

# CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Africa Conservation Fund (Kenya)

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Promoting Community Involvement in Resource Protection in and around the Boni-Dodori-Kiunga Protected Area Complex

**Implementation Partners for This Project:**

1. Africa Conservation Fund (Kenya)
2. KiBoDo Trust

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):**  
1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006

**Date of Report (month/year):**  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

## II. OPENING REMARKS

**Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.**

The diversity and abundance of biodiversity in Northern coastal forests of Boni-Dodori are little known but believed to be exceptional. They represent some of the most varied of ecosystems and provide a refuge for endangered mammals like the elephant, hirola and the wild dog, but due to the insecurity in this part of the country, poor infrastructure and remoteness of this region, Boni-Dodori forest have remained unknown in many aspects to scientists. Similarly, biodiversity conservation efforts have been inadequate as conservationists prefer working in more hospitable areas of the country despite the huge potential of this Biodiversity Hotspot.

This area is inhabited by the Boni people who were traditionally hunter-gather society but have now been forced to switch to farming when the forests became increasingly inaccessible due to demarcation as a protected area and insecurity. It was against this background that ACF Kenya decided to invest in the area by working with local community and organizations to identify and pilot simple community-level measures to regulate off-takes of biological resources where these are reaching unsustainable levels.

ACF Kenya registered modest success in this endeavour although the project faced the numerous challenges that go with working in the area.

## III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The project primary objective was to improve community participation in conservation activities by strengthening collaboration, both between the various local organizations and with the outside world, in order to address three primary constraints to the conservation of biological resources in the Boni-Dodori complex:

*a. Inadequate knowledge of the ecosystem:*

The diversity and abundance of biological resources in northern-most reaches of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal forest of Tanzania and Kenya are little known, but believed to be exceptional. They represent some of the more intact ecosystems and provide an important refuge for large mammal species including elephants. Formal biological surveys would be exorbitantly expensive, but simple low-cost participatory techniques can yield useful bottom-line data, such as the presence and absence of important species and simple indicators of ecosystem health.

*b. Insufficient capacity for bio-diversity conservation:*

The effective protection of biological resources in the northern extreme of Kenya's Coastal Province cannot be achieved by central government alone. Inadequate financial resources and a lack of incentives (the absence of a tourism industry) has eroded the government's will to invest in Boni-Dodori. Thus an imaginative partnership between local institutions and individuals, with the government authorities provides the most realistic way forward, by requires the careful establishment of a collaborative strategic framework that has not, so far, been attempted.

*c. Chronic under-funding for conservation management:*

This project represents the exploratory phase for a more extensive fund-raising effort by the Africa Conservation Fund for community-based conservation in the Boni-Dodori protected area complex. ACF specializes in raising funds from its network of supporters in the US and Europe for conservation practitioners in Africa. For this to happen, the organization must first establish strong collaborative partnerships with individuals and organizations on the ground. The present project is designed to cement those relationships so that more substantial follow-up funding can be sought by ACF focusing on reliable partners and viable conservation strategies.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

Addressing points (a) and (b) were comprehensively addressed. Point (c) could not be comprehensively addressed as ACF Kenya was relying on local organizations to access direct funding using internet based fundraising mechanism available in its website WildlifeDirect.org. Vsat equipment was provided to Kibodo Trust which is yet to establish an office on the ground.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

Two major initiatives were developed over the course of this project: A community scout programme, and an environmental education programme in schools (both are discussed in detail in the main report below). The programme also strengthened a local NGO, the Kibodo Trust, in implementing its programme in the area.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

YES

The biggest constraint was in implementing the sustainable financing mechanisms in the Kibodo, Boni and Dodori areas. Capacity to use Internet-based techniques was insufficient to enable us to fully implement the program within the time constraints of the

programme. However, a follow up grant from National Geographic has been obtained to further strengthen

Insecurity – some areas were sealed off as security personnel pursued bandits who had attacked a vehicle and raided a village in Mangai. Movement by road to Mangai (one of the pilot activity site) was on August stopped due to this incident. Things got worse in December when Ethiopian forces working with the interim government of Somalia drove out ICU fighters who found refuge in the expansive Boni forest in Kenya. The ensuing security operation by the Kenya government prohibited any civilian activity in the forest.

A mini-*el nino* in the month of November and December made it impossible for the Community scouts to undertake patrols. Movement on land was completely cut-off as the flooded river made the only road between the two Reserves impassible. Movement through the sea was logistically unfeasible and prohibitively expensive. Communication with the co-coordinator of pilot activities in the field was impaired.

The inability of our partner on the ground Kibodo Trust to find a suitable place to establish an office where the internet facility was to be based was a huge disappointment that we couldn't solve as it was a partner and whose effort to solve the problem was commendable though not fruitful by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The nature and magnitude of these problems left us with very little to do as they were beyond the scope of our project which on the other hand was coming to an end on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

Project implementation should start early in project duration so that any unforeseen problem arising during implementation can be addressed in time before expiry of the project. This will allow flexibility in project implementation to suit the changes in the environment in which the project is being implemented.

Weather patterns in the project site need to be well understood. The project's activity plan should be planned to suit these weather patterns. This could help save on costs and time.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

From lessons learnt through this project on sustainable financing of conservation projects, ACF Kenya has been able to recruit grassroots organizations in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal forest of Tanzania and Kenya and assist them in securing funding through a mechanism pioneered by WildlifeDirect Inc the predecessor of ACF Kenya. The following projects in this region have been recruited and actively involved in blogging and highlighting their activities through [WildlifeDirect.org](http://WildlifeDirect.org);

1.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

#### IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

*Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.*

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Type of Funding*</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Core Funds	Web development	US\$ 15,000	Website development for partners in Eastern Arc Mountains
National Geographic Society	Training	US\$ 10,000	Training in blog writing and promotion
Public Contributions	Field Activities	US\$ 6,500	Funds raised so far for Eastern Arc Mountains projects

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

#### V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

**Please include your full contact details below:**

Name:	Iregi Mwenja
Organization name:	Africa Conservation Fund (Kenya)
Mailing address:	PO Box 24926, Code 00502 7th Floor, Timau Plaza, Argwings Kodhek Road, Nairobi Kenya
Tel:	+254 (0)20 3865120
Fax:	N/A
E-mail:	iregim@yahoo.com

## AFRICA CONSERVATION FUND (ACF) - KENYA

# Promoting community involvement in resource protection in and around the Boni-Dodori-Kiunga Protected Area complex

## PROJECT REPORT



Prepared by : Iregi Mwenja - Project Manager  
Submitted to : Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund



## **1.0 Background**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Boni National Reserve and Dodori National Reserve (01° 43'S, 41° 10'E) are found on the Northeastern coastal strip of Kenya along the Kenya-Somalia border. They form the northern most extent of the one-time continuous stretch of the East African Coastal forests biome that today remain as fragments of varying sizes and structure (Figure 1).

Boni-Dodori forest is a mosaic of forest patches, savanna woodlands, bush lands, thickets and farmland. The highest biodiversity is found in the various kinds of closed canopy forest vegetation: dry forest, scrub forest, *Brachystegia* (miombo) forest, riverine forest, groundwater forest, swamp forest and coastal/afromontane transition forest

The two reserves forms the northern part of the Coastal forest Eastern Africa hotspot - one of the Earth's 25 biologically richest places. However, lying on the Somali border, security is a continual concern to the local people and to those engaged in the protection of its natural resources. The northern boundary of Boni runs along the Kenya / Somalia border. With the general state of unrest in Somalia and the proliferation of firearms around the border, both people and animals are living under constant threat of danger, and sometimes literally in fear for their lives. The biodiversity of the two reserves and surrounding areas have therefore remained relatively unknown in many aspects.

The diversity and abundance of these coastal forest biodiversity though little known is believed to be exceptional. They represent some of the most varied of ecosystems and provide a refuge for endangered mammals like the elephant, Hirola and the wild dog, rare species found no where else in the world and hundreds of flora and fauna that are still yet to be described. Unfortunately, these valuable biodiversity resources are virtually under no protection from the Government, whereas support from Civil Societies is similarly inadequate.

The 877 sq. km Dodori, spanning the Dodori River and its delta, has some of the densest, most varied assemblage of mangrove forest species in Kenya. Lion, lesser kudu, giraffe and hippo are also common to this Reserve. Boni National Reserve covers 1,339 sq. km. and was created as a sanctuary for elephants from Garissa and Lamu. Buffalo, Giraffe, Topi, gerenuk, Harvey's and Ader's duikers are also found here. The critically endangered Hirola also occur in here.

### **1.2 Community and conservation**

The neighborhood of the two Reserves are inhabited by the Boni people who have traditionally gathered food, medicine, building materials and fuel from the Boni and Dodori reserves. Once hunter and gatherers, they now depend more on subsistence cultivation farm, livestock keeping and harvesting wild plants and honey. Agriculture is however a new way of life to the Boni people who have been cut-off from their traditional source of livelihood - the forest as it became increasingly inaccessible due to demarcation as a Protected Area and insecurity.

Since both their traditional and new livelihood options are natural resources based, its important that these livelihoods means are sustainably managed. However biodiversity conservation in this region is primarily constrained by;

- Inadequate knowledge of the ecosystem
- Insufficient capacity for bio-diversity conservation
- Chronic under-funding for conservation management

ACF Kenya has been working with local communities and organisation in Boni-Dodori to identify key threats to their ecosystems and helped strengthen two simple pilot participatory monitoring and awareness creation activities to mitigate against the threats. These activities will be replicated in other areas in the region in future. The region was also provided with simple internet facilities that links the region to the outside world

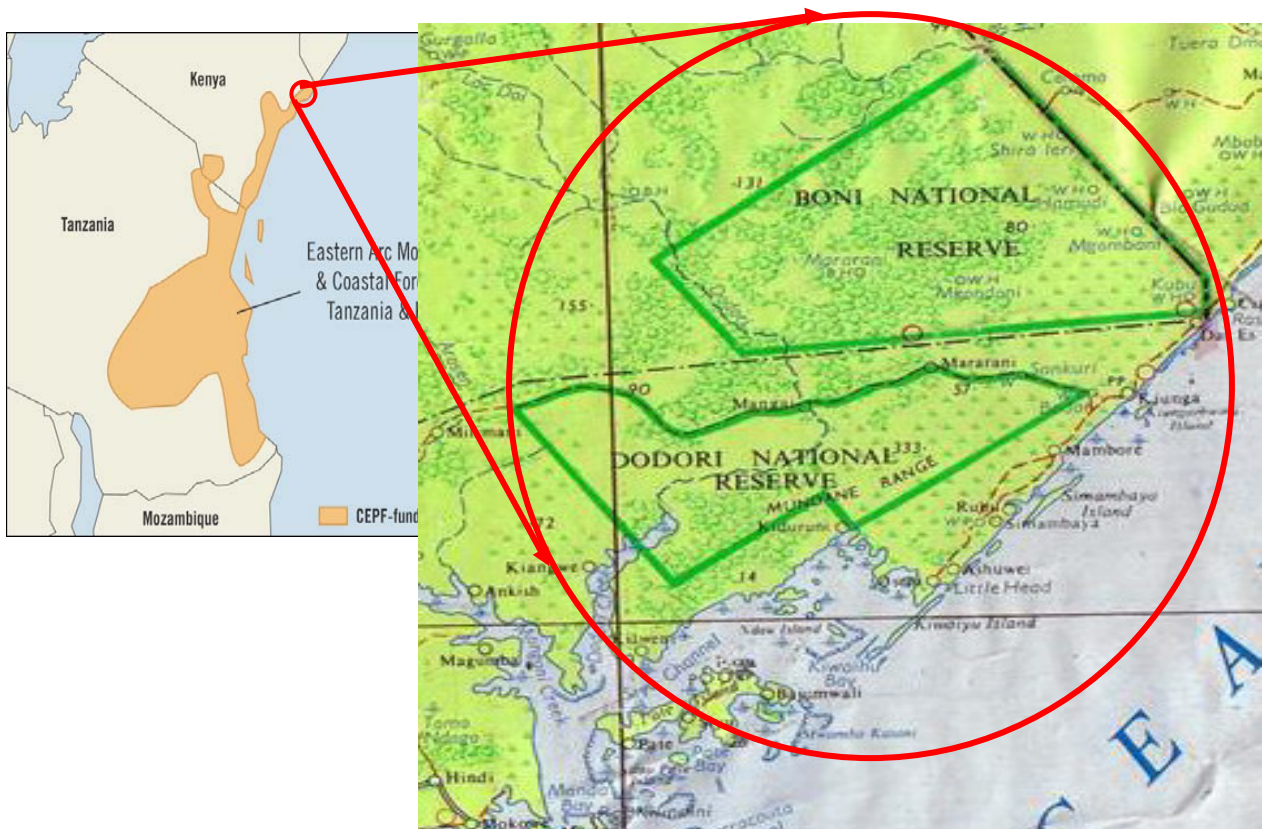


Figure 1. Map showing the Boni and Dodori National Reserves with the Somalia border at the North East. These reserves form the northern limit of the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya Biodiversity Hotspots.

## 2.0 Goal

The goal of the project was enhanced community participation in biodiversity conservation activities through strengthened collaboration with both local organizations and the outside world.



## **2.1 Objectives**

1. Improve local capacity to assess resources, define threats and articulate realistic and effective conservation strategies.
2. Implement at least two small pilot programs for participatory monitoring resources and mitigation of threats.
3. Facilitate communication between local community groups and with the outside world by establishing onsite Internet facilities.

## **3.0 PROJECT OUTPUTS**

### **3.1 Results of Participatory Appraisal of Threats to the Boni-Dodori Ecosystem.**

This was achieved by enabling local community and local organisations' staff to initiate participatory resources assessments and identify ecosystem threats through two local level field assessments with the local community members and government organization's field staff.

The following methods of data collection were used to assess the threats to the Boni-Dodori ecosystem;

1. Community Scouts  
The scouts who had been trained on resource surveillance and data collection provided information on field reports like sightings of threats and illegal incidences gathered during patrols in the reserves.
2. Interviews - formal and informal with key people on the ground  
They included; Kenya Wildlife Service personnel, Forest and Fisheries Officers, local Communities leaders, local NGO personnel and Local administration representatives.
2. Direct field observation  
Response to the structured questions was supplemented with informal conversations and direct field observations on various aspects under investigation.
3. Government records  
Where possible vehicle log books, were crime Occurrence Book (OB) for arrest and reported incidences and other records from Forestry Department, the Police and KWS were used to retrieve information on threats and action taken.
4. Secondary literature  
Data was also obtained from literature reviews, projects annual reports, district development plans, statistical abstracts, and unpublished manuscripts such as the Kiunga Marine and Dodori National Reserves quarterly and annual reports to KWS headquarters.

#### **3.1.1 Cross-border Poaching.**

The Boni-Dodori forests experienced a spate of commercial poaching and banditry in the 1970s and 1980s and sporadic incidences still continue due to their proximity to the Somali border. This was fueled by the insecurity and proliferation of arms in Somalia which has remained without a stable government to date.

Evidence of poaching during data collection was observed along the Somali border during an aerial flight over Boni by Kiobodo Trust officials. There is a thriving trade in bushmeat in the Somalia border town of Ras Kiamboni. The meat is brought by armed poachers from Boni National Reserve who sells it to traders in the local market. The trade poses a threat to the large herbivore population that they target. They include topi, buffaloes and sometime hippos. This species have been wiped out in the adjacent reserve in Somali due to the game meat trade.

Further in the Kenyan territory there was one confirmed sighting of bandits at Mangai and one vehicle allegedly attacked at Bodhei in August, 2006, confirmed that commercial poaching still goes on though Boni-Dodori forest is mostly used by bandit en route to Tana River and Tsavo East National Park.

### **3.1.2 Subsistence hunting**

On subsistence hunting, interviews with local community, NGO personnel and the police also confirmed that subsistence poaching still continues although on a lower scale as an alternative source of protein to the Boni, who traditionally didn't keep livestock. They have resorted to poaching as they cannot rely on the forest any more to fully provide them with adequate fruits and honey to meet their nutritional needs.

### **3.1.3 Human wildlife conflict**

Crop Farming is increasingly becoming the main source of livelihood for the Boni. However, they villages are all sandwiched by the two forest reserves where large herbivore like the buffalo's hippo and topi are plenty. Baboons are also notorious for crop raiding especially during the dry spell when crop are maturing. They usually raid farm and damage the crops. Farmers have resulted to guarding their crops 24 hours a day and sometimes kill the wildlife to deter further raids on their crop.

### **3.1.4 Commercial Fishing in the reserves,**

Some migrant communities have established temporary fishing camps inside Boni forest reserves semi-permanent dams and springs. They fish for lung fish which thrives in those wetlands for two seasons every year on July - August and January – February. The fish is sold in towns south of Lamu, Malindi and Mombasa.

Similarly, in Dodori, especially the Dodori river, migrants communities established camps along the river where they do commercial fishing of fresh water tilapia fishing. The fish is also sold in the coastal towns.

These camps inside the reserve disrupt the wildlife movements and watering during the dry season. They also result in bush fires, numerous conflicts with indigenous people and the law enforcing authorities

### **3.1.5 Somali Cattle influx in the Boni**

During the dry seasons, herds of cattle from the East Ijara and Lugho are driven into the reserve by the Somali tribe in the north in search of pasture and water. During the first quarter of the year, the north western part of the Boni reserve was full of livestock. The situation was worsened by the prevailing drought in most parts of the country.

### **3.1.6 Illegal mangroves harvesting.**

The Lamu archipelago, which is on the south east part of Dodori Reserve, has the largest mangroves coverage in Kenya. It has from a long time supplied poles to both local market and export to Arabian Gulf. Heavy commercial and illegal exploitation of mangroves led to the government banning all harvesting licenses six years ago but illegal harvesting continued due to poor enforcement by the Forest Department (FoD).

Mangroves harvesting ban was lifted in 2004 and this has led to a decline in illegal harvesting although there are some few illegal cutting down. This is mostly due to inadequate capacities by FoD to police the forests and regulate harvesting, giving room to a few illegal cutters to invade the mangrove forests.

### **3.1.7 Illegal commercial harvesting of indigenous trees.**

The search for indigenous hardwood whose exploitation is banned by the government is mostly driven by the high demand for hardwood timber in the building and construction industry especially the boat making industry. The indigenous trees are also valued in the construction industry as building poles and timber furniture making. They include indigenous species locally known as; *Mpepechu*, *Mbabakofi*, *Mwangati*, *Mvule* among others.

Unscrupulous traders deploy their workers inside the remote inaccessible areas of the forest where the timber is secretly harvested and transported to Lamu. This tread has continued over time and there have been cases of lumbering reported in several areas. In the last one year only two arrests were made on two separate incidents in which timber was also recovered

### **3.1.8 Shifting Cultivation.**

Shifting cultivation has quickly been adapted by the non-forming Boni community as a livelihood due to inaccessibility of the forest. In this practice, farmers clear the natural vegetation mostly by burning an area only to shift to another area the next season in search for fertile virgin land. This practice not only destroys the natural vegetation and destroys habitats but also kill millions of micro-organisms in the soil rendering the area to be infertile.

The appraisal results showed that shifting cultivation is common in the area though mostly in the villages neighborhood and mostly outside the Reserves. In almost every village visited there was evidence of the practice. This is a threat facing the forest neighboring villages but similarly on a small scale due to the small human population inhabiting the region.

### **3.1.9 Bush Fires**

Bush fires are caused by honey gatherers, livestock owners for pests control and pasture improvement and farmers doing clearance for shifting cultivation in the forests. Bush fires often spread across a large area indiscriminately burning most of the forest biodiversity, thereby affecting the propagation and regeneration of some species. This

often leads to degradation of the habitat expansion of the grassland at the expense of the woody plants.

Bush fires were evident in various places especially where shifting cultivation is carried out. Deep inside the reserves, wild fire are reported in the dry season mostly resulting from crude honey harvesting methods employed by the Boni.

### **3.2 Resource Monitoring and Awareness Creation Activities**

Based on the field assessments, two existing community-based initiatives were strengthened to mitigate the effects of unsustainable resources use. These programs focused on surveillance and reporting of threats and illegal activities and improving local people's understanding of their environment. These are community patrols through the volunteer community scout program and environmental education and awareness in schools.

Working in collaboration with ACF Kenya, the two activities were strengthened and expanded to cover larger geographic areas, basic training surveillance provided and environmental education materials disseminated

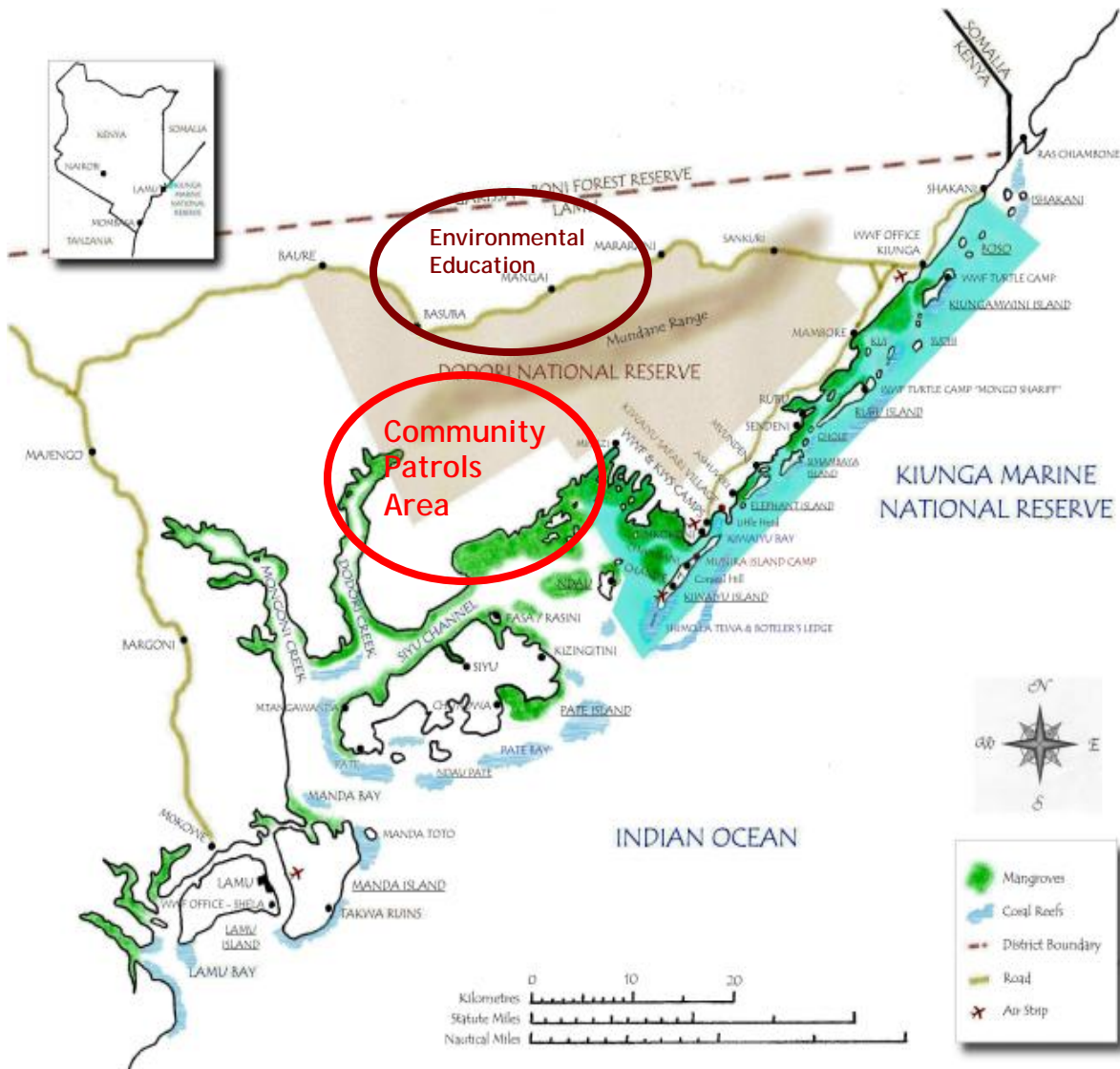


Figure 2; Map showing the two pilot local activities to mitigate against the Threats

### 3.2.1 Community Scout Program

Under the guidance of elders, the villagers in Kiangwe come together in an effort to eradicate the menace the forest on southern Dodori, a source of their livelihood. Sighting of bandits in the forest, illegal timber harvesting by outsiders, illegal mangrove cutting, sporadic incidents of subsistence poaching and bush fires during the dry areas are some of the threats that affected them and they wanted to contain them. They enlisted the support of Stephen Ngigi who offered informal training.

The Community patrols were done through the Volunteer Community Scout Program a local initiative which was initiated with support from ACF Kenya. Through this program, selected young men from Kiangwe village have been given basic training on Biodiversity resource surveillance and data collection. The volunteers have been going on patrol four days every month where comb the forest for illegal activities and threats and record the information they gather. The reports are forwarded to the programs head and to state agents for further actions.

Some of the information collected includes poachers sighting, death/carcasses and birth of endangered species like elephant, forest cultivation, fires etc.

By the last quarter of the year, the scouts were able to reduce the incidences of illegal incursion in the forest through patrols to deter such activities. This was evident from the data collected by the scouts from the field on sightings of poachers, carcasses, fires and farming.

Towards the end of the year unusual heavy rains rocked the region. The 'mini-el nino' resulted in flooding of the southern part of the Dotori National Reserve, which not only limited patrols but also reduced the number of illegal incursion due to the inhabitable weather conditions. There were no reported illegal incidences in the last three months of the year.

#### Kiangwe community scouts patrols summary 2006

Month	Numbers of days	scouts	Remarks
September	4	4	There were Bandit sightings the previous month and the ensuing security operation by government forces may have deterred illegal activities in the Reserves
October	4	4	Patrols along the mangroves section of the reserve accompanied by Forest Guard yielded not sighting of illegal cutting of mangroves. The government lifted a ban of harvesting two years earlier reducing illegal cutting in this area
November	4	4	No incident was reported as ongoing rain made it impossible to undertake illegal activities inside and around the Reserve
December	4	4	The weather conditions worsened as heavy rains inundated the southern part of the Reserve. Patrols were only possible in forest surrounding the village.

This local initiative to protect their immediate environment is an encouraging idea that needs to be nurtured and supported as self-regulation is the way forward in natural resources utilization in this area due to limited investment in conservation in the region. This pilot initiative should be replicated in other villages and community need support to help the idea grow and make it sustainable by provision of sustainable livelihoods option, awareness creation on Natural resource management and Forest Act 2005 on Participatory Forest Management (PFM)

#### 3.2.2 Environmental Education in school

Mangai primary is located in Kiunga Division of Lamu district and has a population of about 200 residents. This village was raided severally by bandits over a decade ago and the residents started coming back a few years later. The school had remained closed for 10 years during this period and the enrolment today is the highest at 60 pupils. However, the schools only serve junior classes since it was reopened.

Environmental clubs in Mangai primary school to create awareness on the dangers of shifting cultivation, traditional honey harvesting techniques, poaching and forest fires to the environment, using schools kids as the entry point to the wider community. This

clubs meet weekly and organized awareness activity for the entire school through activities like tree planting in schools and villages.

The school deputy head teacher started the club three years ago with a membership of 20 pupils. Today the club boasts of over half the school population as the children develop more interest in their environment.

The club has the following objectives;

- Awareness creation on Environment conservation focusing on coastal forests
- Awareness creation in the wider community using school children as the agent of change
- Planting of indigenous trees in the school and around the village
- Awareness outreach to neighboring schools and community

During the last half of 2006, the club planted nursery with indigenous species including, *Mpepechu (Garcinia livingstonei) mbabakofi*, (*Azelia quanzensis*), *Mwangati (Terminalia spinosa)*, *Mvule (Milicia excels)* among others. Mature trees seedlings were also planted in the school and the v planted during rains of the in outreach events that were attended by the community.

The club patron was also able to hold three *barazas* with the local community to educate them on the effects of shifting cultivation, bush fires, subsistence poaching and the importance of a healthy environment in terms of livelihood support and sustainability of product derived from this forest.

The club was also able to export its activities to the neighboring Basuba primary school where a similar club will be started in 2007 following in the footsteps of Mangai.

By using the young people of the wider community, the club was able to positively influence the community's attitude. This improved their understanding of the Boni-Dodori natural resource, the threats to the resource base and the impact of conservation efforts.

#### Mangai Environmental club activities summary for third term of 2006

Activity	Objective	Output
Tree nurseries	reforestation of degraded areas	320 indigenous species seedling nurtured i.e. <i>Garcinia livingstonei</i> , <i>Azelia quanzensis</i> , <i>Terminalia spinosa</i> , <i>Milicia excels</i> among other
Education material	Awareness creation	500 posters and 100 brochures disseminated in Mangai and Basuba villages and school
3 Community "barazas"	Awareness creation of bush fire and game meat	Local chief and 60 community members attended
Tree planting	Habitat restoration Awareness creation	600 seedlings planted on the school compound and the village both in Mangai and Basuba

### **3.3 Effective Communication through provision of Internet facilities**

The project facilitated installation of simple Internet capacity through the establishment of a VSAT terminal in Dodori N. Reserve, ensuring that community representatives can access the site. This will strengthen the contact between community members and government staff increases the capacity of both government and community members to solicit support and ensure adequate reporting from the field.

Kibodo Trust, a locally NGO quickly establishing itself on the ground was mandated to operate the equipment on behalf of the community and providing access to the stakeholders who need such facilities

#### **Recommendations**

1. Alternative sustainable livelihoods option for the region needs to be explored. For example, Mariculture and eco-tourism which is increasing becoming popular in other parts of the country.
2. Introduction of modern technologies in beekeeping to maximize production and reduce fires.
3. Marketing of the products outside the district should be developed to raise the income generated from eco-friendly honey and bee products.
4. Training on PFM – Participatory Forest Management, a new concept introduced in the new Forest Act 2005 which came into force this January is needed to enlighten the community on the new Act which recognizes the right of communities living around forest to sustainably manage and utilize the forest resources.
5. The government should invest more in the area to curb insecurity and improve the dilapidated infrastructure to open up this region to tourism and more proactive active conservation

#### **CONCLUSION**

The threat to the Boni-Dodori ecosystem though recorded during the survey were noted to be on the lower scale and does not pose a significant threat to the biodiversity of this area. This is due to the sparse human population which exerts minimal pressure on the forests. The few natural resource based activities carried out do not pose a significant threat to the environment. This is with the exception of wild fire whose benefits and negative impacts to the environment has not been well understood.

But this should not be a reason to defer conservation measures to stop the threats identified. Indeed, this is the best opportunity to prevent these threats from getting bigger and more serious, since it will be easier to control them at this early stage. That's why ACF -Kenya is working with local communities to support their own initiatives in resource monitoring and surveillance. Two pilot activities started will form the basis of much larger interventions in future.

The recent influx of the Somali Islamic Courts Union fleeing the Ethiopian backed interim government forces in Kenya Somali border is a major setback to the gains made in the region after security situation stabilized in the last three years enabling more conservation NGOs, researchers and businessmen to work in the area. The calm had resulted in raising income for the local community, investment in infrastructure and



environmental conservation and improved awareness on natural resources management among the local community. All this will be lost as bandits take controls of the forest, which they use as their hideouts, escalating the poaching incidents and hampering conservation currently efforts underway.

