

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Recommendation for Hashim Omar Said**

Hashim Omar has been an integral part of WWF Marine Programme for one (1) year with the key role of enhancing collaboration in sea turtle conservation and other ad hoc duties. During this time, he was instrumental in the realization of the following successes/results.

- a.) Strengthened community participation in sea turtle conservation; He built the capacity of Mkokoni Turtle Conservation Group (TCG) to patrol sea turtle nesting beaches of Mkokoni. This includes turtle nest beach monitoring, nest verification, translocation, and data collection.
- b.) Integration of technology in sea turtle conservation initiatives; The use of GPS gadgets in georeferencing nests and beach patrol routes enabled mapping of nesting beaches and documentation of sea turtle conservation efforts. Online calendar alert systems served to alert staff on potential sea turtle nesting information to prepare for tagging.
- c.) Improved WWF's communication systems; Hashim Omar is an avid and burgeoning photographer producing quality images of nature and field work activities. He participated in blog writing (<https://blogs.wwf.org.uk/blog/wildlife/its-turtle-nesting-season-in-lamu/>), development of communication materials and presentations that were used to document WWF work in Lamu seascape.
- d.) Strengthened initiatives in enhancing sustainable fisheries in Lamu seascape; Hashim Omar's redesign of the fin fish catch assessment data sheet and participation in field data collection has enabled capture of more information on local fisheries including fish species, types of fisheries, fishing effort, fish morphometrics and allometry and fishing zone ecology.

WWF Field office is not an easy place to work and live. However, Hashim Omar exhibited resilience and innate problem solving skills to overcome local hardships. He demonstrated sociability, enthusiasm and open-mindedness in his endeavours, working well with the rest of the team and partners.

Hashim Omar Said has a passion for nature and specifically marine ecosystems. He aspires to use such information to spur socio-economic growth in the community while maintaining ecological integrity. He was therefore a good conservation ambassador to the community promoting education and awareness wherever he went.

I unreservedly recommend Hashim Omar for any opportunity that may build his career skills and empower him contribute to the world of science and sustainable development of natural resources.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Olendo,

Marine Programme Coordinator,

WWF – Kenya.