

ECOS:

Blue Economy and Coastal Ecosystem protection in Kenya

1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Title: ECOS - Blue Economy and Coastal Ecosystem protection

Organization: Aleimar – Voluntary Organization

Partners: CAST, GuardAvanti

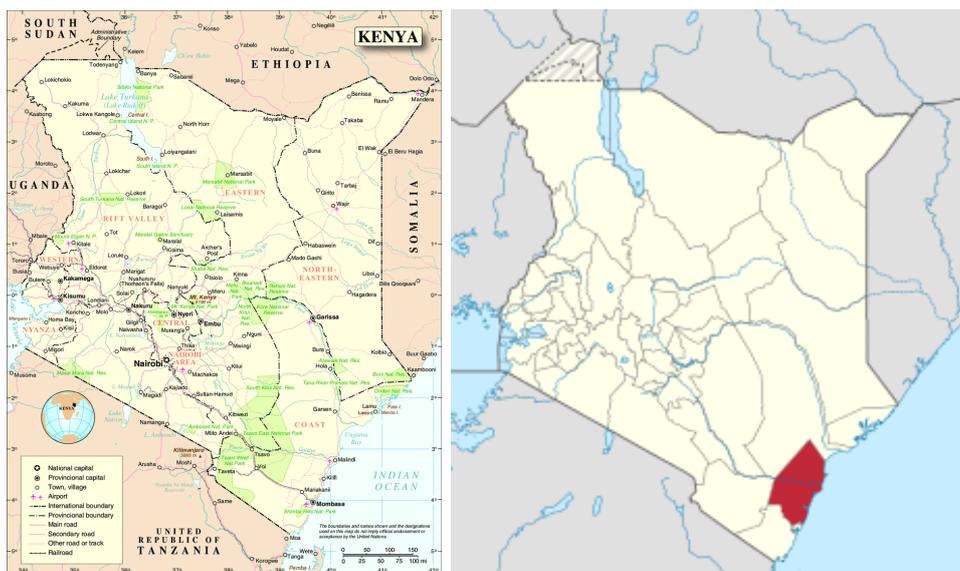
Local Project Managers: Francesca Franzetti – Aleimar Project Manager in Kenya

Representatives of the project in Italy for Aleimar: Alessandra Delli Quadri – Aleimar Desk Project Manager in Italy

Place of realization: Coastal Kilifi County, Kenya

Period of realization: 2022-2025

2. SOCIO – ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS



The project takes place in Kenya, in the Coastal County of Kilifi. Even though the level of poverty in Kenya is below the average of the countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa, more than one out of three people - 36,1% - (Indexmundi) lives under the poverty line. Per capita income is slightly higher than 4.500\$, ranking the Country at the 15th place among the countries of the region (World Bank). Kilifi County is one of the poorest of Kenya: in terms of income, it ranks 43rd over 47 Kenyan counties.

Since Kilifi is a coastal county, the **fisheries sector** plays a very important role for its economic growth. The total fish production in Kenya amounts to 150.000 tons per year and a significant percentage corresponds to the protein requirement of the coastal population. The Government of Kenya recognizes the importance of a sustainable development of the fisheries sector; its policy is strongly focused on “**Blue Economy**”, a priority for Kenya since 2016: this term combines the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods, employment and the health of the ocean ecosystem, with the winning principle of creating value at no cost, using resources otherwise unused or that would be destroyed. Focusing on Blue Economy, the Kenyan Government wants to adopt policies, strategies and methods that could create job opportunities, reduce waste and pollution, assure a sustainable fisheries activity (Nairobi Convention, FAO, 2015). Despite these guiding lines, in Kilifi County **fishing is often practiced irresponsibly and with equipment that threatens the marine habitat and the ecosystem**. Moreover, climate change is causing a reduction in natural resources, endangering the substance of the families of the area.

Kenya has still to face also wide **gender disparities** in terms of school results, access to health services, participation in the job market and in terms of household's roles (USAid 2020): Kenya ranks at the 20th place out of 34 sub-Saharan countries according to its Gender Gap Index, despite the legislative reform of 2011 (The National Gender and Equality Commission Bill). Different education and training possibilities, the role of the traditional culture and the lack of access to credit for a lot of women, impede them to fully take part in decisional process and economic opportunities. Women have to face more obstacles in the growth of their business and few of them hold managerial roles in BMUs (Beach Management Units).

Kilifi also reports one of the **lowest levels of education** of the Country (just 13% of the population has received a superior education - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics) and a higher age of school enrolment compared to the national average. For the children of this region, especially for girls, the access to school and to better living conditions is a real challenge. Furthermore, children are not fully aware about the importance of the preservation of the environment and about the huge impact that climate change and wrong practices have on the coastal ecosystem.

3. AIMS OF THE PROJECT

General Objective: increasing food security and the resilience of coastal communities, reducing socio-economic inequalities and the vulnerability of the local population.

Specific Objectives:

1. Increase of a sense of global citizenship able to activate process of generational change in school-age youth;
2. Strengthening the role of schools in the promotion of environmental education, fight against climate change and development of a sustainable economy;
3. Reduction of malnutrition and food insecurity of the students of five coastal schools of Kilifi.

4. RECIPIENTS:

Direct recipients:

- 500 students of five coastal schools of Kilifi;
- 500 students of Italian schools
- 10 Kenyan teachers

Indirect recipients:

- 500 inhabitants of the coastal villages of Kilifi.

5. FORESEEN ACTIVITIES

Aleimar wants to support children in condition of vulnerability in Kilifi County, involving students and families in environmental education paths and intercultural workshops aimed at strengthening relational skills and promoting fair and environmentally friendly behaviors. Aleimar will support five Kenyan schools, coordinating the following activities:

Education of new generations to climate change and natural resources protection.

- 1.1. Organization of training meetings focused on Sustainable Development Goals and on the importance of the coastal habitat. Aleimar will promote daily environmentally friendly practices in order to fight against climate change;
- 1.2. Collection of beached Posidonia with the students of the schools involved;
- 1.3. Creation of school vegetable gardens and training on the importance of diversified nutrition for a healthy growth.

Realization of an artistic product used as a raising awareness instrument for the local population.

- 2.1. Organization of school artistic workshops and theatre performances aimed at focusing the attention on a more aware consumption of the resources and developing a collective sense of awareness.

Development of students' relational skills.

- 3.1. Supporting students in condition of poverty by paying school fees;
- 3.2. Promotion of workshops that enhance the intercultural exchange among Italian and Kenyan students, discovering cultural differences;
- 3.2. Realization of ludic-educational places inside partner schools.

6. EXPECTED RESULTS

1. At least 70% of the students involved have improved their environmentally friendly knowledge;
2. 5 schools of Kilifi have adopted fair practices in order to mitigate the impact of climate change;

3. At least 70% of the students and teachers are aware on the role of Posidonia and of a correct and balanced diet;
4. 5 school vegetable gardens have been created, reducing food insecurity and malnutrition.

7. BUDGET

130.000 usd

8. SUSTAINABILITY

Technical sustainability: it is granted through the participation of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries Directorate (DALF) of Kilifi in the training activities, increasing the technical expertise in the efficient and independent management of the activities of the community. Also the Kenyan Marine Research Institute of Mombasa will take part in the implementation of the project.

Social sustainability: the logic of the intervention focuses on the participation and the involvement of the target community. Thanks to the direct capability of fishers, women and students, the project wants to promote the complete ownership of the activities. With the goal of enhancing the institutional sustainability and to make possible the relationship between local authorities and the central government, the involvement of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Fisheries Directorate (DALF) of Kilifi is fundamental. Local authorities will remain crucial for the identification of shared policies and regulations.

Economic sustainability: the strategy of the project allows the economic sustainability in the middle term thanks to the approach related to “Blue Economy”, which is the principal guide of the initiative. Material resources and the opportunities of the territory will be used with a circular economy perspective that will allow to make them profitable, which otherwise would have been considered useless. The project provides recipients with instruments and knowledge that allow local households to introduce innovative and sustainable techniques able to help the family economy.

Environmental sustainability: environmental sustainability is fundamental and represents the connection between the different attended results of the project. The project has been designed in collaboration with local authorities, considering all the initiatives already forecasted in the short and middle term. The project will train local authorities as well as the civil society, in particular the youngest generations. This training at all levels will allow to start a more general change in the society.

9. MONITORING ACTIVITY

The monitoring activity is granted thanks to the strategy defined in the preparatory phase of the project by the Committee of Strategic Direction. The partners of the project have shared a unique document that will answer to the following responsibilities of the partnership in the implementation of the activities:

- Evaluating the management of the project;
- Assuring that the validation strategy is correctly and promptly applied in order to monitor and evaluate the quality of the project’s impact;
- Evaluating the quality of the progress in order to reach the general and specific objectives of the project and taking corrective actions if necessary;
- Integrating the results of the validation and evaluation of the impact into intermediate and final reports of the project by the project coordinator.

A specific strategy and the different phases of the project are defined in the operative framework (oriented to the strategies previously clarified) and these phases foresee:

- Realization of a Baseline Survey. The Baseline will allow to collect all necessary data before the beginning of the project in order to set the benchmark. It is fundamental creating a deepened and scientifically complete Baseline in order to quantify the project's outcomes. The Baseline will also allow to define the main characteristics of the target recipients, the cluster they belong to and their level of interaction with the project.
- Definition of a Performance Monitoring Plan that will provide data on the activities implemented, the reached results and qualitative indicators. The Performance Monitoring Plan is an operative tool that establishes the timeline of each activity useful for the monitoring activity and people responsible for the collection of information. Online instruments (shared on clouds) will allow the production of updated monitoring instruments shared between the staff in Kenya and in Italy.
- Creation of an Annual Operative Plan and Budget.

The head of the project will supervise the data collection and will verify the progress of the activities. Meetings with the community will be scheduled and a MEAL expert (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) of the partner CAST will be sent on the field and will take any corrective actions.