



# VANGA BLUE FOREST

## VANGA BLUE FOREST ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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# Contents

## Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Project Overview .....  | 3         |
| <b>PART A: PROJECT UPDATES .....</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| A1    Key events .....  | 4         |
| A2    Success and challenges .....  | 12        |
| A3    Project developments.....   | 13        |
| Seagrass .....  | 13        |
| Expanding Project Area .....  | 14        |
| Restoration.....  | 14        |
| Energy Saving Stoves .....  | 15        |
| A4    Future developments.....  | 15        |
| <b>Part B: Project activities .....</b>   | <b>15</b> |
| B1    Project activities generating Plan Vivo Certificates .....                  | 15        |
| B2 Project activities in addition to those generating plan vivo certificates..... | 17        |
| Publicity and awareness raising .....   | 17        |
| <b>PART C Plan Vivo Certificate issuance submission.....</b>                      | <b>18</b> |
| <b>PART D Sales of Plan Vivo certificates.....</b>                                | <b>19</b> |
| <b>PART E Monitoring results .....</b>  | <b>21</b> |
| E1: Ecosystem services monitoring results .....                                   | 21        |
| E2: Maintaining commitments .....   | 21        |
| E3: Socioeconomic monitoring .....  | 21        |
| E4: Environmental monitoring .....  | 21        |
| <b>PART F Impacts .....</b>   | <b>22</b> |
| Evidence of outcomes.....   | 22        |
| <b>PART G Payments for Ecosystem Services .....</b>                               | <b>24</b> |
| <b>PART H Ongoing Participation.....</b>  | <b>25</b> |
| H1: Recruitment .....   | 25        |
| H2: Project potential.....  | 25        |
| H3: Community participation .....   | 25        |
| <b>PART I Project operating costs .....</b>                                       | <b>29</b> |
| Allocation of costs .....   | 29        |
| <b>Annexes .....</b>  | <b>29</b> |
| Annex 1. Monitoring results for issuance request .....                            | 29        |
| Annex 3: Supporting documents of Jimbo project .....                              | 32        |
| Annex 4: Impacts – Evidence of outcome.....                                       | 32        |
| Annex 5: Media .....  | 32        |

## Project Overview

| <b>Project overview</b>         |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Reporting period                | 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2023 - 31 December 2023 |
| Geographical areas              | Vanga Bay mangrove forest, Kwale County, Kenya  |
| Technical specifications in use | Vanga Blue Forest                               |

|  | <b>Historical</b>              | <b>Added/issued<br/>this<br/>period</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| No. of households with PES agreements (where applicable)                               | 0                              | 0                                       | 0            |
| No. of community groups with PES agreements (where applicable)                         | 1                              | 0                                       | 1            |
| Approximate number of households (or individuals) in these community groups (if known) | 974 households                 | 0                                       | 974          |
| Area under management (ha) where PES agreements are in place                           | 460                            | 0                                       | 460          |
| Total PES payments made to participants (USD)  | 55,939                         | 71, 607                                 | 127,546      |
| Total sum held in trust for future PES payments (USD)                                  | -12,283 (see note in Table G1) |   |              |
| Allocation to Plan Vivo buffer (tCO <sub>2</sub> )                                     | 2,776                          | 1,650                                   | 4,426        |
| Saleable emission reductions achieved (tCO <sub>2</sub> )                              | 14,019                         | 4,821                                   | 18,840       |
| Unsold stock at time of submission (PVC)   | 0                              | 2,429 (see note in table D2)            | 2,429        |
| Total unsold stock (PVC)   | NA                             | 2,429                                   | 2,429        |
| <b>Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs) issued to date</b>                                    | 14,019                         |   |              |
| <b>Plan Vivo Certificates requested for issuance</b>                                   | 4,821                          |   |              |
| <b>Plan Vivo Certificates available for future issuance (REDD only)</b>                | 0                              |   |              |
| <b>Total PVCs issued (including this report)</b>                                       | 18,840                         |   |              |

## **PART A: PROJECT UPDATES**

### **A1 Key events**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2023** - The Project coordinator held a handing over meeting with the previous and the newly elected committee members. The meeting aimed to give a sincere appreciation for the great work done by the previous committee members by issuing them Certificates of Appreciation, discussing the challenges faced, the achievements made within the last three years and the opportunities available that the new committee could leverage.



Figure 1: Group photo of previous committee (holding certificates of appreciation) and current VBF committee members (without certificates) during handing over meeting.

### **27<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March: World Ocean Summit**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual World Ocean Summit held in Lisbon, Portugal focused on addressing the greatest challenges facing the seas; climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Vanga Blue Forest, represented by the coordinator, Ms. Mwanarusi Mwafrica, participated in a panel discussion on 'Developing blue-nature-based solutions to address global climate and biodiversity challenges.' (See link on Annex 5 (a)).

### **28<sup>th</sup> March: Plan Vivo Foundation East Africa stakeholder engagement workshop**

Vanga Blue Forest Project participated in a stakeholder engagement workshop hosted by Plan Vivo Foundation at the Qaribu Inn Hotel, Nairobi-Kenya. The workshop aimed to facilitate discussions around best practices for high quality carbon projects in East Africa with a main focus on community engagement and

building of enabling policy landscapes for holistic carbon projects that benefit climate, nature and communities. The session brought together participants, including project developers, technical partners and policy makers from across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Madagascar.



Figure 2: Ms. Mwanarusi (left, red head scarf) on a panel sharing best practices in community engagement in carbon projects.

**18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023** - The project team established a woodlot of 2940 trees

including; 1540 *Casuarina*, 400 *Arborea* and 1000 *Grevillea spp.* seedlings with the technical guidance of Mr. Bakari Maskat, a KFS officer. The goal of the activity is to obtain alternative source of wood and energy at a cheaper market price and also reduce the pressure of harvesting mangroves. To ensure maximum community participation in the VBF



Figure 3: Community members participating in the woodlot establishment

project activities, 15 VAJIKI community environmental groups were invited to participate in the planting exercise including: Mwagugu, Mwambiweje, Vanga BMU, Jitihada, Mchongo, Vumilia, Youth from Vanga village environmental groups. JEG, Youth, Women, Jimbo BMU from Jimbo village environmental groups and Nguvu kazi, Muungano, Kiwegu BMU and the Wazee group from Kiwegu village environmental groups. At the end of the activity a total of 600 seedlings of the Arborea species were distributed amongst the VAJIKI community environmental groups to plant in their farmlands.

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**- VBF office was invited to showcase its project at the launch of Mrima - Marenje Participatory Forest Management Plan which was held at Mrima primary school in Kwale County, Kenya. During the project exhibition, Mr. Hamadi Tsunusi-the Assistant Project coordinator of VBF presented the projects activities

through picture displays. The Kenya Forest Conservator Dr. Elizabeth, commented that "the good thing in the project is that whatever is gained in the project goes directly to the community through implementation of the community projects".



Figure 4: VBF project exhibition by the VBF assistant coordinator at Mrima-Marenje PFMP launch. Left, Mr. Kiforomodo (a Member of Parliament-on blue shirt), Dr. Elizabeth-Kenya forest conservator (second), The regional forest conservator-third and Dr. Indo- the director of environment(Kwale county, on a white T-shirt).

#### **9<sup>th</sup> May: Mozambique Delegation project visit**

A delegation from Mozambique visited our project with an aim of learning on; how to streamline a blue carbon project with full inclusion and participation of all concerned stakeholders including the national government and how seagrass conservation could safeguard marine biodiversity. The delegation was also accompanied by representatives from the national government including; Dr. Indo - The Director of Environment, Kwale county (far right), and the late Mr. Martin Kiogora – The Fisheries Director, Kwale county (second left, white shirt).



Figure 5: Ms. Mwanarusi, the VBF Project coordinator (black dress), briefing the delegation on hydrological restoration of mangroves at Jimbo site.

### **21<sup>st</sup> May: ZeroMission Visit**

The project was honored to be visited by, Mr Henrik, a representative of Zero mission which is one of the 'reseller' organisations that buys carbon from the project.

The purpose of the visit was to learn community's perception towards carbon markets and community impacts made from sale of carbon.



Figure 6: Mr Henrik (Front left), Zero mission representative with Vanga Blue Forest committee members in Vanga.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> May: Stakeholder meeting in Lamu Tana Seascape**

The Project Coordinator, Ms Mwanarusi Mwafrica, was invited as a guest speaker to show case the success story of Vanga Blue Forest Project, during a mangrove conservation stakeholder meeting at Mwana Arafa hotel, Lamu county. It was a UNEP and TNC forum under the implementation of KMFRI. The forum aimed to facilitate updating information and building technical capacity for the conservation and sustainable management of the blue carbon ecosystem in Lamu-Tana

Seascape. Other stakeholders present were; Kenya Forest Service, Jumuiya ya Kaanti za Pwani, Kenya Fisheries Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Tana River county Government, KEFRI, European Union in Kenya, UN Environment Programme, UN-HABITAT, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Lamu County Government and The Nature Conservancy.



Figure 7: Ms. Mwanarusi, Project coordinator (pink scarf) showcasing Vanga Blue Forest project impact.

### **24<sup>th</sup> May: Launch of The 'Lamu Blue Carbon Facility' and 'Seafront Public Space'**

VBF was invited to the launch of the Lamu Blue Carbon Facility and Seafront Public Space outside King Fahad Hospital in Amu. The Carbon Facility is expected to enable the mainstreaming of Blue Carbon into Coastal Development Programs to achieve climate benefits and improve livelihoods in Kenya. The initiative was an EU GO Blue project implemented by UNEP and TNC. The event was hosted by the County Governor of Lamu, His Excellency Issa Timamy with presence of the PS for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Ms. Betsy Muthoni Njagi, KMFRI CEO Prof James Njiru representatives from UNEP, TNC and UN HABITAT.



Figure 8: County Governor Lamu, His Excellency Issa Timamy delivering speech during the event.

### **25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July: Community Awareness Outreach programme**

Vanga Blue Forest reached out to the communities of Vanga, Kikwezani (a nearby village adjacent to Vanga village) and Kiwengu B. The village heads including the area chief, the village administrator and the village chairpersons were invited as the guest of honour. The event involved school children from Vanga primary, Vanga Junior secondary and Kiwengu primary schools who compete in mangrove composition writings and drawing. All participants were given presents such as geometrical sets, books and pencils to recognize their efforts. The event was also accompanied by drama and poem recitation from some of the VBF committee members, the VBF scouts and the Kenya Forest service ranger from the Vanga outpost. The drama and poem recitation were meant to teach the villagers the importance of conserving mangrove forest.



Figure 9: Community members learning on types of mangroves and their importance to fighting the climate crisis



Figure 10: Winners of the drawing and writing competition (posing with gifts in hand) during the community outreach programme

## **26<sup>th</sup> July: The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem**

Kwale county was fortunate to have the National World Mangroves Day being celebrated in one of its sub-county, that is Majoren in Kwale County. The VBF chairperson-Mwichambi Kai, together with the Assistant Coordinator, Mr. Hamadi Juma and the CFA chairperson-Mr. Harith, also a committee member of VBF represented the VBF project.



Figure 11: Vanga Blue Forest display during International World Mangroves Day in Kwale County.

## **4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> September: African Climate Summit (ACS)**



The African Climate Summit chaired by the Kenyan President at Nairobi-Kenya highlighted the continent's potential as a green powerhouse in tapping new global carbon taxes. The coordinator, Ms. Mwanarusi, represented the office in the conversations of the Nairobi Declaration which serves as a basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process 'no country should ever have to choose between development aspirations and climate action'.

Figure 12: Project coordinator at KICC during the Africa Climate Summit

## **6<sup>th</sup> December: Community Exchange visit**



Figure 13: Chairman of Dabaso Creek conservation group (red half coat) briefing the Vanga Blue Forest committee on alternative livelihoods

Vanga Blue Forest committee members visited Dabaso Creek Conservation group in Watamu Kenya. The goal of the visit was to learn from their success story of diversification of livelihoods through their conservation efforts of establishing the Crab shack Restaurant within a mangrove forest, to learn on their leadership and governance structure and compare from their grievancy mechanism.

## A2 Success and challenges

### Challenges

**Community prioritization meeting:** Low turnout of community members during community prioritization meetings was also experienced this year as occurred in the previous year despite mitigation measured. The mitigation measure that we implemented prior the meeting was sticking notices around the village and making announcements on the tentative dates of the meeting. Next year we seek to explore sending meeting invitation through text messages to the community members and following resources provided in the new Plan Vivo Foundation Participatory Toolkit.

**Community development projects:** Jimbo village had challenges in implementing its projects due to:

- i. A delay in obtaining a surveyor's permit from the county government of Kwale to facilitate the prioritised project on road access. A confirmation was made that the permit will be issued on the second week of January 2024

by the county surveyor. All supporting documents are on Annex 3.

- ii. Disagreement of community members in sourcing a constructor for the Jimbo project. This was resolved through application of the VBF grievance process by involving the VBF committee, village head and some members of the community. The community members agreed and identified to work with one constructor residing within the community come January 2024.



Figure 14: Grievance meeting with some members of Jimbo community and village head at Jimbo social hall.

### **A3 Project developments**

#### **Seagrass**

A project is under development, adjacent to this PV Climate project, to develop seagrass biodiversity credits alongside the existing mangrove carbon work. This is hoped to be accredited to the PV Nature standard, newly released in 2023.

Early January a project officer was recruited to oversee the initiation of the project work including collection of baseline data and reporting. The launch of the Vanga Bay Seagrass Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) was done on 19<sup>th</sup> October at Vanga village graced by various stakeholders including; BMUs & community members, United Nations Environment Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute representatives. This will be accredited separately to the VBF PV Climate project, although the two are likely to share implementation and governance frameworks such as VBF CBO administering the PV Nature project as well as the PV Climate project.



Figure 15: Dr Uku, (Senior Seagrass Research Officer) highlighting the baseline study of the Vanga Bay LMMA

## Expanding Project Area

It is anticipated by the VBF team and the community that the project will expand by around 200ha of additional avoided deforestation and degradation. This has been consulted on with the community who are supportive of the move, however the formal agreement from Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to expand is contingent on national government policy, under deliberation, on its policy on carbon sequestration projects and whether to leverage income or carbon benefit claims from the activities. It is not yet known when this will be finalized, although the team are in regular contact with the relevant agencies and individuals to understand this process.

## Restoration

The VBF team collaborated with KMFRI to set Six random Permanent Sampling Plots of 10m \* 10m by using GIS tools within the restoration site at Jimbo village.



Figure 16: Community members setting permanent plots under KMFRI guidance

### **Energy Saving Stoves (Jikos)**

A baseline study was conducted the results will be projected next year. This will be an exploration into how 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 previously 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.

### **A4 Future developments**

Appointment of a Seagrass Project Officer to be officiated by April 2024. The position will be responsible of the development of biodiversity accreditation for seagrass.

## **Part B: Project activities**

### **B1 Project activities generating Plan Vivo Certificates**

Vanga Blue Forest has a single technical specification that covers four activity areas, involving avoided deforestation/forest recovery in areas 1 and 2 and mangrove reforestation and ecosystem rehabilitation in areas 3 and 4 respectively. The responsibilities for and benefits from these activities are shared communally within the single project community organization.

Table B1: Project activity summary

| <b>Name of technical specification</b>  | <b>Area (Ha)</b> | <b>No. of smallholder households</b> | <b>No of community groups</b> |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Avoided degradation Area 1 (Sii island) | 199*             |                                      | 1                             |
| Avoided degradation Area 2 (mainland)   | 247.5*           |                                      | 1                             |
| Mangrove reforestation Area 3           | 5                |                                      | 1                             |
| Ecosystem rehabilitation (Area 4)       | 5                |                                      | 1                             |

\*Initial areas of forest are 200 (area 1) and 250 (area 2) ha. In order to take a conservative approach, reduced degradation of 80% due to project interventions is assumed. These lower values of 199 and 247.5ha will be given throughout the project accreditation period as an average accounting for forest shrinkage.

## **B2 Project activities in addition to those generating plan vivo certificates**

### **Publicity and awareness raising**

Vanga Blue Forest has showcased its achievements on local, national and international events including conducting mangrove outreach programme within the three communities of Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwego, the National Agricultural show held in Mombasa - Kenya, the African Climate Summit held in Nairobi - Kenya and the World Ocean Summit held in Lisbon - Portugal. Other platforms used to publicize the project on social media are: Facebook, Youtube and Twitter. (See Annex 3).

## PART C Plan Vivo Certificate issuance submission

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 <sup>1</sup> | No. of PVCs allocated to the buffer account | No. PVCs requested for issuance from saleable carbon | tCO2 available for future issuances |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Project area 1 | 199             | VBF        | 0                                    | 1,811                           | 25                    | 453   | 1358   | 0                                   |
| Project area 2 | 247.5           | VBF        | 0                                    | 4,774                           | 25                    | 1,194                                       | 3580   | 0                                   |
| Project area 3 | 5               | VBF        | 0                                    | 0                               | 25                    | 0   | 0  | 0                                   |
| Project Area 4 | 0.25            | VBF        | 0                                    | 10.5                            | 25                    | 3   | 7  | 0                                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>451.75</b>   |            | <b>0</b>                             | <b>6596</b>                     |                       | <b>1,650</b>                                | <b>4,821<sup>2</sup></b>                             | <b>0</b>                            |

<sup>1</sup>Buffer includes 20% for risk and 5% for leakage

<sup>2</sup>This final sum is the amount from areas 1, 2 and 4, after subtraction of buffer and then with an additional 2.5% forfeit due to not meeting monitoring targets in area 3 (see table A1.1).

This issuance is based on a signed PES agreement with Vanga Blue Forest Community Based Organisation, as the relevant user group of Vajiki Community Forest Association, complying with all the minimum requirements stated in this agreement.

Table C2: Allocation of issuance request for this reporting period

| Buyer name/ Unsold Stock | No. PVCs transacted | Registry ID (if available)  | Vintage | Tech spec         |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|---------|-------------------|
| GRID-Arendal             | 186                 | PV PVC KE 104000000026945 01012021 31122021 8637752 8637937 MER 0 P | 2021    | Vanga Blue Forest |
| Pelorus Foundation       | 113                 | PV PVC KE 104000000026945 01012021 31122021 8637938 8638103 MER 0 P | 2021    | Vanga Blue Forest |
| Pelorus Foundation       | 116                 | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012021-31122021-8637639-8637751-MER-0-P | 2021    | Vanga Blue Forest |
| Zero Mission             | 1500                | NA - TRANSFER   | 2022    | Vanga Blue Forest |
| Planet Moja              | 300                 | NA - TRANSFER   | 2022    | Vanga Blue Forest |
| Yacht Carbon             | 500                 | NA - TRANSFER   | 2022    | Vanga Blue Forest |

|                  |    |   |      |              |      |
|------------------|----|---|------|--------------|------|
| TROPIMUNDO       | 21 | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012022-31122022-10952531-10952551-MER-0-P | 2022 | Vanga Forest | Blue |
| Himaya           | 9  | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012022-31122022-10950667-10950675-MER-0-P | 2022 | Vanga Forest | Blue |
| Jane Rogers      | 7  | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012022-31122022-10950660-10950666-MER-0-P | 2022 | Vanga Forest | Blue |
| Levin Sources    | 36 | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012022-31122022-10950676-10950711-MER-0-P | 2022 | Vanga Forest | Blue |
| Levin Sources    | 11 | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012022-31122022-10952212-10952222-MER-0-P | 2022 | Vanga Forest | Blue |
| Donald Snodgrass | 8  | PV-PVC-KE-104000000026945-01012022-31122022-10952223-10952230-MER-0-P | 2022 | Vanga Forest | Blue |

The remaining 2,429 credits have been allocated to buyers, but payments are pending for these and so these sales will be reported on in the 2024 annual report.

## PART D Sales of Plan Vivo certificates

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 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>SALES 2021</b>     |                                 |             |                     |                         |                                     |                                       |
| 2020                  | Zero Mission                    | 1500        |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | Superflex                       | 50          |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | The Safari Collection Footprint | 222         |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | Himaya                          | 12          |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | James Hagan                     | 3           |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | Cambridge Conservation Forum    | 14          |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | Zero Mission                    | 2050        |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| 2020                  | Citizen Zoo                     | 4           |                     |                         |                                     | 59.3                                  |
| <b>TOTAL/AVG 2021</b> |                                 | <b>3855</b> |                     |                         |                                     | <b>59.3</b>                           |
| <b>SALES 2022</b>     |                                 |             |                     |                         |                                     |                                       |
| 2020                  | Arcadia Fund                    | 651         |                     |                         | 39.2*                               |                                       |
| 2021                  | Zero Mission                    | 1500        |                     |                         | 39.2*                               |                                       |

|                       |  |             |  |  |  |             |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|--|--|--|-------------|
| 2021                  | Beahvioral Insights (BI) Team  | 325         |  |  |  |             |
| 2021                  | Miriam Canella   | 2           |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Citizen Zoo  | 5           |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Ocean Bottle   | 700         |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Master of Science in Marine and Lacustrine Science and Management (Oceans & Lakes), Vrije Universiteit Brussel | 50          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | The CORRIENTE XXI project, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  | 15          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Alison Baker   | 10          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Charles and Kate Hussey  | 60          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Yacht Carbon   | 250         |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Yacht Carbon   | 107         |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Levin Sources  | 4           |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Levin Sources  | 37          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | The Safari Collection  | 800         |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Superflex  | 42          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Carbon Chameleon   | 300         |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| 2021                  | Nico Koedam  | 20          |  |  |  | 39.2*       |
| <b>TOTAL/AVG 2022</b> |  | <b>4878</b> |  |  |  | <b>39.2</b> |
| 2021                  | GRID-Arendal   | 186         |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2021                  | Pelorus Foundation   | 113         |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2021                  | Pelorus Foundation   | 116         |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2022                  | Zero Mission   | 1500        |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2022                  | Planet Moja  | 300         |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2022                  | Yacht Carbon   | 500         |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2022                  | TROPIMUNDO   | 21          |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2022                  | Himaya   | 9           |  |  |  | 141.0       |
| 2022                  | Jane Rogers  | 7           |  |  |  | 141.0       |

|                       |                  |              |  |  |              |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|--|--|--------------|
| 2022                  | Levin Sources    | 36           |  |  | 141.0        |
| 2022                  | Levin Sources    | 11           |  |  | 141.0        |
| 2022                  | Donald Snodgrass | 8            |  |  | 141.0        |
| <b>TOTAL/AVG 2023</b> |                  | <b>2807</b>  |  |  | <b>141.0</b> |
| <b>TOTAL/AVG ALL</b>  |                  | <b>11540</b> |  |  | <b>79.8</b>  |

\*In 2022, the % share to participants was 39.2%; less than the 60% minimum to participants. This was because community development priorities in 2022 did not require the additional \$25,865E required to meet the 60% minimum. The unspent funds are held in trust and not retained by ACES. The % price to participants in 2023 was correspondingly higher so that the two years average 104.7%. However, as a significant number of 2022 vintage credits were reserved for a sale in 2024, this % to participants will continue to be monitored into 2024 to ensure that the average between all three years is equal to or above 60%.

Table D2: Unsold stock of Plan Vivo Certificates

| Vintage | No of PVCs | Price to participants |
|---------|------------|-----------------------|
| 2022    | 2,429*     | 0                     |

\* These credits have been allocated to buyers but are pending sales completion; as such they are marked "unsold" at end of 2023

## PART E Monitoring results

### E1: Ecosystem services monitoring results

Monitoring results that support the request for new issuance are presented in annex 1.

### E2: Maintaining commitments

No participant has resigned from the project this year.

### E3: Socioeconomic monitoring

No socioeconomic monitoring took place in 2023; however, this will be carried out in 2024 in advance of the verification. This is an activity that was stalled due to Covid due to strict lockdown measures; unfortunately, although measures have now been lifted 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.

### E4: Environmental monitoring

See Annex 1 for monitoring results.

## PART F Impacts

### Evidence of outcomes

Through proper community engagement and consultation, **Vanga** village prioritized on providing Vanga community Health Centre with hospital equipment including: sterilising machine, high pressure machine, blood sugar machine, stool containers, urinal tests, pregnant tests, salmonella tests kits, 3 maternity beds, reagents; blood grouping sera, anti A, B, D, a laptop and a printer



Figure 17: a) Sterilizing machine and (b) maternity beds purchased for Vanga Health Centre through carbon fun

### Kiwegu community project

Construction of three madrassa (school) classrooms.



Figure 18: Building of three (3) classrooms funded through carbon sale



Figure 19: The ongoing construction (right building) is an expansion of last year's project (left building).

## Jimbo community project

An access road and two madrasa (school) classrooms were prioritized by the Jimbo community. However, these projects were delayed due to disputes over the appointment of contractors, and this delayed the implementation of the projects beyond 2023. This work is expected to start in early 2024 following full resolution of the community grievances regarding contractors.

## PART G Payments for Ecosystem Services

Table G1: Summary of payments made and held in trust

| 1. Reporting year (2020-2023) | 2. Total payments received (USD) | 3. Total payments made (USD) | 4. Value retained by ACES* (USD) | 5. Total payments held in trust (USD) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1/20 - 12/21                  | 0                                | 0                            | 2694**                           | 0                                     |
| 1/21 - 12/21                  | 46,555.00                        | 27,604.04                    | 12,177                           | 2823***                               |
| 1/22 - 12/22                  | 72,268.00                        | 28,335****                   | 21,352                           | 25,865***                             |
| 1/23 - 12/23                  | 52,411.00                        | 71,607.00                    | 18,644                           | -12,283****                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>171,234.00</b>                | <b>127,546.06</b>            | <b>54,867.00</b>                 |                                       |

A negative value of payments held in trust in 2023 resulted from a large volume of credits being reserved for a sale in 2024, thereby resulting in a lower cash flow for VBF in 2023. ACES sent additional cash to VBF to compensate for this, which will be recovered from the sale of remaining 2022 vintage credits in 2024.

\* Includes operating costs for ACES, Plan Vivo issuance fees and funds ringfenced for verification.

\*\* Funds were retained by ACES prior to income being received to contribute to a verification fund (an annual transfer).

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

\*\*\*\* In 2022, the % share to participants was 39.2%; less than the 60% minimum to participants. This was because community development priorities in 2022 did not require the additional \$25,865 required to meet the 60% minimum. The unspent funds are held in trust and not retained by ACES, but they are not included in the % share to participants here for accounting reasons. This has been communicated with the community and decisions on community spending in 2023 will aim to include this expenditure. The % price to participants in 2023 is correspondingly higher so that the two years average at least 60% to participants; this has been achieved in 2023 but given the ~50% sales rate of 2022 vintage credits, this % to participants will be averaged across 2023 and 2024 to ensure that the 60% to participants is truly met.

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

The negative value held in trust at the end of 2023 reflected ambitious projects, some of which are ongoing, requested by the community which required more cash than the project currently held. Given that the reason for underspend in 2022 was that no resource-expensive projects had been prioritized that year, it was decided that this ambition should be encouraged (with communication regarding overall budgeting) to progress these projects. ACES currently hold a healthy buffer budget, with an optimistic financial forecast that will minimize any overhead costs that would otherwise need to be leveraged, and so could subsidise these costs until further carbon credits were sold.

## **PART H Ongoing Participation**

### **H1: Recruitment**

No recruitment occurred in this reporting period.

### **H2: Project potential**

A project will commence in 2024 to develop a PV Nature project for seagrass meadows in Vanga Bay. This will not have any implications on the communities to be included in the project as no new villages or settlement would be included in the project area.

### **H3: Community participation**

A committee of 13 volunteer community members from Vanga, Jimbo and Kiwengu villages governs Vanga Blue Forest project (see meetings held this year in table H3). Through a participatory approach, the committee is elected democratically biannually during village meetings with close involvement and supervision of the Department of Social Development, among other stakeholders. The committee team comprises four members from Vanga, five from Jimbo and four from Kiwengu villages. With regards to gender, five are women and eight are men. The committee ensures that the annual work plan is implemented in a timely manner, engages in project activities like monitoring, engages community members in prioritization of local development projects through funds obtained from the sale of carbon credits, ensures allocated community funds are used for intended purpose and also addresses arising grievances. In cases where no resolution is arrived at, village heads intervene. Vanga Blue Forest held a number of meetings during this reporting period to plan for the annual activities including monitoring, planting and woodlot establishment (Table H3).

Table H3: Meetings held by VBF-CBO 2023

| <b>DATE</b> | <b>MEMBERS</b>  | <b>NO. OF MEMBERS</b> | <b>AGENDA</b>   |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| 19/01/2023  | Previous committee members and newly elected committee members.   | 21                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Handing over of VBF office to newly elected committee</li> <li>✓ Identification of roles and responsibilities of the new committee members</li> <li>✓ Change of Bank signatories</li> <li>✓ Issuing of certificates of appreciation</li> </ul> |
| 20/02/2023  | VBF members   | 12                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Elaboration of the VBF financial flow chart</li> <li>✓ Planning Plan Vivo's visit to the project site on community stakeholder engagement.</li> </ul>  |
| 25/02/2023  | VBF members   | 13                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Planning and budgeting of group's annual activities</li> </ul>   |
| 8/03/2023   | Vanga Blue Forest and Mikoko Pamoja Coordinators, Assistant coordinators, Projects chairmen and Mikoko Pamoja Project Impact officer, Two Plan Vivo officials and one | 9                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Migration of Plan Vivo standards</li> </ul>  |

|            |   |    |   |
|------------|---|----|---|
|            | KMFRI mangrove scientist.   |    |   |
| 21/05/2023 | VBF members and one Zero Mission representative   | 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Zero mission visit to the project site</li> </ul>  |
| 07/06/2023 | VBF members   | 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Woodlot planting</li> <li>✓ Commencement of community development projects</li> </ul>  |
| 10/08/2023 | VBF members   | 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Expansion of project area.</li> <li>✓ Installation of Solar electricity at the VBF Office.</li> </ul>  |
| 30/09/2023 | VBF members   | 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Status of Community projects</li> <li>✓ VBF office security guard recruitment</li> <li>✓ Participation at the National Agricultural show</li> <li>✓ Expansion of project area.</li> </ul>      |
| 10/10/2023 | VBF members and Social service officer  | 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ By laws training</li> </ul>  |
| 06/12/2023 | VBF members, Mikoko Pamoja members, Gogoni - Gazi CFA members, Makongeni beekeepers, KMFRI officials and AU-IBAR representative | 42 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Exchange visit to Dabaso Crab Shark and Mida conservation to learn from other conservation groups on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sustainable conservation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | <p>strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Group leadership and governance</li><li>- Alternative mangrove livelihoods</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|--|

# PART I Project operating costs

## Allocation of costs

Due to inflation and corresponding salary increases, project costs are rising and so figures presented here reflect this difference in comparison to 2022. Credits are continuing to increase in value at a rate faster than inflation, so this is not concerning from an affordability perspective.

| Expense                            | Narrative | Amount (Ksh): USD in brackets | Contribution from sale of PVC's (Ksh) | Contribution from other sources |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Community development projects     | -         | 3,412,000 (USD 21,939)        | 100%                                  | -                               |
| Labour                             | -         | 2,088,000 (USD 13,425)        | 100%                                  | -                               |
| Project workers salary (all staff) | -         | 1,152,000 (USD 7,407)         | 100%                                  | -                               |
| Expense for committee and office   | -         | 800,000 (USD 5,143)           | 100%                                  | -                               |

## Annexes

### Annex 1. Monitoring results for issuance request

Vanga Blue Forest operates on four main project areas. Areas 1 (Sii Island) and 2 (Vanga forest mainland) deliver PVCs through avoided deforestation and forest conservation activities. Areas 3 (mangrove plantation) and 4 (rehabilitation area) involve mangrove reforestation and ecosystem rehabilitation within the project site. Our methodology involves ex-post claims for carbon accumulated, provided we meet key threshold measures of stump counts and absence of clear fell, as summarized in table A1.2

Table A1.1. Key indicators reporting

| Activity | Forest attribute | Quantity / ha | Measure last year | Baseline | Remarks   | Monitoring target met? (Y/N) |
|----------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|---|------------------------------|
| 1        | AGB (t dw)       | 311           | 361               | 261      | AGB showed a slight decrease, which may reflect an anomalously high measure last year; the longer term trend remains upwards. No change in stump no. No evidence of new | Y                            |
|          | Stump Count      | 200           | 200               | 200      |   |                              |

|   |                             |             |           |  | cutting or removal   |   |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| 2 | AGB (t dw)                  | 88          | 84        | 75   | AGB increased slightly and stumps declined. No evidence of new cutting or removal  | Y |
|   | Stump count                 | 918         | 945       | 1364   |  | Y |
| 3 | Stump count                 | Not known   | Not known | Not known                                      | Did not prioritize this year given other objectives*   | N |
| 4 | Trajectory towards recovery | qualitative | NA        | 2 trees month <sup>-1</sup><br>23% areal cover | Hydrological restoration continuing and showing success. Permanent monitoring plots established with 367 trees, including 285 planted as nurse trees. Only 1 stump found | Y |

Unfortunately, staffing restrictions at technical partner institution meant that the plots for monitoring stump counts in area 3 were not established in 2023. This will be carried out in 2024.

**Table A1.2. VBF Annual Report Carbon Benefits Summary Table**

| Variable   | Indicators and measures   | Outcome  |
|--|---|--|
| Threshold measures   | Stump counts  | No significant increase                                      |
|  | Evidence of clear felling   | No evidence of clear felling                                 |
| Avoided degradation area 1                                   | Default measure of 8.65 t CO <sub>2</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>   | 199*8.65 = 1721  |
| Avoided degradation area 2                                   | Default measure of 17.3 t CO <sub>2</sub> ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup>   | 247.5*17.3 = 4282  |
| Avoided deforestation ABG areas 1 and 2                      | 5-year satellite information; annual on-ground surveys and threshold measures. 309 t CO <sub>2</sub> yr <sup>-1</sup> if met. | 309 t CO <sub>2</sub>  |
| Avoided deforestation soil carbon areas 1 and 2              | 5-year satellite information; annual on-ground surveys and threshold measures. 273 t CO <sub>2</sub> yr <sup>-1</sup> if met. | 273t CO <sub>2</sub>   |
| Reforestation area 3   | Stump counts and growth increments. Will accumulate 102 t CO <sub>2</sub> yr <sup>-1</sup>                                    | Not measured   |
| Ecosystem rehabilitation area 4                              | Meeting longer term targets of natural recovery 10.5 t CO <sub>2</sub> yr <sup>-1</sup>                                       | Planting and recruitment this year so 10.5 t CO <sub>2</sub> |
| <b>TOTAL (t CO<sub>2</sub>)</b>                              |   | <b>6,596</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL FORFEIT</b><br>(but before risk buffer subtraction) | <b>AFTER</b><br>Area 3 not measured hence 2.5% forfeit  | <b>6,431</b>   |



## Annex 2: Copies of receipts on expenditure – provided to Plan Vivo



VBF receipts  
2023.pdf

## Annex 3: Supporting documents of Jimbo project



Access Road  
supporting document

## Annex 4: Impacts – Evidence of outcome



VBF asset handing  
over form to Vanga H

## Annex 5: Media

- a) Vanga Blue Forest featured at World Ocean Summit on 'Developing Blue Nature  
Based Solutions to address global climate and biodiversity.'

<https://youtu.be/aPjcwVI78xU>

- b) Vanga Blue Forest featured by AU-IBAR on 'Conserving Aquatic Biodiversity in Africa's Blue Economy.'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7i-R5y1M5Y>

- c) Vanga Blue Forest contribution to publication on 'Perceptions of justice in Nature Based Solutions.'

<https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10498>

d) Vanga Blue Forest featured by Reach Alliance.

<https://reachalliance.org/case-study/the-mangrove-conservation-and-carbon-trading-in-vanga-kenya/>