

EASTERN AFRICAN REGIONAL PROGRAMME OFFICE

EASTERN AFRICAN COASTAL FOREST ECOREGION PROGRAMME

REPORT

**CAPTURE OF LESSONS LEARNED BY WWF IN THE EASTERN AFRICAN
COASTAL FOREST ECOREGION**

KENYA COASTAL FORESTS

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CAPTURE OF LESSONS LEARNED BY WWF IN THE EASTERN AFRICAN COASTAL FOREST ECOREGION

1. INTRODUCTION

The WWF EARPO's Eastern African Coastal Forest Ecosystem (EACFE) Programme has been in existence since 2002. Throughout the continuing process of designing the programme, it has been recognized that incorporating the lessons from WWF's experience of working in this region is vital to make it effective.

The purpose of this report is to document the insights gained in the Kenya Coast in a concise format as this has been lacking despite the considerable period WWF has been active at the Coast. In Kenya for example WWF has been active with projects in coastal forests since the mid- 80s.

It is hoped that the findings will inform the development of the EACFE programme with regard to Kenya and in general by ensuring that good practice is incorporated and also that mistakes are not replicated or time wasted 'reinventing the wheel'. However what is required in this document is not merely a list of observations but suggestions about a way forward for the programme (see Terms of Reference attached)

Lessons Learning Principles

In order to compile and analyse lessons learnt it during WWF's projects on the Kenya coast has been important to consider three key lessons (from WWF-EARPO 2004)

- What has worked well?
- What has not worked well / could have worked better?
- What could have been done differently?

Questions that were asked about past activities include:

- Why did this work well. What specifically was done that ensured success ?
- How can we ensure that similar activities work just as well in the new programme?
- What stopped the past programmes from delivering more. What were the obstacles; what was missing; How can this be avoided in future?

Main Areas of Investigation

The focus of this Kenya study is in four main areas which will be key in the development of the EACFE programme. These are:

- Policy (implementation, changes, articulation, domestication)
- Resource Assessment
- Socioeconomic / livelihood aspects / sustainable use
- Trade in coastal forest resources (Conflicting priorities, externalities, price changes, markets etc)

However it is suggested that the area of forest resource management should also be included as many of the activities related directly to this element. It is also highly likely that the same will apply in the EACFE programme

Lessons can be derived from various components of the implementation of past projects and activities. Ultimately we are asking whether the projects or activities were successful in achieving their objectives or not and how these successes can be repeated in other locations or contexts. In what way is the project unique or difficult to replicate in any case. It must also be had in mind that the WWF activities at the Kenya Coast have been highly variable in size and approach.

Important dimensions in assessing whether the programme or project was successful or not in achieving its objectives and from which lessons can be learnt include:

- Features relating to the design and formulation of a project in response to a perceived problem / issue / gap. Eg. were the activities well formulated, thought through. Was there consultation etc
- The approach / strategy taken in implementation. This would include questions such as the size and scope of the activity or funding as well as its focus, partnership and collaboration arrangements. How effective or optimal were these
- Management of the activity or project: how human and financial resources, equipment and other resources were mobilized and directed to achieve the objectives. The way an activity was managed on a day to day basis strongly influences its effectiveness even if the project is well formulated.

2. THE WWF KENYA COASTAL FOREST PROJECTS

WWF has invested resources in Kenya Coastal Forest Activities since 1986. That year the WWF supported a floristic survey of the high biodiversity Mijikenda Kaya forests by the National Museums of Kenya. Since then WWF has funded a total of 5 other projects of different sizes and scope. The earlier activities including the Kaya survey were aimed at assessing coastal forest resources but later projects included alternative livelihood and sustainable use elements. Areas of institutional strengthening and development were also covered. There were even a few policy related activities.

The main collaborating partner has been the National Museums of Kenya through its Coastal Forest Conservation Unit. The NMK is a Government parastatal charged with research on and conservation of national cultural, and natural heritage although a number of other partners are also involved. The documented projects are listed in the table below.

WWF Project	Yr	Budget	Main Implementing Partners
Preliminary Florist Survey of Kaya Forests of Kenya WWF No 3645	1986/87	Ksh 30000	National Museums of Kenya
Kenya Coast Forest Status Conservation and Management 'Coast Forest Survey' WWF No 3256	1998-90	SFR 268 000	National Museums of Kenya
Coastal Forest Conservation Unit Project WWF KE 0074	1994-2001	UK f 659 000	National Museums of Kenya

Kaya Kinondo Pilot Ecotourism Project KE 0074.01	2001-03	US \$ 75 000	National Museums of Kenya
Effects of elephant-habitat interaction in (Mt Kenya and) Shimba Hills KE 0079. 02	1993-99	US \$ 100 000	Kenya Wildlife Service
Conserving Kenya's indigenous forests through certification of Sustainably sourced woodcarvings 'The Goodwoods Project' KE 0858.01	2002-	UK f 172 646	Oxfam, NMK, Kwetu (NGO)
Survey: Status of Mangrove trade in Kenya coast	1997		Kenya Forest Research Institute

2.1 PROJECT PROFILES

As would be expected all the WWF projects implemented at the Kenya Coast have had as their ultimate purpose the conservation and sustainable management of the Kenya Coastal forests. This is reflected in all the project documents and terms of reference. However the priority and focus of each project has differed as well as the activities and strategy. Profiles of the individual WWF Kenya coastal forest projects are provided as an annex.

3. LESSONS LEARNT FROM WWF EXPERIENCE IN SELECTED AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The projects and activities detailed above over the last two decades can provide useful lessons for future WWF activity in the Eastern African Coast. They have left a wealth of literature and reports on various aspects of their implementation and management including final project evaluation reports for a number of them. Below an attempt will be made to draw out the most important lessons from these and other sources including interviews with individuals and groups involved with past WWF coastal forest activome.

3.1 CROSSCUTTING OR GENERAL LESSONS

It is observed that key lessons emerge which are common to most of the projects which are best be classed as general or cross-cutting They include mostly practical points on approach and strategy in implementation and management of activities and projects rather than insight in specific areas. Some of these are:

Strategic Plans make investment and action easier

WWF began to develop global strategies in the early 90s and regional strategies including those for Eastern Africa were formulated by the mid 90s. The current strategic plan has almost expired and is due for review. This does not mean that pre-strategy activities were not effective but working without a strategy meant that important opportunities could have been lost before the mid 90s. It is felt that the WWF regional strategies have been well formulated and comprehensive, a result of extensive consultation. However strategic plans need to be developed for individual thematic or ecoregion areas such as coastal forests as part of the same process.

The EACFE Programme should develop an environmental education strategy for the ecoregion or as a sub-component of its Ecoregional strategy currently under development. This will ensure EE activities are coordinated and effective.

Implementation through local partners has worked well

In most of WWF's projects detailed above WWF has worked through or in collaboration with local state or non-governmental institutions rather than undertaking conservation projects directly itself. In general this has worked well. Three successful projects have been implemented by the National Museums of Kenya NMK, one study project by Kenya Wildlife Service KWS and an ongoing one involves multiple partners.

The success of this approach may have come more from careful selection of partners than anything else. NMK for one has as part of its mission research and dissemination in all natural science areas. The East African Herbarium and other invaluable collections are located at NMK. NMK was a natural choice to undertake the early plant surveys and is well equipped to carry out further work where there are gaps. KWS has a key mandate in the protection and conservation of the Shimba Hills forest but had lacked the resources and capacity to undertake an urgent wildlife / habitat impact survey.

Additionally, having local partners implement meant that communities in the project area were prevented from the excessive expectations that surround conspicuously 'donor' projects. The result was an operation which was low key but effective nevertheless (Quentin Luke pers comm.). The budgets for such collaborations also tended to be lower than would otherwise be the case.

Small budget projects have had a significant impact

Like other International organizations with enormous programmes and budgets WWF tends to avoid small low budget projects due to administrative considerations: the smaller the project the more relatively expensive it is to administer for high overhead WWF offices. Yet some of the smaller projects implemented by highly motivated individuals in the field have had the most significant impacts. The Kayas survey and Kinondo project are two such cases. It is important to find a balance between administrative expediency for the WWF bureaucracy and clearly achieving the stated goals of the organization through small projects.

Mastery of disengagement / exit management is still elusive

In a number of projects at the coast including the Coastal Forest Conservation Unit and the Kaya Kinondo Project the impression formed is that arrangements for disengagement by WWF as a donor were far from satisfactory. In these two cases funding ended while there were still important outstanding activities to tackle and numerous gaps identified.

This cannot be blamed on WWF specifically nor on their partners as it is a widespread feature of the 'Project' system. Projects in all sectors face the inevitable phasing out which no one is ever quite prepared for. It is fundamental to projects that they are of limited duration and cannot continue indefinitely. The assumption is that partners will take over the process and continue the work on a routine basis but often partners do not have the resources to do this which is one of the reasons projects are mooted anyway.

Donors like WWF also have donors to account to who in turn have their own specific constituencies to satisfy with 'results'. The few exceptions to this cycle are solid income earning projects which manage to meet their running expenses in the long run after seed capital investment. Though it was not a WWF initiative Kipepeo is a good example. However many conservation activities will never be high income earners.

There seems to be few solutions to the dilemma of phasing out. Some donors have resorted to longer project periods with the expectation that sustainability will be achieved within the longer time frame. Others have resorted to small low-key injections of funds to partners rather than massive start-ups and sharp wind downs. The answer is still elusive but WWF needs to foster debate and thinking on this issue in the donor community.

3.2 LESSONS IN SPECIFIC COMPONENTS OF COASTAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

There are four key areas on which WWF-EARPO will focus in the implementation of the Eastern African Coastal Forest Programme. These are: Policy, Resource Assessment, Socio-economic / livelihoods, and trade although other areas will also be covered. It is therefore important to learn from the experience of past WWF activities at the Coast relating to these components (see also table in annex). Useful insights would include for example elaboration of the following:

Policy:

Lessons from WWF's past work on influencing policy implementation, change, articulation and domestication. What are best practices and approach in this area?

Resource assessment:

The main resources the Kenya CF provide. How are resources defined? Gaps in knowledge. Best practices in resource surveys and documentation as well as use of documentation

Socio-economic / livelihood

Impact of WWF's livelihood related conservation interventions and lessons for future activities in this area including sustainable utilization and management of forests. Which approaches have worked well? Which have not?

Trade:

Lessons, if any, on how to approach the issue of trade in forest products of all kinds and its impact on the Kenya CF resource. The importance of trade issues in the conservation equation. Availability or absence of data

Others:

Other areas in which lessons can be learnt include forest management and protection, awareness and capacity buildings. An analysis of these areas follows below with the lessons learned presented in bold text.

3.2.1 POLICY (AND LAW)

WWFs activities related to policy and legal development and advocacy at the Kenya coast have been fairly limited although they include:

- Advocating for changes reflecting sacred natural site (such as Kayas) conservation needs and priorities as part of an ongoing review of heritage law. This was part of the 'Coastal Forest Conservation Unit project (1994-2001). The NMK Legal Officer was supported by the project to integrate Kaya issues
- Evaluating policy and legal constraints to the production and management of farm-grown trees to support as part of the (ongoing 2002-) 'Good Woods Project'. Issues include rights to and control of trees on own land, as well as clarification of land tenure and use rights at the coast where tenures overlap and such issues are acute. Approaches include educating lawmakers and District authorities.
- Studies / Surveys to inform or guide an important national resource management policy discussion of the time. Examples include the socio-economic study on mangroves and the elephant habitat survey in Shimba

Promoting changes in policy and law

The heritage review promotion activity was highly successful up to a point. The CFCU project team working with the NMK Legal Officer was able to have crucial wording and clauses included which catered for Kaya (and similar site) conservation. These included explicit recognition of such sites, accommodating traditional management systems and stiffening penalties for offences among others. The draft law was completed in early 2001. To date (2004) however the bill has yet to be tabled in Parliament due to a number of factors not least of which was the fact that the country was undergoing momentous political transition and change.

This delay is not unusual for the enactment process. The Forestry policy and bill (supported by various donors) have been undergoing an even longer gestation. However there is no alternative approach to the one taken and once the laws and policies are in place, their impact should be lasting.

This observation would apply similarly for the Goodwoods project policy interventions and others along similar lines. It is practically impossible to control or manage the political and legislative process as an outsider but the hope is that sustained interaction with legislators and policymakers will improve the quality of their debates on conservation-related issues.

Lessons in policy and advocacy

Influencing drafts is important

The approaches used for legal and policy advocacy worked fairly well considering the limited control WWF and partners have over the legislative process and at the top levels of Government management. Influencing the text of the law or policy bears fruit in the long run after the political process is completed. State organizations can be facilitated by projects to put together the best information and formulation.

WWF-EARPO needs strengthen lobby role

However being state employees (eg CFCU) they are sometimes limited in their influence on top management and legislators. Their efforts need to be complemented by Direct WWF advocacy with top Ministry Officials. This means WWF-EARPO may have to strengthen its advocacy role at national and international level (Morakinyo 2000)

Opportunity to test policies and laws

As indicated above, a number of policies and laws are yet to be published by Government including those of Forests and Heritage. This means that there has been no opportunity to operationalize and test them. When they are finally produced it will be important to make these laws and policies in the environmental awareness package to local communities. The more open political atmosphere allows for greater involvement by people in shaping and responding to laws and policies.

Studies / surveys to inform emerging policy and management discussions

These are namely Shimba and Mangrove studies response to urgent issues of the day. In the case of Shimba, the study led to intense debate within Government and NGO circles and a decision on how to proceed. The impact of the mangrove report was unclear. It is noted that neither report, being an internal document was made available to the press. Despite the mixed success of past 'emergency' studies urgent conservation issues will continue to arise in the region and few other approaches seem to be available to influence or inform debate.

Lessons from emergency ad-hoc surveys

There are few alternatives to this response to emerging issues. The limitation is that even 'rapid' surveys take time while the urgency of some of the issues is very great. Future studies should also collaborate more with the media in dissemination especially where the issues are very clear-cut and a proposed action is motivated more from pure political motives than best practice.

3.2.2 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Resource assessment has been a primary contribution of WWF to conservation of Kenya CF and WWF's earliest activities at the coast were in this area. Resource assessment has included:

- The floristic Kaya survey (86/97) and subsequent broader Coastal Forest Survey (89-91) which documented location, area and plant information for this site. The Coastal Forest Conservation Unit project continued this work in addition to other conservation activities (1995-2001).
- The Shimba and mangroves study were also resource surveys providing information on the status of a specific site or habitat type as well animal and human caused ecological impacts.

The Kaya survey and Coast Forest Survey Report continue to be among the most important sources of information on coastal forests up to the present. This was despite the constraints in resources and time faced by the field team. They have been extensively referred to in subsequent reports and publications. The Chief regret is that the reports remain internal NMK departmental reports rather than publications which would be more widely available. Indeed other publications drawing extensively from them and supported by other donors are better known (Ann Robertson, Quentin Luke pers com).

In Shimba Hills hitches in the implementation of the project included some flaws in the initial design of the survey including sampling methods. This caused inconsistencies in data collection. As a result of these and other problems the objectives of the study have still not been completely realized although initial data was clear enough accepted by KWS as justifying relocation of elephants to other areas. The flow of funds to KWS for the work appeared to be erratic as WWF did not have long-term funding and gave funds as they became available. This caused major disruptions in the work which was planned to take place over 6 years.

Lessons from WWF Kenya CF Resource Survey experience

Working through partners

The implementation of the research work through local partners was quite successful. Supporting the Kaya and Coast survey as an NMK activity worked well and clearly contributed to the sustainability of the work and its authority. The NMK is the mandated state organization to undertake natural science research. The same applied for KWS in Shimba.

Publication a lost opportunity

Without publication however, the reports resulting from the Coastal Forest survey were not available to a wider readership and scholarship. WWF having supported the fieldwork and report compilation would have done well to assist NMK in the publication of the reports and claim credit for its contribution. Editing and publication is a tedious and expensive exercise but the value of certain texts merits it.

The field implementors of the early CF surveys indicated that WWFs enormous information resources and networks could have been used to facilitate their work to a much greater extent. They would have appreciated greater support in terms of provision of existing maps, remote sensing and any other data on the survey areas as well as logistical back-up

Replicability

One weakness of the early botanical work was that it was not more quantitative or systematic (Quentin Luke, pers comm.). This may have something to do with the nature of botanic field work itself as well as resource and time constraints but the use of transects and other sampling methods and fixing locations would have enabled a review of the surveyed areas at a later date.

Technical issues

For the Shimba case and other similar ones, technical problems predominated and a full design should have been submitted and evaluated by WWF experts before money was invested. Also for a long-term scientific survey of this nature WWF needed to secure the funding needed in total to minimize the disruption caused by piecemeal disbursements.

Surveys always worthwhile

Resource surveys represent a long term investment which will continue bearing dividends both for WWF and the implementing partners. A good example is the Coast Forest Survey data which though done over 10 years ago is still the most reliable material and in fact is the primary base for the WWF Eastern African Coastal Forest Programme. National Institutions however often place surveys lower on their priorities in decisions about utilization of scarce funds.

Research Collaboration

CFCU has found the work of research organizations including independent NGOs working at the Kenya coast like the Colobus Trust to be of very high value. Although their conservation focus may be quite specific in terms of species, the interrelated nature of biodiversity means that often surveys of specific groups (eg Colobus monkeys) are by extension surveys of habitats ie. forests in which these species live. Regular liaison with such bodies has proved highly productive for CFCU.

3.2.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD

Socio-economic and livelihood components have been included in all WWF's later projects in the Kenya CF implemented after the initial survey projects. Although the surveys confirmed the importance of Kenya CF for species conservation it was perceived that conservation efforts would fail if the basic needs of the local communities in adjacent areas were not met. This is in fact a major principle of conservation now universally accepted as demonstrated by the UNCED conference of 1992 and various conventions including the Convention for Biological Diversity.

The Coastal region of Kenya is a prime example of the challenges facing environment and development. The population is generally poor. For example Tana River, Kilifi and Malindi Districts all score lower than the national average in many poverty indices including 'food poor', absolute poverty and hardcore poverty. This high level of poverty means that the population is highly dependent on consumption of natural resource capital including forests to meet their basic needs. Ways need to be found of reducing this 'pressure' on coastal forests.

The WWF Kenya CF projects have attempted to address this issue in various ways but the two main strategies are:

Substitution: This is represented by the CFCU project component promoting tree planting around Kaya forest areas and developing with the aim of reducing dependence

on natural forests. Beekeeping by providing some income would come under the same category. These are common approaches in forest conservation projects

Provision of Incentives: This approach is demonstrated in the Kaya Kinondo ecotourism project where income from ecotourism activities based on the Kaya is an incentive for locals to protect and conserve the site. In the 'Good Woods' Project the aim is to provide an incentive for carvers in the form of an assured market if they change from using indigenous hardwoods from natural forests to farm grown timber. There is a ready market for 'certified' sustainably produced wood even if it is of a slightly inferior carving quality and the carvers are in a position to capture this. There will also be improved incomes for small farmers who are producing the timber.

Lessons from WWF Kenya CF Livelihood activities

Substitution by treeplanting

Tree planting programmes as a substitution strategy providing alternative wood resources have had mixed success in Kenya CF projects. Evaluations showed that the approach could not be expected to achieve significant substitution in the short or even medium term. The reasons for this included hostile semi-arid environments in many areas in which water was precious and villagers could not be expected to divert this to seedling production from basic needs.

Even when seedlings were provided from elsewhere, unreliable climate gave mixed survival results. The overall outcome is that in general, small poor farmers rarely planted a high number of trees. However the trees they did plant and which survived were an important source of additional income. It was recommended that treeplanting be introduced more as an income earning activity providing savings and increasing farmers' options from small high-quality tree stocks. Honey projects also worked the same way, providing additional sources of income.

Additionally substitution approaches could not work if the natural resource in the conservation areas continued to be largely accessible. Substitution could only work if the original supply was cut off. It needed to be applied together with restriction and protection of the resource itself.

Domestication Opportunities

Tree planting products have tended to focus on fast growing exotic species like casuarina. However experience in the Kenya CF area has shown that there is potential to domesticate forest and woodland species whose fruit is harvested in the wild for home consumption and even sale. This would diversify the farmers tree product base as some of these fruit are very popular. However research is needed on various aspects of this.

Ecotourism

Experience of the Kinondo project has shown that ecotourism at a sacred site is a viable income earning activities for communities. However an extended period of consultation is needed with the traditional elders and community in the development to build trust. Similarly traditional rules of the site as specified by

The Elders must be scrupulously followed even if inconvenient and a risk of reduced income results. The overriding objective of the site management must be the maintenance of the site as a spiritual one. All other objectives are subsidiary. A very challenging element of ecotourism is the business management itself. Sound marketing was observed to be by far the most important condition for success in this area. The business also proved to be very vulnerable to the ebb and flow of foreign tourism which provides the biggest market.

Certification

The process of setting up a certification scheme is still ongoing but among the lessons already emerging are the huge training needs and budgets required to ensure that all players, usually peasant farmers and carvers are grounded in the main principles. Certification has proved an attractive proposition for the carvers provided that the carvings they produce from certified timber are guaranteed of a market as their uncertified competitors will continue to use indigenous hardwoods which are more appealing. This means a marketing component is essential which the carvers may lack capacity to manage. The Authorities also need to contribute by enforcing the ban on logging of indigenous hardwoods vigorously.

Marketing Support is a must

In the case of ecotourism and certification the principle was providing incentives by developing new sources of income from the sale of goods or services. The predominant lessons learnt in the livelihoods area is the importance of a marketing strategy and approach. The carvers needed to target the existing foreign market just as the Kinondo group target a limited number of tourists. By extension this would apply to honey and other products.

Marketing today is a highly technical and complex field in terms of the skills and technology needed. The general lesson learnt is that the community groups producing or providing the good and services are almost always completely ill-equipped for this and this will not change soon. In Kinondo it was found necessary to retain commission agents due to the intense competition in the depressed tourism economy. For the carving cooperatives in the goodwoods ongoing project, sustained and unsuccessful efforts to boost marketing capacity have failed. The consensus is now that the carvers should delegate this to a specialized marketing body in which they would have some shareholding leaving the carver to concentrate on what they do best.

The bottom line is that income-earning livelihood projects which ignore the marketing component will almost certainly fail. Organization of the groups is essential but some marketing body however simple serving one or more small producers seems to be crucial too. The implications for this in terms of costs are significant. Marketing costs money as the Good Woods project is finding. To set up a marketing body requires investment. If the product is not attractive and salable also, then such investments are not viable. The marketplace is also fraught with risk but community conservation projects can not be shielded from the pitfalls. WWF needs to incorporate an element of marketing infrastructure in

all livelihood projects involving participation in the market and provide an adequate budget for this.

3.2.4 TRADE AND UTILIZATION ISSUES

Forest adjacent communities are involved in the extraction of natural resources from forests not merely for consumption to help meet their basic energy, food and shelter needs but also to trade in any materials over and above their needs. A wide range of forest goods from Kenya CF are traded including plant wood and non-wood materials, insects and animal products. Much of the trade is local occurring in small markets and towns in the vicinity of the forests but a significant quantity of forest products find their way to large regional towns and cities at the coast. Recent surveys indicate that forest products are traded across the border to Tanzania as well (Mbuvi, 2004).

A significant feature of this trade in natural forest products is that it is usually the bulky materials including timber and poles which attract the regulatory attention of the authorities. Other less conspicuous products including small game meat and hides, fruit and herbs which are easily packed escape scrutiny even though in principle illegal if unlicensed and obtained from protected areas. It appears that in some cases, the traffic is known about but tolerated (Mbuvi 2004). The assumption by authorities may be that the quantities involved are 'negligible' but studies show that in fact traded quantities are quite substantial and growing (TRAFFIC, 2000).

Whatever the case, the implications for conservation are quite obvious. Many of the plants and animals traded in this way may already be classified threatened or endangered and on IUCN red data lists. A good example is the Aders duiker of Arabuko Sokoke which has no doubt been affected by the local trade in bushmeat over the years in which duikers are regarded as a delicacy. The fact that meat products are hard to trace to their origins once animals have been skinned makes them all the more difficult to track and monitor.

Important Issues in trade and utilization

The need to document and monitor the extensive trade in natural forest products of all types. The main challenge here is that in fact most of the trade is unlicensed or merely tolerated. Traders may be unwilling to divulge sources and quantities under such circumstances.

Directly related to the above is the importance of developing community based management systems which include all sorts of timber and non-timber products including bushmeat. The challenge in this area is enlisting forest adjacent communities in management by assuring them of their stake in the resource and recognizing that the utilization is an integral part of local livelihood strategies. Currently all forest products are seen as belonging to the authorities. The fact that they are 'stolen' and often traded covertly results in price distortions including extreme undervaluation.

Policy and legislation are crucial to the equation. Current policy and legislation stresses exclusion and control by Government. It also underlines the ownership by Government of all natural resources not in private hands. The current situation requires that this be reviewed to enable the communities to take more responsibility for natural resources in partnership with the state.

WWF Kenya CF lessons learnt regarding utilization and trade.

Trade issues overlooked in Kenya CF

The biggest lesson for WWF regarding trade is really an observation that the trade in forest products and its implications for conservation has been largely overlooked in Kenya CF. WWF recognizes sustainable wildlife use as one of the key objectives of its most recent strategic plan. It has also collaborated with TRAFFIC, an international wildlife trade monitoring organization to develop activities in Africa.

More attention has however been paid to Tanzania with respect to specific actions due to the high level of concern trade in large mammal products there. Also large mammals are not prevalent in the Kenya CF. The one area in which a trade issue has been addressed in Kenya CF is the Good Wood Programme targeting trade and conservation of specific hardwoods..

Need for Documentation

A most urgent task in the area of trade is documentation of the extent and nature of formal and informal trade in species of all categories from coastal forests especially non-wood and animal products. The documentation should include wild products utilization as part of a local livelihood strategy. This will be an important tool in developing sustainable utilization systems. Approaches are needed which will be successful in securing accurate information especially participatory ones..

Policy and trade

In WWF policy and legal intervention programmes with regard to coastal forests the issues of utilization and trade in forest products must be addressed especially with regard to tenure and use rights issues. The objective of improved policy and laws should be to foster a sense of ownership of natural resources in order to develop more satisfactory management systems.

Domestication

There are clear opportunities for domestication of selected wild plants for various products such as fruit and poles for domestic and trade purposes. The same applies for other species groups as well (Mbuvi 2004). The Kipepeo butterfly project based at Arabuko Sokoke has demonstrated the potential for trade in insects under certain conditions. Community based trials in this field could yield useful results for home utilization and trade.

3.2.5 OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS

In addition to the four key areas on which WWF will focus in its Eastern African Coastal Forest Programme, a compilation of lessons from past WWF activities in Kenya CF would be incomplete without reviewing a few other components particularly resource

management actions, environmental education and institutional development (capacity building).

Resource Management

WWF supported programme activities with direct impact on resource management have included:

- Recommending and promoting protective legal status for coastal forests (Kayas)
- Supporting participatory boundary survey of the Kayas for gazettement (Kayas)
- Supporting Community guards system for Kayas
- Develop site management and conservation guidelines (Kaya Kinondo project)

Lessons in resource management actions

Legal status changes

The Kenya Government acted and made most of the sites National Monuments at the urging of the WWF projects starting in 1992. Despite the extensive area in which Kayas are found and the limited resources available to the NMK to monitor the sites, the gazettement has worked well. Gazettement and placement of conspicuous signs have deterred land speculators from the sites. It has also signaled to local people that the state values their natural and cultural heritage and supports protection of the sites. This has generated pride been a further incentive to protect the sites. However the type of gazettement is important. The success of promoting the NM category was partly due to the fact that while it places sanctions on activities harmful to the site the ownership of the land itself was not transferred to Government but remained community owned.

Participatory boundary marking

Closely related to the above point is the fact that the WWF projects supported the demarcation of Kaya site boundaries in consultation with the local people. The process was slow and suffered numerous setbacks but once completed the boundaries have been largely respected and have worked well. The exercise gave locals some control in the process of defining boundaries.

Community Guards

The CFCU Kayas project supported among other activities the deployment of local youth as volunteer guards for the Kayas who were paid a small token amount in recognition of their efforts. The guards were generally effective during the period of the project but a number did not continue when the honoraria stopped. However some continue today on a completely voluntary basis. The main lesson here was to both Government and WWF is the relatively low budget required for this low key but effective activity: The total annual cost of the honoraria was about US\$ 9000 per year or roughly US\$ 1.5 per hectare of the Kayas per year. Despite this the token was appreciated by the recipients although not a salary.

Environmental Education

As stated in a WWF evaluation of its Eastern African Regional environmental education programme the goal of EE is to change attitudes and behaviour of people so that they develop personal lifestyles and adopt wise-use principles on natural resources relating to natural resources in order to preserve environmental quality (WWF, 1998). An environmental education component is therefore key and has been included in a number of projects supported by WWF in Kenya CF including:

- Conservation awareness programmes for the Kaya forests (CFCU)
- Raising awareness among local community of Kaya Kinondo natural and cultural values (Kinondo Ecotourism Project)
- Increasing general awareness about sustainable woodcarving and benefits through goodwoods publicity and promotion campaign in electronic and print media

General Lessons Learnt

It was observed by the 1998 evaluation that the WWF Regional office lacked an overall EE strategy which would contribute towards achieving the WWF continental strategy. The same was found to be true of many WWF projects including CFCU which had no documented operational EE strategy or framework for activities. Without this efficient planning and direction of EE activities is difficult even with the best efforts of project staff. This was a missed opportunity.

An important lesson from the experience of CFCU in undertaking its EE project activities at the coast and other projects elsewhere was the need for support from EARPO ideally from an EE central coordinating unit if this could be set up. Such a unit would back up field projects in highly technical areas such as EE preparation and production. Field projects are often lacking in such skills and have little time.

Another lesson is the need for EE to link closely with livelihood development activities promoting income earning opportunities to local communities as well as alternatives to forest products eg sun-dried bricks (WWF, 1998). This way education can influence specific changes in practice amongst key stakeholders and address gaps in their knowledge to enable them achieve sustainable livelihoods (CFCU, 2000).

Print and electronic media are powerful tools for awareness and education programmes, targeted at different audiences. Radio for example widely accessible even to the poor in most of the Kenya CF conservation areas. Its effectiveness for spreading conservation awareness messages in local areas has been observed by CFCU in its work for Kayas. For urban dwellers, the newspapers are also highly effective. When analysed, the unit costs of mass media tend to be significantly lower than other approaches.

Institutional development (capacity building)

Capacity building is one of the key principles or operational objectives of WWF.

WWF projects at the Kenya CF especially the last three have all had an institutional development component aimed at developing or strengthening institutions and capacity to manage conservation and enterprise activities. Example include:

- Developing institutions and framework for Kaya conservation and management including Kaya conservation groups (CFCU)
- Building local community group capacity to effectively develop and manage ecotourism (Kaya Kinondo Project)

Capacity building may be targeted at a whole range of stakeholders including government departments and NGOs but WWF projects have been focused on community groups around Kaya conservation areas. Part of CFCU's output was the successful registration of 8 community groups.

Lessons relating to Community organization

Despite popular theories about sustainable complete community control and management of natural resources as the ideal towards which projects strive, the reality from field projects indicates that this will be difficult to achieve. This is especially so if at a high level of biodiversity conservation and management is also demanded. The main reasons for this conclusion is related to technical capacity of community groups and resources for protection and management.

Numerous efforts to equip community groups with some technical resource management skills have found that this only succeeds to a limited extent. Usually one is dealing with poorly educated rural people for whom to meet basic needs is an ever present struggle. Unless these basics are met participation in active protection and conservation activities and learning will be limited as time to invest in them is lacking. As expected however there is greater interest in income earning activities linked to the projects such as ecotourism but even here some of the necessary technical enterprise skills are difficult to transfer. One approach to solving this is the delegation of skilled tasks to an educated person or agent which implies costs that the groups are unable to bear.

The main lesson learnt by CFCU is that the institutional set-up for successful conservation should involve partnership between multiple stakeholders each with a clear mandate or role to play. These players include local community, Government and NGOs (Githitho, 1999, 2000). Much of the technical management and resource monitoring role will be led by Government and NGOs. This partnership rather than being seen as transitory is really likely to be the enduring feature of coastal forest conservation and conservation in general.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The compilations of lessons learnt by WWF in its conduct of conservation activities in Kanya Coastal Forests has involved a review of key documents related to the projects and programmes including periodic and evaluation reports, as well as meetings and interviews with stakeholders and those involved in their implementation where possible. While it is impossible to capture every single detail, the survey has striven to identify the most important lessons for future WWF activities in the Kenya Coast.

The four key areas addressed by the study are: Policy issues, Resource Assessment, Socio-economic/livelihoods and trade reflecting the main foci of the developing Eastern African Coastal Forest programme. However other aspects will also be commented on. Based on the lessons drawn out by the exercise the following broad recommendations are made. For background on the recommendations please refer to the preceding section 3

4.1 CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategic Plans

Strategic plans are essential for the purpose of focusing WWF's resources towards its objectives and facilitating development of projects and activities on the ground. They minimize waste and duplication and are an excellent tool for fundraising. The EACFE has done well to embark on developing one to guide its programme building on the sub-region strategy. This should incorporate a sound environmental education component.

Working through Local Partners

The WWF EACFP should build on the successes of the past by continuing to work through local partners rather than directly where possible. This enhances ownership by the partner organization and minimizes unrealistic expectations among local stakeholders. Working through mandated state organizations also lends the product outputs very significant authority and sustainability..

Small Budget Projects

WWF should in implementing the EACFP resist the pressure to dismiss small budget projects. It should instead try to find a balance between administrative expediency for the WWF bureaucracy and clearly achieving the stated goals of the organization through small projects. The most successful projects in the Kenya CF have tended to have low budgets.

Disengagement / exit strategy management

The problem of poor phasing out of WWF in projects is still acute. WWF should as part of its EACF programme initiate and support a discourse in the conservation and donor community on improved management of exit strategies or donor disengagements. This could be by way of workshops with a set of guidelines as an output.

4.1.1 POLICY

Influencing legal and policy formulation

WWF should continue through its projects in the EACF to influence formulation of the content and text of the law or policy where needed such as in Kenya to enhance biodiversity conservation. Even though WWF may have little say in the final enactment or adoption, State organizations and NGOs can be facilitated by projects to put together the best information relating to CF conservation. Once adopted such documents have a long-term impact.

WWF-EARPO lobby role

Project partner efforts in policy formulation need to be complemented by Direct WWF advocacy with top Ministry and Government Officials. WWF-EARPO should strengthen its advocacy role at national and international level not just for policy formulation but to tackle any emerging issues relating to CF in all the countries of the ecoregion.

Opportunity to test policies and laws on the ground

As a part of the ongoing reviews of laws and policies especially in Kenya, WWF CF projects should ensure their inclusion in the environmental awareness package to local communities. WWF should also promote debate and testing of the laws and policies relating to CF conservation. This make use of the opportunity in the more open political atmosphere in the region that allows for greater involvement by people in shaping and responding to issues.

Ad-hoc Studies / surveys to inform emerging policy issues

Where WWF deems it necessary to undertake ad-hoc studies on urgent issues there should be more collaboration with the media and Civil Society groups in dissemination especially where the issues are very clear-cut and a proposed action is motivated more from pure political considerations than best practice.

4.1.2 RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

EACFE Resource survey policy

Resource surveys in targeted areas represent a long term investment which will continue bearing dividends both for WWF and the implementing partners. Where funds are available the policy of the EACFE should be to undertake the studies rather than not. It is important however that sound technical guidelines and direction be given by WWF.

Working through partners

Where some capacity exists in National State or Non Governmental bodies, the WWF EACFEP should work through local partners. This should be for all phases of activity including resource assessment and conservation field activities. In Kenya CF WWF should continue to work through NMK and KWS and also expand its range of partners.

Publication of Research and Studies

Any resource survey or monitoring activity of importance that WWF is currently supporting or plans to support in the Eastern African Coastal Forest Ecoregion should include a budget for the editing and publication of the results to reach a wider readership.

Replicability of site surveys

Policy for the EACFEP supported resource surveys should insist that researchers undertaking studies and surveys should have a long term view and where possible or

appropriate establish permanent monitoring sites from the start, however rudimentary. GPS technology is now widely available to facilitate this.

4.1.3 SOCIOECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD ISSUES

On - Farm tree planting and production

On farm tree planting programmes within the EACFEP should be designed with wood production and substitution in mind as a broad long-term goal but the more immediate and important objective should be an income earning activity providing savings and increasing farmers' options from small high-quality fast growing tree stocks. In the same way as beekeeping and other farm production projects. Where substitution for natural forest use is intended on-farm tree-planting must be combined with protection activities in the conservation area.

Domestication of useful plants

The EACFE programme should support research, trials in domestication of selected indigenous forest and woodland species whose fruit is harvested in the wild for home consumption and even sale. This would as part of on farm forestry programmes would diversify the farmers tree product base as some of these fruit are very popular.

Ecotourism

The EACFE programme should consider ecotourism projects as income generating activities at forest sites only if certain conditions are found including:

- Sufficient tourist numbers and flow
- A special unique feature of the forest exists eg tradiitonal values
- A facility to market the site in a competitive environment

The development of ecotourism is a complex business undertaking. Failure to consider this fact and the management implicatons will be disastrous. Certain functions may need to be delegated by the community group.

Certification

The EACFE Programme needs to investigate the prospects for use of certification as a conservation tool in coastal forests in Tanzania and Mozambique having in mind the unique conditions that apply there. The replicability of the exercise there should be tested first. Budgeting for such an exercise should be guided by the costs of the ongoing project which has had unforeseen elements such as a marketing mechanism.

Marketing infrastructure

For income earning activities promoted under the EACFE programme which would by implication trade in the open market, WWF should budget to support development of marketing infrastructure as a general policy. This should include where appropriate, providing links to or setting marketing agencies of varying scope, local, regional and national for single and multiple clients and products. The traded goods might include tree products, bee products, fruit and others while ecotourism sites also need marketing. This is the biggest challenge of livelihood programmes.

4.1.4 TRADE AND UTILIZATION

Documentation

A most urgent task for the EACFE programme is documentation of the extent and nature of formal and informal trade in species of all categories from coastal forests especially non-wood and animal products especially in Kenya where no significant data exists. The documentation should include wild products utilization as part of a local livelihood strategy. This will be an important tool in developing sustainable utilization systems. Approaches are needed which will be successful in securing accurate information especially participatory ones.

Policy and trade

In policy and legal intervention programmes the EACFEP should incorporate and address the issues of utilization and trade in forest products including bushmeat especially with regard to tenure and use rights issues. The objective of improved policy and laws should be to foster a sense of ownership of natural resources in order to develop more satisfactory management systems for coastal forests..

4.1.5 OTHER AREAS

Site Resource Management

Demarcation and gazettement

The EACFE Programme should continue to support gazettement of remaining unprotected forests patches under appropriate laws to build on the success of the past 15 years in this area especially in Kenya. The gazettement process should include community consultation especially in the demarcation of site boundaries. Similarly also the legislation applied should provide for continuing community ownership of the land resource as the National Monument legislation has been able to do.

Community Guards

The EACFEP should support revival of The CFCU Kayas guard model which involved deployment of local youth as volunteer guards for the forest working part time and paid a small token for the Kayas, and other small coastal forest in Kenya. It should also be tested elsewhere. The long-term goal should be adoption of the system by National or local Government as an inexpensive monitoring system.

Environmental Education

EACFE Programme should include as elements of an EE strategy the following:

- Close linkage with livelihood development activities promoting income earning opportunities to local communities as well as alternatives to forest products eg sun-dried bricks in order to influence specific changes in practice amongst key

- Harnessing opportunities in the print and electronic media which are powerful tools for awareness and education programmes, targeted at different audiences. Radio in particular is widely accessible even to the poor and its effectiveness for spreading conservation awareness at a low unit cost is well proven.

Institutional Development and Capacity Building.

To benefit from lessons so far learned the EACFE programme should include as elements of its institution and capacity building a framework with partnership between multiple stakeholders each with a clear mandate or role to play. These players include local community, Government and NGOs. Much of the technical management and resource monitoring role for example will be led by Government and NGOs while communities will often have ownership rights of the forests etc. This partnership rather than being seen as transitory is really likely to be the enduring feature of coastal forest conservation and conservation in general.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.

WWF KENYA COASTAL FOREST PROJECT PROFILES

Project 1: Preliminary Floristic Survey of Kaya Forests of Kenya

This botanical survey was undertaken between 1986 and 87. It was implemented as an activity of the National Museums of Kenya whose mandate is the conservation of natural, scientific and cultural heritage. The survey was undertaken from Mrs Ann Robertson assisted by Quentin Luke. The literature available showed that many rare and interesting plants were to be found in these Kayas. There was also very little information available on the coast province with regard to plants and sources were scattered and could not be found in one place.

Objectives of the survey were:

- Determine the location areas and status of the Mijikenda Kaya Forests
- Make new plant collections where needed
- Determine the attitude of local people towards their Kayas
- Suggest the best strategy and mode of protection

Activities included:

Review and compilation of plant species collected in coastal region up to that time; Site visits to the Kayas and collection of new species; Discussions with the Kaya Elders, local leaders and Government officials on ways to protect the forests

Achievements of the survey:

- Compiled extensive plant lists for the coast region
- Located the large majority of Mijikenda Kaya sites and identified those of particular species interest
- Assessed the attitude of local communities to the Kayas and their conservation
- Recommended protective actions to be taken
- Recommended areas for further investigation and study

Project 2: Kenya Coast Forest Status, Conservation and Management

This project followed from and expanded from the floristic survey of Kayas described above in order to include all the coastal forests and not just the Kayas. Again it was implemented by the National Museums of Kenya although funded by WWF. The field survey covered the whole coast province and was again executed by Robertson and Luke.

Objectives included:

- Documenting current status of Kenya coastal forests
- Developing recommendations for protection and utilization of coastal forests
- Initiating training and education programmes for conservation
- Promoting sustainable utilization and germplasm conservation of rare coastal plants

Activities:

Desk and field study. A review of the legal status of all the coastal forest and woodland areas; Site visits and collections of new plant findings for all accessible coastal forest areas; Herbarium determination and compilation of comprehensive checklist of all coastal forest plants; Making recommendations for the sustained utilization of each unprotected area. Giving lectures and talks at various fora about coastal forests; Training a herbarium technician at the East African Herbarium; Collaborating with KEFRI ecology division in a pilot ecological study of Arabuko Sokoke forest

Achievements:

- All of the larger and most of the smaller forest and woodland patches were visited and documented in fair detail with regard to plant composition and habitat condition
- A checklist of all known vascular plants of coast province was compiled
- A list of recommendations was made for improvement of conservation status of coastal forests
- Expeditions were arranged for NMK and UON personnel to Mrima and Dzombo as well as the Tana primate to undertake biological surveys
- Lectures and talks were given to students and other groups when time allowed
- Collection of seed material as well as planting trials for indigenous coastal plants was undertaken by the project leader who also distributed the seedlings to various individuals and institutions for planting.
- As a result of the CFS a small Unit was formed at the NMK called the Coastal Forest Conservation Unit, CFCU which would begin active monitoring and protection activities for the Kayas with the local Elders
- Also as a result of the CFS project, an initial 23 Kaya forest and sacred grove sites were gazetted at its recommendation

Project 3: Coastal Forest Conservation Unit Project

The Coastal Forest Conservation Unit Project was undertaken between 1994 and 2001. This project built on the above two and activities now included practical community conservation interventions in addition to surveys and site demarcation. The funding for this project was primarily to strengthen and support the NMK/CFCU recently formed in its conservation work for Kayas by supporting initial funding.

Objectives

- Strengthen Coastal Forest Conservation Unit of the National Museums of Kenya to conserve the Kaya forests and sacred
- Boundary survey and gazettement of Kaya forests and sacred groves as National Monuments
- Increasing public awareness about the Kayas and their conservation
- Developing alternative sources for forest products and alleviate pressure on the Kaya forests
- Continuing to gather biological, socio-economic and other relevant information on the coastal forests
- Promoting revision of the key law relating to the Kayas (Monuments) to reflect local community's cultural concerns and problems
- Developing / strengthening local institutions for Kaya management

Activities

Demarcation and boundary survey of Kaya forests ; Processing of legal gazettelement for the Kayas; Supporting a system of Kaya volunteer guards; A schools environmental awareness programme; Supporting Forestry Department extension activities in Kaya areas; Site surveys and plant collections continued; Support NMK to undertake legal review of the main heritage laws etc

Achievements

- 17 new Kaya sites were demarcated and gazetted as National Monuments bringing the total to 40 sites including the initial 23.
- 71 community volunteer guards were identified and active in monitoring sites
- 8 Kaya conservation groups were formed and registered
- At least 10 000 students and youth per year were reached by the education programme 13000 community members attended awareness meetings. Kayas became widely known nationally
- A herbarium for the coast was built up to 2000 sheets representing 1650 taxa.
- 40 Community and village nurseries were supported. A beekeeping project was established at one site with 30 members
- A new heritage law was drafted which included sites like Kayas and incorporated traditional management systems.

Project 4: Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Pilot Project

Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Pilot project was funded by the Ford Foundation but implemented by WWF-EARPO through NMK/CFCU. The project was centred on Kaya Kinondo a Kaya forest in the south coast near an area of intense tourism development. The project was from 2001 to 2003. For a considerable time before this the question of whether the Kaya Elders and local communities would allow strangers and foreigners to visit their Kayas had been extensively debated. Kinondo seemed a prime site to test the concept and offered lessons for similar activities in other sacred sites.

Objectives

Test the viability of culturally sensitive ecotourism at Kaya Kinondo sacred forest National Monument as a means to linking its conservation with tangible benefits for local people through:

- Raising awareness among local people and stakeholders of the cultural and conservation value of the site.
- Building the community capacity to effectively develop and participate in tourism management
- Establishing an effective site management guidelines and conservation strategy for Kinondo with the Kaya Elders
- Improving the livelihoods and welfare of the local around Kaya Kinondo

Activities

Community awareness meetings; Consultation with traditional Kaya Elders; Training in enterprise management for group; Marketing and promotion of Kinondo in the local tourism sector; Demarcation of the site; site planning and development etc

Achievements The project has recorded a number of significant achievements including:

- Consensus reached on the parameters within which visits to the Kayas could be allowed
- The establishment of an active conservation group including Kaya Elders and local community members and training of a site supervisor/manager.
- Proper demarcation and survey of boundaries and establishment of guidelines and rules for visitors in conjunction with the Kaya Elders
- Development of visitor trails in collaboration with the Elders.
- Successful visits by increasing numbers of tourists from the surrounding hotels. Significant revenues raised and used in small community activities.
- Construction of an attractive visitor center on the periphery of the Kaya using local materials, labour and skills
- Setting up of a village bank for Kinondo area as a vehicle for harnessing local peoples savings
- Documenting lessons learnt from the project which can be applied to similar initiatives in the region.

Project 5: Study on effects of Elephant-Habitat interaction in (Mt Kenya and Shimba Hills

The study on the effects of elephant-habitat interaction in (Mt Kenya and) Shimba Hills was implemented by KWS in the Shimba Hills National Reserve between 1993-99. In the early 90s the KWS built elephant fences around selected forests with serious human – wildlife conflict including Mt Kenya and Shimba.

WWF supported a study to determine the effects of confining elephants to protected areas by this means on habitat, biological diversity and on the elephant populations themselves. The study was expected to yield important lessons for management of such activities and general policy. This summary relates to the Shimba component. From project reports however, it would appear that flow of funds from WWF was sporadic and much of the activity was instead funded by the EU.

Objectives

- Investigate effects varying densities of elephants have on forest structure, species composition and diversity
- Evaluate these effects in the light of current FD and Kenya Wildlife Service biodiversity conservation policy
- Provide knowledge of ecological impacts in order for KWS to make wise decisions about managing elephant populations
- Provide training for KWS staff on vegetation monitoring techniques, field data collection entry, analysis and presentation

Activities

Elephant population census using dung density methods; Vegetation sampling and analysis; On the job training for staff; Dissemination workshops for results

Achievements

- Vegetation surveys were done every year between 1995-99. However the sampling methodology used meant that the data from surveys up to 1998, were not from fixed points and could only provide a general rather than precise picture of vegetation

trends in time. The data showed that 35.7 of all sampled individuals were damaged mostly by elephants. Only 0.2 was due to human activity.

- Elephant population trends were determined from sample surveys which showed a significant upward trend in elephant density from 1.6 animals per Km² to over 2.0 animals
- A stakeholders workshop was held to discuss the study finding in 1997 which agreed on the need to reduce elephant population pressures in Shimba and discussed systematic culling of problem animals. By 1999 KWS had decided to undertake a programme of translocation.

Project 6: Conserving Kenya's indigenous forests through certification of sustainably sourced wood carvings.'The Good Woods Project'

The 'Certification of sustainably sourced carvings' Project began in 2002 and is ongoing. It is coordinated by WWF-EARPO and funded by the DFID Darwin conservation initiative. It constitutes the Kenyan component of a worldwide 'Good Woods' campaign implemented by WWF and UNESCO since 1994 under their 'People and Plants' Programme. The Primary purpose of the project was to conserve coastal forests by enabling carvers to shift from natural forest hardwoods to farm-grown or plantation species.

The main target groups are carvers cooperatives at the coast and farmers growing the neem tree. Neem is not as ideal a carving material as the traditional hardwoods but the incentive is an assured market for certified high quality neem carvings. WWF-UK and WWF-EARPO are collaborating in the project with Oxfam UK and Kenya as well as the National Museums Coastal Forest Conservation Unit and a Coastal NGO called Kwetu. The objectives of Oxfam and Kwetu are improved livelihoods and market access for the very poor in the project area.

Objectives

- By supporting carvers to shift from overexploited forest hardwoods to alternative farm-grown goodwoods to reduce pressure on critically endangered forest habitats (coastal forests)
- Improving and sustaining incomes livelihoods of carvers and farmers
- Promoting production and trade in sustainable tree products
- Increasing general awareness about forest conservation and incentives
- Supporting creation of a supportive forestry and land policy framework
- Supporting development of a viable system for FSC forest certification appropriate for small-scale growers and users of wood.

Activities

Developing a standardized treatment and production process for neem wood carvings to assure high quality products; Undertaking training in quality assurance with carvers; Improving Cooperative's business practices; Training farmers and carvers on Certification standards and processes. Training farmers on tree management and certification.

Achievements to date

- Development of a production system and manual for a large carving cooperative to ensure production of high quality neem woodcarvings

- Training of Akamba Cooperative staff in improved wood handling and processing including a solar kiln.
- Completion of a management plan for Kenya Coastal neem tree resources and recruitment of a Coordinating manager
- Development of administration and chain of custody manuals for a certification system for farm grown wood in small holding
- Training of carver groups in certification
- Recruitment of 1200 neem farmers and commencement of training in Certification, tree management and group organization.
- Conceptualization and initial development of an independent marketing body to handle certified tree products from coast province and initial fundraising.

Project 7. Survey: The status of Mangrove exploitation and trade along the Kenya Coastline

This study was funded by WWF-EARPO and implemented by Kenya Forest Research Institute KEFRI, in 1997. The short-term study was mooted mostly in response to a discussion within Government on whether or not to lift the ban on the export of mangrove products mostly to the Middle East. The study aimed at gathering information on the socio-economic, ecological and local trade impacts of such a decision which would inform any decision or future policy on mangrove management.

Activities

Interviews with mangrove cutters, traders and transporters along the Kenya coast. Site visits to mangrove areas.

Achievement

A report was prepared by KEFRI though not widely circulated. It is not clear whether the report contributed to the Government's decision to maintain the ban which remains to this day.