

Project Update: March 2020

This phase involved three main activities:

i) The monitoring of the planted and self-regenerated mangroves growth rate was carried out in November 2019 and March 2020 respectively. The Mwache local communities were fully engaged in the monitoring process. Here mangrove seedlings were tagged and the height, number of new leaves generated and stem width were measured and recorded (this will give an indication of the growth rate). The environmental conditions such as pH, salinity, and redox potential were also measured (this will be useful in explaining the reasons for observed growth i.e. did conditions favour growth or not).

ii) In January 2020 the local communities were invited for a 1-day brainstorming meeting. This was through their respective community leaders. A pro-social approach (community takes a led role in providing solution to conservation problem) was used to engage the community on progress of Mwache mangrove conservation efforts. The community gave direction on how they hope to move forward by redefining their vision to capture current developments. One issue that came out clear in this discussion was they hope in future to serve as role model in the success of Mwache mangroves restoration. They also hope in the long-term their efforts to be recognised in carbon credits (a process that requires a lot of scientific evidence to support the initiative, which we committed to provide if they dedicate to conserve the mangroves in the long-term).

iii) The local women were also mobilised separately (as the Mijikenda culture did not favour women to air their views in front of their men), and encouraged to capitalise on mangrove nursery development, which may serve as their source of income by selling the excess seedlings to other conservation groups.



Engagement of local community to monitor growth rate of planted and self-regenerated mangroves. © Said Chirugah.



Local community gathered to discuss about Mwache mangroves restoration progress, pro and cons. © Said Chirugah.



Bidii Women group tending to mangrove nursery, they sell excess seedlings to other conservation groups. © Said Chirugah.