



Newsletter, 8th May 2008

Dear Valued Friends,

Hello and **thank you** for your support during our second season.

Highlights of the season included the discovery of two **new reefs** for snorkelling, **kayaking with dolphins** and catches of some impressive **Giant Traveley and barracuda** fish from the kayaks. Breaking news is that our kayak expeditions are chosen as one of **50 top adventure's to do in Africa**, as represented in the newly released book "Great African Adventures: A Guide to the Mother Continent's Ultimate Outdoor Adventures", Struik Publishers, 2008.

Sand Dollar began its second season by hosting a feast for the local Kiunga community. Elders and community representatives attended from the coastal villages within the Kiunga Marine Reserve, as well as WWF and KWS representatives. Ali Shebwana, the Community Relations Officer, resided over the ceremonies and the opportunity was taken to discuss **community** as well as **conservation** issues. Sand Dollar again reaffirmed its commitment to the community and launched a **new agricultural project in Rubu village which promotes alternative** livelihoods in an effort to reduce the pressure on the marine life.

The **season started well**, but like most operators we experienced a lull after the election violence. Thankfully the communities of the Kiunga Marine Reserve remained **peaceful** during this period, although we all felt the effect of reduced tourism. By March, **interest had returned** and we finished our season on the 14th of April. The change in winds arrived early this year and we conducted our last trip with an already established southerly wind pushing us gently north (rather than this only happening at the start of our next season). The expedition was adjusted to compensate for the change and the group enjoyed a special trip with **great fishing and snorkelling** in the calm waters that had yet to catch up with the early winds.

For those of you who embarked on our tours **thank you for choosing the path less travelled**. Kayaking is an excellent **interactive and eco-friendly** way to appreciate one of Kenya's most spectacular regions. Our Sand Dollar expedition team was only too happy to share in the beauty of the reserve and to make your stay fun and memorable. Every trip taken has contributed to the Kiunga Marine Reserve and helps **support the local communities**; an important role in the reserve's continued survival and safe keeping.

As we look forward to our third season, we are building on our **experiences and customer feedback**. Next season we've chosen to spend more time exploring with less time spent on relocation to different sites. Our camps will concentrate in two key areas that are proven favourites and host to the most diverse and interesting marine life. This option will not only allow guests to appreciate their time more but will also reduce our dependence on the tides, making **departure dates more flexible** for the client. Safaris are offered for both **3 and 4 night tours**, with both resident and non-resident rates. Unfortunately the devalued US\$ and increased running costs have forced us to raise our prices for the first time since opening. For Lamu Island visitors our **Lamu day trips** remain as per last season and guided trips to **Takwa Ruins** and **Manda Toto Island** will be taken from our stand on Shela Beach.

For more news, pictures and information please refer to our website www.sanddollarexpeditions.com.

We hope to see you again in the new season and look forward to exploring more of Kenya's amazing coast.

Best Regards,

Brent Wibberley, Director
Sand Dollar Kayak Expeditions Ltd