

**TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE BASED INNOVATIONS FOR
ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE:
THE CASE OF COASTAL KENYA**

EXPERIENCES FROM SIFOR-KENYA PROJECT

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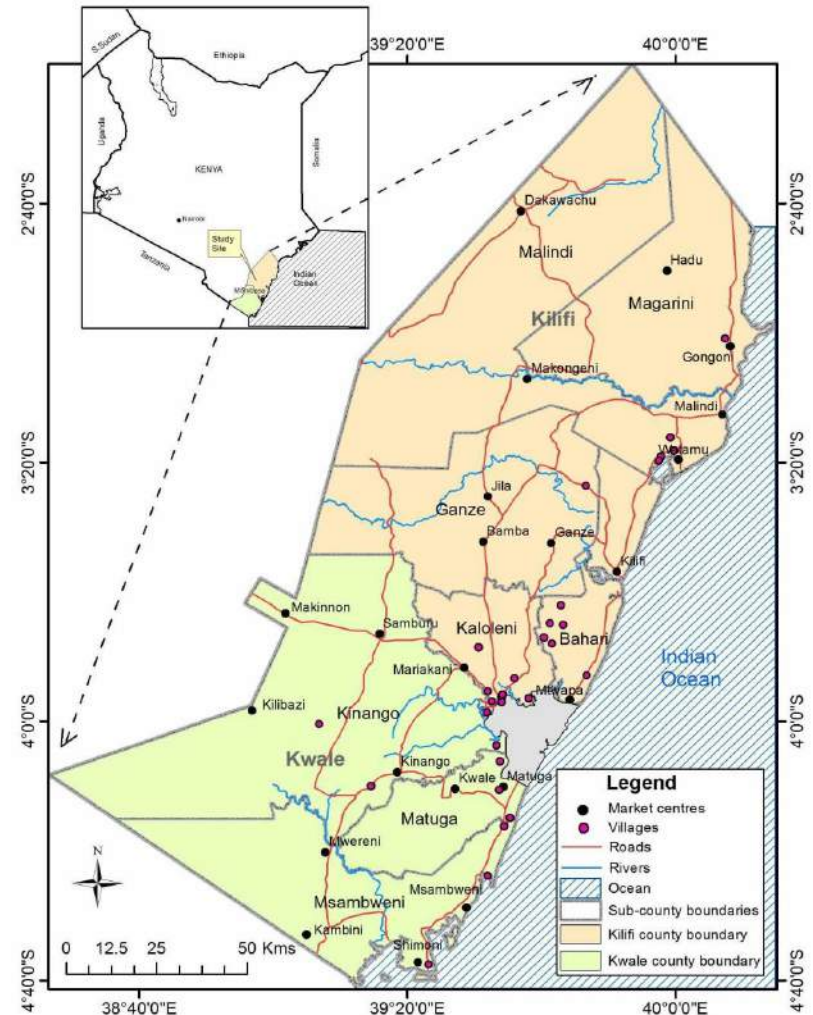
INTRODUCTION: WHY KENYAN COASTAL LANDSCAPE?

- Region characterized by high levels of poverty; **70 - 80%** of residents live below the poverty line.
- Local population heavily dependent on NRs for survival; **agriculture the main source of food & income**. Fishing, tourism & mining are other economic activities.
- Drought, floods & increased incidences of pests and diseases are major disasters communities frequently encounter as a result of climate change.
- **CC & rapid population growth**: causing extensive degradation of NRs leading to loss of agro-biodiversity and low food productivity.
- Degradation is eroding the ecological integrity of the **low lying** coastal landscape.



WHAT INTERVENTIONS ARE BEING PUT IN PLACE?

- To reverse degradation, conservation projects like **SIFOR-Kenya** have been initiated.
- EU funded: Aimed at improving food security and resilience by enabling smallholder innovation and TK-systems to thrive in developing countries.
- Giriama, Chonyi, Rabai, Digo and Duruma communities.



WHY THE INTERVENTIONS BY SIFOR PROJECT?

- Livelihoods of smallholder farmers threatened by CC due to climate related disasters.
- Most CC adaptation strategies have focused on large scale infrastructure for physical protection – **with little success**.
- Local initiatives of communities **offer sustainable innovations** for climate change adaptation.
- CC **adaptation strategies** should recognize creativity of local people, strengthen their adaptive capacity & channel adaptation funds to local organizations to support grassroots level adaptation initiatives.
- Policy responses to CC should also support and enhance local knowledge.



THE OBJECTIVES OF SIFOR, KENYA

- **SIFOR-Kenya is working with local farmers:**
 1. **To improve their adaptive capacity to impacts of CC by use of existing indigenous knowledge**
 2. **To identify and disseminate innovations which enhance productivity in the face of CC.**



**WHAT ARE THESE LOCAL INNOVATIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION AMONG MIJIKENDA COMMUNITY?**



DOMESTICATION: WILD FOOD & MEDICINAL PLANTS

Community nurseries (indigenous food & medicinal plant species)



DEVELOPMENT OF BIO-CULTURAL PRODUCTS



Basketry products, Rabai community



Packaged medicinal products



Grinding of herbal products



Branding to add value to products



PLANTING OF TRADITIONAL CROP VARIETIES



CUTTING DOWN ON CARBON EMISSIONS

Energy saving
cooking stoves



MIXED FARMING: INSURANCE FOR FOOD SECURITY

Indigenous chicken



Maize and Cassava



SOCIAL CAPITAL AND NETWORKING FOR RESILIENCE

- Ceremonies, powerful tool for networking (exchange of materials/seeds/information).



New year celebrations for Rabai community, Kenya

Indigenous farmers at COP 20, Peru



LESSONS LEARNED

- **Need to enhance the role of local organizations e.g. farmers, youth and women groups in promoting and supporting local innovations for sustainability in the management of socio-ecological landscapes.**
- **Local innovations enhances food production and contributes significantly to preservation of agro-biodiversity (increasing resilience of local communities to CC).**



MOVING FORWARD

- ✓ **SIFOR advocating changes in policy responses to CC for institutionalization to recognize the role of indigenous knowledge and local innovations in CC adaptation.**
- ✓ **Establishment of community seed banks and rules and regulations developed to guide the exchange of indigenous crop varieties' seeds among communities to conserve agro-biodiversity.**
- ✓ **Enhance value addition of bio-cultural products to increase the economic benefits to famers.**

ALL THESE ARE MEANT TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL INNOVATIONS!



THANK YOU!

