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CASE  
STUDY

2014



# FACES OF CHANGE:

## Stories of Civil Society Action

October 2014



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# FACES OF CHANGE: STORIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION

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The latest edition of the Living Planet Report shows that humans are taking more from the earth's ecosystems and natural resources than can be replenished; humans are therefore jeopardizing their very future. Natural Resource Management and sustainable development go hand-in-hand. They are not only about preserving biodiversity and wild places, but also about safeguarding the future of humanity – our well-being, economy, food security and social stability. Indeed, we urgently need to stop the degradation of the planet's natural resources.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. To achieve this mission, WWF Kenya implements programs and projects guided by the following overarching conservation strategies:

- Creating an enabling environment (for conservation of the environment)
- Responding to market forces in high priority sectors
- Securing high value conservation areas
- Addressing broader climate change, energy and footprint issues

With support from Norad through WWF Norway, WWF Kenya has since 2011 implemented a four-year project focused on strengthening Environmental Civil Society engagement in order to achieve improved natural resource governance in Kenya. The project works with environmental Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), associations, as well as civil society networks, forums and alliances that are involved in building the capacities of local communities; advocating for policy change and for people's rights over land and natural resources; championing for better environmental management practices; and equity in benefit sharing of resource exploitation in Kenya.

In particular, WWF Kenya supports the National Environment Civil Society Alliance of Kenya (NECSA-K), a national network of civil society organizations that acts as a platform for effective advocacy in Kenya that draws its membership from local and national CSOs that are engaged in different thematic areas (such as forestry, water, marine, wildlife, wetlands among other environmental initiatives). In addition, it draws membership from national entities as well county forums.

WWF Kenya has also been supporting national partners who include:

- Nature Kenya
- Community Action for Nature Conservation
- Forest Action Network
- East Africa Wildlife Society
- Wild life clubs of Kenya

Consequently, WWF Kenya has supported County Forums such as the Kwale County Natural Resource Forum as



well as local groups such as Malindi Youth Network and Coastal Oil and Gas networks.

A number of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been supported through this project and they include:

- Water Resource Users Associations,
- Community Forest Associations
- Beach Management Units.

This document showcases some of these organizations and the work they are doing.



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCE OF KENYA (NECSA-K): Influencing Policy through Civil Society Collaboration

The National Environment Civil Society Alliance of Kenya (NECSA-K) was established by WWF Kenya, together with its partners in 2009, to provide a common platform for the many distinct CSO networks and coalitions working in the wildlife, forestry, wetlands, climate change, oil and gas sectors. NECSA-K works through its 42-strong membership to raise awareness of environmental issues, and to improve management of natural resources.

## PREVIOUS SITUATION

Initially, the different sectoral groups addressed national environmental issues individually, an approach that had minimal impact, as they did not have a unified authoritative voice. The entry of NECSA-K enabled these groups to undertake advocacy collectively and to rally towards a common cause.

“Separately we did not have a unified message, and only considered our small niches with no consideration of how our issue may be impacted by, or impact on others. We were also too disorganized to get a strong message across. Creating NECSA-K has made us stronger and more structured in addressing issues of concern. We now provide consolidated inputs to bills rather than numerous disparate and uncoordinated inputs. We speak with more authority as one” Dr. Dominic Walubengo, chair of NECSA-K says.

## PRESENT ACHIEVEMENTS

NECSA-K has made the sectoral groups stronger and more structured in addressing their issues of concern. They are now able to provide consolidated inputs to draft laws and other legislative processes.

Of note is that in 2010, the alliance was instrumental in the development of a memorandum on civil society position on the land and environmental chapters of the then draft Constitution of Kenya. Such was the richness of the input that this chapter became part of the new constitution once the President promulgated it.

Currently, NECSA-K is involved in the implementation of the new constitution by providing inputs and recommendations to the numerous pieces of natural resource legislation that are under review so as to be in line with the constitution.

Another key piece of legislation that NECSA-K was heavily involved in is the current wildlife law, which was enacted in December 2013 and which incorporated many of the recommendations that the alliance



Dr. Dominic Walubengo Chairman NECSA-K  
Kenya

“  
It is only  
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that we will see  
development in  
Kenya,

came up with. Some of these include compensation to communities for injury, death or damage from wildlife, high penalties for poaching, community conservation, benefit sharing and decision making mechanisms such as county compensation and conservation committees. County governments like Narok, which are rich in wildlife resources, are in the process of domesticating this Act. They propose to share benefits from wildlife management more equitably with local communities.

The alliance has also provided valuable views regarding other key natural resource laws such as the Water Bill, the Mining Bill, the Community Land Bill, and the Environment Management and Coordination Amendment Bill. Other areas of input include the National Wetlands Policy, the Environment Policy, the Education for Sustainable Development Policy and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy.

The government now recognizes NECSA-K as a key stakeholder and a vital resource on policy issues in Kenya. The government now actively seeks the input of the alliance into draft laws while the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) (the government body that oversees the implementation of the constitution) seeks comments before they approve natural resource related policies or bills.

“It is only through strategic partnerships that we will see development in Kenya,” the Chairman of NECSA-K Dr. Walubengo says, “it’s hard work collaborating, networking, and ensuring that you are getting all the necessary information from the grassroots – you cannot just speak on behalf of others without their input.”

The alliance is keen to see a future where equitable benefit sharing of natural resources is embedded in law coupled with effective participation by local communities and the public in the development of various pieces of legislation that affect them.





# KENYA FORESTS WORKING GROUP KFWG: Promoting Better Governance in the Forestry Sector

For a long time, Kenya struggled with an ineffective and archaic forestry legislation that exacerbated governance challenges within the forestry sector. To address this problem, the Kenya Forests Working Group (KFWG), a national forum that brings together stakeholders from different arenas, was established in 1995.

Since 2009, WWF Kenya has been providing technical and financial support to this group to assist in the implementation of their activities. Currently, KFWG is focused on advocacy and lobbying where it plays the role of a watchdog in ensuring good governance within the forestry sector.

In addition, they provide capacity and institutional development of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and sensitize communities about the Forests Act and its provision for Participatory Forest Management (PFM). The group also works with communities to create awareness of forest legislation, obtaining their input for new legislation and integrating this input into national level processes.

Furthermore, the group plays a facilitator's role between communities wishing to engage in PFM and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS); the mandated manager of Kenya's forests. PFM allows communities to have direct management of their forests and to share the resources and benefits from these forests. KFWG has facilitated more than 30 such agreements nationally, where it has provided technical support and manuals on development of Forest Management Plans (FMPs) with regard to the roles of different players including CFAs.

## CASE STUDY: KFWG AND THE GEDE COMMUNITY FOREST ASSOCIATION

The Forestry Act of 2005 provides for the establishment of CFAs, which enable communities to obtain access to forest resources, and to participate with the KFS in managing the forest.

### PREVIOUS STATE

Before the enactment of the Forest Act of 2005, communities around Arabuko Sokoke Forest in Kilifi County were not a happy lot. They were denied access to the same forest that is so close to their hearts, by the fact of proximity to their homes. They were also starved of resources from the forest, like firewood, which they needed for their daily use.

Traditionally, the community viewed KFS as an enemy that arrested people for being in the forest thus denying them access to the forest resources. The community was not aware of its rights and responsibilities with regard to the forest.

Following the passing of the Forests Act 2005, communities around Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve took the initiative and organised themselves into the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Adjacent Dwellers Association (ASFADA) in order to obtain management and benefit rights for the forest as stipulated by the law. However, this was



Khamis Juma Chairman Gede CFA

prior to the development of guidelines for the establishment of CFAs. Once the guidelines were published, it became clear that the forest block, for which the Association had been established, would need to be divided into smaller management units, and CFAs established for each unit.

Thus, the Gede CFA was established. The concept of a CFA was entirely new, and the community needed assistance. KFWG stepped forward and helped in establishing the Gede CFA.

“The concept of a CFA was entirely new to us and we realized that we needed assistance to do this. Due to this, we asked the Kenya Forest Working Group’s support to help us establish the Gede Community Forest Association.” Khamis Juma, Chair of the Gede Community Forest Association says.

After several meetings with the community; explaining the contents of the forest law and sensitizing them on what their role as a CFA would be, the community developed a PFM plan, which was endorsed by the KFS. They then developed a Forest Management Agreement, which was signed by both parties in 2013.

Under this Agreement, the community is entitled to the following:

- Gather butterflies and foodstuff from the forest for breeding and selling.
- Collect firewood for domestic use, by mainly collecting dead wood in designated areas.
- Collect water from the forest.
- Practice ecotourism - the community can enter into an agreement with the private sector to develop a site within the forest for a joint venture, with the CFA as partner. The community already has several tourism sites, one of main ones being in an Important Bird Area (IBA) and is already attracting tourists.
- Harvest and collect medicinal plants.
- Carbon credit schemes - KFS is currently assessing the carbon stock and if viable, the CFA will be able to receive a share of the income generated from sale of the carbon credits
- Beekeeping - hives can be placed within the forest and communities can generate income through the sale of honey.
- Job opportunities - KFS appointments in the area first consider CFA members.
- Fodder - grass for fodder can be harvested from within the forest for livestock.

In addition to the rights of the communities regarding the above benefits from the forest, the community also has responsibilities which include rehabilitation of the forest, and ensuring that there are no illegal activities carried out in the forest. In this regard, the community undertakes regular patrols with KFS and is responsible for reporting any illegal incidences.

Both parties are happy with the implementation of the management agreement. KFS no longer views the community as destroyers and the two parties are now partners working towards a common goal. The community is also more aware of its rights and responsibilities and feels ownership of the forest.

“Before we established the CFA and signed the Agreement with KFS, we saw KFS as “the enemy”. We only knew them as the people coming to arrest us for being in the forest. But now that we have legal access to the forest and are aware of our rights and responsibilities we see KFS as our partners” said Khamis Juma.





Some Members of GEDE community forest association

There has been a marked improvement in the management of the forest where incidences of illegal activities have significantly dropped. The community is reaping benefits from the forest, and has also actively been involved in the decisions involving the forest.

“We are happy that we are getting benefits from this arrangement. We now have access to the forest, but something we really value is that KFS now includes us in decision making,” said Khamis Juma

However, every process is often marred by its challenges. In this case, this process has not always been entirely smooth. Some citizens settled in a part of the forest under the CFA administration, and cleared land for settlement and agriculture. Attempts to resolve this by the CFA failed. The matter, which had to go to court, is still unresolved.

The Arabuko Sokoke Forest Block is earmarked by the government for mineral explorations, which are expected to begin in the near future. The community fears that if the mineral deposits are viable for mining, they will lose access to the forest and the ecosystem services it provides. If this plan progress, the community is prepared to face the government and the company in court.



Community Eco-Lodge Inside the forest  
BELOW: Processed honey





## KENYA COASTAL FORESTS CONSERVATION FORUM: Community-Led Advocacy and Lobbying



Adverse effects of Mining and the continued destruction of forests are some of the environmental issues that need to be urgently addressed at the Coast region. The Kenya Coastal Forests Conservation Forum is an umbrella group that champions good governance in forestry in the Coastal region. The forum brings together stakeholders from the six coastal counties (Lamu, Kilifi, Mombasa, Tana River, Kwale and Taita Taveta) to address environmental issues.

The Government, private sector and communities are represented in this forum, which aims at streamlining advocacy efforts, sharing experiences between counties, providing consolidated input to environmental legislation, and having a unified voice on environmental issues of mutual concern. This forum, that was created with the support from KFWG, WWF Kenya, and other stakeholders, provides support to members to strengthen their capacities on advocacy. Additionally, it enables members to tap into one another's skills and expertise, such as technical input from KFS, or media partners' efforts in raising awareness of issues.

Currently, the forum is focussing on the planned mining of Niobium and rare earth metals in the Mrima Hills Forest Reserve. They, in conjunction with one of their members, the Kwale County Natural Resource Forum, have worked with the Mrima Hills community to raise awareness of the implications of mining activities in the forest.



## CASE STUDY: ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY BY ‘KILIO CHA HAKI’ YOUTH GROUP

Bush clearing, charcoal burning, illegal cutting of trees and uncontrolled mining are some of the negative practices that characterized the coast region. Their negative impact on the environment became a challenge that needed a solution. The problem of uncontrolled mines led to drying of mangroves, which in turn resulted in massive pieces of land being cleared thus leaving the soil bare and a risk to people's health. Mining also caused other serious health concerns. Furthermore, mine workers used mine pits as toilets and children who played in them often fell sick.

### CURRENT STATE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In a bid to address these problems, the community established Kilio Cha Haki (cry for justice) Youth Group. The group receives technical support from Kenya Coastal Forests Conservation Forum, of which it is a member. In addition to raising awareness on mining, Kilio Cha Haki Youth Group helps in rehabilitation of open quarries and mines. The group provides input on the formulation of bills and policies on forests and mining. The members advocate against bad mining practices and their effects on the environment and people's health/welfare.

Schools, land owners, and the wider community work with Kilio Cha Haki to raise awareness on these and other environmental issues while educating people on their rights. Communities now understand that they have a right over the land and a healthy/safe environment. They are now more vigilant about mining and understand that mining companies have the responsibility to rehabilitate the mines.

As a result of the group's efforts, mining companies now provide toilets for their workers rather than allowing them to use the mine pits.



Beatrice Mwinga; Kilio cha Haki youth group an affiliate of KCFC



Harold Mwatua Kenya Coastal forests conservation forum.

# KWALE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE NETWORK: Addressing emerging environmental threats



Most people living around Mrima hill forest are farmers.

Kwale is a county that is well endowed with natural resources. However, with high rates of poverty, and a population with low levels of education, mining is one of the environmental challenges that has highly affected the region and its people. Mining companies have often taken advantage of this situation, and failed to inform communities of the adverse effects of mining. As a result, mined resources have mostly benefited outsiders as opposed to the locals. After having provided evidence of mineral deposits in Mrima hills, CORTEC a Canadian company was granted exploration rights, and it went on to receive a mining license. However, this disturbed a number of stakeholders, including the Kwale County Natural Resource Network.

Mining in Mrima Hills would have adverse effects such as the destruction of the hill which is covered in indigenous forest and thus would affect the entire ecosystem as well as the freshwater supply. In addition, radioactive elements and open cast mining would affect the existing biodiversity. Therefore, due to the conservation status of the forest and the cultural value attached to it, various groups were against these plans.

## CURRENT STATE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Stakeholders involved in natural resource management came together in 2011 and established Kwale County Natural Resource Network, an affiliate of the Kenya Coastal Forest Conservation, aims to pool resources, reduce duplication and thus increase efficiency in tackling environmental issues. The forum comprises of members from NGOs, CBO's, private sector, government and the media.

The issues the forum tackles range from animal-human conflict, to planned mining in sacred forests. Many of the people living adjacent to mines have low level of education, and are unaware of what the law says about mining and benefit sharing. The Kwale County Natural Resource Network is therefore charged with the responsibility of informing the communities of their rights. They provide a balanced perspective on the benefits and the impacts of the mines and empower the community to make a proper decision on whether such a move will be good or bad for them. While mining companies may promise to create jobs, loss of natural resources and pollution are some of the



disadvantages. The jobs mostly provided are also manual and short term.

In order to understand the priority issues from the community's perspective, the forum not only alerts them on major concerns, but also actively engages them in their activities. This active engagement has enhanced their advocacy efforts.

The proposed mining in Mrima Hills Forest has been one of the biggest issues that the Kwale County Natural Resource Network has been working on. This sacred forest is a gazetted national monument and national forest reserve within Kwale County that is an important bird area rich in biodiversity.

The voice of the civil society has been extremely significant. A review of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the proposed mining found that it had not addressed these and other concerns adequately, so many objected to the mining. The Kwale County Natural Resource Network in collaboration with community leaders was able to capture the attention of the media. They provided comments on the EIA commissioned by the mining company to the National Environmental Management Authority. The government then realized there was a need to go back and review the mining license, which in turn resulted in cancellation of all mining licenses allegedly issued 'illegally' countrywide and a recognition that all licenses needed to be reviewed. The company CORTEC has since taken the Kenyan government to court over the cancellation of the mining license, and the case is yet to be resolved.

## CASE STUDY: COMMUNITY MOVES TO DEFEND SACRED FOREST

The sound of birds chirping fills the air in Mrima Hill Forest located 65 kilometers southwest of Mombasa in Kenya. The forest air is clean and fresh, a welcome break from the diesel-fumed air of city life.

The Mrima Hill Forest is beautiful in every aspect of the word and is a traditional holy place locally known as Kaya. The forest is rich in flora and fauna and is an important bird site in Kenya. Despite all the riches present above ground, it is what is present below that has brought a community together to fight for their right and that of the very existence of Mrima Hill forest.

The forest contains significant deposits of the rare earth resource Niobium that was discovered in the area by Cortec Mining Kenya Ltd and is valued at \$35 billion. The forest's rare earth deposit is approximately 40 million tonnes with a concentration of 5% total rare earth oxides. Niobium is used to strengthen steel and global demand for the rare earth resource continues to grow rapidly.

According to 78-year-old Kaya Elder Bakari Ali, when the community in Mrima first heard about significant deposits of Niobium being present in their forest in early 2012, they were excited about it and believed that the over 10,000 residents that inhabit the area would benefit from the rare earth resource.



Bakari Ali, Kaya elder



Jamadari Omar, Kaya elder



Mwanahawa Salim AG Chairperson  
KCNRN

“

We had to find  
some people  
who were ready  
to listen to us  
and that was  
not easy

“When we first heard about the project to extract Niobium from our forest, we were excited and everyone in Lunga Lunga village here in Mrima agreed to the project and that mining should proceed. They even came and measured our land and counted it. We were to be paid for the value of our land and moved to other places away from here. They even offered us 150,000 Kenyan shillings per acre, which is good money.” says Bakari Ali

It is at this point that a Community Based Organization called Kwale County Natural Resources Forum (KCNRN) came into the picture in an attempt to explain to the community what they were really getting themselves into. Their first experience in Mrima did not go very well.

Mwanahawa Salim is the acting chair of the KCNRN and notes that they received a hostile welcome from the communities that live around the Mrima Hill Forest.

“We went to see the communities in Mrima with the aim of educating and sensitizing them on exactly what they were getting themselves into by allowing mining to go on without checking what the effects of it would be first. They threw us out and even sent us a letter telling us to never come back to Mrima again, under any circumstances, to discuss the issue of mining.” says Mwanahawa Salim

It is at this point that members of the KCNRN embarked on a mission to convert some influential members of the community to their side in order to at least receive even one opportunity to talk to them about what they would be getting themselves into by allowing mining to go on without understanding all the facts. Mwanahawa notes that it was not an easy task achieving this.

“We had to find some people who were ready to listen to us and that was not easy. When we eventually did, we continued sending them messages indicating that we were there for them, for their well being, and not for any other bad reasons. It is these few people who convinced their fellow





Community Elders Discussing the importance of Mirima Forest

residents to give us a chance.”

In 2011, a mining company called Cortec embarked a process to convert its special prospecting license into a mining lease so as to allow the company set up a Niobium concentrate site within the Mrima Forest Reserve. To achieve this, the company submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

The report presented was then advertised in local media as is required by Kenyan law. However, despite procedure being followed in regard to the EIA, members of KCNRN realised the report had not adequately addressed issues of landscape scarring, degradation and the issue of community benefit.

It was at this point that the KCNRN begun conducting rigorous public awareness campaign along with a timely submission of grounds for objection to the proposed mining of Niobium and rare earth resources to NEMA. NEMA agreed with the objections made by the KCNRN and rejected Cortec Mining’s request for an EIA license. Following this action and others, Cortec Mining has sued the Government of Kenya and other agencies for their actions and the case is still pending in court.

Most residents of Nzombo village in Mrima do not want the mining to go on. Bakari Ali notes that it is not possible for them to be fully compensated for the resources present in the forest. Bakari Ali is a Kaya elder who leads traditional prayers during calamities to seek God’s intervention and protection.

“In this forest, there is a mango tree, a pawpaw tree, there are trees that give us medicine and firewood. When it does not rain, the forest is my meeting point with my God so that we can ask for rain. My ancestors are buried in that forest. Who will move them from there when we are moved? How can you pay for all those things, it is not possible. We do

not want this mining project to go on.”

Fatuma Ahmed, a mother of seven says that the importance of the forest to them is beyond monetary value and adds her voice to those who do not want mining to go ahead.

“I have been getting medicine for my children from the forest. If this mining goes ahead, where will my medicine come from? Where will my firewood come from?”

## CASE STUDY: MY FIGHT WITH ELEPHANTS



Irene Wangui Njengo a farmer in Shimba Hills, Kwale county

“

They came in and educated us on how we can live together with wildlife without conflict,

WWF continues to support the KCNRN in its endeavors to empower communities with knowledge that can enable them defend themselves and their natural resources from unfair exploitation.

Irene Wangui Njengo from Shimba Hills in coastal Kenya has seen it all when it comes to wildlife, especially Elephants. Irene’s piece of land is two farms away from the Shimba Hills Forest placing her farm squarely along a breadbasket for marauding Elephants from the forest.

An avid and experienced farmer, Irene grows maize, bananas, cassava, citrus fruit and beans amongst other crops. Two years ago, the mother of four children happily cultivated her farm with the vision that come harvest time, she would reap big returns from her farm. However, this was not to be the case. Elephants and other wildlife invaded her farm and feasted on everything in it, leaving her with nothing for herself or family.

“I cannot say I harvested anything from my farm last year. The animals came, ate all the maize and uprooted all my bananas, leaving me with nothing,” says Irene fighting back tears.

Irene, an avid farmer with great experience could not believe that this misfortune had befallen her yet she was taking necessary measures, , to protect her crops from marauding wildlife. “I was spending the night out in the cold with my family to protect the crops. This was dangerous but was the only way we knew to protect our farm. We each had a torch and buckets, which we would hit to make noise to force Elephants to run away. It is very dangerous but I had no choice. This was the only way to protect my family’s daily bread,” explains Irene.

These heavy losses were nothing new to Irene. She has been attempting to ward off wildlife from her crop since she moved to the farm near Shimba Hills Forest. She has lost many battles but continued to fight for the livelihood of her family nonetheless. These fights pushed her standard of living and that of her family very close to poverty. Irene also developed a serious loathing for wildlife, especially elephants.

“I was very furious about wildlife and seriously hated elephants because all they did was to destroy my food,” says Irene.

Just when Irene was at the end of her rope and about to give up, the situation began to turn around when WWF and the Kwale County Natural Resources Network intervened.



“They came in and educated us on how we can live together with wildlife without conflict. Where I come from, we volunteered to dig a moat (trench) to help keep elephants from our farms.

Irene has engaged with the Kwale Country Natural Resources Forum for close to two years now and continues to see the difference between her life in the past when she slept out in the cold in an attempt to protect her crops and today. Irene is testimony that it is possible for human beings and nature to live in harmony without much conflict.

“With elephants not coming to my farm, we are getting enough food to sell and can even educate our children. In fact, the forum has given me a lot of information. I have been very furious about wildlife but this forum has helped me understand that it is possible to live peacefully with animals around us and that we shouldn’t try to kill them, but live peacefully with them,” says Irene

## WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA: Encouraging Youth Involvement in Conservation

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Marcel Otieno: Works with NEMA Malindi

The vision of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK), is “empowered Kenyans with conservation knowledge for sustainability.” This group works with young people, including learners in schools and universities to create awareness on how people can conserve the environment. WCK trains youths who have left school on environmental issues, natural resources and sustainable development. It also has a Young Environmental Trainee programme through which they organise internships for unemployed university graduates in the environmental field. The purpose of this is to provide young graduates with the needed practical experience often required by employers, and also possibly with long-term employment after their 3-4 month internship. In addition, WCK also trains communities on alternative livelihoods, undertakes beach clean ups and tree planting in schools and villages.

In a bid to empower youth groups in Malindi as well as young environmental trainees, WWF has been providing support to WCK since 2011. The two organizations want the youth to be champions for sustainable environmental management practices. According to Maryam Janeby, Programme office at WCK, the youth are the agents of change. Most of them are unemployed and so training and encouraging them to start environmental initiatives in an opportunity to create employment in the area.

“Drugs are very big problem in this area, so our work with them is a way to discourage the youth from getting into drugs,” She says.

Working with the youth enables them to be more productive members of the society by providing livelihoods, job opportunities and also improving the environment. According to Maryam, working with the youth is exciting as they absorb information like sponges and take everything that they learn back to their communities.

## CASE STUDY: MALINDI YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK LEADING THE WAY



Gilbert Asuri: Chair; Mirror Youth Arts

“Waste disposal in Malindi is catastrophic. Garbage dumping has been a huge problem.” These are Gilbert Asuri’s words on the earlier state of Malindi town. According to Gilbert, the organiser of Mirror Arts Youth Group, people leave their waste pretty much anywhere they want to - on streets, in open areas, and even on the beach.

The Mirror Arts Youth Group is one of the groups in the Malindi Youth Environmental Network. Supported by WCK, The Malindi Youth Network is made up of 12 member groups all focusing on conservation of the environment. The groups came together under this umbrella after realizing that it was better to work as one.

Mirror Arts Group has been involved in beautification and garbage collection in the town. It also promotes proper garbage dumping and waste collection. In an effort to beautify Malindi town, the group plants trees and flowers in and around the town. Additionally, they paint murals on walls in schools and otherwise. They also do beach cleans ups as well as getting rid of un-disposed rubbish. Many of the youngsters who come from families of fishermen know that pollution in the sea pollutes their livelihoods.

Working with the town council, the group has designated areas where dumping is allowed. They organise weekly collection of garbage from people’s houses, to prevent them from simply dumping it wherever they want. They have also trained the community to sort their garbage into organic or inorganic waste, and have taught them on the correct ways of its disposal.

Civic education on environment and climate change provided by the youth groups and WCK has transformed society. The community is now more aware of environmental issues. Members of Mirror Youth Arts Group have made a great impact in the community. Their efforts are evident from the pretty murals decorating the streets as well as the ‘no dumping signs’ across the town. The youth are determined to make an impact in their environment.



Youth in Malindi are advocating for a cleaner town



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# COMMUNITY ACTION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (CANCO), AND THE KENYA OIL AND GAS WORKING GROUP: Engaging with the Oil and Gas Sector

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Richard M Bemaronda;  
Project officer CANCO

Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO), works on environmental issues related to oil and gas development, fisheries exploitation and other activities that cause unsustainable environmental management, and that negatively affect local communities. CANCO also hosts the Kenya Oil and Gas Working Group (KOGWG), an assembly composed of various stakeholders with interest in ensuring the sustainable and equitable exploitation of oil and gas reserves in Kenya. The group believes that if oil and gas reserves are exploited, then the environment should be protected and benefits should be shared with the communities.

## PREVIOUS STATE

Initial meetings with communities showed how little they knew about oil and gas issues. As a result, the KOGWG started by informing them about these resources. KOGWG recognizes the need for the community to be empowered and enlightened about the petroleum law and what it says about the hydrocarbons and communities. The group works at both national and at local level on issues related to oil and gas development, doing advocacy and empowering communities with information as well as advocacy skills on the same.

## CURRENT STATE

The group aims to prepare communities by educating them on their rights and what the constitution says about communities and oil and gas development. The community is also empowered so as they are able to question the government and the companies about their activities.

The group holds meetings with villages in the various oil exploration blocks to educate the communities about the Petroleum Law and other relevant legislation, as well as informing them about explorations and new possible discoveries. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and the legal requirement to engage communities in these assessments are also discussed, so that if one is undertaken without community participation, the community can object and make their opinions heard.

Communities are now aware of their rights, and can voice their opinion on oil and gas issues. They are able to challenge NEMA and oil and gas companies when they feel they are being short-changed. In addition, they are able to inquire about the implications of explorations on their livelihoods, on the environment, and how this changes will be mitigated.

The working group supports local oil and gas networks in the Tana, Lamu and Malindi areas in Kenya, where oil and gas exploration is a real possibility and many new explorations and discoveries are on the horizon. These groups create awareness on environmental and social impacts resulting from oil and gas exploitation in those regions. Additionally, they provide a platform for community members to discuss oil and gas developments, and to understand their rights in these developments.

## CASE STUDY: THE CASES OF THE GARSEN, KIPINI AND MALINDI OIL AND GAS NETWORKS



Stephen Kombe

The issue of oil and gas exploration is synonymous with the ‘David and Goliath’ story. Oil and gas networks, with their limited funding and few resources, are constantly in a tug of war with oil companies that are already worth millions of shillings.

The government is aware of the financial value of oil and gas discoveries and understands the impact these discoveries would have on its economy. As a result, it has been very keen on supporting them, often to the detriment of local livelihoods. While communities are told of the positive aspects of development – such as the much hyped job creation – they are rarely, if ever, told of the negative impacts. The high population that depends on fishing as a source of their livelihood will be greatly affected by such developments. Some of the negative impacts include destruction of coral reefs and other fish habitats as well as loss of fish due to the impacts of testing and migration from the area.

The negative impacts are however not limited to the sea. On land, exploration activities can destroy wildlife habitat, and also cause people to lose their land.

While the community has been promised compensation, no amount has been stated. In addition, due to underground resources, it is difficult to state an amount that would be adequate compensation for lost land and livelihoods. Furthermore, the question of who will really benefit from the oil and gas development is an issue that needs to be addressed. While jobs have been promised, the reality is that there will be few, if any, senior positions that community members can fill, as no one within the community has the qualifications needed. It is likely that, while the best positions will go to the outsiders, the community will only end up doing manual jobs. The story was no different in Kipini, Lamu County when oil and gas exploration first started in the region, the community was not aware of any negative implications. The public was not involved in the process of granting exploration licenses and was not involved in the talks between the government and the companies.



Joyce Ayako



Buya G Hiribae

### CURRENT STATE

Oil and gas developments have forced the communities to educate each other on the pros and cons of such discoveries. The Garsen Oil and Gas network has been educating people on both the advantages and the disadvantages of oil and gas in Garsen, Tana River County on the North Coast of Kenya. The Network has been receiving training and other forms of support from CANCO in its mission.

Additionally, CANCO has been working on sensitizing the community on what negative implications of such explorations would be. It has constantly provided training on oil and gas development, and the legislations guiding its development. Kipini Oil and Gas Network was established after one such training.

Through exchange visits and providing technical information and advice, especially around the legislation, oil and gas networks have been empowered to be able to engage with the government and the companies.





Despite putting their life on the line, members of oil and gas networks are still passionate about protecting people's rights. Although community members who had been co-opted by exploring companies initially threatened their lives, through their efforts, people's attitudes have continued to change.

Majority of the people in Malindi depend upon the sea for their livelihoods. Seismic testing therefore greatly affects fishing activities. Compensation for not being able to fish is a promise that is yet to be fulfilled. Seismic detonations, which are felt for kilometers, have killed many fish. In addition, job opportunities promised to the community are yet to be fulfilled.

Malindi Oil and Gas Network has been sensitizing communities on the advantages and disadvantages of oil and gas developments. As a result of its efforts, the communities are now aware of the consequences of oil and gas developments. They have also been involved in advocacy efforts aimed at improving the way in which oil and gas exploration, and future development, takes place. CANCO which has been an avid supporter of this cause, has provided capacity building and information materials.

A large number of communities living in Malindi derive their livelihoods from fishing



## FOREST ACTION NETWORK

Forest Action Network works on environmental protection, research, policy and governance not only on forests but also in many other environmental sectors.

The network is working with the Kenya Marine Forum in Lamu on policy and governance, to hold authorities accountable for upholding and developing laws that promote environmental protection, sensitisation and capacity building activities.

In addition to providing information, they educate and provide communication materials that enable communities and CSOs to understand their roles and responsibilities regarding legislation, so that they can advocate for improved policies on environmental protection, and engage local CSOs in advocating for good policies on environmental conservation and protection. They have formed the *Mifta* Natural Resource Management Network in Lamu to undertake advocacy.

They also work with local CSOs to improve their institutional governance, assist to organise the groups, and review the mission, vision, and other internal governance mechanisms, of those already organised groups.

One of their primary tools is the media. A radio show called “Voices of Change” provides information on environmental issues, and enables callers to engage in the discussion.

As a result, the community no longer waits for the county government to initiate environmental activities. They now take the first steps in tree planting to protect their water sources as well as in garbage clean- ups. They have also engaged National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on the Lamu Port. On learning of their rights to engage in the process, they demanded a copy of the EIA report.





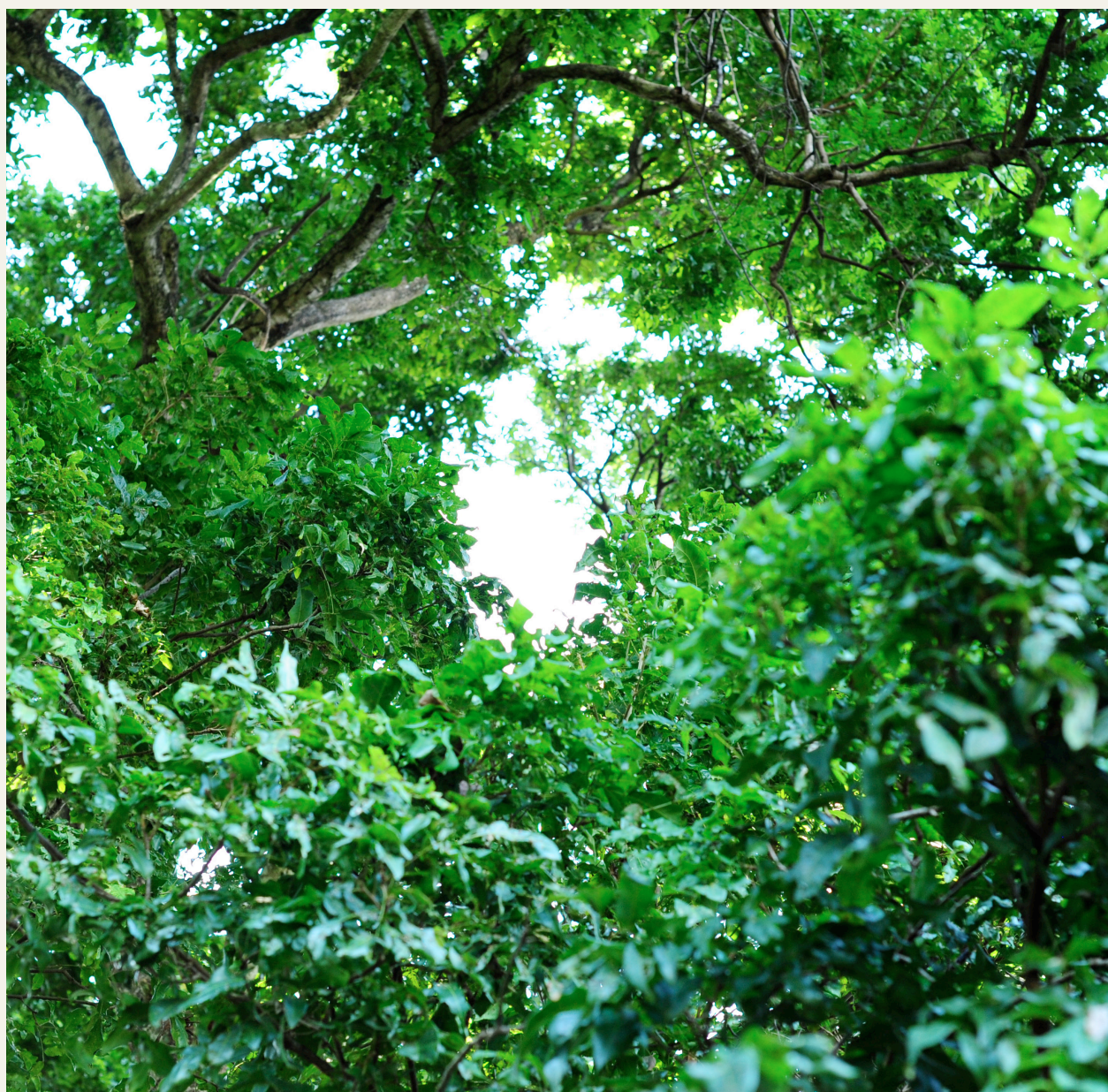
# NATURE KENYA

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Nature Kenya raises awareness within communities on environment and advocacy in the Tana Delta. They have facilitated the establishment of the Tana Delta Conservation Network to coordinate activities and have the local CSOs speak with one voice, rather than a number of disparate ones.

In addition to holding the government accountable for sound environmental management, planning and budgeting, Nature Kenya monitors natural resources, and works with communities to improve local and environmentally sustainable livelihoods. These include support of better farming methods. They also raise awareness on environment amongst communities about issues such as tree planting and pest management.

As a result of their work, community has improved fish stocks as well as their farm yields. This is due to improved fishing and farming methods respectively. Water and soil management have also been enhanced.



# OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

## RESPOND

WWF Kenya ensures that large scale infrastructure development has minimum adverse environmental and social impacts

## ENGAGE

WWF Kenya engages in and influences global, regional, national and county policies and laws while leveraging strategic partnerships

## SECURE

WWF Kenya ensures that key freshwater, marine and forest ecosystems are secured and populations of flagship species in target places are stable or increasing.

## ADDRESS

WWF Kenya is keen to see that agricultural and fisheries production systems are based on environmentally and socially sustainable practices.



### Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[www.panda.org/kenya](http://www.panda.org/kenya)

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