diffusion of oxygen into their tissues directly from the sea water. The bright colour of many flatworms is in most cases a warning for other fishes and predators to leave them alone. Many flatworms, particularly the larger ones can swim, with flamboyant undulations of their body.

Source: Crustacea Guide of the World, by Helmut Debelius. IKAN. 2001.

