

SHIMONI-VANGA SEASCAPE PROJECTS (KENYA)

Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kenya

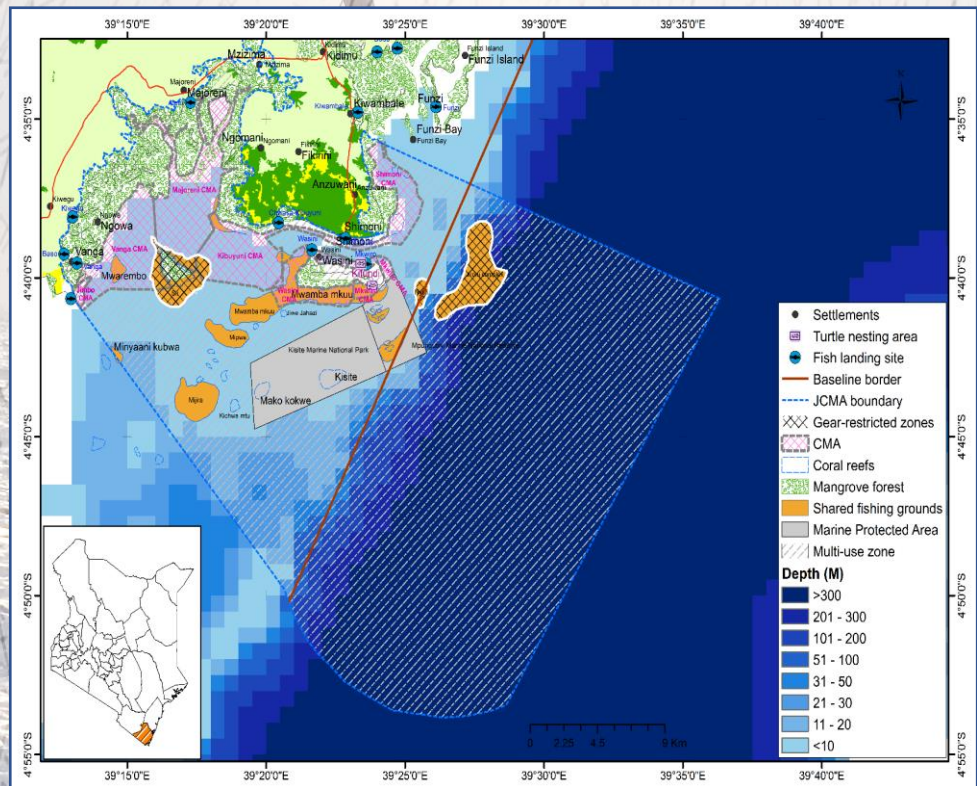
“Enhancing Social-ecological Resilience of Shimoni-Vanga Seascape Communities”

Background of Shimoni-Vanga Seascape

The seascape has been selected as one of three ecologically sensitive areas of global and national significance for focus in 6th Operational Phase of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) project grants in Kenya. The projects are implemented by Small Grants Programme (SGP) of the United Nations Development Programme. It is located in Kwale County of Kenya’s South Coast and hosts the Kisite-Mpunguti national marine park and reserve—famed for its dolphins and beautiful corals. It is also an area with recent new developments such as the proposed Shimoni fishing port and other industrial investments. So far 15 projects have been awarded grants in the seascape totaling USD 400,000.

Importance and threats

Shimoni-Vanga Co-management Area is among the 21 Seascapes under the Eastern African Marine Ecoregion (EAME) with high biodiversity that require special attention. The Seascape also harbors coastal indigeneous communities with rich cultural connectedness with the sea and coastal marine resources. The seascape provides important ecosystem services such as food, employment and income to fishers, fish traders, fish processors and tourism operators among other dependents. However, the seascape faces different levels of biodiversity loss and land degradation that threatens livelihoods and increased conflict over use of limited and declining resources.



Shimoni-Vanga Seascape (source KEMFRI)

Project Thematic Areas

- **Promotion of ecotourism:**

In this funding phase, ecotourism initiatives have been supported. The seascape has rich biodiversity such as coral reefs that are being protected under Community Conserved Areas, mainly by Beach Management Units (BMUs). These sites are expected to attract tourists and thus increase income. Some grantees are also working towards revamping their tourism products through capacity building to attract more tourists.

- **Protection and expansion of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs):**

Besides protection of existing LMMAs, this funding phase is supporting expansion of existing ones. This done through ecological surveys and mapping of new sites for expansion.

- **Coral restoration:**

The first coral restoration efforts in Kenya were piloted in Wasini and Mkwiro areas with considerable success. In this Phase, additional degraded areas will be restored through SGP grants.

- **Reduction of litter pollution:**

Marine pollution is a serious concern within the seascape and especially within Wasini Island. Several projects are undertaking initiatives to control litter within Wasini Island. This will include a situational assessment, stakeholder engagement at local and policy levels, training on segregation, collection, recovery, reuse, recycling and disposal.

- **Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS):**

Illegal fishing is a concern in the seascape. Several BMUs have been funded to undertake MCS actions with an objective of deterring and combating illegal and destructive fishing. This involves joint trainings and patrols within the seascape in collaboration with County Fisheries office and other government agencies.

- **Enterprise development and women empowerment:**

Several projects have been funded to help build enterprise development skills for women in fisheries and ecotourism ventures. This involves training in fish handling and value addition and improvement of capacity for development of competitive ecotourism products.

- **Promotion of Conservation through Art:**

Conservation promotion and knowledge management through art. Diversification of the way conservation information is disseminated and absorbed by the Shimoni-Vanga Seascape community to enhance social learning for collective decision making. This will be achieved through drama, poems and short documentaries.

Project Management and Partners

The SGP project in Shimoni-Vanga seascape is managed by Coastal and Marine Resource Development (COMRED) and Naturecom as the SGP Strategic Partner. The management is in collaboration with agencies in National Government which include; Kenya Fisheries Service, Kenya Marine Research Institute, Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service and Kwale County Government



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