



Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office

Africa and Madagascar Programme

“meeting the challenge”

Population, health and the environment

WWF Kiunga Marine National Reserve Conservation and Development Project

The WWF Kiunga Marine National Reserve Conservation and Development Project delivers on United Nations Millennium Development Goals. These goals aspire to achieve sustainable livelihoods and healthy ecosystems. The project has integrated human health and wealth creation into marine resource management. Based on the premise that a healthy human population is a precursor to a healthy environment, various interventions to improve health care, provide safe drinking water and ensure timely immunization have been initiated.

Local women have been empowered through their participation in eco-friendly initiatives. These include development and sale of handicrafts made from debris washed ashore from marine waters. Education support is ensuring more children go through their secondary education. Sustainable fisheries management reduces marine resource degradation through gear exchange programmes and awareness.

- MDGs**
- Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
 - Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education
 - Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women
 - Goal 4. Reduce child mortality
 - Goal 5. Improve maternal health
 - Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
 - Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability
 - Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Education Support and Awareness Programme

Direct education support is through bursaries, school-based environmental education programme and field-based holiday programme. It targets both primary and secondary school students. To date about 60 secondary school students have received bursaries. All primary schools in the 7 villages around Kiunga Marine National Reserve participate in WWF environmental Education programme including, provision of over 1,700 mock exams each year.

Most of the sponsored students are female. This promotes gender equality in this community where female members are highly marginalized. Socio-economic studies have shown that the average quality of life is higher in households where the mother has formal basic education.



The Project Coordinator presenting a cheque for 6 students at Mpeketoni Secondary School.

Improved public health facilities

In line with aligning improved human health to marine resource management and conservation, WWF has supported the following:

- Construction of a dispensary at Mkokoni Village
- Revamp power supply at Kiunga Health Centre
- Construction and treatment of wells
- Provision of medicine
- Provision of insecticide treated mosquito nets to expectant mothers and those with children under 5 years
- Mobile immunisation services
- Promotion of community health, hygiene and sanitation
- Training of traditional birth attendants
- Integration of community health advocacy with conservation (link community health with sustainable conservation).



Mobile immunization clinics serve the Boni and Somali communities.



The new Mkokoni Village Clinic was built through the combined effort of WWF Kiunga Project, Johnson & Johnson, WWF-US, USAID, the Ministry of Health and the Mkokoni community.



A healthy mangrove forest.



Trash-to-cash: making handicrafts from flip-flops.



A green turtle heads back to the sea after laying eggs on the beach. This turtle was tagged and measured.

Natural resource management

Management support: Facilitate the formation of the Joint Management Team comprising key Government of Kenya heads of departments and representatives from all KMNRR villages. Key activities include review and writing of new management plan, frame survey, conflict resolution as well as KMNRR boundary marking

Sustainable fisheries for improved livelihoods. The most important undertaking is the phasing out of the use of illegal and unsustainable gears through the gear exchange program. Others include promoting sustainable fisheries through the use of indigenous and scientific knowledge, interactive meetings with fishermen, annual coral survey, semi-annual ecological monitoring, fisheries data collection (finfish, crustacean & dry fish harvest - ng'onda). Program also includes fisheries database updating and maintenance, formation of village based groups-BMUs, GIS mapping geo-referenced library for Kiunga.

Empower women and the youth to improve their livelihoods through information, skills and knowledge that enable them pursue alternative income generating activities. These activities include recycling trash through making of handicrafts from flip-flops that generate about US\$160 per household per month.

Protection of endangered species such as turtle and dugongs. This involves 24-hour beach patrols on turtle nesting beaches. It is run successfully by local youth who volunteer to this program. Other activities include tagging, protection of nesting female turtles on the beach as well as translocation of turtle clutches to safer beach areas.



The WWF Kiunga Project and the Kenya Wildlife Service conduct joint regular patrols of the Kiunga Marine National Reserve.



Underwater marine monitoring helps to assess the health of the marine resources in the Kiunga Marine National Reserve.