



KHANI KWEDHO

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Introduction

The Bazaruto National Park is located in the Province of Inhambane and the districts of Vilankulos and Inhasorro. The marine fauna, principally dugong and turtles were first protected under the jurisdiction of the Maritime Services.

In 1971 the 3 islands of Bangué, Margaruque and Benguerra were proclaimed a National Park. This was extended in 2001 to include the islands of Bazaruto and Santa Carolina.

The Archipelago embraces in close proximity a wide variety of ecosystems, including pelagic waters, coral reefs, dynamic beaches, tidal flats and associated marine grass meadows, mangrove communities, freshwater lakes, swamp forests, climax evergreen forest savannah grassland and bare and vegetated sand dunes.

There is evidence of serious environmental perturbation, especially on the more sensitive sand dune habitats. Nevertheless, the overall ecological status of the Archipelago still appears worthy of remedial action and management.

The Government of Mozambique has been engaged in the production of a development plan for the Bazaruto Archipelago that is based on sound conservation principles, which will safeguard the ecological integrity of the Archipelago. It recognises that central to the success of any development plan, the interests of local resident communities who traditionally depend on the fauna and flora for their livelihood should be fully represented.

The development plan recognises the importance of Tourism as a preferred option for the sustainable commercialisation of the marine and terrestrial eco resources of the Bazaruto Archipelago, which will play an important role in the creation of employment, generate significant foreign currency receipts, and contribute to the national economy through increased tax and downstream spending.

Origination of Khani Kwedho

The island of Benguerra is the second largest of the 5 islands that make up the Bazaruto Archipelago. Tourism development first started in 1988 with the establishment of Benguerra Lodge a 26-bed destination catering to the high value low volume low impact eco-tourist market.

In 1997 Marlin Lodge was established, a 38-bed lodge also subscribing to a policy of low environmental impact tourism.

Benguerra Lodge and Marlin Lodge have since their inception, participated in an informal arrangement which involved the collection of a "Park Levy" from each tourist arrival and the distribution of these funds to the local resident communities.

Local residents have constructed a primary school with logistic support from the private sector and schoolteacher salaries supported by the cash generated from the Levy.

For over a decade a loose association has been forged between local resident communities and the private sector. Both parties have benefited from this association. Local residents have also benefited from employment opportunities created through tourism development. The concept of quid pro quo continues to provide the most acceptable basis for mutually beneficial co existence.

It was later agreed by all stakeholders that the loose working arrangement of the past should evolve into a formally constituted body that would represent the interests of all.

This would:

1. Provide a democratic forum where the concerns and interests of all stakeholders can be addressed in an open and coordinated manner.
2. Provide a communication link between the environmental conservation objectives of the Management Authority, the commercial development objectives of the private sector and the alleviation of poverty, community development, as well as develop alternatives to unsustainable traditional practices.
3. Establishing a legally constituted entity mandated to manage funds and resources specifically destined for community development and environmental conservation and protection of Ilha de Benguerra.

The local resident community put forward nominations to represent their interests, as did the private sector and the Bazaruto National Park Management Authority.

The association was born and named "Khani Kwedho" translated from the Xitsonga dialect as "our home".

Agreements have been reached on issues where traditional practices conflict with the tourism. In addition, tourism activities have been adapted to respect local custom and limit negative socio-economic impacts.

The association subscribes to the attached Articles of Association in general and in particular has the following objectives.

Objectives

1. "Kanhi Kwedho" adopts the following general objectives:

Establish a transparent administrative entity for the collection, administration and application of incomes and resources collected and allocated to the Island of Benguerra for community development, conservation and protection of the natural resources and utilisation programmes.

2. "Khanhi Kwedho" has the following specific objectives:

- To develop community support for the Management Plan of the Bazaruto National Park.
- To promote the concept of sustainable use of the natural resources.
- To involve the local communities in conservation and environmental initiatives.
- To implement activities that will improve the quality of life of the local communities'.
- To increase and to improve the benefits to the local community from the eco-tourism.
- To promote the understanding of inherent mutual benefit in a sustainable relationship among the local communities protected areas and tourists who visit the area.
- Promote the principle of high value and low volume tourism.
- Promote the communication and co-operation among the local communities, Government and the Private sector.

The Management Council has begun its work and is concentrating on the following priorities:

Short Term

1. Establish an administrative infrastructure.
2. Establish a system of record keeping which will enable:
 - a. A budget to be drawn up
 - b. The transparent reconciliation of fees collected and banked.
 - c. The transparent record of all resources applied to achieve the stated objectives.
 - d. Employment of an independent accounting firm to administer all accounts and Bank reconciliations.
 - e. The orderly distribution of food to local resident community on a budgeted basis.

Medium Term

1. Consult with development agencies and produce a community development plan based on integrating established best practices with local practical realities.
2. The planning of a community development centre incorporating
 - a. Community hall
 - b. Clinic
 - c. School and education centre focusing on conservation, the environment and tourism
 - d. Recreation facilities
 - e. Infrastructure for provision of potable water
 - f. Infrastructure for utilisation of natural gas.
3. Undertake fund raising activities.
4. Train Khanhi Kwedho personnel in administration and management.

Khanhi Kwedho is a new entity that presently relies on the channelling of US \$ 2,00 per tourist arrival as the principle means of transferring benefits derived from tourism activities to local resident communities. The association has identified that food security is a primary objective at this stage of

development and therefore has allocated the entire projected annual revenue towards procuring and distributing staple food to the 188 registered families that constitute the local resident population.

The association currently relies on external support for administrative overheads, transport and communication logistics and support for the existing primary school, which is presently provided solely by the Benguerra and Marlin Lodge.

To date we have set aside a site between Benguerra and Marlin Lodge and have constructed a community development centre which is part of phase 1 of the community requirements. Phase 2 will be the construction of a new school and medical clinic facility.

Khani Kwedho will require external financial assistance for the construction and development of these facilities, as well as further community upliftment initiatives that are adopted.

Khani Kwedho, whilst not unique in terms of concept and strategy, is nevertheless without precedent in the Bazaruto Archipelago. The successful delivery of the stated objectives of Khani Kwedho will contribute to safeguarding the environmental integrity of this special Island, for the benefit of generations to come.

If we succeed in our efforts, a major beneficiary will be *dugong dugong* who depends on our wise use of the Bazaruto Archipelago for his continued survival.

If you are interested in receiving more information, want to become involved in this worthy endeavour or wish to make a Donation, Grant or Financial contribution, please contact:

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