

## Recommendations

1. We would like policy guidelines on seaweed farming and trade that will safeguard us from unscrupulous investors and traders. The market should be open to increase competition between buyers and not be controlled by the government.
2. Seaweed farming guidelines need to have our provisions to protect investment in the seaweed farms from illegal and destructive fishing practices such as the use of poison and small-sized mesh nets.
3. We would like seaweed farming to be recognised as an important alternative income generating activity to be incorporated into national economic development planning. We recommend that it is included in the national policies and programmes for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
4. We need training in business and investment to increase our production and entrepreneurship.



The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) together with Coastal Oceans Research and Development-Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) convened two coastal community workshops in Kenya and Tanzania in 2007/2008. Community representatives reflected on the status of the marine environment and put forward concrete recommendations on improving marine resources and livelihood sustainability and enhancement. This series of one page publications are a product of this work.

The community workshops are part of a bigger project 'Conservation as Core Assets for Livelihoods in Eastern Africa' funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), The Ford Foundation and also 'Building capacity and strengthening policies for coastal communities to manage their marine resources in East Africa' funded by the Kiedanren Nature Conservation Fund (KNCF). The objective of these projects is to enhance knowledge on the contribution of biodiversity conservation to livelihoods and to assist communities to demonstrate to politicians and senior policy makers on this importance.

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of IUCN, IDRC, The Ford Foundation, KNCF, CORDIO or EAWLS.

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TCZCDP

## Building Capacity for Coastal Communities to Manage Marine Resources in Tanzania



## Seaweed (Mwani) Farming Group



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## Introduction

Seaweed farming is becoming an increasingly important alternative source of income, particularly for women, in many coastal villages in Tanzania.

A national coastal community workshop was held in Tanga from 28th to 31st January 2008. The aim of the workshop

was to give coastal communities an opportunity to interact and share practical experiences in marine resource use and management and to articulate their needs. As the Seaweed farming group, we gave our views, aims, activities and issues of concern at this meeting, and our recommendations.

## Seaweed farming groups, their objectives and interests

NAME OF GROUP	OBJECTIVES/INTERESTS
MTANG'ATA AND MWARONGO – SAHARE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES Tanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To sustain conservation network of community members</li> <li>To enhance community livelihood by reducing destruction and degradation of the marine resources</li> <li>To reduce and eliminate poverty within the community</li> </ul>
ASSOCIATION OF SEAWEED FARMERS-KIJIRU LTD Tanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage committees undertake seaweed farming as an alternative income generating activity</li> <li>To improve welfare and livelihood of members through seaweed farming, beekeeping, honey production and mangrove restoration</li> <li>Carry out Seaweed farming (cottony type); Bee keeping and honey production; Mangrove planting and restoration</li> </ul>

## Priority issues and concerns

1. There is a monopoly in the trade in seaweed by the buyers. Only a limited number of companies are given licenses and permits by the government of Tanzania, and these licenses are restricted to selected areas.
2. Prices are very low, not stable and are set by the monopoly of companies.
3. Seaweed farming has not been properly recognised as an important alternative income generating activity. As such the activity is not a priority and not factored in to government planning and development.
4. We lack basic farm inputs to enhance the production of seaweed.
5. We have conflicts with fishers' gear such as poison (illegal), mesh nets (including illegal beach seines) and boats, all of which damage our seaweed lines.
6. Climate change which brings too much rain.



## Community action towards sustainable use of marine resources

- Alternative livelihood and income generating activities have been introduced in many coastal areas in Tanzania. These include seaweed farming, crab farming, oyster farming, community based eco-tourism, beekeeping and honey production, and non-marine activities such as tree nursery management, poultry, agriculture and small scale trade

