

# **The efficacy of community-based conservation of sea turtles in Pangani district, Tanzania**

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**Master of Science (Marine Sciences)**

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Community-based conservation (CBC) is a management concept that attempts to demonstrate that people-oriented and holistic approach to coastal resources management can lead to better results than the form of management dominated mainly by the government. This study investigated the efficacy of CBC of sea turtles in Pangani District, Tanzania. Interview schedules, field observations, key informants interview, focused group discussions and a review of literature were used to collect data. Descriptive statistics and content analysis were used to analyze data. Two villages in Pangani District were studied and a total of 60 individuals were interviewed. The study found that community's awareness on sea turtles in the study area is high. Together with other challenges dependence attitude was revealed by majority (25%) to be the most serious challenge in CBC of sea turtles in Pangani District. The study recognized various opportunities associated with CBC of sea turtles such as, promoting conservation knowledge (23.3%), enhancing unity among people (23.3%), improvement of leadership skills (16.7%) and market for local commodities (11.7%). It was also learnt that CBC of sea turtles in Pangani was characterized by minimum community participation. However, projects were evaluated and reported to be almost moderately effective in both study villages. The study recommends that, community awareness creation should be sustained to enhance fully community participation in CBC of sea turtles in Pangani District.