Law enforcement and anti-bomb fishing operations

N. Mdogo
Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park, Tanzania
mdogonelson@yahoo.com

It is important to have accurate information on exactly what the problem (dynamite fishing) is, where it is occurring and what is causing it. Such information is essential for determining solutions to the problem. This information is important to know before solutions can be sought for. It is possible to evaluate the impacts or extent of problems by focusing on small areas where illegal fishing is taking place so that effects can be extrapolated. The study was carried out at Tanga coelacanth Marine park and Tanga north marine reserves. Methodology used Information gathering regarding dynamite fishing within two districts Tanga city and Mkinga The gathered informations included the identification of suspects, types of vessels and registration numbers, mobile phone and other general informations which can help to identify and get the suspects easily. After gathering information actions were taken to confiscate the vessels and the owners. Antibomb fishing community awareness meeting. Meeting to strengthening strategies which will enable sustainable use of marine resources in park and around Marine reserves and specifically discussion on issues related to dynamite fishing. The meeting also aimed to strengthening working relations between TACMP staff and community as whole. Collecting explosive records (data) daily by using two sites within the park area so as to know the trends of explosives daily. Findings indicate that; 115 names of suspects, 41 vessels used in illegal fishing were obtained and addressed to the district commissioners for further actions. Likewise fourteen fishing vessels used in illegal fishing were apprehended and brought to Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park headquarters and reported to Marine police –Tanga for further action. Also these operations helped to reduce the number of explosives from eight explosives per day on September-December last year to one explosive per day on January –April this year.