

Welcome to the eighth 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.

Ushongo Primary School visits Saadani National Park

A memorable day for 18 kids from the 5th class of the Ushongo Primary School. In February Friends of Maziwe & Gisa Ehlich organised a day trip to Saadani National Park to increase the awareness of the importance of protected areas in Tanzania. Next year all the kids will visit Maziwe Island Marine Reserve.

The program included an introduction of Saadani National Park, morning & an evening game drive, visit to the salt plantation, Wami river cruise, historical walk through Saadani village and a beach visit.

The game drives were fantastic! Elephants, a lion, giraffes, hippos, a crocodile, yellow baboon, a wildebeest and many more exciting animals crossed our path during the day.

Many thanks to Gisa for her kind support, to Saadani National Park for helping and organising our trip, to Abdala and his friend for driving us and to our two guides showing the kids all highlights in the Park! Asanteni Sana!





News Center

- More than 20.000 baby turtles released since the beginning of the project
- Plans for a new patrol system for Maziwe Marine Reserves are coming together

Sea turtles around Maziwe Island

Maziwe Island remains an important nesting beach for green turtles. In the first quarter of 2013 a total of 13 nests were laid on the sand Island and over 1.100 baby turtles hatched including a healthy and strong albino turtle. Albinism is caused by a lack of melanin pigment and in the wild the survival chance of an albino is very low. Their distinct colouring makes them a target for predators.

Maziwe's healthy coral gardens are also an important feeding ground for hawksbill turtles. Their diet consists of sponges and soft corals.



Ghost net on Maziwe Island

During a dive in the northern part of Maziwe a big fishing net was found, covering the coral reef. The net was left by fishermen after Marine Park Unit conducted a patrol to Maziwe.

Most likely the fishermen hadn't had enough time to recover their net, cut the floats and let the net/evidence disappear underwater where it sank to the bottom. The net spread along the coral reef and many animals got entangled. During 6 days of diving, 340m of net got recovered and many small crabs and fishes survived. Sadly for 2 turtles and a juvenile white tip shark help came to late.

Those abandoned fishing nets or so called Ghost nets, are nearly invisible yet very devastating to our marine ecosystems.



The 'Other' Friends of Maziwe

Mangroves are trees found along the coastline in the tropics and subtropics. They are able to grow in the salty and very wet soil of the intertidal zone where the sea covers the trees twice a day.

Mangroves grow best in sheltered Lagoons and bays where fresh water from rivers and rain mixes with the sea.

In the right conditions some Mangrove forests can extend many kilometres inland and grow up to 40m tall.

Mangroves play an important role to the coastal environment. Trees create a natural barrier between the land and the sea and protects the shoreline from wind and waves against erosion.

Mangroves also slow down the water stream from rivers into the sea and filter the sediments that would otherwise flow into the ocean.

Mangrove forests are ever green and therefore play an important role absorbing carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.

The complex structure of the forest with its roots and trunks are also providing shelter for lots of animals and plants to live in.

