



# EAST AFRICA MCA PROJECT

## Background

Marine Conservation Agreements (MCAs) can be a useful strategy for conserving ocean and coastal biodiversity, but usage in East Africa, as elsewhere, has to date been limited.

The reasons for this are twofold. First, the role of the agreements in conjunction with other marine conservation strategies is not well-defined, leading to confusion among stakeholders. Secondly, African nations have disparate legal frameworks and ownership practices, and it is necessary to understand these to determine the feasibility of MCAs in a specific location.

The goal of this project is to help address this second issue through an analysis of the ocean and coastal legal frameworks in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Seychelles and South Africa.

## Deliverables

### **Analysis of feasibility of MCAs**

The project will review laws, policies and practices relating to protection, use and management of marine and coastal ecosystems in key African coastal nations. Although desk-based in approach, the research will seek input from TNC field staff where possible. Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Seychelles and South Africa are the priority countries for this project, but any pertinent information on other coastal nations will be captured for future reference.

### **Development of case studies**

Although the results of the feasibility analysis will give an overview of what is possible in the countries under consideration, a more detailed evaluation of at least two existing field projects will be necessary to determine more precisely the day-to-day practicalities of MCA implementation.

### **Development of list of agency contacts**

Throughout the project, local NGOs and agencies that are well-positioned to potentially implement MCAs will be identified. The assessment will focus primarily on expertise, resources and stability, as well as existing relationships with relevant communities.

### **Documentation of findings**

Documentation will take three forms

1. A comprehensive report, available as an interactive, online document (to reduce paper) and, where necessary, as a printed version to be shipped to TNC in Seattle
2. A summary presentation, to be given on or around August 27 2010
3. Separate summary case studies of existing project sites



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## Approach

The project will run for 12 weeks from June 21 to September 10 2010. The first seven weeks will focus on low-key information gathering and research, whilst weeks 8-10 will see findings developed and documented.

The report will be submitted and a presentation given at the end of week 10 – August 27. Feedback will then be consolidated into a final report, to be delivered on 10 September.

An interactive management plan will be available online to provide an at-a-glance overview of key project activities, issues and deliverables. The work plan will be supplemented by brief weekly update meetings between members of the project team

## Team

### Project sponsor

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### Project lead

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## Partner organisation

### The University of York

The University of York is one of the UK's top ten universities and one of the world's top 100. York ranked eighth out of more than 120 UK universities in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise co-ordinated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The University of York places equal emphasis on research and teaching. Most of the people whose research helped the University to perform so well in the RAE also teach. The results confirm that students in every department are being taught by leaders in their field.