

MOORING BUOY TRAINING

Mombasa, Kenya

Kenya has taken several small, but significant steps towards initiating an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) process. They have, with U.S. Agency for International Development Agency support, prepared an action strategy for the Nyali-Bamburi-Shanzu beach area. One of the immediate implementation projects recommended was installing mooring buoys in the Mombasa Marine Park, which is adjacent to the beach. This action will reduce the direct physical damage caused by human activities such as anchor damage, grounding of boats and trampling of corals by tourist. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) was assigned the responsibility for implementing this activity.

Installing a mooring buoy could have been done by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) alone, using their boats, their experts and their material. However, the KWS and the Coastal Management Steering Committee (CMSC) recognized the virtue of using this activity to build support for marine park management among their local constituencies (boat operators, hoteliers and dive shops) for ICM, instead of simply installing moorings in isolation. Therefore, KWS teamed with the CMSC to implement mooring buoy training program and stakeholder meeting. There were two major objectives for this effort. The first was to provide technical training to the KWS so they could design and install more efficient moorings, building on their own experience and incorporating lessons learned from other marine protected areas. The training also sought to inform KWS about the use of moorings as a basis for park management (instead of simply a structure in the water to moor boats) and explore how “positive” enforcement (versus the more traditional law enforcement) could be an effective tool in park management. The second was to work with the local constituency to begin creating a mooring management program. The meeting facilitated consensus-building among opposing stakeholder groups about where mooring should be placed, how they should be used and what the general operating rules are for boaters in the area.

The training used a series of lectures and exercises. The discussion went well beyond how to install mooring buoys to areas of enforcement, education and community involvement. For several parts of the workshop, KWS was joined by local boat operators and hoteliers. Within this non-threatening “training” environment, boat operators and KWS rangers shared their opinions and ideas openly. Boat operators helped construct the moorings, select the new mooring sites and install the moorings. By working together, everyone’s interests were considered and incorporated into the decisions.

Stakeholders also worked with KWS to draft a code of conduct pertaining to the use of the newly installed moorings and an educational brochure about the Park and the moorings. Both these products were vetted at a formal stakeholders’ meeting held on the last day of the training. The meeting was conducted jointly by KWS and the CMSC to present the outcomes of the successful training program and link the program to the ICM process. At the meeting, participants reviewed the draft code of conduct and brochure and suggested changes. Several of the suggestions supported rules stricter than KWS would have ever proposed for fear of being seen as heavy-handed. By the end of the meeting the stakeholders approved revised editions of both products. This cooperative process created the necessary stakeholder support for the rules and, as a result, will reduce the level of formal enforcement necessary to implement them.

At the conclusion of the workshop, KWS expressed a strong desire and commitment to implement the mooring management plans designed at the workshop. Stakeholders publicly supported the new mooring management plans, putting positive pressure on KWS to follow through with implementation. The facilitators who joined from KWS’s training center will work with each marine park and reserve staff to conduct a workshop and training on moorings using much of the same material used during this workshop. The purpose of each workshop is to develop a brochure for each place, a mooring map and to bring local stakeholders into the process.



The Kenya Wildlife Service guides buoy placement

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