

## **Project Update: March 2017**

### UPDATE 1

MMF has completed the first stage of our ambassador training programme, which has increased community awareness and responsibility of the issues facing the marine systems in the Inhambane province. Ambassadors are local fishermen who are seen as key influencers within the community – it is these individuals who raise community awareness of marine conservation issues from the ground up.

Alongside the training programme above, MMF is working closely with local fishing communities in the Tofo CCP (Community Fishing Council) to begin practical strategies to secure a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) in the Tofo Province. The first step of which was to secure a complete no-take zone in Tofo Bay, driven by active community participation. This closure was achieved on the 11th November 2016 and was celebrated with a small Ocean Festival that was attended by members of the government, local fishing communities and nationwide television and radio stations.

### UPDATE 2

Parallel to the LMMA strategy, the survey data obtained from fishing communities up and down the Inhambane coastline will reveal which of these rely heavily on unsustainable fishing practices. It is these communities that will benefit the most from an alternative livelihood approach. Local field officers have been trained in the use of mobile technology to gather survey information, upskilling their community skill sets and dramatically reducing the time taken for data analysis.

MMF is already working alongside the Inhambane Government, Department of Fisheries and community members to raise the awareness of possible alternative livelihoods. We are facilitating regular community meetings on the subject as well as technical guidance on the subjects.

Feasibility studies will be performed on a number of different alternative and sustainable livelihoods to check the suitability of each option to the Tofo environment. Examples of successful alternative livelihoods within East Africa include, but are not limited to, aquaculture, honey and community tourism.