



Association for Coastal
Ecosystem Services

20
23 #UNPersonoftheYear



Winner



Mikoko Pamoja Annual Report 2023

To Plan Vivo

Submitted by the Mikoko Pamoja Community Organization
and The Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services

on 29th January 2024

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Acronyms

ACES	Association For Coastal Ecosystem Services
CFA	Community Forest Association
GOGACOFA	Gogoni-Gazi Community Forest Association
HSH	Home Street Home
KCNR	Kwale County Natural Resource Network
KFS	Kenya Forest Services
KMFRI	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
MPCO	Mikoko Pamoja Community Organization
UN	United Nations
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PFMP	Participatory Forest Management Plan
PVC	Plan Vivo Certificates
WOD	World Ocean Day
VBF	Vanga Blue Forest
ICC	International Coastal Clean
GBS	Global Biodiversity Standard
WWF-K	World Wide Funds Kenya
AU-IBAR	African InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources
VBF	Vanga Blue Forest

Glossary

Blue Carbon: The carbon captured by living organisms in oceans which is stored in the form of biomass and sediments from mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass.

Carbon credits: A carbon credit is a generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit one tonne of carbon dioxide or the mass of another greenhouse gas with a carbon dioxide (tCO₂e) equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide.

Plan Vivo Foundation: The Foundation reviews and registers projects according to the Plan Vivo Standard, issues Plan Vivo Certificates annually following the submission and approval of each project's annual report and acts as overall 'keeper' of the Plan Vivo System which is periodically reviewed in consultation with projects and other stakeholders.

Summary

Project Overview			
Reporting period	1st January 2023– 31st December 2023		
Geographical areas	Gazi Bay mangrove forest		
Technical specifications in use	Mikoko Pamoja		

	Historical (2014- 2022)	Added/Issue d this period (2023)	Total
No. smallholder households with PES agreements	0	0	0
No. community groups with PES agreements (where applicable)	1	0	1
Approximate number of households (or individuals) in these community groups	1081	0	1081
Area under management (ha) where PES agreements are in place	117.4ha	0	117.4ha
Total PES payments made to participants (USD)	143,976	32,105	176,081
Total sum held in trust for future PES payments (USD)*	5,955	971	6,926
Allocation to Plan Vivo buffer (tCO2)	3,221	369	3,590
Saleable emissions reductions achieved (tCO2)	18,052	2,043	20,095
Unsold Stock at time of submission (PVC)**	0		
Total Unsold Stock (PVC)**	0	0	0
Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs) issued to date			18,052
Plan Vivo Certificates requested for issuance (2023 Vintage)			2,043
Plan Vivo Certificates available for future issuance (REDD only)			0
Total PVCs issued (including this report)			20,095

* This is the total balance in the ACES account, including anticipated costs. See Table G1

** Allocated to buyers but payment not yet received

Part A: Project Updates

A1: Key events

6th - 9th March 2023: Visit by the Center for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya (CERK)

Mikoko Pamoja hosted the Center for Ecosystem Restoration Kenya (CERK); the focal point of the discussion was the Global Biodiversity Standard (GBS), an international benchmark for Biodiversity Protection and Climate-focused projects. MP and CERK engaged in insightful talks on integrating mangroves, a key element of MP's initiatives, into the GBS framework. GBS, employing a site-based approach, evaluates diverse land management initiatives, including ecosystem restoration and tree planting. In collaboration with Mikoko Pamoja (MP) and Vanga Blue Forest (VBF), CERK did the GBS methodology in Gazi and Vanga coastal ecosystems. MP is excited about contributing to this groundbreaking effort, collaborating with KMFRI's technical team for the biodiversity assessment. This collaboration propels Mikoko Pamoja to the forefront of climate action and biodiversity preservation. Anticipating positive outcomes and valuable insights from this impactful partnership.



Figure 1. Mikoko Pamoja Coordinator, MP committees, KMFRI and CER-K team participating in data collection

8th March 2023: Visit by Lamu Mangrove Community Forest Association

The Management Committee of Lamu Mangrove CFA visited Mikoko Pamoja (MP), in order to gain valuable insights into the benefits and experiences of other forest user groups engaged in mangrove conservation and sustainable management. This visit provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Notably, the Lamu CFA's visit to MP was made possible through the support of WWF-K, underscoring the importance of partnerships and shared learning in the realm of mangrove preservation. The exchange of experiences and ideas between different community-based organizations, like MP and Lamu CFA, plays a pivotal role in strengthening the collective effort to protect coastal ecosystems and promote sustainable practices. Such initiatives contribute to the greater cause of safeguarding our natural resources, mitigating climate change, and enhancing the livelihoods of communities dependent on these ecosystems.

14th March 2023: Sensitisation Workshop On Kwale County Mangrove Management Committee

MP was invited to the workshop because our institution was identified as an important stakeholder in the conservation and management of mangroves. The workshop intended to adopt and prioritize activities for the 2023 work plan

through an inception meeting. The session was also to form the basis and guidance for establishment of County Committees and support for the development of work plans for the County Mangrove Management Committee (NMC). The workshop was attended by VBF, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), National Mangrove Committee (NMC), various Community Based Organisations (CBOs), and representatives of Kwale County government.

28th March 2023: Plan Vivo capacity building workshop

On the 28th of March 2023, the Plan Vivo Foundation hosted a dynamic workshop in East Africa, centered on community engagement and shaping policy environments for comprehensive carbon projects that align with climate, nature, and community welfare. The workshop aimed to foster collaboration among technical experts and project proponents, creating a platform for shared insights and experiences.

Emphasis was placed on the potential of holistic projects within the voluntary carbon markets in East Africa. The discussions explored ways to integrate climate goals with nature conservation and community development, fostering a comprehensive approach. Technical experts and project proponents shared valuable insights and experiences, contributing to a collective knowledge pool. The workshop provided a platform for Mikoko Pamoja to share its experiences and learn from other experts, fostering collaboration and furthering the collective goal of sustainable development through carbon projects.

1st-6th April 2023: Filming a documentary on Blue Carbon ecosystem conservation

A videographer contracted by AU IBAR (African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources) visited Gazi in order to document efforts and activities being carried out by the Gazi Bay community to conserve blue carbon ecosystems. The aim of the documentary was to raise awareness about the critical importance of mangrove protection and the benefits they provide to community, biodiversity and in terms of climate change mitigation. This endeavor aligns with the global effort to address climate change, protect natural resources, and foster sustainable development. This video can be watched here: [CONSERVING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY AFRICA BLUE ECONOMY](#)

24th April 2023: Visit of Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU)

Representatives from the East Africa division of NABU visited Mikoko Pamoja for benchmarking. This collaboration and knowledge-sharing highlight the global importance of community-based conservation efforts and the need for international cooperation in preserving nature and biodiversity. Such initiatives underscore the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the collective responsibility to protect them for current and future generations.

24th May 2023: Lamu Carbon Project and Waterfront Public Space Initiative Launch in Lamu County

The Lamu Carbon Project and Waterfront Public Space Initiative were officially launched in Lamu County, heralding a groundbreaking venture into carbon trading, expected to generate over Sh13 million annually. Spearheaded by collaborative efforts, including the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenya Forest Service, UN Environment Programme, The Nature Conservancy, Lamu County Government, and Go Blue under the Blue Economy Project, the initiative aims to establish a large-scale carbon credit project across 1,000 to 5,000 acres of mangroves in Lamu County.

Mikoko Pamoja, as the pioneering carbon project, was invited to showcase its activities, highlighting its integral role in the carbon trading and mangrove restoration landscape.

14th June 2023: Visit by the Red Cross team from the Netherlands

Mikoko Pamoja had the pleasure of hosting the Red Cross team from the Netherlands. Their visit aimed to learn about the collaborative efforts between MIKOKO PAMOJA and the local community. During their visit, we had the opportunity to showcase our successful partnership with the community, highlighting our shared commitment to conservation and sustainable development. The Red Cross team expressed great interest and enthusiasm in learning from our

experiences, and we were thrilled to exchange knowledge and best practices. This visit further solidified our belief in the power of collaboration and its positive impact on local communities and the environment.

26th June 2023: Visit by South West Indian Ocean Tuna Forum (SWIOTUNA)

On 26th June, Mikoko Pamoja had the pleasure of hosting a visit from South-West Indian Ocean Tuna (SWIOTUNA) members representing Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Madagascar, and their Blue Future Partners in Kenya (of whom Mikoko Pamoja hopes to be one soon). Their visit aimed to learn and share experiences on sustainable fisheries and discuss strategies for scaling up and scaling out sustainable practices in their respective countries. Additionally, the visit provided an opportunity to explore the concept of blue carbon and nature-based solutions. The exchange of knowledge and expertise during the visit further strengthened the collaborative efforts to conserve our precious marine ecosystems and foster sustainable development in the region. Mikoko Pamoja was honored to facilitate this valuable knowledge-sharing platform and looks forward to continued partnerships with SWIOTUNA and their Blue Future Partners.

26th July 2023: World Mangrove Day

The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem was observed on July 26th in Mwajeni Mangrove area near Majoreni, between Mikoko Pamoja and its sister site Vanga Blue Forest, within Pongwe-Kidimu CFA at Buda Forest Station. This was a national function graced by the Hon CS Environment & Forestry. The event was attended by the Mikoko Pamoja team alongside KFS, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), IUCN, NEMA, and many other organizations. Its purpose was to increase global understanding of the significance of mangrove ecosystems as distinct, precious, and delicate environments. MP was invited to the event to showcase and exhibit its impactful initiative in mangrove conservation and community development. The day also sought to advocate for sustainable practices in managing, safeguarding, and utilizing these ecosystems. The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) officially adopted this International Day in 2015.



Figure 2: Community planting on mangrove day. Principal Secretary (PS) addressing the public

27th June 2023: Visit by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (German Development Agency)

The purpose of GIZ's visit was to provide valuable advice and guidance on project implementation. Their expertise and insights proved to be immensely helpful in shaping our ongoing projects and ensuring their successful execution. We greatly appreciate their visit and the fruitful discussions that took place. The collaboration between Mikoko Pamoja and GIZ Organization highlights the importance of international partnerships in driving positive change and sustainable development.

1st-2nd May 2023: Pre- Monitoring Activity

As part of its annual project activities, the Mikoko Pamoja Project conducted its first forest monitoring activity of the year on 10 permanent plots, to determine the amount of carbon stored in 117ha of mangrove forest conserved in the year 2023. The activity was attended by KMFRI team, Mikoko Pamoja Committee, locals from the Gazi Bay Community and Community Forest Association (CFA) Scouts.

23rd and 24th June 2023: Community Baraza (meeting)

Gazi and Makongeni held community Barazas (gatherings) on 23rd and 24th June respectively to prioritize community projects. Both villages registered more than 130 individuals who participated to decide which project was beneficial and sustainable to the entire community. Gazi Village prioritized the construction of the second phase of a Madrasa (school) and support for the football team. On the other hand, Makongeni prioritized construction of a water tower and digging of a well to obtain underground water.

23rd August 2023: Workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Working on Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Kwale and Kilifi County

The workshop, organized by Plan International and supported by Global Affairs Canada through the COSME project, aimed to bring together Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) committed to the conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems in Kilifi and Kwale counties.

Mikoko Pamoja played a pivotal role during the workshop. As a leading organization in coastal and marine conservation, Mikoko Pamoja contributed valuable insights, sharing its experiences and successful strategies.

The primary focus of the workshop was to raise awareness about the COSME Project, fostering collaboration among CSOs. The collective aim was the preservation of coastal and marine ecosystems. Notable organizations such as KMFRI, IUCN, KFS, WWF, and Base Titanium joined the workshop. Their presence added significant expertise and diversity to the discussions.

4th - 9th 2023: Mombasa ASK SHOW



Figure 3: Kassim Juma explaining the MP initiative during Mombasa show exhibition

Mikoko Pamoja attended the Mombasa ASK Show, where our team was thrilled to be awarded the esteemed 'Number 1 Trophy', in recognition of our innovation which seamlessly aligned with the overarching theme of the event. The show was set to be a dynamic and influential event, focusing on the pivotal theme of "Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for Sustainable Economic Growth." This theme aligns perfectly with the pressing need to address climate change while fostering economic development in the agricultural sector. As our world grapples with the increasingly evident effects of climate change, the importance of climate-smart agriculture cannot be overstated. It's a multifaceted approach that combines traditional farming practices with modern technologies and innovative solutions to ensure food security while reducing the ecological footprint. Our team was honored to receive the prestigious award.

12th - 13th October 2023: Landscape restoration Coordination forum

The Landscape Restoration Coordination Forum, held in Nairobi from October 12th to 13th, 2023, was a momentous gathering. The theme of "Scaling up Financing for Forest Landscape Restoration in Kenya" served as a critical platform for addressing one of the most ambitious national environmental goals set by the President – planting 15 billion trees by 2023. To back this colossal endeavor, the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLOCA) allocated a staggering \$400,000,000, generously funded by the World Bank. This funding was distributed equitably, with each county receiving 137 million shillings to fortify their restoration efforts. In this dynamic landscape, Mikoko Pamoja stood out for its exemplary role in coastal mangrove restoration. As a successful model for community-led conservation initiatives, Mikoko Pamoja's involvement highlighted the importance of integrating local knowledge and practices in large-scale environmental projects. Their participation and insights were invaluable, especially in discussions about sustainable financing models and community engagement strategies for forest landscape restoration. The event gathered more than 200 participants, including various environmental stakeholders such as the Principal Secretary for Environmental Climate Change and Forestry, Base Titanium, World Wide Funds (WWF), Kenya Marine Fisheries Socio-Economic Development (KEMSFED), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), GIZ, and the World Bank.

16th - 20th Oct 2023: African Microfinance Week 2023 (SAM) Conference, Lome-Togo



Figure 4: Kassim Juma at SAM23 Conference Lome, Togo, West Africa

The SAM Conference was part of the African Microfinance Week in Togo. The event's theme revolved around making microfinance and sustainable inclusive finance a driver of fair and environmentally responsible development. The 2023 edition, titled "Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Finance," was held on October 17th and 18th in Lomé, Togo.

During the session entitled "Exploring Inclusive Finance and Carbon Markets for Ecosystem Services," the event attracted an audience of more than 1500 people from around the globe. The discussions revolved around how microfinance can contribute to supporting climate change mitigation. Kassim Juma had the privilege of attending this significant conference, a personal invitation that underscored his engagement in this critical sector. His presence at the conference not only represented a unique learning opportunity but also a chance to contribute to these vital global discussions.

24th October 2023: UN Person of the year award

During the celebration of the 78th Birthday of the United Nations at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON), there was jubilation as Mikoko Pamoja was awarded the UN Person of the Year Award. This recognition was granted to the project on behalf of all of the people behind it, for their exceptional leadership, demonstrating unwavering commitment to protecting and restoring critical mangrove ecosystems and their sustainable community-based conservation efforts that significantly combat climate change and support for local communities in need. The project stands as a symbol of inspiration and hope for People, Planet, and Prosperity. The award was presented by UNON Director General Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura to Mikoko Pamoja Committee member Saumu Ali and Project Coordinator Kassim Juma, the project coordinator.

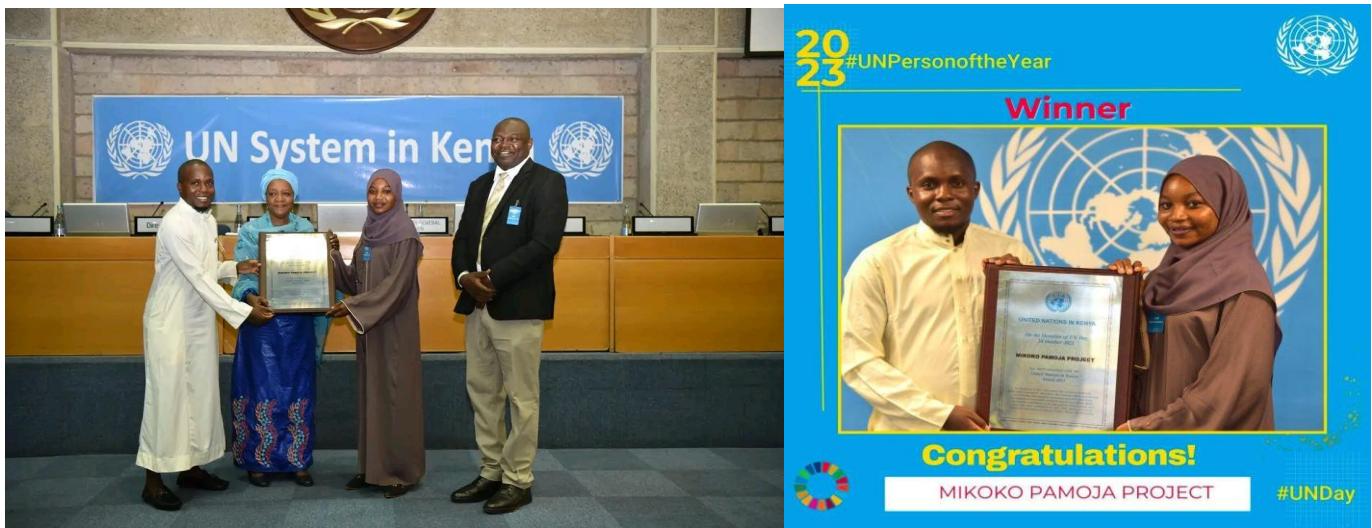


Figure 5: Some of the MP team receiving the prestigious honor from UN Director General

17th September 2023: International Coastal clean-up

Mikoko Pamoja participated in the 2023 International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) activity in Diani Beach with the theme 'To bring cleanliness and purity to nature as a whole'. The activity sought to address waste management policy, promote policy initiatives for a clean and healthy environment, raise awareness on marine debris and develop solutions to fight marine litter.



Figure 6: MP team collaborated with community members during ICC in Gazi Village

13th Nov 2023: National Tree Planting Day at Kaya Lunguma, Kwale County

Kwale County, in collaboration with various stakeholders, commemorated the National Tree Planting Day at Kaya Lunguma. During this significant event, a remarkable 16,000 trees were planted, contributing to Kwale County's larger vision of planting 299.9 million trees over the next decade. Aligned with the national directive set by the President, the day aimed to address the ambitious goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2023. Distinguished guests present included Aisha Jumwa, the Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture Arts, and Heritage, as well as Governor Fatuma Achani, representatives from the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Community Forest Associations (CFAs), and the Member of Parliament for Kwale, Mikoko Pamoja, among others. The event symbolizes the collective commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable forestry practices in Kwale County. Through such initiatives, communities, government bodies, and organizations unite to create a greener and healthier future for all.



Figure 7: Kwale County Governor Fatuma Achani planting a tree alongside MP member.

30th Nov 2023: Visit by BGCI

On the 30th November, Mikoko Pamoja had the honor of hosting a visit from Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI) and a consultant from the Plan Vivo Technical Committee affiliated with BGCI. BGCI is dedicated to advancing a more efficient, cost-effective, and rational approach to plant conservation in botanic gardens. Their visit aimed to contribute valuable insights to our initiatives at Mikoko Pamoja.



Figure 8: Bryan Foster of BGCI expertly utilizes monitoring tools during a field visit at Mikoko Pamoja.

5th- 6th December 2023: Exchange visit to Kilifi County Mida-Creek

Mikoko Pamoja (MP) and the Vanga Blue Forest (VBF) recently organized a field visit to Kilifi County with a group of 46 individuals. This visit was aimed at exploring and learning from best practices in Nature-Based Solutions, climate change mitigation, ecosystem restoration, and aquatic biodiversity conservation. The participants included representatives from all the Community Forest Associations (CFAs) under the GOGACOFA umbrella.

During this enriching field trip, we delved into various aspects of conservation and ecotourism, particularly within the mangrove ecosystems. One of the highlights was our visit to Dabaso in the picturesque Mida Creek area. Here, we observed firsthand a commendable community-driven initiative that seamlessly integrates crab farming, ecotourism, and mangrove restoration. This holistic approach not only aids in environmental conservation but also significantly enhances community well-being, showcasing a model of sustainable development.

11th December 2023: Learning exchange visit from Lamu and Tana River Community Forest Associations

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is working to protect Kenya's natural resources—from fertile soil to grow crops to elephants that fuel its tourism industry in partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) is a membership organization owned and led by the 43 community conservancies it serves in Kenya (northern and coastal regions) and Kenya Forest Service (KFS), organized a Learning Exchange Visit to enhance the capacity of Lamu and Tana River Community Forest Associations. The focus was on leadership, nature-based solutions, and ecosystem restoration. During this visit, the delegation expressed a particular interest in exploring the Mikoko Pamoja Carbon Offset Project. This showcased the impactful work of MP in carbon offset initiatives, contributing to climate change mitigation and sustainable community development. The exchange provided an opportunity for shared learning and collaboration in advancing environmental conservation efforts in the region.



Figure 9: Dr. Amina addresses the teams on the sustainable future for our Coastal landscapes.

A2. Successes and challenges

Successes:

Being awarded the UN 'Person of the Year' award was a highlight for the project team that recognized all of the people behind Mikoko Pamoja's success, including staff, volunteers, students, committee members and the wider community.

In addition to the Person of the Year award, the project won the top prize at the Mombasa ASK Show in recognition of the innovative work of the community, and Project Coordinator Kassim Juma was invited and funded to present the projects work at the African Microclimate Week in Togo.

Additional projects that added value to Mikoko Pamoja's core work, including the ocean literacy and beekeeping and seaweed farming discussed in A3 below, were also well-received by the community and contributed to the core goals of Mikoko Pamoja to further mangrove education and develop the socio-economic status of the local community.

Challenges:

Seedlings survival - The rainy season has been inadequate to facilitate the high survival rate of seedlings and increased sunshine hours during what is normally the rainy season is also contributing to stress on mangrove seedlings. These challenges have been compounded by grazing pressure from livestock.

Expansion – an anticipated expansion of the project has been delayed whilst awaiting Kenyan policy on carbon project tax.

A3: Project developments

Mikoko Pamoja's Ocean literacy program:

Mikoko Pamoja has initiated an Ocean Literacy Program with the aim of instilling a deep understanding of the blue economy among students. The program seeks to provide students with a solid foundation in marine ecosystems, which are among the most vulnerable and threatened ecosystems on our planet. This educational initiative primarily targets students, aiming to raise awareness and foster a sense of responsibility regarding the marine environment. By equipping students with a comprehensive understanding of the blue economy, MP is working to cultivate a new generation of environmentally conscious individuals who can contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of marine resources. The Ocean Literacy Program aligns with MP's overarching mission to promote environmental stewardship, and it represents a significant step toward building a more sustainable and environmentally aware future for coastal communities and beyond.



Figure 10: Students participating in the Ocean Literacy programme

Beekeeping project by African Forest Forum (AFF)

The AFF Beekeeping Project was initiated to improve mangrove and marine environment conservation through the integration and advancement of market-oriented beekeeping and seaweed farming by women and youth as alternative and sustainable income streams for the Gazi Bay community. Mikoko Pamoja (MP) became involved in the AFF Beekeeping Project, recognizing the synergy between sustainable beekeeping and their broader environmental conservation goals. MP facilitated collaboration, contributing to the success of the beekeeping initiative. As of the latest update, the AFF Beekeeping Project, with the support of MP, has established itself as a sustainable and economically viable venture. The honey production contributes not only to the livelihoods of local beekeepers but also aligns with the conservation objectives of protecting the mangrove ecosystems. Seaweed farming practice offers a sustainable alternative for income generation, particularly crucial for women and youth in the community. Seaweed farming is less impactful on the environment compared to traditional fishing practices and helps in conserving marine biodiversity. The AFF Beekeeping and seaweed farming Project, in collaboration with MP, envisions further expansion and

sustainability. The model developed serves as a valuable example of how community-based projects can foster economic development while preserving the environment.



Figure 11: Beekeeping training conducted as part of the AFF project

A4: Future Developments

Energy Saving Jikos: Mikoko Pamoja is launching a project for a low carbon cooking stoves to alleviate mangrove exploitation, enhance health and cut emissions. Building on prior trials in Gazi, the project is yet to expand due to financial and practical limitations. The team will draw insights from Vanga Blue Forest's similar activity to address practical challenges such as how to gather accurate information of the current fuel use and stove design preference and source appropriate funding. There is also a need to improve the scope of the database of the previous installed Jikos. The concept of the improved cookstove is still very new to some residents, and so education and training are necessary to facilitate their effective implementation.

Waste management: The primary goal is to mitigate plastic pollution and safeguard mangroves by implementing effective waste management practices within the community. This is especially crucial considering there is no public waste management system in Gazi. The waste management project is underway, with initial stages of implementation already initiated. While comprehensive details are being finalized, the project is committed to promoting a clean environment and protecting the mangrove forests.

Mikoko Pamoja actively participated in the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) event. This global initiative aligns with our commitment to combating plastic pollution and preserving the integrity of coastal ecosystems. Within Mikoko Pamoja, efforts to collect and manage waste have intensified. Community engagement and awareness programs have been conducted to foster a sense of responsibility among residents, encouraging them to participate actively in waste collection initiatives.

A5. Grievances

No formal grievances were raised during community barazas. However, the community did express a wish to be more involved in the implementation of community development projects in order to increase efficiency and transparency; this was agreed to. The community also reiterated their desire to expand the area of forest under protection.

Part B: Project activities

B1: Project activities generating Plan Vivo Certificates

Mikoko Pamoja has a single technical specification that covers three activity areas, involving avoided deforestation/forest recovery activities in areas 1 and 2 and planting activities in area 3. The responsibilities for and benefits from these activities are shared communally within the single project community organization.

Table B1: Project activity summary

Name of technical specification	Area (ha)	No smallholder households	No Community Groups
Natural mixed forest (Activity area 1)	107	1081	1
Indigenous plantation (Activity area 2)	10	1081	1
Degraded beach site (Activity area 3)	0.4	1081	1

B2: Project activities in addition to those generating Plan Vivo Certificates

Publicity and awareness raising

Mikoko Pamoja presented most of its work on various virtual and in-person meetings including the Plan Vivo capacity building workshop. The project's efforts continue to gain international recognition as an example of local adaptation to climate change featured during COP28 in Abu Dhabi.

<https://cdkn.org/resource/stories-resilience-lessons-local-adaptation-practice/>

Avenues used by the project for publicity are social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Mikoko Pamoja and ACES websites. The project was featured on numerous international and local media platforms such as UN News as a successful blue carbon project positively contributing to climate change, biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods. (Annex 3.1).

Part C: Plan Vivo Certificate issuance submission

C1: Contractual statement

This issuance is based on signed PES agreements with participants complying with all the minimum requirements stated in these agreements.

C2: Issuance request for projects where issuance is made on the basis of ongoing activities on land already managed by the project (e.g., avoided deforestation, calculated ex-post).

Table C1: Statement of tCO2 reductions available for issuance as Plan Vivo Certificates based on activity for reporting period 01/2023 – 12/2023

Area ID	Total area (ha)	Tech. spec	tCO2 available from previous periods	Total tCO2 achieved this period	% Buffer	No. of PVCs allocated to the buffer account	No. PVCs requested for issuance from saleable carbon	tCO2 available for future issuances
Project area 1	107	Mikoko Pamoja	0	2259	15	339	1920	0
Project area 2	10	Mikoko Pamoja	0	195	15	30	165	0
Project area 3	0.4	Mikoko Pamoja	0	0	15	0	0	0
TOTAL	117.4		0	2454		369	2043¹	0

¹this sum represents 98% of credits, after 15% buffer subtraction, given a 2% penalty for area 3 (since we failed to meet our threshold planting target).

Table C2: Allocation of issuance request for this reporting period

Buyer name/ Unsold Stock	No. PVCs transacted	Registry ID (if available)	Vintage	Tech spec
Pelorus Foundation	87	PV-PVC-KE-103000000008881-01012021-31122021-8632956-8633042-MER-0-P	2021	Mikoko Pamoja
Ocean Bottle	200	PV-PVC-KE-103000000008881-01012021-31122021-8632756-8632955-MER-0-P	2021	Mikoko Pamoja
Zero Mission	500	NA - TRANSFER	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Ocean Race	1000	PV-PVC-KE-103000000008881-01012022-31122022-10986802-10987801-MER-0-P	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Ruth Malleson	17	PV-PVC-KE-103000000008881-01012022-31122022-10987805-10987821-MER-0-P	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Sustainable Travel International	100	NA - TRANSFER	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Université Libre de Bruxelles/TROPIMUNDO	173	PV-PVC-KE-103000000008881-01012022-31122022-10988322-10988494-MER-0-P	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Yacht Carbon	50	NA - TRANSFER	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Himaya	3	PV-PVC-KE-103000000008881-01012022-31122022-10987802-10987804-MER-0-P	2022	Mikoko Pamoja
Yacht Carbon	200	NA - TRANSFER	2022	Mikoko Pamoja

C3: Data to support issuance request

Please refer to Annex 1.

Part D: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

D1: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

All sales of Plan Vivo Certificates to date (including forward sold certificates for current issuance request) are presented in table D1.

Table D1: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

Vintage	Buyer	No of PVCs	Price per PVC (\$)*	Total sale amount (\$)*	Price to participants per PVC (\$)*	% Sale price received by participants
SALES OCTOBER 2013 – October 2014 (note change in reporting year)						
2014	Earthwatch	1000				68.3**
2014	Paolo Merlini	10				68.3**
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2013-14)		1,010				68.3
SALES OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2015 (note change in reporting year)						
2014	Zero Mission	720				68.3**
2014	Algarve Students	34				68.3**
2014	Imperial College	2				68.3**
2014	Nico Koedam Research Group	38				68.3**
2014	Nico Koedam Family	10				68.3**
2014	Will Ashley-Cantello	10				68.3**
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2014-15)		814				68.3
SALES 2016						
2014	Iain and Julia	10				68.3**
2014	Farid – Tropimundo	189				68.3**
2015	Edinburgh University Napier	660				68.3**
2014	Steve Crooks	30				68.3**
2015	ZeroMission	700				68.3**
2015	SCB Marine Section	1,200				68.3**

TOTAL/AVERAGE (2016)	2,789					68.3
SALES 2017						
2017	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	100				68.3**
2016	Zero Mission	1369				68.3**
2016	Farid – Tropimundo	29				68.3**
2016	Farid – Tropimundo	20				68.3**
2016	Farid – Tropimundo	25				68.3**
2017	Farid – Tropimundo	190				68.3**
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2017)	1,733					68.30
SALES 2018						
2017	Farid – Tropimundo	178				68.3**
2017	SCB delegate offsetting	1200				68.3**
2017	Zero Mission	224				68.3**
2017	Koedam family	11				68.3**
2017	CCF conference	9				68.3**
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2018)	1,622					68.3
2018	Zero Mission	500				94.3
2018	C Level	25				94.3
2018	Charles and Kate Hussey	36				94.3
2018	Ruth Malleson	12				94.3
2018	Elfin Book NL	9				94.3
2018	Alison Baker	7				94.3
2018	Common Seas	18				94.3
2018	Arcadia Fund	851				94.3
2018	TROPIMUNDO	190				94.3
2018	Ruth Malleson	5				94.3
2018	GRID-Arendal	259				94.3
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2019)	1,912					94.30
SALES 2020						
2019	C-Level	200				89.84
2019	Université Libre de Bruxelles	226				89.84

2019	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	32				89.84
2019	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	29				89.84
2019	Echo Shoppe	15				89.84
2019	Alison Baker	9				89.84
2019	Zero Mission	500				89.84
2019	Ocean Bottle	432				89.84
2019	SuperFlex	140				89.84
2019	Charlie's Travels	238				89.84
2019	MOYU	20				89.84
2019	Charles and Kate Hussey	30				89.84
2019	Common Seas	26				89.84
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2020)		1,897				89.84
SALES 2021						
2019	Carbon Chameleon	100				81.8
2020	Zero Mission	500				81.8
2020	Zero Mission	109				81.8
2020	Common Seas	7				81.8
2020	Yacht Carbon	300				81.8
2020	Yacht Carbon	985				81.8
2020	Madeiline Pott	8				81.8
2020	The Association of Surfing professionals, LLC d/b/a World Surf League	100				81.8
2020	Ocean Bottle	31				81.8
2020	Mark Boyd	3				81.8
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2021)		2,143				81.8
SALES 2022						
2021	Zero Mission	500				96.8
2021	The Safari Collection	200				96.8
2021	Ruth Malleson	17				96.8
2021	Université Libre de Bruxelles	183				96.8
2021	Université Libre de Bruxelles	101				96.8
2021	Yacht Carbon	250				96.8
2021	Carbon Chameleon	200				96.8
2021	Hannah Lee	5				96.8

2021	Ocean Bottle	300				96.8
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2022)	1,756					96.80
SALES 2023						
2021	Pelorus Foundation	87				60
2021	Ocean Bottle	200				60
2022	Zero Mission	500				60
2022	Ocean Race	1000				60
2022	Ruth Malleson	17				60
2022	Sustainable Travel International	100				60
2022	Université Libre de Bruxelles/TROPIMUNDO	173				60
2022	Yacht Carbon	50				60
2022	Yacht Carbon	200				60
2022	Himaya	3				60
TOTAL/AVERAGE (2023)	2,330					60.00
TOTAL/AVERAGE (ALL)	18,006					76.42

*Pricing reported for internal monitoring purposes only. Pricing information will be removed from the final published document.

** Due to a change in the processes by which % share is reported, the % sale price received by participants for the sale of vintages 2014 – 2017 has been calculated as an average across those years.

D2: Unsold stock available for sale

The total unsold stock of Plan Vivo Certificates per year of issuance as at reporting period end is presented in table D2.

Table D2: Unsold stock of Plan Vivo Certificates

Vintage	No of PVCs	Price to participants
2022	0	0

Part E: Monitoring results

E1: Ecosystem services monitoring

Monitoring results that support the request for new issuances are presented in Annex 1.

The rainy season has been inadequate to facilitate the high survival rate of seedlings and increased sunshine hours during what is normally the rainy season is also contributing to stress on mangrove seedlings. These challenges have been compounded by grazing pressure from livestock. Ensuring high seedling survival has always been something that has been a challenge for the project, in part due to mangrove planting being universally challenging but also local environmental conditions not being favorable to survival of seedlings. In a previous year we halved our planting target, but even since then we have concentrated on working with project partners KMFRI on trialing novel planting methods that deliver high survival rates, rather than continuing to plant with low survival rates.

E2: Maintaining commitments.

All participants maintained commitments this year.

E3: Socio-economic monitoring

No socioeconomic monitoring took place in 2022-23.

No new mangrove-related businesses opened in 2022-23; however, the beekeeping and seaweed farming project facilitated by Mikoko Pamoja is anticipated to stimulate additional income-generating activities in the future as a result of training and capacity building. A full socio-economic survey is planned in 2024.

E4: Environmental and biodiversity monitoring

See Annex 1 for core monitoring results. Note that additional biodiversity monitoring was not conducted this year, with plans to resume this activity in 2024. This is an activity that was stalled due to Covid as it relied on student travel from partner universities; unfortunately, although travel has reopened it was not something that we were able to prioritise this year due to challenges with capacity and staffing, but it is planned for 2024. After this we will ensure that we return to an annual schedule.

Part F: Impacts

F1: Evidence of outcomes

With sufficient funds generated from the sale of PVCs, priority was given to projects focusing on water tower construction, education, and youth empowerment.

Gazi Village



Figure 12. Mikoko Pamoja funded the construction of a madrassa (school), supported local football, and purchased football equipment for Gazi village development projects.

Makongeni Village



Figure 13. A well construction to obtain underground water in Makongeni Village in 2023. The prioritized projects were construction of water tower and a well.

Part G: Payments for Ecosystem Services

G1: Summary of PES by year

Table G1: Summary of payments made and held in trust

1. Reporting year	2. Total payments received (USD)	3. Total payments made (USD)	4. Value retained by ACES* (USD)	6. Total payments held in trust (USD)
10/13 – 10/14	6081	11,984		0
10/14 – 12/15	9,834	12,510		475**
1/16 – 12/16	29,574	14,833		13,787**
1/17 – 12/17	22,229	13,401		19,544**
1/18 - 12/18	18,216	5,963		32,779**
1/19 – 12/19	23,255	17,562	7,759***	7063**
1/20-12/20	22,999	20,662	3,937***	6,675.37**
1/21 - 12/21	27,401	22,409	6435.58***	4,064.05**
1/22 - 12/22	25,472	24,652	2000	5,955**
1/23 - 12/23	43,939	26,446	11,324	6,926**

* Includes operating costs for ACES, Plan Vivo assurance fees and funds ring fenced for verification. Column added in 2020 AR, hence no data pre-2020.

**The % sale price received by participants (D1) and the 'total payments held in trust' column were reported incorrectly in years 2014-2018, resulting in an apparent accumulation of payments held in trust that did not reflect actual finances (the % sale price was reported as 100% when in fact averaged around 70%; this was an error). The 2019 year 'total payments held in trust' figure is now correct and subsequent years will account for overheads spending reducing the % sale price received by participants.

***Numbers do not exactly add up due to fluctuations in exchange rates between USD and GBP and year to year carryover.

Before transfer to the Mikoko Pamoja Community Organization, funds are held by the charity The Association for Coastal Ecosystem Services (ACES).

Part H: Ongoing participation

H1: Recruitment

Mikoko Pamoja will recruit an assistant project coordinator in the near future.

H2: Project Potential

Expansion of Carbon Credit Projects: Mikoko Pamoja aims to broaden its successful carbon credit initiatives, seeking new areas for mangrove restoration and expanding current projects. This step will not only enhance our carbon sequestration efforts but also contribute significantly to global climate change mitigation.

Development of new carbon projects and expansions to existing projects have been halted in Kenya for political reasons, while the Government makes a decision on policy regarding a % of project income to be claimed by the government from such projects. We have remained in close contact with the relevant officials at KFS as well as from other Government contacts, reiterating our request to expand, however no formal response has been issued on this.

Broadening Education and Awareness Programs: We plan to amplify our environmental education efforts, targeting schools and local communities. By cultivating environmental stewardship, we aim to build a stronger community base supporting conservation.

Focused Biodiversity Conservation Efforts: Beyond carbon storage, we are committed to preserving the rich biodiversity of mangrove ecosystems. Our initiatives will increasingly focus on protecting the myriad species reliant on these habitats.

H3: Community participation

Mikoko Pamoja, an exemplar of community-led conservation, operates through a dedicated committee of 13 volunteer members from Gazi and Makongeni villages. Elected every three years in a democratic and participatory manner, the committee effectively guides Mikoko Pamoja's activities and vision. They play a crucial role in executing annual work plans and actively involve the community in key activities like monitoring, mangrove planting, and nursery management, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.

Table H3.1. Details on community engagement in different project activities

Activity	Men	Women	Total
1. Community Baraza	79	63	145
2. Environmental and biodiversity monitoring	13	11	24

3. Capacity Building	27	23	50
4. Community projects survey	4	2	6
5. Forest scholars training	4	1	5
6. Forest surveillance	2	0	2
7. Annual General Meeting	38	34	72

The committee also facilitates community consultations, especially regarding the use of income from carbon credit sales, ensuring transparent and equitable benefit distribution. Annual General Meetings, such as the one held in December 2023, provide vital platforms for updating the community on the year's activities and encouraging open communication. Alongside executing annual work plan they involve the community in diverse activities such as open meetings, mangrove restoration activities, attending events and seminars and environmental monitoring. This broad spectrum of involvement fosters a deep sense of ownership and responsibility among community members.



Figure 14. Makongeni community participating in a village meeting

Mikoko Pamoja held several meetings during the 2023 reporting year to plan for the annual activities including monitoring, planting, and nursery establishment. Other agendas included project security, community projects to be implemented, and preparation for key events (Annex 2).

No formal grievances were raised during community barazas. However, the community did express a wish to be more involved in the implementation of community development projects in order to increase efficiency and transparency; this was agreed to. The community also reiterated their desire to expand the area of forest under protection.

Part I: Project operating costs

I1: Allocation of costs

USD 3,400.07 was allocated to fund community projects, USD 9,433.48 facilitated salary payments and other related project activities, and a further USD 13,612 remains unspent, as detailed below:

Project income (USD)	Average exchange rate	Expenditure	Amount spent		Amount remaining	
			(USD)	KSH	USD	KSH
Carbon funds						
26,446	168.16	Community project funds	3,400.07	571,212.8		
		Salary payments And other project-related activities	9,433.48	1,584,827		
		Unspent	13,612	2,286,813		
Africa Forest Forum Project (seaweed and beekeeping project)						
8990	141.4	Trainings	1,480	209272		124672
		Inception meetings	280	39592		38592
		Field demonstration	2400	339360		15500
		Business modeling	840	118776		45576

Annexes

Annex 1. Monitoring results for issuance request

Mikoko Pamoja operates on three main project areas. Area 1 and 2 deliver PVCs through avoided deforestation and forest conservation activities. Area 3 involves planting trees in degraded beach sites that used to support mangrove forests. 98% of the PVCs are generated through activities in Areas 1 and 2. Monitoring targets (of basal area occupied by cut stumps and of stocking rates indicating forest recovery) have been met in these areas. Monitoring targets in area 3 were missed; as well the threshold for 50% of PVC (>2000 trees planted) was not met. Hence total PVCs earned this year are 98 %.

Annex 1: Forest protection and surveillance (Areas 1 and 2)

Having successfully recruited forest scouts and forest scholars, Mikoko Pamoja is doing monitoring twice a year with much involvement of the local community from two villages i.e Gazi and Makongeni village. This is an effort to increase annual activities in the project areas. Most of the stumps encountered during monitoring exercise were old with no occurrence of new ones. In general, the forest attributes are significantly higher than the baseline and MPCO has not experienced any serious illegal harvesting in its project area during the reporting period therefore the forest condition can be said to be recovering.

Activity area	Forest attribute	Quantity/ha	Measure last year	Baseline	Target met?	Remarks
1	AGB t dw	275.4	207.8	118.8 (2012)	Yes	There is a continuing drop in stump count, which is following the predicted exponential decline. AGB showed an increase consistent with trends over the past ten years; AGB, in general, continues to increase linearly in the forest with no sign yet of reaching an asymptote.
	Natural regeneration juveniles ± SD	7520±3715	9950±4805		Yes	
	Stump count Per ha	285	435	2720 (2013)	Yes	

2	Stocking density	3020±420	2630±477		Yes	An increase in recorded stocking density this year could represent sampling error or a real recruitment from some new natural trees. Only 1 stump was recorded last year; this year there were 3, but this probably represents sampling error
	Natural regeneration	10960±3643	7040±1436		Yes	
	Mean stump (ha ± SD)	60±89	20*		Yes	

*data for activity area 2, the 10 ha plantation, was based on the 5plots. these are randomly chosen each year to show higher levels of variation than permanent plots in area 1. Stump density for last year was incorrectly given as 100 per ha.

Annex 1.2: Tree planting (Area 3)

MPCO is committed to plant 2,000 mangrove seedlings per annum for the 20 years contracting period. During the reporting period, there was a notable shift in the planting strategy for Avicennia marina seedlings. In contrast to previous years, which saw substantial planting efforts – including the planting of 1500 seedlings – this year marked a temporary cessation of planting activities. This change was prompted by the difficulties faced in the last planting cycle, where a massive loss of seedlings occurred post-planting.

The primary goal of rehabilitating Avicennia marina has been to bolster coastal protection, adopting a planting methodology of 1m x 1m spacing to maximize growth and resilience. Despite these efforts, the survival rate during the last reporting period was only 54%. Even more concerning was the outcome of the early monitoring this year, which revealed that none of the previously planted seedlings had survived, indicating a 5% survival rate.

Climate change is impacting the survival rates of mangrove seedlings in Kenya; this is particularly impacted by the drought that is affecting East Africa. The rainy seasons have been inadequate to facilitate high survival rates of seedlings, and increased sunshine hours during what is normally the rainy season is also contributing to stress on mangrove seedlings. These challenges have been compounded by grazing pressure from livestock (primarily goats). For these reasons, efforts have been focused on avoided degradation rather than reforestation as it provides a more reliable carbon benefit as well as other ecosystem services; this is why the planting target was not fully met this year.

KMFRI staff have been trialing alternative planting methods to explore how survival rates of seedlings can be improved, these involve protection of seedlings and planting in alternative areas. It is hoped that the findings of these can be applied to future planting efforts; however, a sixth failed rainy season is predicted in March-May 2023 and so this is likely to bring continued challenges.

Annex 2. Community meeting records

Community meetings in Gazi and Makongeni were held during the reporting period in order to prioritise potential community projects for funding through carbon funds. Involving the community in the decision-making process has allowed for transparency and accountability, ensuring sustainability and stewardship of the project. The community meeting records are shown below.

No	Date	Participants	No of participants	Purpose
1	25-04-23	Committee	14	Carbon funds, budgeting monitoring and community baraza
2	23/24-04-23	Committee	14	Community baraza and projects

3	21-04-2023	Committee Social Impacts Officer	18	Community projects
4	5-06-2023	Committee	12	World Ocean Day
5	23/24-06-23	Community Meeting- Makongeni & Gazi	145	Discussing the community projects for Makongeni and Gazi
6	7-08-2023	Committee	14	World Mangrove day
7	14-09-23	Committee	15	Community projects and expanding MP operational area
8	20/7/2023	Committee	15	International Coastal Clean-up
9	29/9/2023	Executive Committee	12	Community projects

Annex 3:

Media

<https://www.kbc.co.ke/mikoko-pamoja-awarded-un-in-kenya-person-of-the-year-2023/> KBC-October 24th 2023

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/-un-honours-kenya-s-mikoko-pamoja-mangrove-conservation--4412946> The Nation October 24th 2023

<https://cdkn.org/resource/stories-resilience-lessons-local-adaptation-practice/> CDKN- November 30th 2023

<https://www.un.org/en/Nairobi-unic/story3?fbclid=IwAR27k5M8rPjQt3xxVy7gkhJfSwI3AgKcdRwK0xsy2MvMlJxK32t3JuRGcsQ>

Annex 4: Receipts