

KENYA ANNEX X. DLIST SUMMARY REPORT FOR KENYA - JOMO KENYATTA PUBLIC BEACH

Mombasa city is located at the Kenyan coast about 432 km south east of Nairobi, the Capital of Kenya. Coral reefs, mangrove forests, beaches, lowlands and kaya forests characterize the area. The main socio-economic activities include tourism, fishing and trade around the coastal area. Mombasa is a historical trading town that attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists annually (Figure 20). The area is well known for its beautiful beaches and Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach is one of them. It is the only remaining stretch of beach in Mombasa that has free access to the general public all the way from the road to the.

The high level of development along the beaches in Mombasa has affected species diversity, and notable conflicts relating to resource use exists in the area. There are also disputes



Figure 20: A busy Sunday afternoon at Jomo Kenyatta

regarding private companies/developers wanting to develop the public beach area into a hotel.

Solid waste on the public beach is a major problem, despite there being official waste bins provided by the city council. There is however a local entrepreneur who makes his living by collecting plastic bottles, metal bottle tops and other plastic waste to sell it to recyclers and this activity has greatly improved the situation. Another major factor contributing to the degradation of the public beach area is overcrowding

Efforts are however being taken to stop the trend of environmental degradation and some of the reefs in Mombasa were declared a Marine National Reserve in 1986 with a 10 km² core zone known as the Mombasa Marine National Park. Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) manages the marine protected area and fishing is not allowed inside the Marine National Park. This gives the fish populations a chance to recover and “spill over” into the surrounding areas where fishing occurs. The marine park is also a popular area for tourists to visit.

As part of the DLIST planning process with the community and stakeholders around Jomo

At a glance – Jogo Kenyatta Public Beach in Mombasa

There have been two field trips arranged to the demonstration site in Mombasa, Kenya. The first introductory trip was arranged in January 2010 in close collaboration with the Data and Information Coordinator for the ASCLME project, Mr Harrison Ong'anda from the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) and a longer site visits was arranged in July 2010. The DLIST team included marine biologists, LED specialists, stakeholder involvement experts, heritage and tourism specialists as well as an expert in indigenous knowledge. The LED planning process has started and so far there have been 15 interest group meetings arranged to provide input into the plan. The local stakeholder groups include the fishers association, the boat owners association, the camel riders association, the beach photographers group, the life savers, the tube renters and the community traders. Other interest groups that have been involved and consulted in the process are NGOs such as Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), authorities such as Kenya Wildlife Services, the Coastal Development Authority, the Municipal Council, the District Office, and the Beach Management Unit under the Ministry of Fisheries as well as the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). A total of 68 individual interviews have been conducted with stakeholders on the beach and this data will give a good background for the LED planning process that has been initiated for the area. During the July visit two film screening events were arranged for stakeholders on the public beach.

Kenyatta

Public Beach, broad consultations and discussions/interviews have been conducted. The grassroots as well as higher levels of the district administration, including various natural resource managers, planners and community development officers and political elites are represented among those that have contributed to the planning process. Local NGOs were also consulted to clarify their field of operations and potentials for future collaboration and augmentation of viable economic development interventions.

The focus of these interactions was primarily to capture first hand information, perceptions and knowledge of the local people and conditions with regard to the economic development prospects for the area. Individual interviews with relevant stakeholders such as fishers, traders, lifeguards and other groups that are directly affected by the conditions on the beach, where also conducted.

The identified stakeholders for Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach include the following;

1. Beach stakeholders

- a. The fishers association
- b. The boat owners association
- c. Camel riders
- d. Beach photographers
- e. Tube renters
- f. Bicycle renters
- g. Lifeguards association
- h. JKPB Community Traders
- i. Massage ladies

2. Authorities

- a. The Ministry of Fisheries

- i. Beach Management Units (BMUs)
- b. Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS)
- c. Mayor/town clerk - The Municipal Council of Mombasa
- d. District officer
- e. Coastal Development Authority
- f. Tourism information centre (under the Ministry of Tourism)
- g. Kenya Tourist Police Unit (Bamburi)
- h. Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)
- i. National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- j. Maritime Authority (for boat licences etc.)

3. NGOs/independent institutions

- a. Kenya Sea turtle conservation
- b. CORDIO
- c. Pact Kenya (environmental issues and alternative livelihoods options)
- d. WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)-
The Coral Reef Research Project
- e. MUHURI (women's rights office)

4. Tourism development

- a. The Kenya Association of Hoteliers and Catering operators
- b. Mombasa Coastal Tourism Association
- c. Hotels and restaurants near the Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach.
- d. Kenya Tourism Trust Fund

8.1 Can the marine and coastal resources support the community?

In general, Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach has great capacity to accommodate big numbers of tourists, which is the main activity in the area. Many stakeholders express a wish that there would be more or a bigger area available for public beach access, so that the extremely high intensity of tourists and the pressure on the environment would be reduced. This is however a very complicated matter relating to land ownership issues and it is not likely to change in the foreseeable future. With good planning and clear management the situation of the beach could however improve significantly and all the stakeholders are asking for better management of the public beach area.

Most of the people who use the beach on Jomo Kenyatta are there to enjoy themselves and are therefore not dependant on the beach and the natural resources for their livelihood. The state of the environment does however impact the quality of their experience on the beach and when the environment gets more degraded, it loses value also for the random visitors. Most of the people who make their living on the beach are in fact also not extracting anything from the natural environment, but are using the beach as a place to make business. The main limitation for these beach traders is the available space and the fact that the crowded environment makes the beach less attractive for tourists – and that will have an effect on their livelihood.

But there are of course also some actors on Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach that are more closely linked with the state of the environment and the available resources. These are the fishers and the boat owners who mainly make their income from taking tourists to see the reefs. Scientists

with long experience from the area say that the reefs and fish populations around Jomo Kenyatta are better than in many other areas in Kenya, but in general the Kenyan reefs are relatively degraded compared with for example Tanzania. A lot of the degradation of the reefs was caused by the large El Niño in 1998 and since then the pollution from beach developments and other activities has contributed to very slow or insignificant recovery. The fishers are also complaining that they would need better and bigger boats to reach the richer fishing grounds further away from shore. The boat owners on the other side say that the marine park authority (KWS) charge too high park entry fees in relation to the quality of the reef. People are not willing to pay that much to enter the sanctuary? and the boat owners lose business.

Beach erosion is a problem also on Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach and this is a problem for all stakeholders on the beach as it reduces the available beach area and degrades the beach environment.

8.2 Alternative livelihood options leading to poverty reduction

Most of the actors on Jogo Kenyatta Public Beach have no alternative livelihoods options and they are all totally dependent on the future of the beach for their survival. The different stakeholder groups have been asked to identify opportunities and ideas for how the beach can become a better place and the one suggestion that comes back again and again is that the public beach needs a proper management plan and good maintenance and infrastructure. All stakeholder groups say that they want the beach to be more organised with public seats, umbrellas, free toilets, proper parking areas etc. The stakeholders emphasise that the development of the management plan has to use a participatory approach and include all of the different groups to succeed. There have been some projects in the past that have tried to deal with the management of the beach area, but have not succeeded.

In order to secure the future of the beach, it is very important that the land ownership issues and claims for parts of the public beach area are sorted out properly. This should be done in close collaboration with the Municipal Council and the Ministry of Tourism who are major role players when it comes to the public beach.

Some of the specific groups have identified interventions that will affect their activities in particular. One example is the lifeguards association who have identified that the beach needs a well equipped lifeguard centre. This would benefit all the stakeholders on the beach as it would contribute to increased safety for the visitors as well as the people who make their living on the beach. Security issues are also something that has been mentioned by all the different groups as a main priority for the future of the public beach. The security issues that need to be addressed are related to rescue services as well as tourist police and basic "order" in a crowded public environment.

8.3 Weaknesses and opportunities for sustainable community development

All the different stakeholder groups and organisations have been asked to list weaknesses and opportunities for the area. When grouped together the following list points come as the main priorities among the issues that hinder good development on Jogo Kenyatta Public Beach;

1. The beach is very disorganised and it makes the area less attractive, which reduces the opportunity for everyone to make a good business;
2. There is no good solution for toilets and showers. At present everyone has to pay to use the facilities and not everyone can afford that, which leads to pollution on the beach and in the sea;
3. There is no good parking space and people often drive all the way down on the beach, which contributes to erosion and blocks the access areas;
4. The safety and security on the beach is insufficient. Sometimes it is too crowded to evacuate someone from the beach in case of emergency. There is also no public announcement system in place;
5. The income people get from their businesses/activities on the beach are very unpredictable and it makes life hard;
6. The fishers lack efficient equipment and good boats;
7. There is a lack of enforcement of the fishing regulations and people in the area still use illegal and destructive methods;
8. There is a lack of funds from the Government or other sources for people who want to invest and improve their business;
9. There is a problem with conflict between stakeholders. For example there are sometimes conflicts between the fishers and the tourists as the fishing gear sometimes gets destroyed while visiting the marine parks;
10. Many of the stakeholders are quite organised in associations, but the leaders often lack good training and the general environmental awareness among people is low.

All stakeholder groups were also asked to identify opportunities for the beach. The following is a summary list from all the different groups;

1. All stakeholders identify that the public beach itself is a great opportunity for the area. It is after all the “only” public beach left around Mombasa and it has great potential;
2. Many of the stakeholders are quite organised and with more support and training this is a great opportunity for a better future of the beach;
3. The public beach also provides an excellent opportunity for education about the marine and coastal environment to the average Kenyan. It is the only place where most people get a chance to see the beach, the palm trees and have the opportunity to swim and maybe even snorkel. This could be improved even further if there was an aquarium in the area for educational purposes. This idea exists and there is already a land area put aside for it and there is also a sponsor for the aquarium;
4. It was also identified that the public beach has good opportunity to get support for producing a management plan since it is in everyone’s interest to improve the situation.

Ideas for how the situation can be improved and how the stakeholders want to see the beach in the future have also been collected. The below is a summary of the vision for the coming years as well as a list of possible interventions;

1. A percentage of the revenue collected at the Marine Park should come back to the operators on the beach. It would be used for management and service of facilities on the beach;

2. The beach should be more structured and put under clear management to improve the situation. If this is done properly people can pay to enter the beach or for parking and this money can be used of management of toilets, beach lights, life guard services etc;
3. All business operators should pay licensing fees – then the total number of operators could be limited and the activities could be controlled;
4. It would be wonderful to see a well organised and educated cooperative of fishers who can sell fish at high quality directly to the client – no more middle men making a lot of money;
5. The marginalised groups (the Wapemba fishers for example) should be more included in the existing structures to stop the criminal activities that take place now. If this is not possible – the illegal fishing has to be taken more seriously and dealt with as a real crime. It is extremely destructive for the marine environment and if not stopped, it will reduce the value of this area tremendously in the future;
6. It is clear that proper zoning of the beach, chances to some basic infrastructure and an association representing all stakeholders that can address issues collectively, will be great contributions to increasing the potential of this beach dramatically.

8.4 Bottom-up and top-down communication

Many of the stakeholders on the beach complained about lack of communication from the authorities and also between the different stakeholder groups on the beach. The different stakeholders have different ideas of how this situation could be addressed and improved. One interesting idea is to create a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral “beach management group or association” that could have a designated office and conduct regular meetings. This group should consist of representatives from all the different beach stakeholders as well as NGOs and government and they should meet regularly.

For safety reasons there has to be a public announcement system installed on the beach. In cases of emergency, such as a tsunami threat or something similar, it is very important to be able to make public announcements. This should be combined with notice boards with basic information about what to do and what not to do on the beach and a guide to what activities are allowed where. The JKPB demonstration site will undoubtedly bring ‘lessons learned’ to the other growing urban areas in the WIO, where similar problems exist at varying scales, such as Maputo, Lamu, Zanzibar Town, and many others.

Shortly after the site visit at Jomo Kenyatta Public Beach in the beginning of July 2010, a lively discussion took place on the DLIST web-based platform. Local, regional, national and also international members from the DLIST Community of Practice (CoP) contributed to the discussion about a sustainable future for the public beach. Issues of how to manage a public beach in general was discussed as well as problems with lack of public access and problem with private land grabbing for developments. Issues of safety and cleanliness on public beaches was also discussed and for example compared with the situation in Zanzibar. It was also pointed out that ReCoMaP recently provided funding to people at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) to develop a management plan for the public beach. The interest for the future of Jomo Kenyatta Beach area is great and the discussion forum will continue to provide input to the planning process for the demonstration site.

