



# MIGRATING with the BILLFISH EXPEDITION

**Kenya Chapter**

An expedition to increase the recovery of billfish tags and the awareness of billfish conservation

## EXPEDITION PROPOSAL

### **Purpose Statement**

Over the last ten years, the African Billfish Foundation in collaboration with the sport fishing fraternity has actively run a billfish species tagging and recoveries programme in the East African waters. To date, Over 43,000 fish have been tagged and up to 1,500 tags have been recovered. The recovered tags include the most outstanding ones demonstrating that tagged billfish migrate to places as far as the Southern Africa Coast, West Coast of Australia and the Arabian Gulf Coast. However, very little information has been obtained regarding the tagged fish. The fish are usually caught as by-catch or for consumption. In most cases, when a tagged billfish is caught, the people involved lack the knowledge regarding the importance of collecting the tag and species information which forms a fundamental baseline for studying and conserving these incredible voracious predators. The Kenya and Tanzania expeditions aim at bridging the gap between the number of tagged fish recorded and the recoveries information through creating and increasing the awareness among the different stakeholders as well empowering the young people. In addition, the expedition seeks to establish and strengthen multi-faceted stakeholders approach towards the conservation of billfish species whilst enabling corporate partnership input with the aim of achieving strong economic returns.

**43000 fish have been tagged over the last ten years**

### **Expedition goals**

- \* Increase the number of recovered tags from the current 2% to at least 4%.
- \* Create and increase awareness and education for stakeholders along the Kenyan Coastline
- \* Produce a documentary that will constitute the expedition results and the status of conservation, research and management of billfish species in Kenya
- \* Increased awareness of the billfish conservation, research and management in Africa by the Kenya Coast population
- \* Increased awareness of the need for conservation and management strategy for billfish Species in the East African waters.
- \* Development of corporate partnerships to facilitate necessary funding for future project/ expedition advancement

*"Conservation is not just about humans; it's about valuing everything that makes up Nature and then having the enthusiasm and the spirit to act on that principle. That's what my involvement in this expedition is all about....sharing newfound wisdom so that resource users and the billfish can share the benefits."*

## Expedition description:

The intensive hands-on expedition is designed to be a practical lesson involving a multi-faceted approach to create and increase awareness regarding the conservation of billfish species along the Kenyan Coastline. The thirty five-day expedition will cover the 600 kilometer Kenya Coastline from Kiwayu up North to Shimoni on border of Kenya and Tanzania. The expedition will be comprised of workshops for stakeholders in the designated zones along the Kenyan Coastline, interactive activities to reach the young people; who are a vital basis for the present and future conservation status and recording of information through photographic and written media. The targeted stakeholders will have the opportunity to learn about the billfish species, the tagging and the need to collect and disseminate tag recovery information. Throughout the expedition, local fishermen and other stakeholders will share their experiences and challenges regarding the conservation of billfish and other species at large. In regards to the fish tag recoveries output, one of the expedition's major objectives is to increase the percentage number of tags recovered along the Kenyan Coastline from the current 2% to at least 4% in the next fishing season. The expedition also aim at spearheading the process of developing a strategy for partnering agencies and countries to implement and refine approaches towards the conservation and management of billfish species in the West Indian Ocean.

### Target groups

- Local fishing communities
- School children and youths
- Women groups
- Government departments
- Non-Governmental Environmental Organizations

### WORK PLAN

<u>Months/ Time of the year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Duration</u>
1. March - June	Fundraising for the expedition	3 months
2. July- August-September	- Expedition commencement and continuation	6 weeks
3. October-December	- Feedback stakeholders and sponsors - Report dissemination	_3 months

### Expedition Activities

- Workshops for local fishermen and community groups
  - Documentary production
  - Fun learning sessions for school children and youth
  - Sharing information with government departments
- Networking with other Non- governmental Environmental Organizations

**EXPEDITION BUDGET**

ITEM	COST IN KSH.	COST IN USDOLLARS
1. Education and awareness	675,000	9,000
2. Publicity	525,000	7,000
3. Transport – Hiring a mini-bus	117,000	1,560
4. Fuel	160,032	2,134
5. Transport by boat	48,000	640
6. Accommodation and food	378,000	5,040
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>1,903,000</b>	<b>25,374</b>

**Budget notes:** The African Billfish Foundation is looking for sponsorship and donations for the whole or part of this expedition from corporate bodies, individuals and business enterprises.

Offers of materials such as accommodation and vehicle use along the route will cut down the above figures immensely.

For more details on the budget, please do not hesitate to contact us

**Sponsorship and donations**

All sponsors will be acknowledged.

For details on how you can sponsor or donate, please email us at:

[nelly@africanbillfish.org](mailto:nelly@africanbillfish.org) \_ or \_ [tina@africanbillfish.org](mailto:tina@africanbillfish.org)

If you would like to support us, please contact either Nelly Kadagi or Tina Harris

[nelly@africanbillfish.org](mailto:nelly@africanbillfish.org) - (+254) 701 662 733

[tina@africanbillfish.org](mailto:tina@africanbillfish.org) - (+254) 722 294 332

**VOLUNTEERING**

You can support us by joining the expedition as a volunteer. For more information on the cost of participating under the different categories i.e

- *Migration North*
- *Migration South*
- *Whole expedition*

Please call or email us. The are limited places available