



Unity in Conservation

The Story of Bureni “Tengefu” Patrol Guards

Monitoring Control and Surveillance plays a major role in the success of Community Conserved Areas.

With the revitalization of the Bureni Tengefu underway, a team of patrol guards joined hands to keep the area safe. Ten volunteers from the Bureni Community underwent training on how to enforce security for the protection of their Tengefu. Bolstered by the support of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Oceans Alive project was then able to equip ten guards with uniforms and other patrol equipment. During the equipment and uniform handout, a number of the patrol guards shared their reflections on how the tengefu has impacted them, their families and the vision ahead. This is what they had to say:

Elvina Matandi is one of the female patrol guards from the Bureni Fishermen Community and Marine Conservation Group, working as a volunteer guard in the Bureni Tengefu, which is newly revitalized. After being equipped with uniforms and other patrol equipment, she was grateful to God that afternoon for protection and the good efforts of the stakeholders who are supporting the revitalization of Bureni Tengefu. They have a belief that the Tengefu will be of great benefit to individual families and the entire community. The Tengefu revitalization will promote developments in the Bureni community through the provision of employment opportunities and livelihood improvement. She was glad to be part of the patrol team that will be working on protecting the Tengefu.

Having a Tengefu in Bureni will ensure more youths secure jobs and more developments in the area.

Renson Tunje, a community member from Bureni Fishermen Community and Marine Conservation Community-Based Organisation, I was glad to be wearing the newly procured patrol guards' equipment. This moment brought back a great memory of the previous efforts in 2008. There were previous attempts to establish a Tengefu after observing the benefits that were attained by the neighboring Kuruwitu community after establishing a 30 Ha Tengefu. After establishing the Tengefu in March 2008, the Tengefu was only operational for a period of six months. Lack of unity among the fishers working in the area and a lack of knowledge of the importance of conservation in the area were some of the challenges that led to the decline. The small community groups did not receive much support from stakeholders in conducting sensitization of Fishermen from other areas, such as Msumarini from the neighboring Beach Management Unit (BMU), with whom they share fishing grounds, also posed a challenge due to a lack of adequate conservation knowledge. Having the Kuruwitu BMU, Kilifi County Department of Fisheries, local administration, and Oceans Alive as stakeholders is a great step in the work on the revitalization of the Tengefu. The community



has also received further knowledge on conservation, making them more appreciative of having the Tengefu.

He also added that the Bureni fishermen have also received a fishing boat, which will allow them to access inshore fishing away from the Tengefu. The selected Tengefu location is also ideal because of the environmental conditions in the area. The area produced remarkable results despite the fact that the Tengefu had only been operational for a short period of time.

The Tengefu will ensure fish spillover, providing a surplus to the market and adequate Omega 3 to promote brain development in school-going children. This will ensure that the coastal community gets more professionals in different fields.

Daniel Chamanga, a fisherman from Bureni, said: Despite the sorrows of having lost a beloved community member, he had to depart from the funeral preparations upon being called to receive their Tengefu patrol gear.

We hope that this Tengefu revitalization will be an inspiration to neighboring communities to adopt the same conservation.

The depth of water within the Bureni Tengefu makes it ideal; previously, the area was only closed for six months and produced remarkable results. Having us working in the area as patrol guards and with the full collaboration of fishermen working in the area, Bureni Tengefu is going to be a big success.