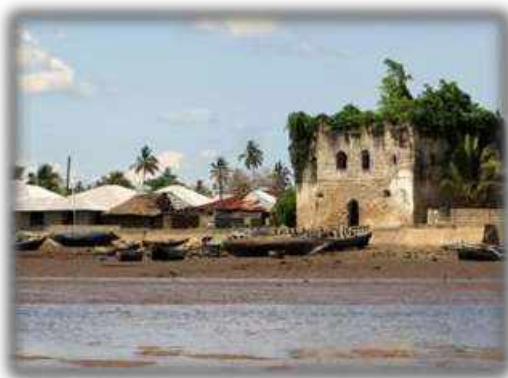


VANGA

BLUE FOREST PROJECT

PROJECT DESIGN DOCUMENT (PDD)



For validation using

Plan Vivo Standards



Executive Summary

This Project Design Document (PDD) is being submitted by the Association of Coastal Ecosystem Services (ACES), on behalf of the Community Forest Association (CFA) of Vanga Jimbo and Kiwegu, hereinafter referred to as VAJIKI, who are the owners of the carbon credits derived from the Vanga Blue Forest project. The project is located in the south coast of Kenya, some 110km from Mombasa city, in Kwale County.

The objective of the project is to **restore and protect** the mangroves of Vanga, to **prevent** emissions that would have otherwise occurred were these mangroves degraded or removed through over-harvesting or land encroachment, as is typical for other mangrove areas in Kenya; and **promote long-term** sustainable development of the local communities that live within and adjacent to the mangrove areas of Vanga.

The project has been submitted under the Plan Vivo Systems and Standards following the approved VCS methodology VM0033 Methodology for Tidal Wetlands and Seagrass Restoration; CDMtoolAR-Tool14 Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities, as well as IPCC (2013) guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories: Wetlands.

The C stocks of the Vanga mangroves range from 174 to 904 Mg C/ha with a mean of $\sim 469 \pm 176$ Mg C/ha for both above-and below ground components (down to 1 m depth). The forest is impacted by uncontrolled exploitation as wood removals by the local community and outsiders for energy and building. A decline in forest area, from 3685 ha to 3234 ha, occurred from 1991 to 2016, translating to 18.04 ha/yr^{-1} , and multiple lines of evidence show that the forest is degraded and far from its productive potential. High rates of population growth in the area combined with strong local reliance on forest products suggest that the rates of deforestation and degradation are likely to escalate if serious management interventions are not taken.

Through a combination of sustainable mangrove management and community livelihood activities, this project is expected to avoid emissions of over 106,929 tCO₂-eq. over the 20 years' crediting period, or approximately 5347 tCO₂/year across the carbon pools of above and below ground biomass, as well as soil carbon, after allowing for a 20% risk reduction buffer. In addition to the climate mitigation benefits, the project is expected to generate multiple community and biodiversity benefits in the area, including support for local services (education, sanitation and clean water), and increased fishery stocks and resilience.

The project will be implemented by VAJIKI CFA in partnership with KFS. Technical support will be through KMFRI, who have knowledge and experience of developing and implementing similar Blue Carbon Projects in the region; with additional expertise from partners at Edinburgh Napier University and ACES. The design of the project has been participatory with a series of consultation workshops in order to guarantee the involvement and commitment of all stakeholders.

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List of abbreviations

°C	Degree Celsius
ACES	Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services
AGB	Above Ground Biomass
BGB	Below Ground Biomass
C	Carbon
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CFA	Community Forest Association
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DFID	Department for International Development
EAWLS	East Africa Wildlife Society
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMCA	Environmental Management & Coordination Act
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FINNIDA	Finish international Development Agency
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
GoK	Government of Kenya
GPS	Global positioning system
GVI	Global Vision International
ha	Hectares
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KCFCF	Kenya Coastal Forest Conservation Forum
KFS	Kenya Forest Services
KMFRI KMFRI	Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

KNBS	Kenya National Bureau Statistics
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PC	Project Co-ordinator
PDD	Project Design Document
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PFMP	Participatory Forest Management Plan
PV	Plan Vivo
PVC	Plan Vivo Certificate
REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEAs	Strategic environmental assessments
SLR	Sea Level Rise
UK	United Kingdom
UNEP	United Nation Environment Program
USD	United States Dollar
VAJIKI	Vanga Jimbo Kiwegu
VBF	Vanga Blue Forest
VCS	Voluntary Carbon Standards
WIO TDA	Western Indian ocean transboundary Diagnostic Analysis
WWF	World Wide fund

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Conversion table

1 Hectare (ha)	= 10,000 square metre (m ²)
1 Tonnes (t)	= 1 Megagram (1 Mg)
1CO ₂	= 1CO ₂ e

Definition of terms

Additionality

Whether an emissions reduction or removal would have occurred in the absence of new incentives, such as a payment for emissions reductions.

Afforestation

Direct human-induced conversion of land that has not been forest for a period of at least 50 years to forest through planting, seeding and/or human-induced promotion of natural seed sources.

Baseline scenario

Conditions that are expected to occur in the absence of any project intervention.

Carbon pool

A system that can store and/or accumulate carbon.

Carbon sequestration

Direct removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storage in a *carbon pool* in forests or in soils (biological sequestration only).

Ecosystem services

The benefits people obtain from the environment. They are classified as provisioning, regulating, cultural, or supporting, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

Forest

Land containing a vegetation association dominated by trees of any size whether exploitable or not, capable of producing wood or other products, potentially capable of influencing climate, exerting an influence on the soil, water regime and providing habitat for wildlife.

Leakage

The unintended increase in GHG emissions or decrease in carbon stocks outside project intervention areas, which is attributable to the project and results in a lower provision of climate services being attributable to the project.

PES or Payments for Ecosystem Services

A model for compensating or incentivising individuals or groups for management activities that generate ecosystem services, by providing staged, performance-related cash or in-kind payments or rewards.

REDD+

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the role of Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management and Enhancement of Carbon Stocks.

Reforestation

The direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, on land that was previously forested but that has been converted to non-forested land.

Part A: Aims and objectives

The Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) Project aims to generate benefits in the areas of climate, community and biodiversity under the Plan Vivo System and Standards. The key objectives of the project are to sustain the flow of mangrove goods and services by halting further deforestation and degradation. This loss is mainly caused by overexploitation of mangroves by the local communities to meet their household requirements for wood and energy. VBF also seeks to contribute to improved community livelihood. Specific objectives of the project are:

1. To **restore degraded mangroves** in the Vanga project area through education, awareness creation, and community participation
2. To **prevent continued emissions** from the deforestation and degradation of mangroves in Vanga in a way that can be measured, reported, and verified
3. To **conserve high quality** mangrove forest from encroachment and degradation, for conservation, carbon enhancement, and scientific purposes
4. To **promote long-term socio-economic development** of the local communities through income generation from mangrove forest resources, including sales of carbon credits
5. To **enhance community capacity** on joint mangrove management.

Part B: Site Information

B.1 Project location and boundaries

The project is located in the south coast of Kenya in Kwale County (4° 39' 00" S and 39° 13' 00" E), approximately 110 km from Mombasa city (Figure 1). The project area is part of the transboundary mangrove extending from Diani in Kenya to Tanga in Tanzania. The project site covers the mangroves of Vanga, Jimbo, Kiwegu and Majoreni with a total cover of 4428 ha; out of which 460ha have been set aside for the Vanga Blue Forest. Adjacent to the mangroves are a large number of villages, and subsistence and commercial agriculture activities. The area is also active in coastal tourism where visitors frequent the area for snorkelling in the coral reefs as well as canoeing in mangrove creeks.

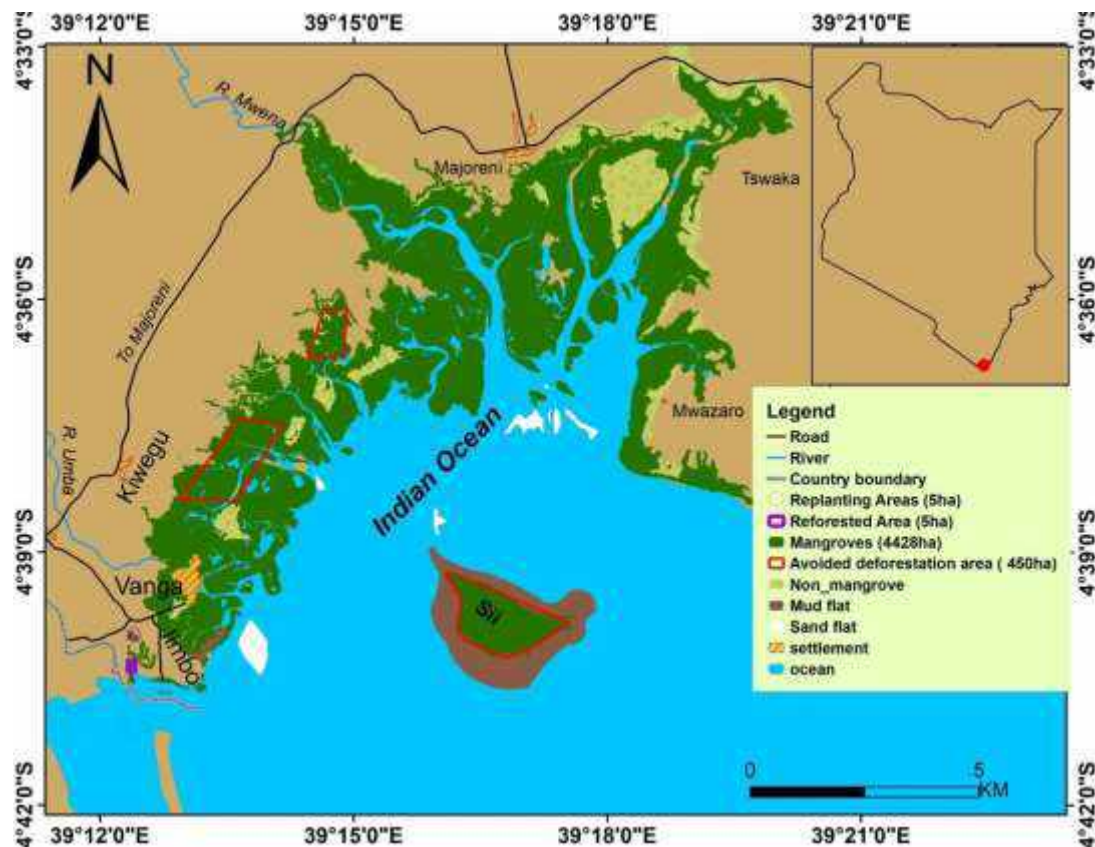


Figure 1: Map of Vanga mangrove ecosystem showing the project areas in red

This Project Design Document (PDD) addresses mangrove forest conservation in Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwegu villages (Figure 1); activity will be co-managed by the local community forest association (VAJIKI) and the Kenya Forest Service. The project area also includes Sii Island, a small uninhabited island near Vanga whose mangroves have not yet been heavily exploited due to its inaccessibility by cutters using small boats. The forest on the island contains excellent stands of *Rhizophora mucronata*, a species that has been heavily exploited in all other sites of the south coast. We will work with the project participants to protect mangroves of Sii island from illegal activities to enhance carbon stocks in the Island. There are several administrative locations involved in the project area with an estimated population of over 35,000¹. Population within 5km of the project area is estimated at 8,700.

B.2 Description of the project area

Vanga project area experiences a tropical wet and dry climate with seasons strongly influenced by monsoon winds. Rainfall is bimodal with long rains falling between April and June, and short rains between October and December. The mean rainfall and temperature are 1200 mm yr⁻¹ and 26°C, respectively (Figure 2). The area has been categorized as an agro-ecological zone L2, which is the most favourable category for agricultural activities within Kwale County.

The River Uimba flows through the area from the Usambara Mountains in North-eastern Tanzania into the Indian Ocean (Figure 1). This is a major but semi-permanent river that has

¹ KNBS (2013). Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling apart or Pooling together? Kwale County report, KNBS and SID, Nairobi

a surface area of approximately 2000m² within the project area. The River Mwena is a stream that also passes through the project area into the Indian Ocean.

Geology of Vanga region is composed of residual corallimestones and columns of sand with rocky outcrops, particularly along the intertidal areas. There are quaternary deposits along the flood plains ranging from estuarine deposits to sands, clays and coral limestones. The soils vary in structure and depth but are generally well drained.

The ample rainfall and porous soils provide great potential for ground water in the area (Figure 2). The climatic and edaphic conditions are favourable for forestry and agricultural activities. Rain fed rice and maize farming is carried out within the project area at a subsistence level.

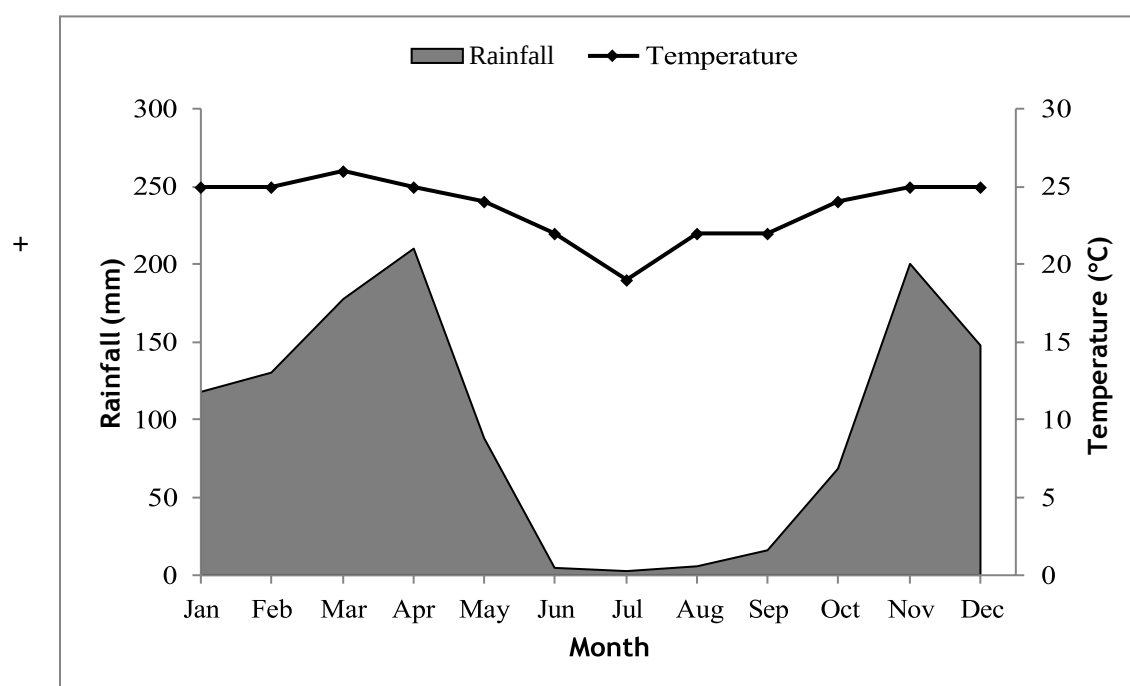


Figure 2: Climate diagram of the project area

Mangrove Biodiversity

Based on Importance Value (IV) the principle mangroves in Vanga are *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Ceriops tagal*, and *Avicennia marina* (Table 1). These forests occur in pure or mixed stands and are harvested for building poles and for energy. In addition to mangroves, the area is rich in terrestrial coastal forests that are sources of firewood, forage and non-timber forest products (e.g. fruits) for the local community. Some of the cultivated tree species in the area include mango (*Mangifera indica*), cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*), and neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*).

Table 1: Mangroves of Vanga

Species	Relative Dominance	Relative Density	Relative frequency	Importance Value
<i>Avicennia marina</i>	24.80	12.26	20.21	57.27
<i>Brugueira gymnorhiza</i>	6.05	3.11	10.80	19.97
<i>Ceriops tagal</i>	21.10	51.07	27.53	99.70
<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>	35.99	30.65	28.92	95.56
<i>Sonneratia alba</i>	8.33	1.92	6.62	16.87
<i>Xylocarpus granatum</i>	3.73	0.99	5.92	10.64
Total	100	100	100	300
(Total number of plots = 132 (total area= 24675m²) (number of individual encountered = 8767).				

The project area is home to numerous species of wildlife, including some marine fauna that are endangered and of high conservation importance². These include turtles, dolphins, and dugong (Table2).

Table 2: Endangered species sighted within the project area

Animal group	Scientific Name	Common Name	Local Name	Status
Reptiles	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	Ziwa	Endangered
	<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>	Hawksbill turtle	Ng'amba	Critically endangered
Mammals	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	Bottle nose dolphin	Pomboo mwenye pua ya chupa	Endangered
	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>	Indopacific Humpback dolphin	Pomboo wa nundu	Endangered
	<i>Dugong dugon</i>	Dugong	Nguva	Endangered

Infrastructure, amenities and hazards

The project area is accessible by a fairly well-maintained dirt road through private or public means. The road network is, however, prone to flooding during the rainy seasons. Motorised boats are also available for use along the seaward routes. Electricity, internet connection,

² GVI Kenya. Conserving Kenya 2011. <http://gvikenya.wildlifedirect.org/category/bird-surveys/>

water and other social amenities are available in Vanga town, but less accessible in Jimbo and Kiwegu villages. Flooding during rainy seasons is a frequent climate mediated hazard in the area. The area is generally low lying making it vulnerable to sea level rise (SLR). As a protection against SLR the government has erected seawalls along Vanga and Jimbo villages to control flooding. Restoring and protecting fringing mangroves of the area as proposed by the project would help buffer Vanga against the anticipated hazards of climate change.



Figure 3: A section of the seawall at Vanga village

B.3 Recent changes in land use and environmental conditions

Mangroves of the area are exploited for wood and non-wood resources. About 87% of the population living within or adjacent to the mangroves of Vanga depends on mangroves for building and energy³. Changes in land-use practices upstream impact directly/indirectly on the mangrove ecosystem downstream. Further, Vanga has witnessed a rise in human population that has increased the demand for marine resources including mangroves.

Analysis of Landsat data from the project area shows a decrease of mangrove forest cover over time. Overall, the area of mangroves in Vanga has declined by 451 ha from 1991 to 2016; translating to a loss of $0.5\%/yr^{-1}$ over the last 25 years. The loss was particularly high between 1991-2003, as compared to the 2003-2016 period (Figure 4). High rates of mangrove cover change were observed within Jimbo, Ngoa, Majoreni, Kikomani Ndogo and Tswaka areas.

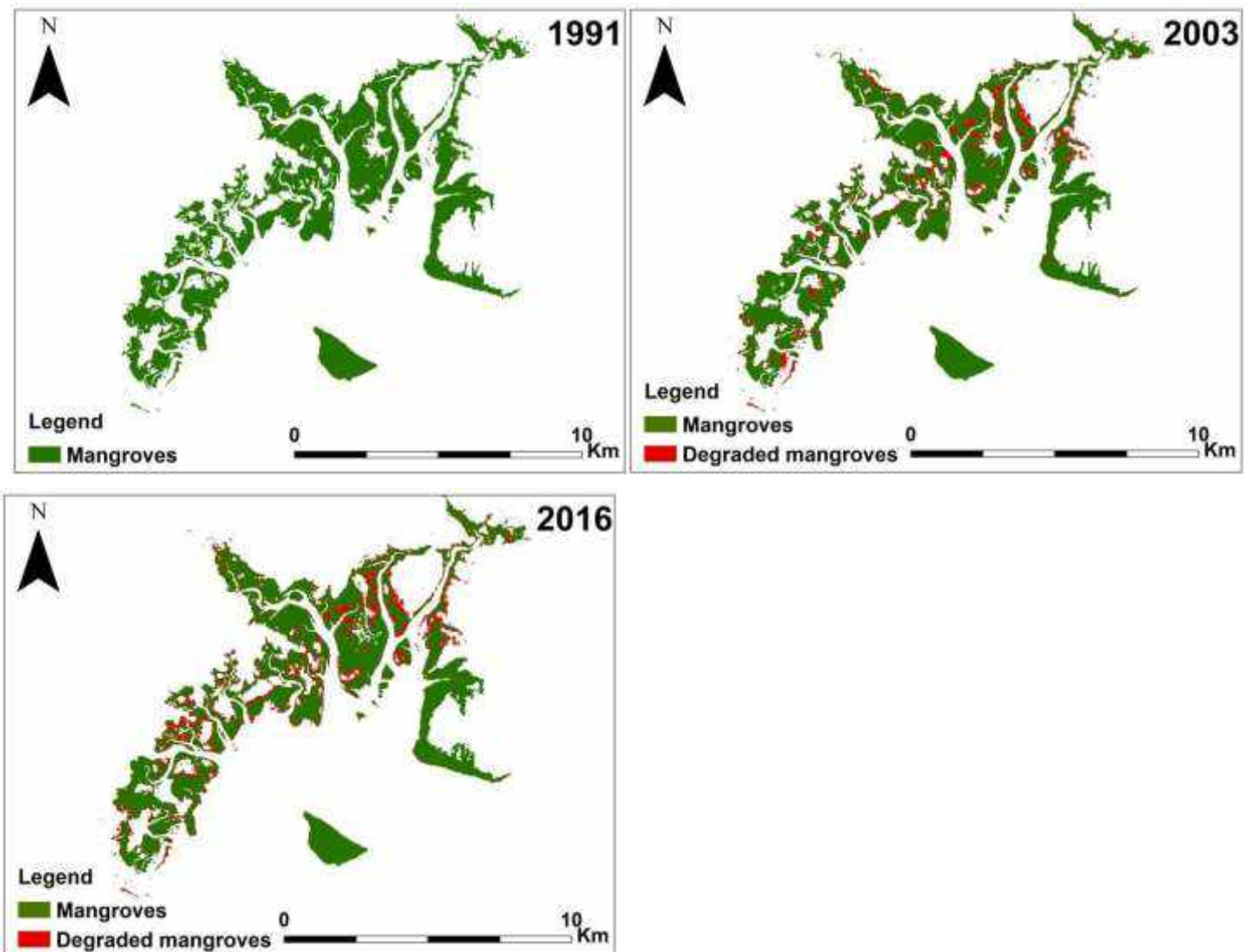
B.4 Drivers of degradation

Globally, major changes in mangrove coverage are a result of both climate change and anthropogenic stressors. The Western Indian Ocean region has witnessed increased

³ Government of Kenya, (2017). *National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan*. Nairobi, Kenya

frequency and intensity of weather events such as flooding and storm surges⁴. Consequently, these have contributed to mangrove die-backs as a result of increased sedimentation and habitat degradation. The root causes of loss and degradation of mangrove forests in Kwale county have been identified during stakeholder analysis exercises (Figure 5).

Figure 4: Vanga mangrove cover and the changes that had taken place by the year 2003 and 2016 from the initial in 1991 cover



⁴ UNEP/Nairobi Convention Secretariat, 2009. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of Land-based Sources and Activities Affecting the Western Indian Ocean Coastal and Marine Environment, UNEP Nairobi, Kenya 378P

Drivers of losses and degradation of mangroves in Vanga have been identified as population pressure, poverty and inequality, and poor governance. Poor governance manifests itself through illegal harvesting, forest encroachment and weak enforcement of existing laws. Social economic impacts of losses and degradation include loss of community livelihoods, declining fish stocks and shortage of harvestable wood products. Quantitative modelling of the drivers of mangrove loss across Kenya by the project team identify similar factors nation- wide.⁵

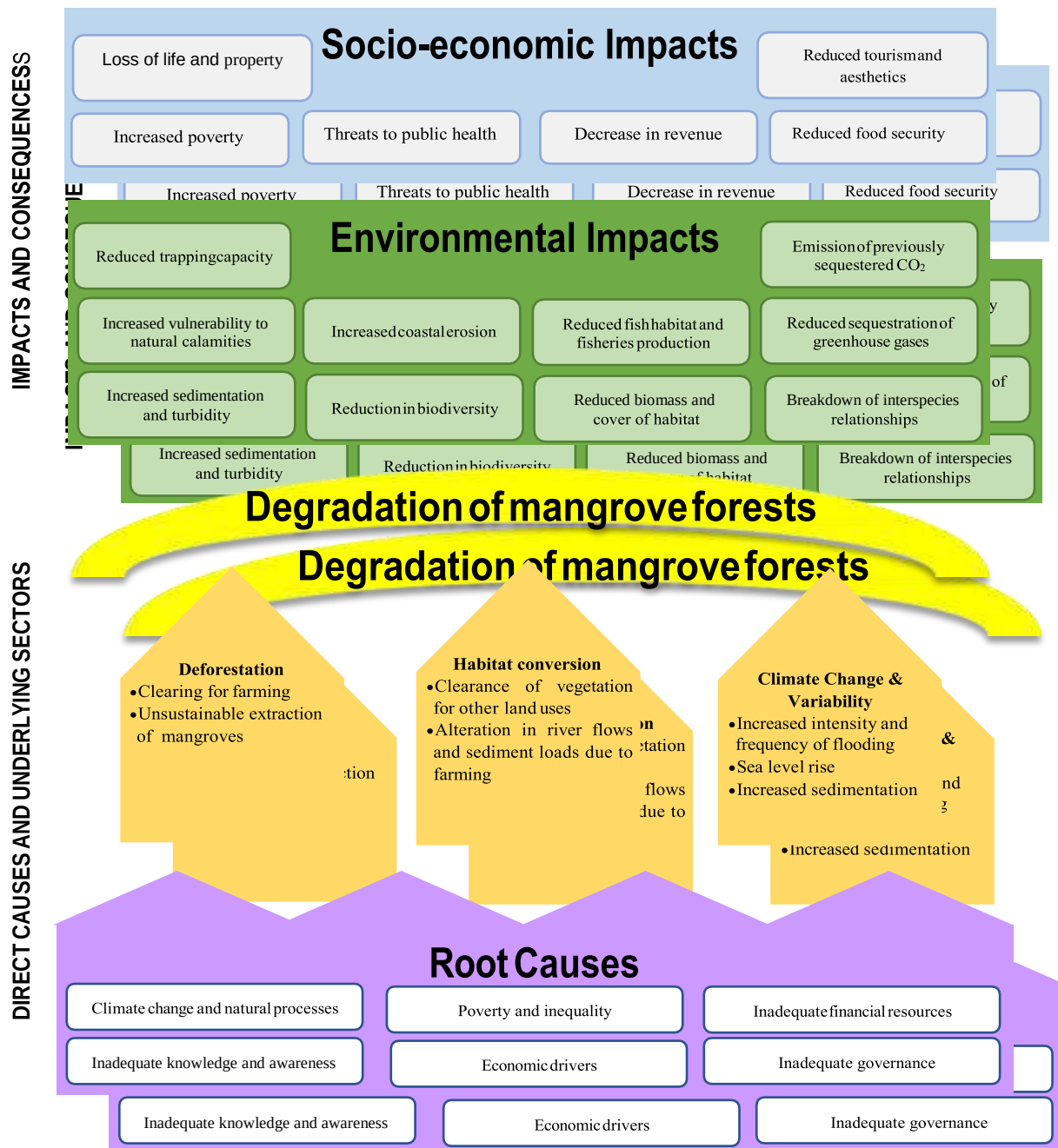


Figure 5: Problem tree of degradation of mangroves in Vanga (Source: Adopted from UNEP, 2009)

⁵ Huxham M., Emerton L., Kairo J., Munyi F., Abdirizak H. and Muriuki T. (2015) Applying climate compatible development and economic valuation to coastal management : A case study of Kenya's mangrove forests. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 157, 168-181

Part C: Community and Livelihoods Information

C.1 Participating communities/groups

Based on the 2017 census, the population in the project area is estimated at 8,736 people, distributed in 974 households within Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwegu villages. The average members in each household is eight. Vanga has the biggest population of 7,018, followed by Kiwegu (1,037) and Jimbo (681) (Table 3). Overall, there are approximately 4,176 males and 4,560 females in the area. The population is mostly youthful, with 14.76% and 4.03% of the people falling below 5 and above 60 years respectively. The dominant ethnic groups are the Digos and Shirazi, accounting for 91% of the population. Other ethnic groups in the project area are Wakifundi, Durumas, Wagunya and Wapemba representing only 8%. Islam is the dominant religion accounting for approximately 97% of the population of the project area.

Table 3: Distribution of population and other demographic characteristics in the project area⁹

	Vanga		Jimbo		Kiwegu	
Total households	680		80		214	
Population distribution by Gender						
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total Number	3350	3668	325	356	501	536
Proportion of education attainment by Gender (%)						
Without basic education	22.95	50.00	7.69	44.44	18.18	25.00
Incomplete primary	19.67	20.00	76.92	44.44	18.18	25.00
Complete Primary	40.98	30.00	15.38	11.11	40.91	50.00
Incomplete Secondary	6.56	0	0	0	4.55	0
Complete Secondary	8.20	0	0	0	13.64	0
Tertiary education	1.64	0	0	0	4.55	0
Proportion of age distribution by Village (%)						
<5yrs	14.05		18.67		13.79	
5>18yrs	31.98		34.00		48.77	
18>60yrs	48.98		45.33		34.48	

>60yrs	4.99	2.00	2.96
Proportion of marital status by Village (%)			
Married	82.02	66.67	74.19
Widowed	6.74	16.67	9.68
Divorced/Separated	5.62	6.67	16.13
Single	5.62	10.00	0

Compared to men, women have low representation in decision-making processes in Vanga. This attribute is common across Kenya, with men tending to predominate in leadership positions⁶. There are, however, positive changes in some community user groups in the project area whereby women are assuming leadership roles. The project will work to promote the role of women in leadership to meet the $\frac{1}{3}$ – gender rule enshrined in the national constitution (2010). Unemployment is high, with 30% of youth in the population unemployed⁷. Generally, the education level is low with 39.07% of the population having attained no formal education (Table 3).

C.2 Describe the Socio-economic context

The major economic activity in Vanga is fishing which accounts for about 80% of the local economy⁸. Fishing is predominantly a male dominated activity; while women are involved in fish trading and selling food to fishermen. Nevertheless, some women, especially in female-headed households, engage in fishing activities to sustain their households. Other economic activities in the area include subsistence farming, small businesses and mangrove harvesting⁹ (Figure 6). Lack of land ownership amongst farmers has contributed to low agricultural productivity in the area. Less than 25% of farmers in the area have land title deeds thus limiting their capacity to use land for agriculture¹⁰.

⁶ Kiamba J.M. (2008) Women and leadership positions social and cultural barriers to success. Wagadu 6:7-26

⁷ Government of Kenya (2013). Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling apart or pooling together? Kwale County report, KNBS and SID, Nairobi

⁸ Omwenga, K. (2009). Transboundary socioeconomic monitoring report, KESCOM

⁹ Omondi M.A (2017). Analysis of local governance structures, attitudes and perceptions supporting mangrove management in Vanga, south coast, Kenya, *thesis unpublished*

¹⁰ Government of Kenya (2013). Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling apart or pooling together? Kwale County report, KNBS and SID, Nairobi

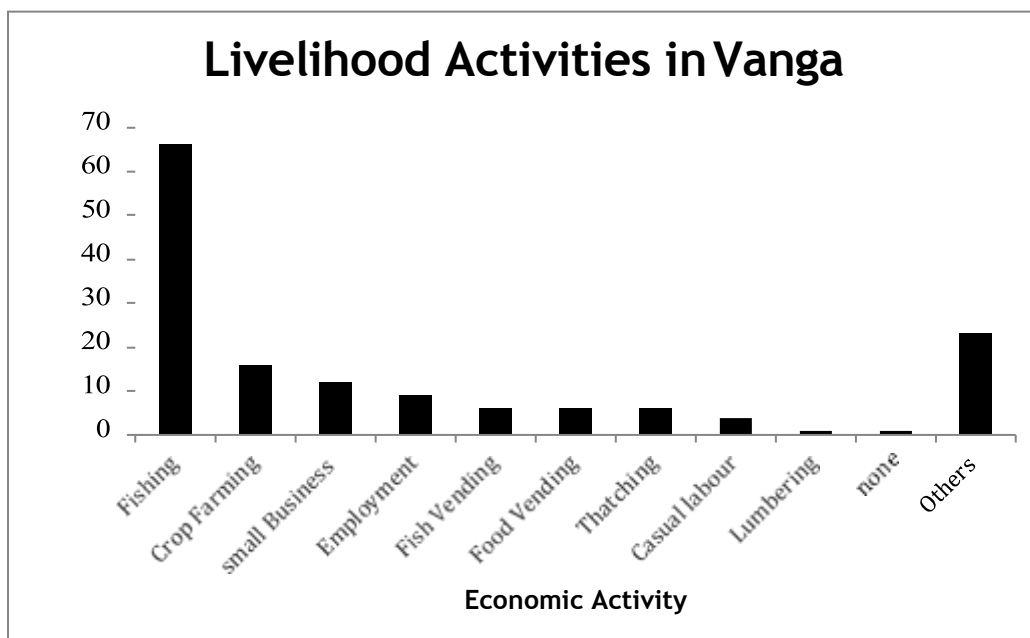


Figure 6: Main livelihood activities in the project area

Vanga project area has a poverty index of 0.25 which is slightly higher than the national average of 0.23. Household monthly income is estimated to range between KES 2,065-16,112 (US\$ 20-156). This can be considered moderate when compared to the World Bank classification of a poverty line of KES 3,873 (US\$37.50)¹¹. The total dependence ratio in the area is 90%, which is among the highest in Kwale County¹². This is attributed to the high unemployment rate, which is estimated at 30% of the population¹³. Low economic status coupled with the high dependency ratio forces some of the residents to seek alternative sources of income such as harvesting of mangrove wood products in order to sustain their households. Continued removal of mangrove wood products is likely to result in continued forest degradation if no intervention is taken.

The project area is poorly served by social amenities. There are 5 primary schools and 1 secondary school operating in Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwegu villages. The schools lack basic facilities, are understaffed and have no electricity. Access to Vanga is by a dirt road or by sea. However, during the rainy seasons, access is seriously affected by the Uмба river that often bursts its banks and carries away bridges thus making the area inaccessible.

There is only one health facility located in Vanga village. Emergency cases are attended to by experienced members of the community through traditional knowledge. The level of sanitation in the area is generally poor, with about 87% of the population using uncovered pit latrines or bushes. Further, the area lacks sanitary landfills for waste disposal. This leads to solid waste pollution and outbreaks of waterborne diseases such as typhoid and cholera during rainy seasons and also poses a great threat to the adjacent marine environment. The reported cases of waterborne diseases in Vanga between 2015 and 2017 are shown in Table 4. The project will work with the CFA in addressing some of the health, education and environmental issues addressed in Vanga.

¹¹ WorldBank (2013) WorldBank Annual report

¹² KNBS (2013). Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling apart or pooling together? Kwale County report, KNBS and SID, Nairobi

¹³ Government of Kenya (2013). Exploring Kenya's Inequality: Pulling apart or pooling together? Kwale County report, KNBS and SID, Nairobi

Table 4: Cases of water borne diseases in Vanga pilot area from 2015 -2017 (Source: Ministry of Health Vanga)

Water borne Diseases cases	2015	2016	2017*
Diarrhoea	2,645	1,164	319
Dysentery (Bloody Diarrhoea)	284	49	10
Typhoid fever	30	0	0
Bilharzia	92	48	13
Pneumonia	2,356	508	71
Respiratory problems	8,245	7,294	1,523
SUM of Water borne disease cases	13,661	9,063	1,936

*this is only part of the data generated by the Ministry of health in Vanga. The entire data set will be included during the different phase of the project.

C.3 Describe land tenure & ownership of carbon rights

Land in Kenya is classified as public, private, or community land and is governed by various legislations¹⁴. Forests can occur in any of the aforementioned land classes. All mangroves in Kenya are classified as national forests. The management of these forests is vested with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) either alone, or together with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) when they occur within the protected areas.

The Forest Conservation and Management Act (2016) of the Laws of Kenya promotes community participation in conservation and forest management. Co-management of national forests with the community is facilitated through establishment of a Community Forest Association (CFA), development of Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) of the area, and the signing of a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) between KFS and CFA. Both PFMP and FMA are reviewed every 5-years to establish their effectiveness in forest management and the need for their revisions. KFS has approved a PFMP for Vanga project area (Annex 3); as such the community owns carbon rights of the area.

Despite mangroves qualifying for REDD+, there are no plans yet to include the project area in the national REDD+ scheme for Kenya. Furthermore, mangroves and associated blue carbon ecosystems have not been incorporated into Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of Paris Agreement; as such there is no infringement of community rights to transact in ecosystem services. The project team are well connected with the relevant civil servants and departments and are working with them on the implications of NDCs for community projects.

Outside mangrove forests, the Project will establish woodlots of fast growing tree species

¹⁴ Government of Kenya (2010) The Constitution of Kenya. Nairobi

(such as *Casuarina equisetifolia*) that will provide alternative sources of wood and energy to the community as part of the leakage mitigation strategy. The woodlots are not part of the carbon benefit activities and will not be used for issuing carbon certificates.

Part D: Project Interventions & Activities

D.1 Summarise the project interventions

VAJIKI CFA is committed to protecting and sustainably managing mangrove forests for continued supplies of their goods and services in Vanga. Two main interventions are proposed in this PDD: **forest protection** and **forest restoration**. Proposed interventions eligible for generating tradable carbon include; avoided deforestation, natural regeneration, ecosystem rehabilitation, and reforestation/revegetation. These are discussed in detail in Part G of the PDD. Additionally, broader community interventions that are not eligible for offset carbon will be implemented as follows:

- **Community woodlots and avoidance of leakage** where participating communities will be trained on establishment of nurseries and plantations of fast-growing tree species and use of energy-saving stoves would be promoted to enhance efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. In partnership with relevant agencies, we will explore promotion of sustainable agricultural activities in areas adjacent mangroves through provision of training and extension services.
- **Economic empowerment** through promotion of alternative income generating activities. Community organization and business training will be conducted to improve local capacity in forest management and nature-based enterprises such as beekeeping, ecotourism and agroforestry. The community will be encouraged to initiate a microfinance credit scheme through which they can borrow small loans.
- **Socio-economic development:** As the local communities are largely dependent on fisheries, programmes aimed at sustainable fisheries, value addition, and marketing will be explored in collaboration with relevant agencies. Additionally, the fisher folk will be involved in mangrove conservation and restoration programmes outside the project area. The community will also receive direct benefits from conservation of the Vanga mangrove forest through job creation and enhancement of mangrove ecosystem services. In addition, money transferred into the community fund, generated by the sale of carbon credits, will be spent for community benefits. Specific projects supported through VBF will depend on democratic decisions taken by the community, but we anticipate that they may include access to clean water, establishment of an education bursary scheme, mangrove conservation, small business loans, improved health services and other community projects.

D.2 Summarise the project activities for each intervention

VAJIKI will undertake activities geared towards enhancement of carbon sequestration and overall reductions in GHG emissions as presented in Table 5. The activities have been developed based on drivers and underlying root causes of mangrove degradation and deforestation in the project area.

Table 5: Project activities for each intervention

Intervention type		Activities	Target group	Eligible for PV accreditation
Forest Protection	Enhancement of Carbon Stock	• Increased surveillance • Enhanced community education and awareness and the need to protect them	CFA, KFS, KMFRI	Yes
	Avoided deforestation	• Clear demarcation of project area; • Enforcement of forest laws and regulations; • Involving local community in regular forest monitoring	CFA, KFS	Yes
Forest restoration	Ecosystem rehabilitation	• Initiate community based ecological mangrove restoration • Monitoring of natural regeneration	CFA, KFS, KMFRI	Yes
	Reforestation	• Protecting and monitoring of 10- year-old mangrove stands	CFA, KFS	Yes
Others	Improved forest management and avoidance of leakage	• Establishment of woodlots of fast growing species such as <i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i>; • Use of energy-saving stoves	CFA, Community farmers	No
	Promotion of alternative income generating activities	• Capacity building and support to mangrove based enterprises	CFA, KMFRI	No
	Socio-economic development	• Promote sustainable fishing activities and value addition • Support local development projects in education, water and sanitation and environmental conservation	Community groups	No

D.3 Effects of activities on biodiversity and the environment

Mangroves provide consumptive and non-consumptive goods and services¹⁵. This is in addition to, providing crucial nursery habitat for marine life and protecting the coastline from storms and tsunamis. Mangrove forests are natural carbon sinks¹⁶. Through carbon capture and storage, mangroves help lessen the impacts of global warming. Unfortunately, in Kenya, mangrove forests have been abused, removed and degraded¹⁷. Through activities of the project, degraded mangroves in Vanga will be rehabilitated, thus increasing their resilience. Improved mangrove integrity would positively impact on other ecosystem services such as shoreline protection, biodiversity conservation, improved habitat for fisheries (Table 6). They will also function to prevent salt water intrusion into fresh water wells and enhance nutrient recycling.



Figure 8: Mangrove forest in the project area provide habitat for a variety of species

¹⁵ Field C, Osborn J, Hoffman L, Polsenberg J, Ackerl y D, Berry J, Björkman O, Held A, Matson P, Mooney H. Mangrove Biodiversity and Ecosystem Function. *Global Ecology & Biogeography Letters*. 1998 Jan 1;7 (1):3 -14.

¹⁶ Donato DK, Kauffman JB, Murdiyarso D, Kurnianto S, Stidham M, Kanninen M. Mangroves among th e most carbon-rich forests in the tropics. *Nature geoscience*. 2011; 4 (5).

¹⁷ Kirui, B., Kairo, J.G., Bosire, J., Viergever, K. M., Rundra, S., Huxham, M., & Briers, R. (2012). Mapping of mangrove forest land cover change along the Kenya Coastline using Landsat imagery. *Ocean and Coastal Management*

Table 6: Key biodiversity groups in Vanga that are expected to flourish as a result of the project

Biodiversity group (flora/fauna)	Species/Types
Mangrove habitat	8 species dominated by; <i>Ceriops tagal</i> , <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> , <i>Avicennia marina</i> , and <i>Sonneratia alba</i>
Seagrass habitat	12 species of seagrasses recorded e. g. <i>Thalassodendron ciliatum</i> , <i>Enhalus acoroides</i> , <i>Thalassia hemprichii</i> , <i>Syringodium isoetifolium</i> ¹⁸
Mangrove fisheries	Common families include: Megalopidae, Chanidae, Clupeidae, Engraulidae, Arridae, Photosidae, Mugilidae, Centropomidae, Serranidae, Sillaganidae, Carangidae, Leiognathidae, Lutjanidae etc. ^{19,20}
Seagrass fauna	Endangered dugong (<i>Dugong dugon</i>), rabbitfish, parrotfish, octopus, giant sea anemone, lobsters, long spined sea urchins, sea cucumbers etc ²¹
Invertebrates	Prawns, crabs, molluscs
Marine turtles	Green turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>), Hawksbill turtles (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>) in IUCN red list ²²
Marine birds	40 species recorded e.g. Forktailed drongo, Blackkite, Grey heron, Palm nut vulture, Yellowbilled Stork, Western reef heron, Egrets, Ibises ¹⁵

Part E: Community participation

E.1 Participatory project design

A participatory approach has been used whereby the community (including women and youth) were involved in every step of the project design and planning. Technical support was provided by KMFRI through community trainings on joint mangrove management approaches and the management of carbon offset projects in forestry. A total of 4 meetings were held during the preparation phase of the PDD. The inception meeting was provoked by the interest of the community in Blue Carbon projects. Afterwards, three consultative meetings were held to discuss the principles of blue carbon projects, opportunities and challenges. The community was also actively involved in the delineation of the area to be managed by VBF project (Annex 7: Community consultation meetings).

¹⁸ KCDP, 2014. Kenya Coast Development Project, South Coast Ecosystem Monitoring and Health Assessment Report: Shimoni - Vanga-Funzi Bay Area. Technical report.

¹⁹ Huxham, M., Kimani, E., & Augley, J. (2004). Mangrove fish: a comparison of community structure between forested and cleared habitats. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 60(4), 637–647

²⁰ Kimani, E. N., Mwatha, G. K., Wakwabi, E. O., Ntiba, J. M., & Okoth, B. K. (1996). Fishes of a shallow tropical mangrove estuary, Gazi, Kenya. *Marine and Freshwater Research*, 47(7), 857–868

²¹ Government of Kenya (2009). State of the Coast report: Towards integrated management of coastal and marine resources in Kenya. Nation Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Nairobi, 88pp

²² GVI Kenya. Conserving Kenya 2011. <http://gviKenya.wildlifedirect.org/category/bird-surveys/>

E.2 Community-led implementation

The project targets residents of Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwegu villages. VAJIKI CFA (Annex 8) is the vehicle through which the communities will co-manage the mangroves of Vanga with KFS. Development of the project was preceded by a series of consultative meetings and open forums with communities at Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwegu. Appraisal surveys were used in ranking priority community projects as well as in identifying risks and members of implementation committees from each village. Implementation of the project would be vested with the Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) team. A qualified Project Coordinator (PC) will be recruited from the community for day to day running of the project according to the workplan. The PC will be trained on coordination and reporting procedures and will be responsible for reporting of project activities. Information on how much carbon funds has been generated will flow from the coordinator to the committee and lastly to the community members through village *barazas* and also displayed on strategic located village notice boards.

E.3 Community-level project governance

Through consultative meetings VBF committee will engage community members (in the three villages), in prioritizing local development projects to be supported through sales of carbon credits. The carbon funds will be split into three portions, where each village will use its share to implement their development projects. The consultation process will involve the PC and VBF team who will collect information on priority projects, costing and lastly presenting them for consideration in open community meetings (*barazas*). The PC and the committee will ensure timely implementation of work plans and that the allocated community funds are utilized for the intended purposes. Grievances will be addressed by the VBF committee in the first place. If no resolution can be found, then respective village heads will be involved, following established practice, through the village *barazas* as stipulated in the VBF constitution.

Part F: Ecosystem Services & Other Project Benefits

F.1 Carbon benefits

Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) project will designate 460ha from the total 4428ha of mangroves in Vanga. The project area will include 450ha of avoided deforestation, 5.0ha of established mangrove plantations and 0.25ha of new plantations established per year for a period of 20 years. An analysis of Landsat imageries between 1991-2016 reveals an estimated forest loss rate of 0.5% per year for the entire 4428ha of mangrove cover in Vanga. The various project interventions are expected to improve the quality and restore integrity of mangrove forests of Vanga as well as slowing or stopping this loss. Based on the IPCC methodology and guidelines (2003), the VBF project would have a net carbon benefit of 6683 t CO₂e/yr. After deducting a 20% non-permanence risk buffer, the net-emission reduction over the 20 year-crediting period is estimated at 106,929 t CO₂e (Table 10). Further details of the calculations are provided in part G of the technical specifications.

Table 7: Summarises the projected net carbon benefits per year from each project intervention^{23,24}

Intervention type (Activities)	Project (Area (ha))	1.Baseline carbon uptake / emissions i.e. without project (t CO ₂ e/yr)	2.Carbon uptake/ emissions reductions with project (t CO ₂ e/yr)	3.Expected losses from leakage (t CO ₂ e/yr)	4.Deduction of risk buffer (t CO ₂ e/yr) (20% of carbon benefits-2)	Net carbon benefit (t CO ₂ e/yr) 2-(1+3+4)
Avoided degradation Area 1 (Sii Island) ^a	200	1721.35	3442.7	0	344.3	1377
Avoided degradation Area 2 (Mainland)	247.5	0	4281.75	0	856.4	3425.4
Avoided deforestation AGB areas 1 and 2 (see table 13)	444.2	0	304	0	60.8	243.2
Avoided deforestation BG C (soil carbon) areas 1 and 2 ^b	44.2	0	273	0	54.6	218.4
Reforestation (Old stands in Jimbo)	5	0	102	0	20	82
Reforestation (New plantation)	0.25	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL					1336	5347

^a see table 13 for calculations ^b see appendix IX for soil carbon loss model

F.2 Livelihoods benefits

Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) would generate direct and indirect benefits to participating communities. The US\$ 48713 generated from 6,959 tCO₂e yr⁻¹ sale of carbon credits would be used to support community development projects in education, water and sanitation, and environmental conservation. Successful implementation of the project would generate beyond carbon benefits, including; increased fishery and other biodiversity, shoreline protection, as well as propelling livelihood projects in bee- keeping, small scale farming and mangrove ecotourism (Table 8). Further, the project seeks to directly employ 6 local people and to catalyse employment opportunities for at least another 100 people through project activities

²³ IPCC (2013) Coastal wetlands. In 2013 supplement to the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National Green House Gas inventories (Eds Alongi D., Karim A., Kennedy H., Chen g., Chmura G., Crooks S et al)

²⁴ Lang'at, J. K. S., Kairo, J. G., Mencuccini, M., Bouillon, S., Skov, M. W., Waldron, S., & Huxham, M. (2014). Rapid losses of surface elevation following tree girdling and cutting in tropical mangroves. *PLoS ONE*, 9(9), 1–8

such as nursery establishment, reforestation, and forest monitoring and support for related enterprises. This project responds directly to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly; SDG13 (climate action) and SDG 14 (life below water); as well as indirectly to SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 on ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.

Table 8: Livelihood benefits

Food & agricultural production	Financial assets & incomes	Environmental services (water, soil...etc.)	Energy	Timber & non-timber forest products (incl. forest food)	Land & tenure security	User rights to natural resources	Social and cultural assets
Positive impacts on livelihoods and food security e. g. silvo-aquaculture, bee-keeping, ecotourism, animal production, kitchen garden for vegetable production	Enhanced income via sale of carbon credits worth US\$48,713/yr. Funds to create directly and indirectly over 50 jobs and promote community enterprises	Project will minimize severe soil erosion and stabilized sediments in Vanga.	2.0ha of alternative woodlots and use of clean energy stoves will meet community energy demands.	Enhanced timber and non-timber products through avoided deforestation (250ha), reforestation (5.5ha) and alternative woodlots.	Tenure rights and security for all community Members via management agreement between CFA & KFS.	Community access to natural resources will be enhanced.	Improve community wellbeing (electricity, Education & health) and enhancing cultural ecosystem services (aesthetic & spiritual).

F.3 Ecosystem & biodiversity benefits

The project area harbours highly significant marine and coastal biodiversity, and has a rapidly growing human population dependent on marine and coastal resources for their livelihoods. Overfishing, destructive fishing practices, illegal logging and unsustainable resource use patterns are major threats facing natural resources in the project area. Improved mangrove forest management activities will enhance ecosystem integrity and thereby enhance productivity and biodiversity in the area (Table 9). Mangroves restored through the project would, also, protect shoreline from erosion and control sedimentation of the nearshore marine ecosystem.

Table 9: Ecosystem Biodiversity benefits expected from successful implementation of the project activities

Intervention type (Technical specifications)	Biodiversity impacts	Water/watershed impacts	Soil productivity/conservation impacts	Other impacts
Avoided degradation	Improve mangrove habitat quality for fish and other organisms	Improved mangrove habitat will protect shoreline from erosion/sedimentation thus controlling water quality	The protection will enhance sediment accretion and Island stability	Reduced carbon loss and all other ecosystem services enhanced
Avoided deforestation (Protection of 450ha of natural mangrove stand)	Improve mangrove habitat quality - a healthy mangrove forest provides habitat for fish and other wildlife and preserves the integrity of connected ecosystems such as seagrass and coral	Improved mangrove habitat will protect shoreline from erosion/sedimentation thus controlling water quality	Protection of 450ha of mangroves will enhance coastal protection, sediment accretion and stability	Return of aesthetic and cultural values as well as proteomic species of crabs and gastropods.
Reforestation (10yr old stand in Jimbo_5ha)	Reforestation with suitable species enhances mangrove biodiversity and ecosystem functions, Over the last 10 years, 5.0ha of degraded mangrove areas have been replanted in Vanga	Replanted mangroves will serve to protect shoreline erosion/sedimentation as such controlling water quality	Enhance coastal protection and sediment accretion and stability	None
Reforestation (new plantation_0.25ha)	Over the 20 years contracting period, community will replant 0.25ha per year using appropriate mangroves species. The replanted forest will support fishery and other ecosystem services. biodiversity in the area.	Replanted mangroves will serve to protect shoreline erosion/sedimentation as such controlling water quality	Planting will help to reverse effects of coastal erosion and stabilize eroding shoreline.	None

Part G: Technical Specifications

G.1 Project intervention and activities

Total mangrove coverage in Vanga is estimated at 4428 ha, comprising mangroves of Vanga itself, Jimbo, Kiwegu, Majoreni and Sii Island (Figure 1). Unless where specifically mentioned, mangroves in Vanga, Jimbo, Kiwegu and Sii Island are referred to collectively here as Vanga mangroves. Assessment of Landsat data from 1991-2016 indicates a 12% reduction in mangrove coverage in Vanga, translating to a loss of 18 ha/yr. In order to reverse this trend, the project has designated ~ 460ha of Vanga mangroves for expected climate benefits from forest restoration and protection. A suite of interventions and activities eligible for carbon benefits are proposed as follows:

Enhancement of carbon stocks/avoided deforestation (area 1): The restoration of the degraded forests of Vanga will play a critical role in restoring carbon profiles, protecting biodiversity and providing socio-economic and other co-benefits. The site designated for carbon enhancement under VBF is Sii Island, with a mangrove coverage of 200ha. The forest provides protection to the nearby fringing reefs which are major fishing grounds for fishermen from villages participating in the project; Vanga is the most important fishing ground in southern Kenya, with fish catches in long term decline hence ensuring the protection and enhancement of fishing grounds and habitats is a priority. Currently the mangroves of Sii island are less degraded than those on the mainland, with no evidence of clear cutting, fewer stumps and complete canopy closure in most of the forest. However, the forest faces a growing threat from increasing demand for mangrove poles for construction and fuel-wood on the mainland, leading to increased deforestation. We aim to curtail this threat and allow the forest to move towards a fully productive, pristine state. Carbon stock enhancement activities will include increased surveillance, on the ground and by satellite, in order to control illegal logging, and crucially clear education and communication with surrounding communities and fishers. The surveillance team will be equipped with tools and equipment such as GPS and modern communication gadgets. Here, we take the conservative Tier 1 recommendations from the IPCC wetland supplement for a natural mangrove of 17.3 tCO₂/ha/yr sequestration^{26,27} and note that this is less than we have recorded in our own research in neighbouring, recovering forest plots. Because Sii island is less degraded than the mainland forest, we make a further conservative assumption and use 50% (i.e. 8.65 t ha⁻¹yr⁻¹) as the sequestration rate for Sii island. The emission reduction through avoided degradation in Sii Island will therefore be 1,721 tCO₂yr⁻¹ (Table 10).

Avoided deforestation/forest recovery (area 2): 250 ha of mainland mangroves have been set aside for this activity. To achieve the activity's objective, several approaches will be employed including:

- i) **Zonation and clear demarcation** for the various user groups activities in the forest. This will eliminate conflicts in the implementation of activities and enhance the enforcement of the regulations. Non-consumptive uses of mangroves such as bee-keeping and ecotourism will be allowed and encouraged in the delineated forest.
- ii) **Education and awareness** to the community on; causes and impacts of deforestation, forest conservation laws, and monitoring methodologies
- iii) Engagement of the local community in **joint regular patrols** with KFS rangers and paid project scouts
- iv) Creation of an **inventory database** and enhancement of **reporting**.
- v) **Stricter enforcement** of the current environmental laws and regulations
- vi) Establishment of **physical and technical infrastructure** through construction of watch towers and equipping community scouts and KFS with suitable monitoring tools and equipment such as GPS and modern communication gadgets.

Carbon benefit through avoided degradation and forest recovery of 250ha of mangroves in Vanga will be 4282tCO₂yr⁻¹ (Table 10) (assuming the IPCC Tier 1 value of 17.3 tCO₂/ha/yr).

We will achieve additional carbon benefits from areas 1 and 2 through avoided deforestation (as well as avoided degradation/forest recover). These are calculated together as 304 tCO₂yr⁻¹ (Table 10), assuming different rates of forest removal based on satellite information, as explained in Table 13.

Ecosystem rehabilitation: Some 5.0 ha of mangrove forest near Jimbo village were destroyed during a failed attempt to establish salt pans. We will restore this area using a combination of hydrological methods and artificial replantation (using locally sourced and nursery raised seedlings) where necessary. We will achieve complete vegetation cover of the area within 20 years. We will report the objective progress towards this long-term goal every year. This will require non-linear change, for example the breaching of dykes followed by recovery of edaphic conditions before natural re-growth, hence we are not setting regular yearly increments towards the target. This intervention will lead to an enhanced ecosystem integrity, biomass accumulation, and increased sequestration of carbon by mangroves. Assuming a conservative carbon sequestration potential of 4.0 tCO₂/ha/yr^{25,26}, the activity is expected to accumulate 1.0 tCO₂/yr (Table 10); hence its contribution to our carbon budget is tiny, but we see multiple additional benefits from this ecosystem restoration.

Mangrove reforestation: The local community in Jimbo has worked with partners KFS and KMFRI in replanting 5 ha of mangrove forest in Jimbo, but this voluntary plantation has no formal or informal protection. We will protect and monitor this area over the project time frame. Assuming a conservative carbon sequestration potential of 20.4 CO₂/ha/yr^{25,28}, the activity is expected to accumulate 102 tCO₂/yr (Table 10).

Proposed activities that are not eligible for carbon payments include:

Improved forest management:

An approved 5-year participatory forest management plan (PFMP) exists for the project area (Annex 1). There has, however, been poor implementation of the plan mainly due to lack of resources and incentives. Activities proposed in the project will contribute to the revision and implementation of the plan for improved mangrove management. Community woodlots of *Casuarina equisetifolia* will be established in order to provide alternative sources of wood products and control leakage. Following practice in Mikoko Pamoja, wood products will be made available at below market price to local people as a way of generating income for the project. The details of how this is done will depend on full discussion and consent from the VBF committee, following practice in Mikoko Pamoja (where some wood has been sold to raise money for local schools and some has been provided free of charge). *Casuarina* is a naturalised tree species in Kenya that is commonly cultivated along the coastal area. Participating communities would be trained on nursery and plantations establishment of *Casuarina* sp. and other fast growing tree species. In addition, use of energy-saving stoves would be promoted to enhance efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Promotion of alternative income generating activities: The Project will be used as a platform and catalyst for a range of other income generating activities. Community organization and business training will be conducted to improve local capacity in forest

²⁵ Kairo JG, Lang'at JK, Dahdouh-Guebas F, Bosire J, Karachi M. (2008) Structural development and productivity of replanted mangrove plantations in Kenya. Forest ecology and management. Apr 20;255(7):2670 -7

²⁶ Lang'at, J. K. S., Kairo, J. G., Mencuccini, M., Bouillon, S., Skov, M. W., Waldron, S., & Huxham, M. (2014). Rapid losses of surface elevation following tree girdling and cutting in tropical mangroves. *PLoS ONE*, 9(9), 1–8

management and mangrove-based enterprises such as beekeeping, ecotourism, crab farming, aquaculture and agroforestry. As part of capacity building and economic empowerment, the project will organize seminars through which the community will be trained in entrepreneurial skills. This will include making of business plans, gathering of market information and value addition in order to maximize their earnings from the forest-based enterprises. The project will support the youth in establishment of nurseries for fast growing trees such as *Casuarina spp* for sale. The community will be encouraged to initiate a microfinance credit scheme through which they can borrow small loans. As the local communities are largely dependent on fisheries, programmes aimed at sustainable fishing methods, improved catch and storage, value addition and marketing will be explored in collaboration with relevant agencies. Additionally, the fisher folk will be involved in the awareness and forest conservation programmes as beneficiaries of the mangrove forest.

Socio-economic development: The community will receive direct benefits from conservation of the Vanga mangrove forest including job creation, access to clean water, establishment of education bursary scheme, small business loans, improved health services and other community projects. The specific projects supported will depend on democratic decisions taken by the community at the beginning of every year.

Table 10: VBF project interventions and activities

Activity	Forest type	Area (ha)	C benefits (t CO ₂ ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Total annual C benefit (t CO ₂ yr ⁻¹)	Income (\$)°
Avoided degradation Area 1 (Sii Island)	Natural stand	199	8.7 ^a	1721.35	12049
Avoided degradation area 2 (Mainland)	Natural stand	247.5	17.3 ^a	4281.75	29972
Avoided deforestation AGB ^b areas 1 and 2	Natural stand	1.10	275.3	303.66	2126
Avoided deforestation BG C (soil carbon) areas 1 and 2	Natural stand	1.10	244	273.32	1913
Reforestation (area 3)	10 yr old stands ^c	5	20.4	102.00	714
Reforestation (area 4)	New Plantation ^d	0.25	4	1	7
Total				6683	46782
Buffer (20%)				1336	
Total sellable per year				5347	37425
Total sellable over 20 years				106,929	748,505

^a Sequestration rate for avoided degradation is conservatively based on AGB and BGB emission rates estimated for dry tropical mangroves (IPCC,

2013). ^b Carbon losses from sediment due to forest clearance are based on carbon flux experiment in mangrove forest in Gazi bay that is adjacent to Vanga ecosystem Annex IX; ^c Area of degraded mangroves that have been rehabilitated by community at Jimbo in the last 10 years. ^d Sequestration rate for reforested mangrove stand is conservatively based on Kairo et al (2008) at Gazi bay. ^e Calculations assumes conservative price of US\$7.0 /tCO₂-e.

G.2 Additionality and Environmental Integrity

Together with the national constitution (2015) several sectoral laws and policies govern coastal and marine ecosystems in Kenya. **Forest Conservation and Management Act (2016)** provides the legal framework for the management of forest resources in the country. The Act provides for the establishment, development, sustainable management, utilization as well as conservation of forest resources using approved management plans and participation of stakeholders. This blue carbon project will empower communities in Vanga to successfully implement the approved participatory forest management plan (PFMP) of the area.

Fisheries Act (2012) of the Laws of Kenya has provisions for protection of fish breeding areas, including mangroves. The National Oceans and Fisheries policy (2008) aims at promoting conservation and management of oceans and fisheries resources, enhancing food supply and food security, and developing aquaculture. Activities proposed in the current project would rehabilitate degraded mangrove areas at the same time demarcate areas critical for fisheries and other wildlife. Subsequently, these would increase food security and enhance carbon capture and storage in the area.

Article 11(1) of **Land Act (2012)** of the Laws of Kenya mandates National Land Commission to take appropriate action in maintaining public land that has endangered or endemic species, and critical habitats or protected areas. This project identifies important role played by mangroves for fishery production, biodiversity conservation and shoreline protection; and the need to manage in an integrated manner.

The project is also aligned with Kenya's National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS), National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), and National Mangrove Management Plan (2017-2027). These documents advocate for GHG emissions reduction in the forest sector through afforestation, reforestation, avoided deforestation, and sustainable land management activities that would be supported by the current project.

Despite various statutes specific to environment, successful implementation of the project activities is likely to face social, financial and technical barriers. However, the project has proposed appropriate mitigation actions exceeding the current mangrove conservation and management in Kenya (Table 11).

The National REDD+ strategy of Kenya is aimed at controlling deforestation and forest degradation, enhancing carbon stocks, and promoting sustainable forest management and conservation. VBF seeks to generate benefits in the areas of climate, community and biodiversity; as such the project is aligned with National REDD+ activities.

In 2015, Kenya jointed other parties to UNFCCC in assenting to Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Under this Agreement countries committed to lowering their GHGs .emissions levels Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) aims to make a 30% reduction in emissions by 2030, relative to a business-as-usual scenario of emitting 143 MtCO₂e annually. Deforestation and forest degradation are responsible for more GHG emissions than

most other sectors in Kenya (GoK, 2012). Like other tropical countries, Kenya has not incorporated blue carbon ecosystems in its NDC. Activities proposed by VBF seeks to scale up and accelerate conservation of blue carbon ecosystems for the benefits of climate change mitigation, community livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation. VBF aims at generating information that would be used to influence and ensure that mangroves are part of Kenya's NDCs

There is a hypothetical danger in forest conservation projects that people will intentionally clear areas prior to proposing them for PES benefits. No such clearance has occurred here. The national and international parties involved (KMFRI, KFS, ACES and Edinburgh Napier) are government institutions, charities and conservation bodies; they would risk disgrace and litigation (for small rewards) if they engaged in such activity. The local people have shown a history of self-organised forest protection and reforestation. They are dependent on fish (and thus aware of the value of the forests) and have neither the means nor the information to engage in such fraud.

Table 11: Project Barriers and Barrier Mitigation Actions

Type of Barrier	Description of Barrier	Overcoming Barrier
Legislative/governance barrier	Lack of enforcement of existing laws and regulations governing forest conservation and management in Kenya	Joint patrols between KFS and community scouts will be initiated to enhance forest surveillance and protection
Financial/Economic barriers	Lack of incentives to participate in mangrove restoration and protection activities; as well as lack of alternative livelihood	- Sale of mangrove carbon credits - Diversification of income generating activities such as bee keeping and ecotourism will be initiated
Technical barriers	There is inadequate capacity among communities for integrated mangrove management activities.	Partnerships will be sort from key institutions with expertise in mangrove management, including; KFS, KMFRI and NGO's through training and joint implementation of project activities.
Social barrier	The community involved in the project are drawn from three different villages and might disagree on location of sites for different activities	The project will facilitate education and awareness in order to sensitize the locals on a win-win approaches in implementation of the proposed activities

Double counting

Vanga Blue Forest project is the only carbon offset facility in the area as such there is no risk of double accounting expected. While most of the drivers of change are human mediated, there has been no deliberate degradation of the forest in order to meet the applicability conditions.

G.3 Project Period

The crediting period for the VBF project is 20 years, 2019-2039. The justification for this period is informed by mangrove restoration records that show mangroves taking approximately 20 years to mature²⁹. For avoided deforestation, the proposed period is considered to be adequate for meaningful ecological impacts to be achieved in terms

of mangrove biodiversity and ecosystem restoration (experience at Mikoko Pamoja in Gazi Bay shows measurable changes in biomass and recruitment within 3-5 years, and changes in stump counts and signs of human intervention within one year). Annual monitoring will be conducted to assess the level of degradation while carbon sequestration rates will be assessed every three years. The proposed period will also give adequate time to review, monitor and evaluate whether the project's overall economic impacts to the community have been achieved. We hope and anticipate that the project will extend beyond 20 years; achieving such an extension could form part of the five yearly review cycle. However, formally committing to that at the moment implies further extrapolation of risk estimates and other uncertainties that we think is unjustified. Hence we are choosing 20 years for scientific and technical reasons, rather than in anticipation that the project stops or reverses after that.

G.4 Baseline scenario

Current conditions and trends:

Forest protection: Landsat data for Sii Island from 1991 to 2016 indicate 0.1% loss in mangrove coverage. The dominant mangrove formations are mixed stands of *Rhizophora mucronata* that occupy 116.5ha of forested area of the Island. This is followed by *Sonneratia-Rhizophora* and pure *Sonneratia alba* stands that fringe the Island (Figure 7). Mangroves in Sii Island are linked ecologically to the nearby fringing reefs which are major fishing grounds for fishermen from nearby villages. These forests are, however, under potential threats from increasing demands for mangrove wood products on the mainland. Without improved protection, Sii island is likely to suffer increasing rates of forest loss and degradation in the near future. The project gives an opportunity to preserve this high-quality forest and to allow natural recovery of those areas that have suffered past impacts. Protection status of Sii Island as a seed source has been highlighted in the Kenya's National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan (2017).

Within the mainland losses of mangroves over the 1991 to 2016 are estimated at 0.5% area per annum, equivalent to a loss of 18ha/yr (Figure 3). This is slightly lower than the 0.7% national average. Key drivers contributing to losses and degradation of mangroves in the mainland area are illegal harvesting of mangrove wood for building poles and energy, land encroachment, and shoreline change. Without project interventions, these conditions are likely to continue and worsen. This prediction is made on the basis of detailed, published modelling conducted by some members of the project team looking at mangrove

dynamics across the south coast of Kenya^{27,28,29}

Forest restoration:

Carbon Pools:

The baseline include three main carbon pools as follows: aboveground biomass (live and dead trees), belowground biomass (live and dead roots down to 60cm belowground) and soil carbon down to 1.0 m (See table 12).

Table 12: Main carbon pools accounted

Carbon pool	Accounted	Impact	Justification
Aboveground biomass (live and dead trees)	Yes	High	It is easy to quantify and monitor based on published and localized allometric equations for the area³⁰
Belowground biomass (live and dead roots down to 60cm belowground)	Yes	Moderate	Estimated from established Shoot:Root ratio. Root biomass in mangroves can be up-to 50% of the aboveground biomass.
Soil carbon down to 100cm	Yes	High	- Sediment constitutes the largest carbon pool in mangrove ecosystem; contributing up to 90% of the total ecosystem carbon stock^{31,32} - Carbon losses from sediment due to small scale forest clearance are based on carbon flux experiments nearby the project area by Lang'at et al., (2014)³⁴
Dead wood	No	Low	Dead wood carbon is not accounted here as most of the fallen wood is collected for firewood by community
Litter	No	Low	Litter carbon will not be included because it is removed by crabs or tides; and partly incorporated into the sediment carbon

Baseline methodology:

²⁸ Kairo et al. 2008 Kairo JG, Lang'at JK, Dahdouh-Guebas F, Bosire J, Karachi M. (2008) Structural development and productivity of replanted mangrove plantations in Kenya. *Forest ecology and management*. Apr 20;255(7):2670-7

²⁹ Rideout AJR, Joshi NP, Viergever KM, Huxham M, Briers RA. 2013 Making predictions of mangrove deforestation: a comparison of two methods in Kenya. *Glob. Chang. Biol.* 19, 3493–501. (doi:10.1111/gcb.12176)

³⁰ Kirui B. K. (2006). Allometric relations for estimating aboveground biomass of naturally growing mangroves, *Avicennia marina* forsk (vierh). and *Rhizophora mucronata* lam. along the Kenyan coast- Unpublished Thesis

³¹ Donato DK, Kauffman JB, Murdiyarso D, Kurnianto S, Stidham M, Kanninen M. Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics. *Nature geoscience*. 2011; 4 (5)

³² Gress S. K., Huxham M., Kairo J. G., Mugi L. M. and Briers R. A. (2017) *Evaluating, predicting and mapping belowground carbon stores in Kenyan mangroves*. *Global Change Biology* 23: 224 – 234

Carbon stocks were measured using the approved VCS methodology VM0033 'Methodology for Tidal Wetlands and Seagrass Restoration' as well as 2013 supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. We opted to use these approaches, as Plan Vivo doesn't have specific methodologies for carbon accounting. Additionally, our technical expert, Dr James Kairo, has been involved in the development of the methodologies referred to above, and therefore has strong experience implementing their procedures and adhering to the methodology's applicability conditions.

The project area comprises 250ha of mangroves on the mainland plus 200ha on the Sii Island. An additional 0.25ha of mangrove cover will be added through reforestation activities over the project lifetime (Table 10).

To accurately estimate biomass in project area at reasonable cost, we used nested sampling designs of $10 \times 10 \text{ m}^2$. The general sampling framework is presented in Fig 9:

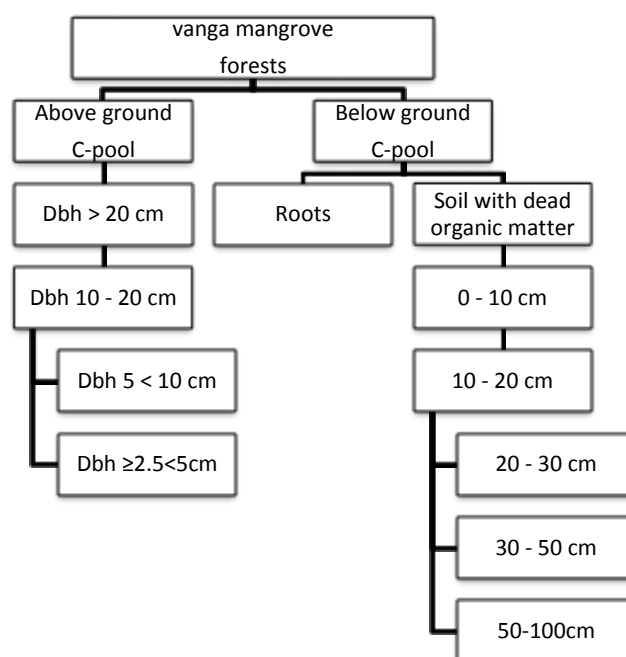


Fig. 9. Forest components used for quantification of forest biomass and ecosystem carbon stocks in Vanga

- all trees with dbh >5.0 cm were measured in the entire $10 \times 10 \text{ m}^2$ plot,
- trees of dbh < 5.0 cm were sampled in sub-plots of $5 \times 5 \text{ m}^2$ within the big quadrants

Generalised allometric equations for mangroves were used to convert height and diameter measurements into biomass³⁵. Belowground root biomass was estimated using shoot:

root ratio³⁶. Soil was sampled down to a depth of 100cm³⁷.

Soil carbon pools were sampled at the centre of the 10 x 10 m plots at 0, 20, 50 and 100 m depth using soil auger; and carrying up to 100g of soils in each level for analysis. In the laboratory, the samples were weighed and oven-dried for 24 hours at 80 °C after which they were re-weighed to obtain the soil moisture content. About 25 grams of the dry soil sample was homogenized by grinding to a fine powder using a mortar and pestle and subjected to a series of sieves for grain size analysis. Five grams of the remaining sample were oxidized at 440°C in a furnace for 8 hrs until only inorganic ash was left. What was lost during the oxidation represents the soil organic matter (SOM). Based on the assumption that organic matter contains 58% organic carbon³⁸, a conversion factor of 1.724 was used to convert the organic matter to organic carbon. We hope to conduct similar procedures in subsequent monitoring of mangrove development in Vanga,

Carbon stocks in mangroves of Vanga ranged from 174 - 904 Mg C/ha (mean: 469± 176Mg C/ha). Soil contributed the highest organic carbon (77%) followed by above ground (16%) and below ground root (7%) components (Figure 10).³³

³⁴ Lang'at, J. K. S., Kairo, J. G., Mencuccini, M., Bouillon, S., Skov, M. W., Waldron, S., & Huxham, M. (2014). Rapid losses of surface elevation following tree girdling and cutting in tropical mangroves. *PLoS ONE*, 9(9), 1–8

³⁵ Komiyama A., Ong J. E., Pongparn S., 2008 Allometry, biomass, and productivity of mangrove forests: a review. *Aquatic Botany* 89:128-137.

³⁶ Kairo J. G., Bosire J., Langat J., Kirui B., Koedam N., (2009) Allometry and biomass distribution in replanted mangrove plantations at Gazi Bay, Kenya. *Aquatic Conserv: Marine Freshwater Ecosystem* 19: S63–S69.

³⁷ Gress S. K., Huxham M., Kairo J. G., Mugi L. M. and Briers R. A. (2017) Evaluating, predicting and mapping belowground carbon stores in Kenyan mangroves. *Global Change Biology* 23: 224 – 23

³⁸ Nelson, D.W. and Sommers, L.E. (1996) Total carbon, organic carbon, and organic matter. In Sparks, D.L., et al., Eds., *Methods of Soil Analysis. Part 3, SSSA Book Series*, Madison, 961-1010.

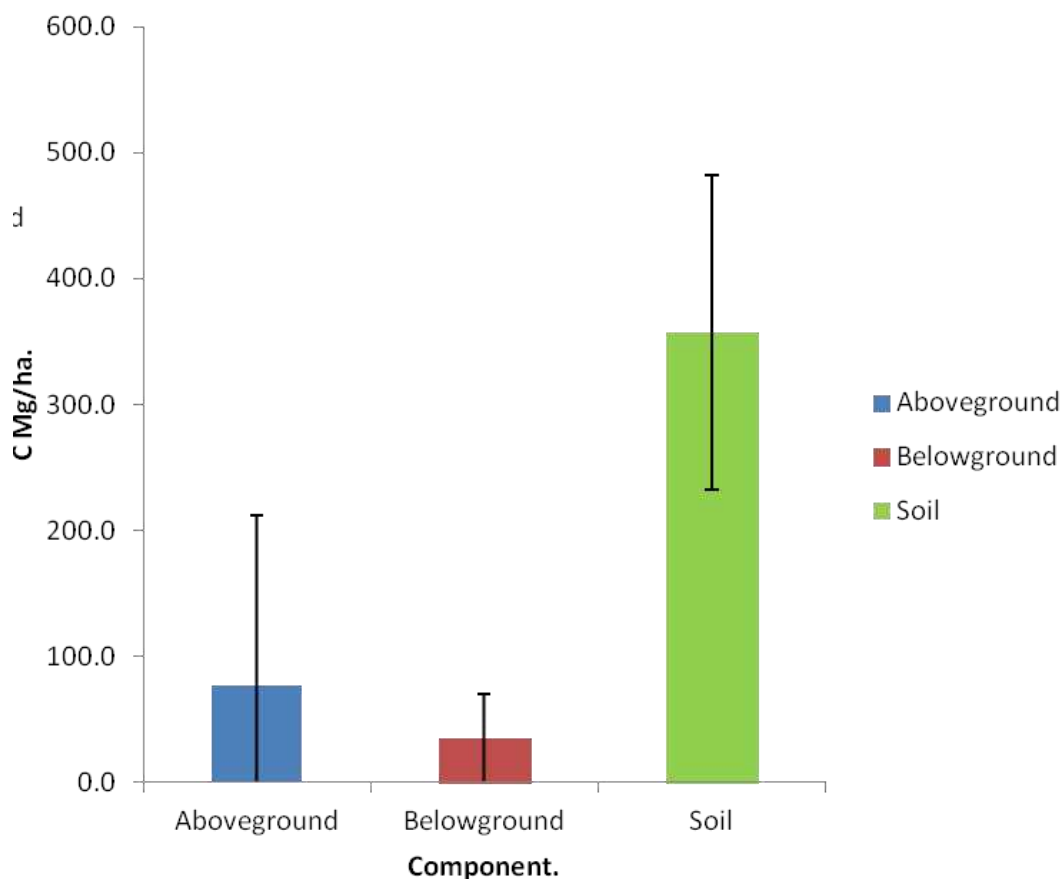


Figure 10: Carbon stocks in Vanga (original data from the project team)

Baseline emissions

The assumed baseline scenario for this project area, in the absence of intervention, is deforestation and forest degradation due to illegal logging and encroachment at the frontier of human expansion, as recorded at similar sites on the coast and predicted using modelling approaches³⁹. The project area has previously been used for commercial harvesting of mangroves for sale in the urban centres. Near Vanga village a mangrove boardwalk was constructed for ecotourism purposes. This activity failed due to reduced tourism in the area, which has led the community to a situation of financial crisis and unsustainability. The heavy losses due to recurrent floods have crippled community activities further.

Without the project, during the 20 years crediting period the 450 ha designated for avoided deforestation would decrease to 424 ha, whereas with the Project the decrease would be to 444 ha (assuming a reduction in deforestation by 80%, a conservative assumption; Table 13). As a result, 22 ha would be saved from deforestation over the 20 year crediting period. The sequestration rate for avoided degradation in the mainland (area 2) is conservatively based on AGB and BGB emission rates estimated for tropical mangroves (IPCC, 2013). The estimates are based on the assumption that without the project interventions mangroves will continue to be lost at the rate of 0.5% per year in area 2 (mainland) and 0.1% per year on Sii island, and that the remaining forest will continue to be

degraded, resulting in zero net sequestration in area 2 (mainland) and 50% of the rate expected in fully protected forest ($17.3 \text{ t CO}_{2\text{eq}} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) in area 1 (Sii island). These are conservative assumptions (using IPCC estimates that are considerably less than suggested by our own data from Gazi). Although there is no detailed sequence of stock estimates over time available for this site, there is good evidence that stocks per unit area have declined and that net sequestration under a no project scenario is likely to be negative:

- The neighbouring system of Gazi bay, which is much better known and studied (and is likely to enjoy better informal protection given its status as a study site for Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute) has experienced a long-term decline in standing biomass per area because of degradation. An early published estimate of standing dry mass in the *Rhizophora mucronata* forest gave 250 t ha^{-1} from data taken before 1996³⁴. Biomass of 103 t ha^{-1} was estimated some twenty years later³⁵; although some of the discrepancy may be due to improved methods and inclusion of other species, this large reduction strongly suggests on-going degradation, which is likely to be replicated at other sites such as Vanga.
- There are no pristine mangrove forests in East Africa that could be used as perfect 'controls' in establishing a baseline (indeed this is an important argument for our proposal to preserve Sii Island). The forests with least evidence and history of human impact in Kenya occur in the remote far north. Kiunga forest, north of Lamu, has AGB of 200 t ha^{-1} , 54% higher than the 130 t ha^{-1} estimated for Vanga in the same study. An average for Indo-pacific mangroves in general is 170 t ha^{-1} ³⁶. Hence Vanga biomass lies well below what is recorded in similar forests within and outside Kenya, suggesting degradation and considerable potential to increase.
- There are multiple other sources of evidence consistent with a scenario of increasing pressure and decreasing biomass in the Vanga forest. For example forest structural surveys show far fewer straight poles than expected in un-cut forests and multiple direct signs of cutting (such as stumps)³⁷

Under the scenarios of forest loss, we assume total loss of AGB and associated carbon. We also assume gradual loss of below ground carbon from sediment following forest clearance. Experimental work at nearby Gazi forest showed losses of 35 t CO_2 in the first year following small scale removal of forest in 12 m^2 plots³⁴. We assume the same initial rate here, and apply an exponential model of the form:

$$\text{C loss (in year } t) = \text{Total eventual loss} * (1 - \exp^{-kt}).$$

We assume the total eventual loss is 50% of the C content of the top 1 m of sediment, i.e. 180 t C ha^{-1} , a conservative assumption compared to the 60% used by Siikamäki *et al.*³⁸ The project also proposes to reforest 0.25 ha of deforested land annually.

³⁴ Slim F, Gwada P, Kodjo M, Hemminga M. 1996 Biomass and litterfall of *Ceriops tagal* and *Rhizophora mucronata* in the mangrove forest of Gazi Bay, Kenya. *Mar. Freshw. Res.* 47, 999. (doi:10.1071/MF9960999)

³⁵ Cohen R, Kaino J, Okello J a., Bosire JO, Kairo JG, Huxham M, Mencuccini M. 2013 Propagating uncertainty to estimates of above-ground biomass for Kenyan mangroves: A scaling procedure from tree to landscape level. *For. Ecol. Manage.* 310, 968–982. (doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2013.09.047)

³⁶ Donato DC, Kauffman JB, Murdiyarso D, Kurnianto S, Stidham M, Kanninen M. 2011 Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics. *Nat. Geosci.* 4, 293–297. (doi:10.1038/ngeo1123)

³⁷ Huxham M, Emerton L, Kairo J, Munyi F, Abdirizak H, Muriuki T, Nunan F, Briers R a. 2015 Applying Climate Compatible Development and economic valuation to coastal management: A case study of Kenya's mangrove forests. *J. Environ. Manage.* 157, 168–181. (doi:10.1016/j.jenvman.2015.04.018)

³⁸ Siikamäki, et al. 2012. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 109 (36) 14369- 14374; DOI:10.1073/pnas.1200519109

Table 13: Comparison of deforestation rates with and without the project interventions at areas 1 and 2

Year	Area 2 (mainland)					Area 1 (Sii island)				
	Without Project (Baseline/ deforestation rate 0.5%)		With Project (emissions reductions by 80%)		Prevented Deforestation (ha)	Without Project (Baseline/ deforestation rate 0.1%)		With Project (emissions reductions by 80%)		Prevented Deforestation (ha)
	Forest cover (ha)	Deforestation (ha/year)	Forest cover (ha)	Deforestation (ha/year)		Forest cover (ha)	Deforestation (ha/year)	Forest cover (ha)	Deforestation (ha/year)	
0	250.000		250.000			200.000		200.000		
1	248.750	1.250	249.750	0.250	1.000	199.800	0.200	199.960	0.040	0.160
2	247.506	1.244	249.500	0.250	0.994	199.600	0.200	199.920	0.040	0.160
3	246.269	1.238	249.251	0.250	0.988	199.401	0.200	199.880	0.040	0.160
4	245.037	1.231	249.001	0.249	0.982	199.201	0.199	199.840	0.040	0.159
5	243.812	1.225	248.752	0.249	0.976	199.002	0.199	199.800	0.040	0.159
6	242.593	1.219	248.504	0.249	0.970	198.803	0.199	199.760	0.040	0.159
7	241.380	1.213	248.255	0.249	0.964	198.604	0.199	199.720	0.040	0.159
8	240.173	1.207	248.007	0.248	0.959	198.406	0.199	199.680	0.040	0.159
9	238.972	1.201	247.759	0.248	0.953	198.207	0.198	199.640	0.040	0.158
10	237.778	1.195	247.511	0.248	0.947	198.009	0.198	199.600	0.040	0.158
11	236.589	1.189	247.264	0.248	0.941	197.811	0.198	199.560	0.040	0.158
12	235.406	1.183	247.016	0.247	0.936	197.613	0.198	199.521	0.040	0.158
13	234.229	1.177	246.769	0.247	0.930	197.416	0.198	199.481	0.040	0.158
14	233.058	1.171	246.523	0.247	0.924	197.218	0.197	199.441	0.040	0.158
15	231.892	1.165	246.276	0.247	0.919	197.021	0.197	199.401	0.040	0.157
16	230.733	1.159	246.030	0.246	0.913	196.824	0.197	199.361	0.040	0.157
17	229.579	1.154	245.784	0.246	0.908	196.627	0.197	199.321	0.040	0.157
18	228.431	1.148	245.538	0.246	0.902	196.430	0.197	199.281	0.040	0.157
19	227.289	1.142	245.293	0.246	0.897	196.234	0.196	199.241	0.040	0.157
20	226.153	1.136	245.047	0.245	0.891	196.038	0.196	199.202	0.040	0.156
Total loss of forest area (ha, over 20 years)					18.9	3.2				

Data Sources:

The total mangrove area designated for this project is 460 ha. To estimate the carbon emission within the avoided deforestation site, we have used recommended IPCC sequestration rates for dry tropical mangroves³⁹. The carbon losses from sediment due to forest clearance are based on carbon flux experiment in mangrove forest in Gazi Bay, an ecosystem adjacent to Vanga ecosystem⁴⁰.

G.5 Ecosystem service benefits

The project expects to reduce mangrove deforestation by 22.1 ha over the 20 years project period (Table 13). With project intervention, emissions will be reduced by 80% assuming non-permanence and leakage buffer of 20% (Table 10). The average annual carbon benefits of project eligible for crediting will be 5347 tCO₂/yr while the total creditable carbon benefits expected over the 20 years project period will be 106,929 tCO₂ (Table 10).

G.6 Leakage & Uncertainty

In order to mitigate carbon leakage, the project proposes to establish at least 2.0 ha of community woodlots as well as support community livelihood and income generating activities. The aim is to generate a sustainable supply of timber, fuelwood, and income; thus remove the pressure on the mangrove forest. Our leakage calculations (focusing on dealing with firewood needs) are as follows. Average daily firewood use is estimated as 1.2 kg cap⁻¹, with 9.6% provided by *Rhizophora mucronata*⁴¹. Given an estimated local population of 8700, this implies a total local demand of 10,440 kg day⁻¹, 1,002 kg *Rhizophora mucronata* day⁻¹ or 366 t mangrove firewood yr⁻¹. Firewood is extracted from the mainland forest (Sii island is too remote for this use); we propose to protect 260 ha out of 4428 ha total i.e. 5.9% of this mainland forest. Assuming that the 366 t demand is currently met from this whole forest, protecting 5.9% implies displacing 22 t yr⁻¹. One hectare of *Casuarina equisetifolia* woodlot produces > 120 t after 10 years⁴², or 12 t yr⁻¹ interpolated production. We plan to establish 2 ha of woodlot, which should produce in excess of what is needed (including regular thinning). In addition, we will supply at least 150 improved cook stoves in the first 3 years, further reducing firewood need by an estimated 22 t yr⁻¹ (assuming 33% improvement in efficiency).

G.7 Summary of key parameters, equations and assumptions

The key parameters and equations used in estimating carbon benefits are given below in table 13a, along with justifications for why the assumptions used are conservative.

³⁹ IPCC (2013) Coastal wetlands. In 2013 supplement to the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National Green House Gas inventories (Eds Alongi D., Karim A., Kennedy H., Chen g., Chmura G., Crooks S et al)

⁴⁰ Lang'at, J. K. S., Kairo, J. G., Mencuccini, M., Bouillon, S., Skov, M. W., Waldron, S., & Huxham, M. (2014). Rapid losses of surface elevation following tree girdling and cutting in tropical mangroves. *PLoS ONE*, 9(9), 1–8

⁴¹ Jung J. (2018) Firewood usage and indoor air pollution from traditional cooking fires and the possibility of introducing improved cookstoves in Gazi Bay, Kenya. *Edinburgh Napier University honours thesis*

⁴² Orwa C, A Mutua, Kindt R, Jamnadass R, S Anthony. 2009 Agroforestry Database: a tree reference and selection guide version 4.0 (<http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/treedbs/treedatabases.asp>)

Table 13a – Summary of key parameters, figures and equations used for carbon benefits, with derivations and justifications

Description	Value or equation	Source	Notes and justification for conservative assumptions
Annual growth increment for tropical wet mangrove forest	9.9 t D.M. ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ , equivalent to 17.3 t CO ₂ ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	IPCC 2013, table 4.4	In situ records of growth at similar Gazi plots exceed this value
Annual sequestration of CO ₂ in rehabilitated area (area 4)	4 t ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ , derived from 8.9 t D.M. ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ in Kairo et al. 2008	Kairo et al., 2008	The value from Kairo et al 2008 is for above-ground biomass of a 12 yr old stand growing on productive land. It is equivalent to ~15 t CO ₂ ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ . Because we do not know the shape of the growth curve over 12 years (i.e. how fast growth might be in the initial few years compared to later ones) and because we are using a degraded site where growth may be slower, we have chosen a highly conservative value of less than 1/3 rd this growth rate and no belowground biomass.
Annual sequestration of CO ₂ in community planted area (area 3)	20.4 t CO ₂ ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹ , from 11 t D.M. ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹	Kairo et al. 2008	This value is for a 12 yr old plantation (at Vanga the plantation is 10 yrs old) in a similar setting, and includes below ground biomass. It is conservative since it incorporates all years between 0-12 yrs old i.e. early years when the trees are small. In VBF, the trees are already 10 years old.
Aboveground carbon benefits of avoided deforestation in area 1 and 2	1.1 ha forest saved from deforestation yr ⁻¹ , mean 75 t C in AGB gives 303 t CO ₂ yr ⁻¹	Rates of forest loss in table 13, C values in figure 9	Takes original field data from our site, so based on Tier 3 quality data. Does not assume any growth in average AGB during 20 yrs so is conservative.
Belowground C benefits of avoided deforestation in area 1 and 2	273 t CO ₂ yr ⁻¹ for all predicted avoided deforestation areas i.e. 22 ha over 20 years. Equation for C loss following clearing is C _{loss} = TOTAL LOSS * (1-EXP ^{-kt}), k is initial rate of loss, asymptote is 180 t per ha.	Initial C loss following clearing Lang'at et al. 2014. Exponential model in appendix IX, results table IXa	We have the world's only experiment on C loss following experimental mangrove removal at Gazi, which showed 9.5 tCha ⁻¹ after year 1. Losses will continue for an unknown period into the future. Work in the literature assumes that 60% of all the C in the top 1 m will eventually be lost, following an exponential curve (Siikamäki, et al. 2012). We make the conservative assumption that only 50% will be lost (hence set an asymptote at 180t loss), even though we know that effects are visible down to 1 m after only the first year (Lang'at et al. 2014). The value of 273 is an integrated sum of C losses from all the gradually lost areas, losing C at rates dependent on their age; appendix IX shows the full workings.

Dahdouh-Guebas F, Bosire J, Karachi M. (2008) Structural development and productivity of replanted mangrove plantations in Kenya. *Forest Ecology and Management* 255 (2008) 2670–2677

IPCC (2013) Coastal wetlands. In 2013 supplement to the 2006 IPCC guidelines for National Green House Gas inventories (Eds Alongi D., Karim A., Kennedy H., Chen g., Chmura G., Crooks S et al)

Lang'at, J. K. S., Kairo, J. G., Mencuccini, M., Bouillon, S., Skov, M. W., Waldr on, S., & Huxham, M. (2014). Rapid losses of surface elevation following tree girdling and cutting in tropical mangroves. *PLoS ONE*, 9(9), 1–8

Siikamäki, et al. 2012. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 109 (36) 14369- 14374; DOI:10.1073/pnas.1200519109

Part H: Risk Management

H.1. Identification of risk areas

Six risk categories were identified in the project. Mitigation measures have been identified and are expected to lower the risk level. The remaining risks were scored: i) impact – the proportion of reversed benefits; and ii) likelihood of the risk occurring. The scale used was: Very low = 0.05, Low = 0.1, Moderate = 0.25, High = 0.5, Very high = 0.75.

Risk	Management /mitigation measures	Impact	Likelihood
Administrative changes in the project	The community who have participated in all the stages of project development will be continuously advised on any changes in the project management including skill enhancement for coping with the changes. The community co-ordinator will be recruited from the community and be part of it, and will be the key player in instituting administrative changes	Low: administrative changes can affect the project negatively especially if the changes are not acceptable to the administrators and the community. However change is not a risk if managed well; rather inability to change and adapt is a more serious risk	Medium: there is a modest likelihood of changes because after every five years, a review will advise on the best way forward in the project and this may bring changes. New administrators may bring about change
Maintenance of community support is not sustained	Prioritized local development projects represent interests of all members of the community. A mechanism for resolution of conflicts and disputes will be put in place. The community barazzas represent a tried and tested method of gauging local support and are well known to local people	Medium: a waning in community support could lead to some members withdrawing membership which will negatively impact project implementation	Low: This may arise especially when project activities fail to deliver expected livelihood benefits. However the existence of similar successful projects nearby helps put expectations in perspective. The project team has an excellent track record in involving the community and avoiding elite capture, and will pursue site based research on benefit sharing to monitor and understand these risks.
Over reliance on external support to implement	Skill development for project coordinator. There will be continued training on PES as well as on forest carbon monitoring, reporting and verification. Project activities will be re-assessed annually throughout the crediting period. We have also secured funds for a full time PhD student to work at the site, studying forest productivity. She will be part of the project team and on-hand to assist in training and capacity building.	Medium: an unqualified PC lacking skills to run the project and a community without awareness and skills for management of carbon offset projects could lead to slowing down project activities or neglect of some thus leading to reversal	Low: the likelihood of this happening is low since a qualified PC will be recruited and awareness and capacity building on the project will be on going.

Inadequate management including poor organisation and mobilisation of the community	Capacity building for the project team and optimal communication and involvement of the community in every stage of project development and implementation. Clear governance structures and oversight by the VBF committee	Medium: this project relies heavily on the PC and VBF committee for implementation of the workplan; and if the community is isolated, the workplan may only be partly implemented	Low: this is because the community has been involved in the design and development of the project and will be involved in the implementation through their respective representatives. They have also visited Mikoko Pamoja and discussed the operation of that neighbouring project so understand how it works.
Extreme weather events/ natural disaster	Restoration and protection of degraded areas as intended in this project will help increase the capacity of mangroves to withstand natural disasters as well as increase their resilience to cope with the disturbances. By using natural processes of regeneration (rather than relying heavily on planting) we are not vulnerable to the sudden catastrophic loss of nurseries. We also have more than one project site and will work in areas with mixed species, each with different vulnerabilities and hence with combined higher resilience	Medium: Extreme climate events (e.g. El Nino) have caused flooding and death of mangroves in Vanga in the past.	Medium: El Nino is cyclical and flooding events are becoming more common in Kenya than before. This means that they are likely to occur within the first five years of the project cycle. However the area naturally floods and ecosystems and people are resilient
Pests and diseases	A surveillance team will be formed and taught to identify signs of stress and pest infestations. Any evidence of pests and disease will be reported annually	Medium: Some mangrove species such as <i>Avicennia sp</i> are prone to defoliators. If the pests and diseases attack the saplings, it could lead to death and low recovery of the forest	Low: there has not been any reporting on pests or diseases on mangrove trees for the last five years. If attacked, mangroves tend to recover quickly without any interventions. Our experience with near-by nurseries is positive. We are also intending to use natural processes, if possible, for restoration, hence will not be heavily dependent on vulnerable nurseries.

H2: Risk buffer for non-permanence

Risk type	Impact	Likelihood	Total
Administrative changes in the project	10%	0.25	2.5
Maintenance of community support is not sustained	25%	0.1	2.5
Over reliance on external support to implement	25%	0.1	2.5
Inadequate management including poor organisation and mobilisation of the community	25%	0.1	2.5
Extreme weather events/ natural disaster	25%	0.25	6.25
Pests and diseases	25%	0.1	2.5
Total			18.75

The values for impact and likelihood are based on expert judgement derived from six years' experience of running a similar project at Gazi. Hence whilst they are inevitably subjective they are contextually relevant and are conservative, over-estimating the likelihood of these risks.

The risk buffer for the risks modelled with default parameters was rounded up to 20% to allow for additional uncertainties.

Part I: Project Coordination & Management

I.1 Project Organisational Structure

Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) project will be implemented by a registered community organization with membership derived from VAJIKI CFA and shall receive technical support from KMFRI, KFS and other actors (Figure 11, Table 14). The Association for Coastal Ecosystems Services (ACES), a Scottish registered charity, will serve as the link between VBF and carbon markets. ACES has previously supported the successful implementation of its first pioneering mangrove carbon project, Mikoko Pamoja, that was set up by the communities of Gazi and Makongeni to conserve nearby mangrove forests.

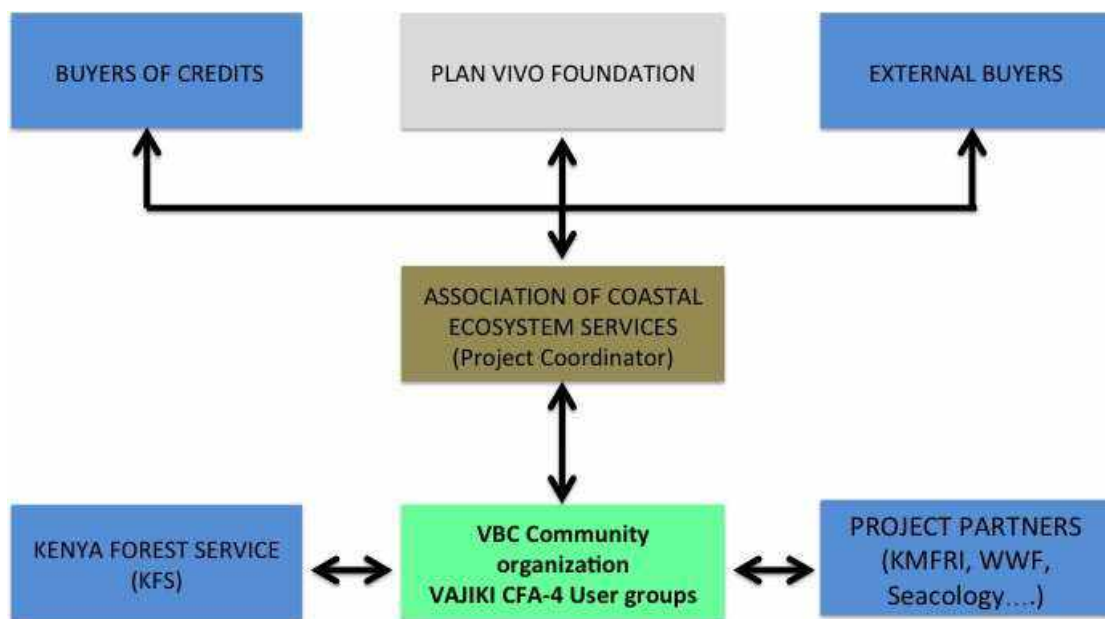


Figure 11: Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) project organizational structure

Table 14: Key project partners and roles

Key functions	Organization	Type & Legal status	Brief description of activities
Project coordination	Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services (ACES)	Scottish Charity (non-profit organization)	• Carbon sales, negotiations and promotion with buyers. • Managing PV payments to VBF based on annual monitoring. • Overseeing technical aspects and ensuring regular monitoring of project activities. • Coordinating annual reporting of project activities to the Plan Vivo foundation, the buyers and the partners. • Encouraging and supporting community decision making • Promoting VBF nationally and globally
Project technical operations	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research institute (KMFRI)	Legally government agency	• Providing technical support to the project and community. • Overseeing project implementation and development. • Coordinating stakeholders' engagements and enhance capacity on PES schemes • Ensuring legal compliance by facilitating registration with the relevant government institutions, fair PES agreements and also transparent and due payments of carbon sales.
Project implementation	Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) community organization through VAJIKI CFA User groups: Jimbo Environmental Group, Magugu mariculture group, Mwambiweje Women Group, Vumilia Nguvu Kazi Group	A Community Forest Association registered in 2013. As an umbrella body, VAJIKI represents 4 user groups engaged in mangrove forest conservation and management of national forests in the project area including mangroves.	VAJIKI CFA represents the community and will be involved in; • Enlightening the community on the importance of mangroves and reducing their deforestation. • Working with KFS on the implementation of the PFMP of the area. • Conserving and protecting biodiversity and socio-cultural values of mangroves • Enhancing capacity building of the community through training • Organising regular (at least annual) community consultations through barazza and other means to facilitate benefit sharing • Managing the project co-ordinator and other paid and voluntary roles • Operating an efficient committee that abides by the constitution

I.2 Relationships to national organisations

The project implementer, Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) community organization, comprise of members from VAJIKI CFA, which is a registered community forest association (CFA) and recognized by Forest Management and Conservation Act (2016) of the Laws of Kenya. VAJIKI, will work closely with KFS and other agencies in implementing the project activities in line with the approved participatory forest management plan (PFMP) of the area and national mangrove ecosystem management plan. The project will complement and build upon the results of several on-going initiatives:

FINIDA is supporting KFS through the National Forest Program (NFP) for forest sector reforms in Kenya. NFP is implementing Kenya's national mangrove ecosystem management plan (2017 – 2027), that will form a base on which this project will build.

DFID, the Ecosystem Support for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) and the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) supported the 'Coastal Ecosystem Services for East Africa (CESEA) and the Sustainable Poverty Alleviation from Coastal Ecosystem Services (SPACES) projects. Partners include researchers in UK, Sweden, Kenya, and Mozambique. These projects established social, biodiversity, and carbon baselines that was used in setting this VBF.

UNEP/GEF Blue Forest Project is implemented in Vanga with an overall objective to apply methodologies and approaches for carbon accounting and ecosystem service valuation in Blue Carbon Projects so as to provide evidence-based experience that supports replication, up-scaling and adoption of Blue Forests concepts by the international community and the GEF. Lessons and experiences from this project will support the successful implementation of the proposed Vanga Blue Forest project.

Kenya Coastal Forest Conservation Forum (KCFCF) through Seacology is supporting on-going conservation and management efforts of mangrove areas in Sii Island. Seacology, together with other stakeholders such as National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Coastal Development Authority (CDA), are creating community awareness to enhance compliance with regulations on use of the mangrove forests.

I.3 Legal compliance

Some of the key legislations that the project will contribute to will include:

- The Constitution of Kenya (2010), targeting a national forest cover of 10%.
- **Forest Conservation and Management Act (2016)** providing for community participation in forest management, including mangroves. Participation of the community is further highlighted in the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan (2017-2027)
- **Kenya National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2000)**, objectives 1, 3, 6 and 10, calling for capacity building, conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and implementation of EIAs

- **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy and Action Plan (2010)**, calling for integrated coastal resource management
- **National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) (2010)** calling for low-carbon pathways in the national development and **National Climate Change Action plan (NCCAP)** promoting mangrove restoration activities
- **Environmental Management and Coordination Act (2015)**, providing for EIAs and SEAs to be applied for all developments
- **Fisheries Management and Development Act (2016)** that recognizes mangroves as critical habitat for fisheries and other wildlife; and the need for their conservation.

Overall, project will support the Kenya's implementation of **Sustainable Development Goals**, particularly; (SDG) 1 (poverty alleviation), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water); as well as Kenya's commitments to **Aichi target 15** and the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**, objectives 1, 3, 6 and 10.

The project coordinator will adhere to the principles of fairness and gender rule in employment as stipulated in the Constitution of Kenya (2010). He will be guided by the VBF constitution as well as working closely with the executive committee in any employment process.

I.4 Project management

Dialogues for the implementation of VBF were initiated in Dec. 2014. This was followed by surveys to establish ecological and sociological baselines (Table 15). Project idea note (PIN) was developed in 2016. The PIN allowed feasibility assessment of blue carbon project in Vanga. The project ideas were shared with the proponents who agreed to establish a VBF committee to foresee project development and implementation. The Project Design Document (PDD) was initiated in Jan 2017 and submitted to Plan Vivo in 2018 for review and approval (Table 15).

Implementation of VBF will be vested with Project Coordinator working with democratically elected committee representing the villages comprising VAJIKI (Fig.10). In accordance with Plan Vivo guidelines, independent validation of the project will be undertaken every 5 years. Project coordinator will be trained on implementation of workplan, monitoring and reporting. PC, with technical support from KFS and KMFRI, will develop a record keeping system which will document the following:

- a) Minutes of the village *barazas* held
- b) Financial income and expenditures
- c) Environmental and socio-economic monitoring indicators
- d) Reports from forest patrols and other project activities

Table 15: Timeline

Month and Year	Activity
December 2014	Project dialogue initiated
January to December 2015	Collection of Baseline data (Forest structure and socio-economic)
January to December 2016	PIN development
January to June 2017	Community consultations for PDD development
July to December 2017	Establishment of Vanga Blue Forest Committee
April to June 2018	Review of PDD and Stakeholders consultations
September 2018	Submission of PDD to Plan Vivo
November 2018	Third party Validation visit
December 2018	Official launch of Vanga Blue Forest project at Village level
December 2018	Recruitment of the Project coordinator
December 2019	Sale of 1 st year Carbon credits
October 2019	Community benefit consultation process
September 2023	Project 5 year's validation
October-December 2032	Key project supporters, lead by ACES and KMFRI, to review PDD on the basis of 5 year validation and own reflection on lessons learnt, to consider if it needs up-dating. Some changes will certainly be made, for example clarification of reforestation progress and indicators
August 2038	End of 20 year crediting period

I.5 Project financial management

The proposed VBF project will be managed and coordinated by ACES who will support in managing PV payments on their behalf upon achieving of project targets. Income generated from sale of PVC will be utilized following close consultation with community to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing and transparency. Funds channelled to support community development and payments to individual beneficiaries will be based on priorities determined by the local people

The prioritization of the income will be as follows

- 1st consultative community meeting in individual villages to suggest possible projects
- Committee to be to look into feasibility of the suggested projects
- 2nd consultative meeting where the community votes on the best projects to be implemented
- Funds to be allocated to individual projects as prioritized by the community

Vanga Blue Forest project anticipates to allocate 26% of the income from sale of carbon credits directly to community projects (Figure 11). Some 36% of the income will be spent on employing local work teams involved in nursery establishment, out-planting and surveillance (community scouts). Only ~6% will be retained by ACES in-order to support independent verifications every 5 years as well as the fees from Markit and Plan Vivo. This financial structure aligns with the Plan Vivo requirements that require projects to allocate at least 60% of sale proceeds directly to the community; note that ACES and VBF committee will be acting in voluntary (unpaid) capacities.

Start –up funding, essential costs and implications of poor sales

VBF has secured sufficient start up funding to allow recruitment of key paid staff (especially project co-ordinator and forest scouts) for the first year of operation, along with funds to pay for an accreditation visit and Markit fees. Our economic projections are conservative, assuming a floor price for credits some \$4 below our best price achieved for the sister project Mikoko Pamoja, and assuming that we will sell only 50% of credits in our first year (moving to 75 and then 100% in the subsequent years). At 50% sales, we can keep the project running and bring some small benefits to local people. We have been clear in all communication with the community that income is not guaranteed.

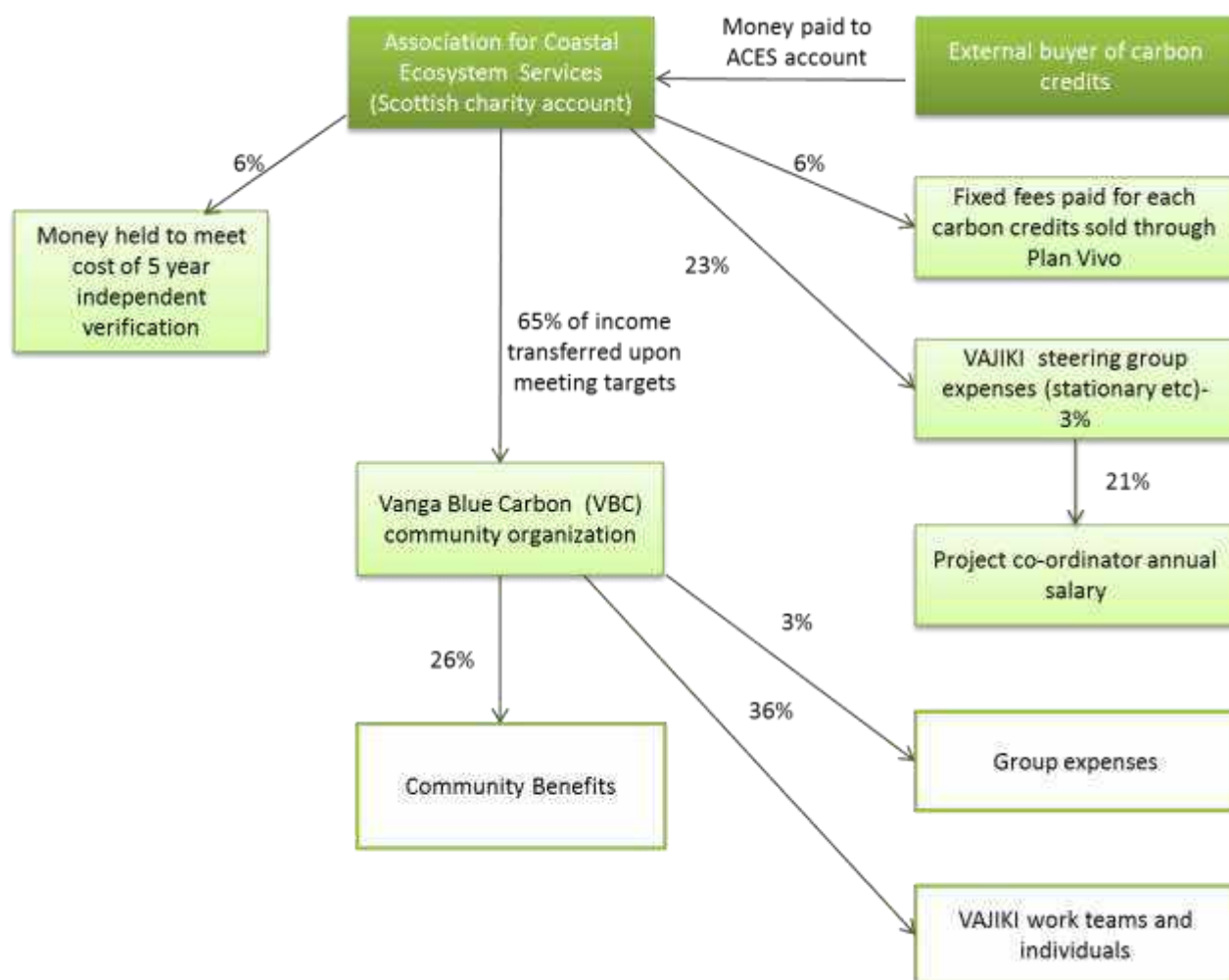


Figure 12: Illustrative distribution of funds; exact percentages will depend on the balance of income to fixed expenses, such as fees.

I.6 Marketing

ACES will support the project in promotional activities and advertise it to potential buyers. It will manage carbon sales and negotiations and promotion with buyers, both nationally and internationally. It will also help facilitate community engagement and decision making and ensure appropriate transfer of information to partners. ACES will manage the Markit account for carbon credits generated and use the ACES website (which already hosts and promotes Mikoko Pamoja). Although ACES is a small charity without paid staff it has expertise developed over the past five years and is planning to meet the enhanced demands of this new project by looking at recruiting paid staff. It has an excellent track record in finding carbon buyers for Mikoko Pamoja.

I.7 Technical Support

KMFRI will provide continuous technical support to VBF organization and work teams. Visiting scientists from all over the world frequent KMFRI, this will provide additional technical support. KMFRI's link with local universities and internationally provides training and research opportunities which could serve as a valuable source of technical support. Technical support from KMFRI includes equipping community and VBF organization with mangrove

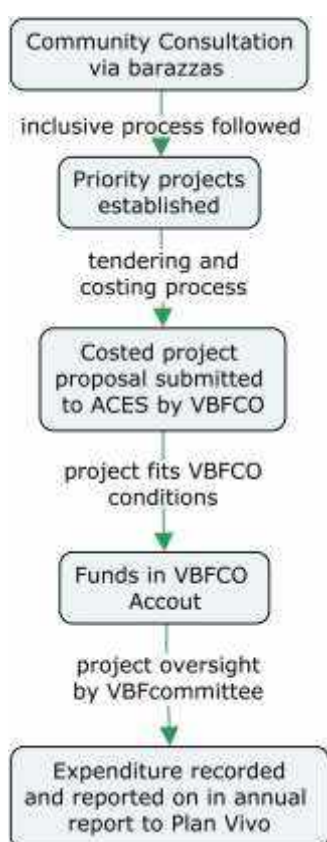
management techniques (nursery establishment, planting and monitoring). On the other hand KFS will provide technical support towards implementing the PFMP with VAJIKI CFA.

Part J: Benefit sharing

J.1 PES agreements

Vanga Blue Forest project will use the existing CFA to facilitate integrated management of the mangrove forests. It will allow development of social structures that extend beyond single villages and facilitate benefit sharing among all participating communities.

J.2 Payments & Benefit Sharing



Funds/payments acquired through the sale of Plan Vivo certificates will be used on projects that have been prioritised by the community. To ensure equitability and transparency in distribution of funds, annual budget and work plans will be developed and reviewed by the VBF to determine the expenditures of the funds generated. The benefit-sharing process together with any concerns or objections raised will be recorded for further reference.

VBF community organisation will operate their own bank account with three signatories. The process of applying for, receiving, disbursing and reporting on payments is outlined in Fig 12.

Payments will be dependent on the successful implementation of the annual work plan and the delivery of outputs agreed by the parties. Some or all payments shall be withheld if performance targets are not met.

Figure 12: Process of funds generation, disbursement and reporting

Part K: Monitoring

K.1 Ecosystem services benefits

The project has identified key indicators to monitor ecosystem benefits arising from project activities and interventions as summarized in Table 16. Monitoring parameters include; changes in forest cover, growth performance and natural regeneration. The growth performance for the alternative woodlots will also be assessed. An annual reporting system will be used to document the results of the monitoring in which KMFR I shall train community to take up a lead role in the monitoring process.

Notes on methods chosen for monitoring

Permanent Monitoring Plots

We will use 15 PMP to record forest change in each of the two protected areas. To ensure that these plots are properly representative of the forest their locations will be chosen randomly; but once they are established the same plots will be monitored. Using permanent plots like this is necessary to deal with the very large spatial variability typically experienced in mangrove forests; using a random design is likely to require at least three times the sample size to achieve the same statistical power, making it infeasible.

Using data from the Mikoko Pamoja plots at Gazi allows the following power calculation for detecting changes in numbers of stumps per plot using a paired design:

Mean stumps per plot	15
SD of difference	14
Mean percentage change in stumps	100
Statistical power	0.9
Alpha	0.05
Sample size required	12

Hence, based on our field data, we will achieve a very high statistical power of 0.9 to detect a doubling in stump count if we have 12 plots; using 15 therefore exceeds this.

A similar, paired approach will be taken to detect changes in regeneration status (along with a qualitative comparison of frequency distributions of regeneration classes). We will use appropriate allometric equations, derived from work in Kenya with these species, to estimate biomass accretion based on measurements on all trees in the PMPs.

Activity outside of permanent plots

The PMPs will be used to accurately record stump counts, regeneration and forest biomass increments. In addition we will monitor for activity outside of these plots using two approaches:

- regular perimeter patrolling and observations of access points. The forest scouts will conduct this qualitative monitoring on a weekly basis and record any signs of change or incursions.
- remote sensing for canopy change. We will use remote sensing to look for changes in total canopy cover; this will be done every five years, rather than annually, since it requires the technical support of KMFRI staff.

Table 16. Table identifying key indicators and monitoring of ecosystem services benefits and the threshold achievement for PES payment to the community.

Project Intervention (activity) [weighting]	Indicator	Green threshold PES: Full payment	Amber threshold PES: 50% payment	Red threshold No PES payment	Frequency	Who will monitor?
Avoided deforestation/ degradation (Protection of 450ha) [90% credit weighting, allocated proportionally to each of two areas] Threshold implications: Annual thresholds ≥ 1 RED = no credits 2 AMBER = 50% credits 1 AMBER = 25% credits 5 year thresholds RED = project abandoned AMBER = new PDD required GREEN = project continued	Forest Cover (change)	Decrease in forest cover maintained within buffer (i.e. ≤20% of initial rate of change). To be assessed through field assessment and remote sensing imagery	Decrease in forest cover is 20% - 50% of initial rate of change. To be assessed through field assessment and remote sensing imagery	Decrease in forest cover is >50% of initial rate of change. To be assessed through field assessment and remote sensing imagery	After 5yrs	KMFRI
	Tree stumps	Forest surveys in 15 permanent plots. No significant increase in mean cut stumps. No evidence of clear felling.	Forest surveys in 15 permanent plots. Significant increase in cut stumps. No evidence of clear felling	Forest surveys in 15 permanent plots. Significant increase in cut stumps and evidence of clear felling	Annually	KMFRI & community
	Regeneration (Linear regeneration)	Survey of regeneration	Survey of regeneration	Survey of regeneration	Annually	KMFRI

	sampling))	classes (RCI, RCII, RCIII) in 15 permanent plots. Show some recovery within 20% expected growth.	classes (RCI, RCII, RCIII) in 15 permanent plots. Show no recovery	classes (RCI, RCII, RCIII) in 15 permanent plots. Show significant degradation		
Reforestation (Reforestation of 5ha) [5% weighting] Threshold implications: Annual thresholds ≥ 1 RED = no credits 2 AMBER = 50% credits 1 AMBER = 25% credits	Planting/facilitated restoration	Clear and objective evidence of appropriate progress towards 20-year goal	Progress made but less than sufficient to achieve goal if repeated every year	No progress towards 20-year goal	Annually	Community
	Survival/mortality	Survey on survival rate. ≥20% survival rate	Survey on survival rate. <20% survival rate	Survey on survival. Zero survival of planted seedlings	Quarterly	KMFRI
Alternative woodlot (Leakage control) [5%] Threshold implications: RED = no credits AMBER = 50% credits	Planting	Surveys of growth (DBH, height, %cover). Minimum of 2000 trees planted	1000- 2000 trees planted	No tree planted	Every 3 years	Community

K.2 Socio-economic impacts

Monitoring of the socio-economic impacts of the VAJIKI Blue Carbon project will be conducted annually and compared with the baseline (Table 17). During monitoring input from the project will be assessed against output, outcome and impacts achieved in the preceeding year. Results will be provided to all key stakeholders and interested parties using diverse media including reports, briefing papers and presentations. The results will be used to discuss work plan for the coming year and the priority community projects to be supported by proceeds from sale of carbon credits. Nevertheless, this will be upon successful implementation of the previous year's work plan. The monitoring and evaluation will be based on the appropriate indicators identified below:

Table 17: Methods of measurement of expected socio-economic impacts of the project

Area of impact	Baseline	Target	Method of measurement	Frequency	Suggested Tools
Impacts of funded projects (water, education, health etc.)	zero	Number of schools, water points, health facilities, students supported etc.	Assessment of impacts of funded projects. Verification visits Survey data	Annually	Community group discussions Participatory wellbeing assessment Semi-structured interviews with target groups
Viability of mangrove-related local businesses	Number of existing mangrove related businesses e.g beekeeping (to be verified later)	Increase in the number and viability of mangrove related businesses	Assessment of the viability of the businesses	Annually	Community group discussions Participatory well-being assessment Semi-structured interviews
Number of people employed in the project and associated projects	zero	the number of people employed	Assessment of number of persons employed by the project Cash spent on employment	Annually	Community group discussions Semi-structured interviews with target groups

K3 Environmental and biodiversity impacts

Other than monitoring and assessing the changes in ecosystem services, other biodiversity impacts will also be monitored as summarized in Table 18. New recruitments of mangroves and abundance and diversity of fauna such as fish, molluscs and gastropods will be monitored annually. Soil accretion and erosion rates will also be determined in both the avoided deforestation and reforestation activity areas. This is crucial to determine the recovery of mangrove ecosystem functioning and to assess whether project objectives are met. KMFRI will use its research capacity to train community members on participatory monitoring and reporting of environmental and biodiversity impacts. The results of the monitoring will be reported annually following Plan Vivo Guidelines.

Table 18: Methods of monitoring environmental impacts of proposed activities

Impacts	Baseline and indicators	Methods	Who will monitor?
Biodiversity impacts	Flora: number of newly mangrove recruits/natural regeneration in the area	Annual regeneration sampling of flora and faunal species in permanent monitoring plots in project area.	KMFRI, KFS, VAJIKI Community
	Fauna: recorded abundance and species diversity of molluscs and, if possible, crabs.		
Soil conservation impacts	Soil accretion & erosion rates	Annual monitoring of soil accretion and erosion rates using Surface Elevation Tables (SETs) or cheaper alternatives	KMFRI

Part L: Annexes

AnnexI. List of key people involved with contact information

Professor Mark Huxham, ACES director, m.huxham@napier.ac.uk

Dr James Kairo, Head of Mangrove Ecosystems at KMFRI, gkairo@yahoo.com

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Harith Mohammed, Chairman VAJIKI CFA, harithmohamed74@gmail.com

AnnexII. Information about funding sources

Funding in kind comes from past and on-going support from ACES, Edinburgh Napier University, KMFRI and KFS.

Grant funding to help with production of this document, and in some cases with meeting costs for the first year of operations, comes from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation, UNEP and GEF.

VANGA, JIMBO AND KIWEGU (VAJIKI) MANGROVE FOREST PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT PLAN

2018-2022



AnnexIV. Database template

MANGROVE INVENTORY: VEGETATION DATA

OBSERVERS.....

AREA.....

SITE.....

DATE

FOREST TYPE.....

PLOT NO.....

PLOT SIZE.....

INUNDATION CLASS...

COVER (%)......

NO.OFCUT STUMPS....

GPS NO.....

WAYPOINT.....

PHOTO NO.....

EASTINGS:.....

SOUTHINGS.....

					Regeneration (Plot size.....)			
No	Species	DBH (CM)	HT (M)	Quality classes (1, 2, 3)	Species	RC1	RCII	RCIII

General observations.....

.....

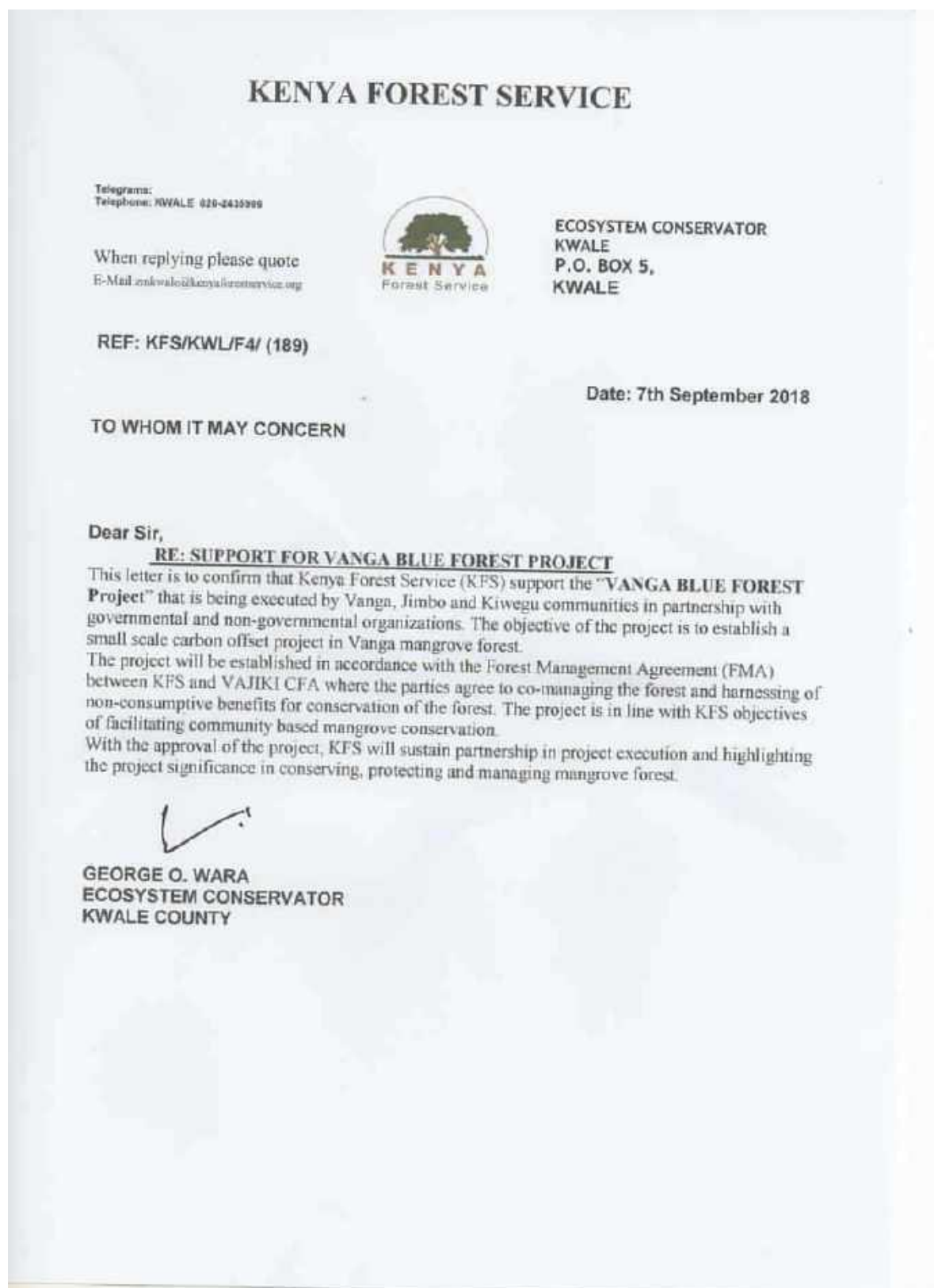
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Annex V. Example forest management plans/*plan vivos*

- Include real examples of *plan vivos* (PV requirement 4.10)

We have a single agreement with the whole community hence no plan vivos with individual stakeholders

Annex VI. Permits and legal documentation

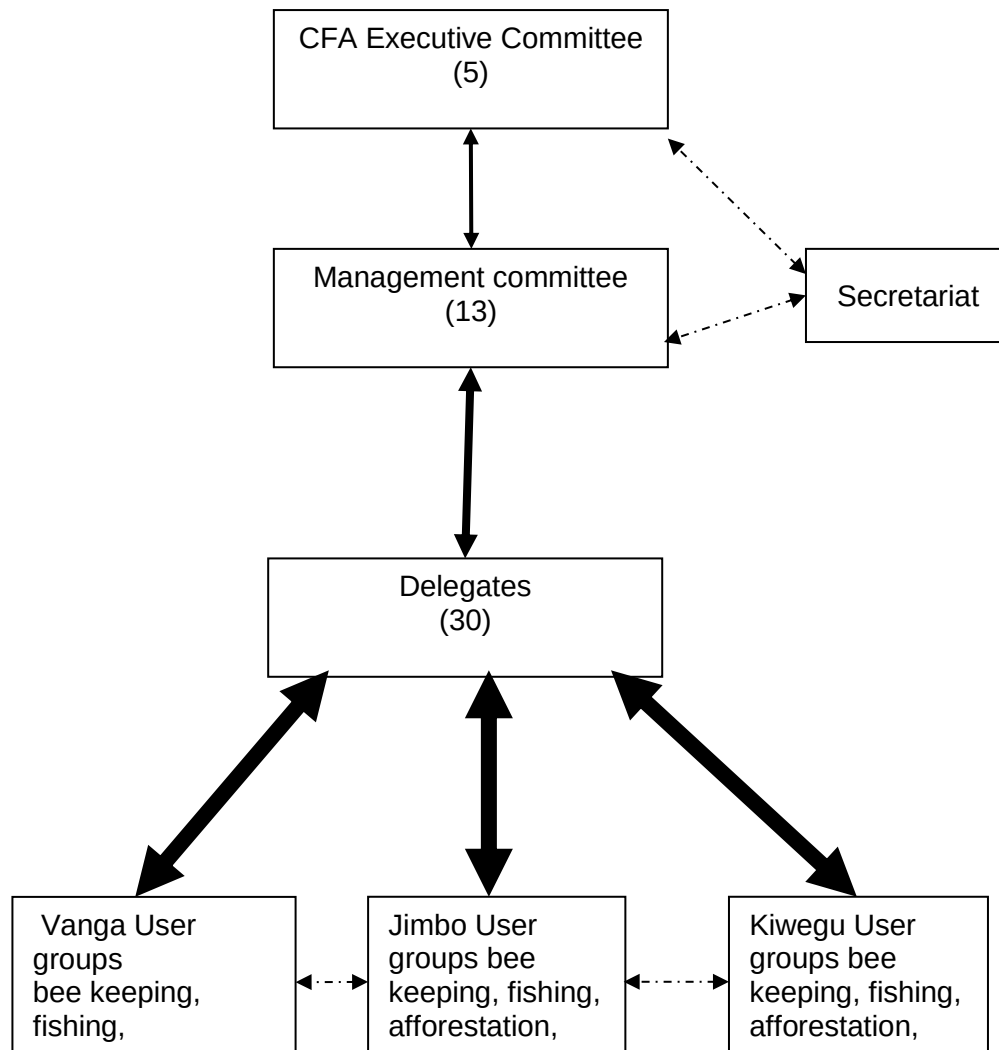


Annex VII. Evidence of community participation





Annex VIII. CFA organisation structure



Annex IX. Emissions of Soil carbon following forest removal

CALCULATION OF C LOSS AFTER CLEARANCE

ASSUMES EXPONENTIAL EQUATION OF THE FORM

$$C_{\text{loss}} = \text{TOTAL LOSS} * (1 - \text{EXP}^{-kt})$$

WHERE TOTAL LOSS IS FINAL AMOUNT LOST

k IS INITIAL RATE OF LOSS (FROM

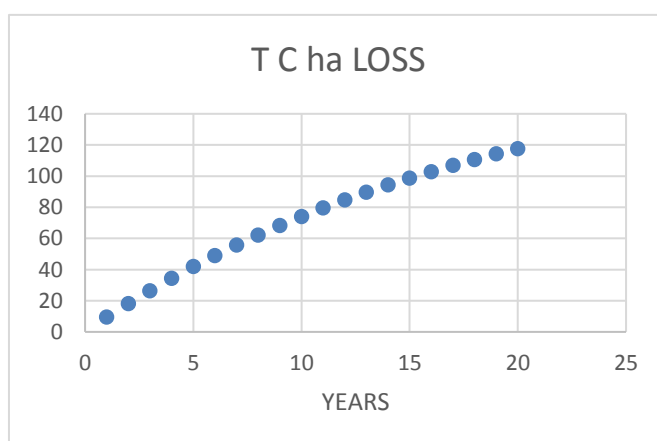
LANGAT et al. 2014)

t IS TIME IN YEARS

ASSUMES 50% OF C IN TOP M IS EVENTUALLY LOST

I.e. eventual asymptote is 180

years	T C ha LOSS	amount lost that year from a single ha
1	9.5	9.5
2	18.10356335	8.6
3	26.46065539	8.4
4	34.38635444	7.9
5	41.902929	7.5
6	49.03149809	7.1
7	55.79209052	6.8
8	62.20370126	6.4
9	68.28434473	6.1
10	74.05110546	5.8
11	79.52018607	5.5
12	84.70695281	5.2
13	89.62597872	4.9
14	94.29108457	4.7
15	98.71537771	4.4
16	102.9112889	4.2
17	106.8906072	4.0
18	110.6645131	3.8
19	114.2436101	3.6
20	117.6379541	3.4



Applying this per ha model to all the avoided deforestation areas in VBF, and summing the accumulated avoided emissions from belowground carbon over twenty years, gives the data presented in the table below:

Table IXa – the avoided belowground emissions over 20 years. Top grey line shows the C emissions from a single ha, cleared and then left for 20 years, based on the model above. These values are used to produce the appropriate emissions for each ha saved over the 20 years of the project. So the 1.16 ha saved in the first year will contribute 133 t C cumulatively, the 1.05 in the last only 9.95.

year	ha saved	yr 1	yr2	yr3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	TOTAL SAVED OVER 20 YEARS
0	0.000	9.500	8.604	8.357	7.926	7.517	7.129	6.761	6.412	6.081	5.767	5.469	5.187	4.919	4.67	4.42	4.2	3.98	3.77	3.58	3.39	
1	1.160	11.020	9.980	9.694	9.194	8.719	8.269	7.842	7.437	7.054	6.689	6.344	6.017	5.706	5.41	5.13	4.87	4.62	4.38	4.15		132.523
2	1.154	10.961	9.927	9.642	9.145	8.673	8.225	7.800	7.398	7.016	6.654	6.310	5.985	5.676	5.38	5.1	4.84	4.59	4.35			127.686
3	1.148	10.903	9.874	9.591	9.096	8.626	8.181	7.759	7.358	6.978	6.618	6.277	5.953	5.645	5.35	5.08	4.82	4.57				122.673
4	1.142	10.844	9.821	9.540	9.047	8.580	8.137	7.717	7.319	6.941	6.583	6.243	5.921	5.615	5.33	5.05	4.79					117.475
5	1.135	10.786	9.769	9.489	8.999	8.534	8.094	7.676	7.280	6.904	6.548	6.210	5.889	5.585	5.3	5.02						112.083
6	1.129	10.729	9.716	9.438	8.951	8.489	8.051	7.635	7.241	6.867	6.513	6.177	5.858	5.555	5.27							106.488
7	1.123	10.671	9.664	9.388	8.903	8.443	8.008	7.594	7.202	6.830	6.478	6.143	5.826	5.526								100.678
8	1.117	10.614	9.613	9.337	8.855	8.398	7.965	7.554	7.164	6.794	6.443	6.111	5.795									94.644
9	1.111	10.558	9.561	9.287	8.808	8.353	7.922	7.513	7.125	6.758	6.409	6.078										88.373
10	1.105	10.501	9.510	9.238	8.761	8.309	7.880	7.473	7.087	6.721	6.374											81.855
11	1.099	10.445	9.459	9.188	8.714	8.264	7.838	7.433	7.049	6.685												75.076
12	1.094	10.389	9.409	9.139	8.667	8.220	7.796	7.393	7.012													68.025
13	1.088	10.333	9.358	9.090	8.621	8.176	7.754	7.354														60.686
14	1.082	10.278	9.308	9.041	8.575	8.132	7.712															53.047
15	1.076	10.223	9.258	8.993	8.529	8.089																45.092
16	1.070	10.168	9.209	8.945	8.483																	36.805
17	1.065	10.114	9.159	8.897																		28.170
18	1.059	10.059	9.110																			19.169
19	1.053	10.005																				10.005
20	1.048	9.952																				9.952
																					TOTAL	1490.502
																					AV	74.525
																					Av CO2	273.284