

identified. Monitoring will continue until hatchlings come out.

Community Development

Poverty, increasing population pressure, and lack of education and awareness, commonly result in over-fishing and illegal/destructive habits along the Kenyan coast. The increasing destruction of these natural resources ultimately impacts negatively on the lives of the coastal communities, resulting in a cycle of poverty and environmental abuse.

COBEC works towards developing alternative income generating opportunities with the ultimate long term goal being to reduce pressure on natural resources to sustainable levels. With the introduction of income generating activities, the community will have direct sources of livelihood thus help reduce the level of poverty.

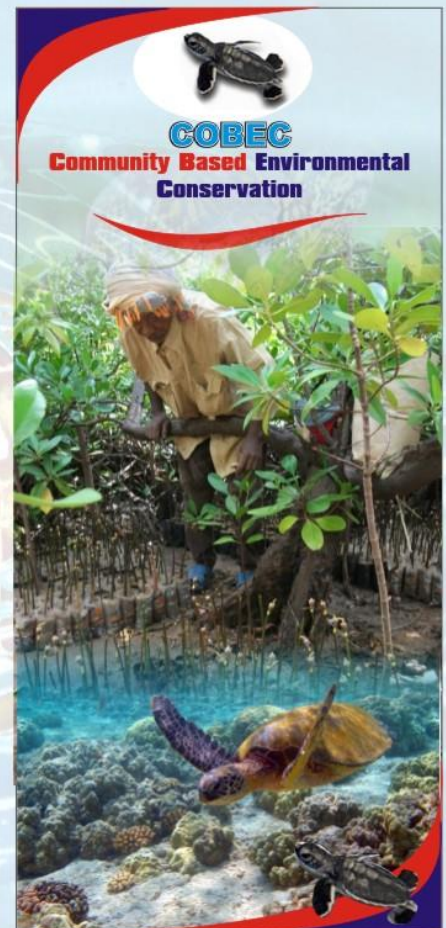
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COMMUNITY BASED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (COBEC)

COBEC was formed in 2009 following increased reports of marine environmental degradation and sea turtle mortalities caused by illegal poaching of turtle eggs, meat and threats from resource users.

Our main goal

To facilitate and empower local people to manage and conserve natural resources within the social, cultural and economic context of their communities.

Our objectives

- Development and implementation of research programs,
- Environmental conservation
- Community Development for sustainable development
- Development of strategies and guidelines, and management facilitation, for sea turtle conservation
- Capacity building and empowerment of community conservation groups and local communities
- To develop a sustainable funding stream for management and conservation activities
- Conservation Education and Awareness

COBEC Programmes



Education and Awareness

COBEC sees education and awareness as the key to providing people with the knowledge, awareness, attitudes and values to implement sustainable outcomes. However, education needs to be more broadly based than just providing information. COBEC's education and awareness programme is intensive promotion of information within a context of learning by those on the receiving end and usually is combined with relevant action.

The awareness programme has been purpose-built to match particular audiences or recipients, whether they are officers or councilors in local government, staff in government agencies, community groups, industry, students in formal education, etc. COBEC conducts awareness programmes through organized workshops, school visits, video presentations, production of newsletters, leaflets, stickers, posters etc.

Habitat Restoration

COBEC protects and recuperate areas that have been destructed to ensure that the ecosystems remain balanced. The importance of these ecosystems and the role they play has led to COBEC design and implement this programme with activities including beach cleaning and mangrove restoration. Among the reasons leading to habitat restoration include; Coastal wetlands, mangroves, and other coastal systems are highly productive, diverse



habitats on which thousands of species depend. Beaches are unique coastal environments with ecological, recreational and economic value Adaptive management is vital to stay abreast of natural cycles of change.



Sea Turtle Conservation

Sea turtles are prioritized for conservation through their listing in the respective texts of appendices of various conventions including the convention on the Convention on Migratory species (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of wild fauna and flora (CITES-appendix1) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as their endangered or critically endangered (IUCN-EARO and IUCN/SSC, 1996).

COBEC encourages on-the-ground conservation actions and efforts that have the largest impact in preventing extinctions. COBEC focus on:

- Protecting nesting beaches
- Reducing incidental & direct take
- Restoring the health of near-shore breeding and foraging environments
- Research and information dissemination

COBEC has two programmes that promote sea turtle conservation. One is a by catch release programme where with the project staff works with fishermen and community turtle attendants to collect turtles accidentally caught by fishermen and release them back to the sea. The other programme is beach patrol, nest mapping and monitoring. Patrolling is done on the beach to find out any nesting turtles. Patrolmen are expected to fill a nesting information form any time a nest is