

## **Community based Ecotourism Activities in Kenya**

Community based ecotourism programmes

### **Mwalunganje**

Mwalunganje Elephant Sanctuary (MES) is a community-owned elephant park, a conservation area for elephants and Encephalartos cycads in Kwale County, Kenya.

### **Kimana**

A wildlife-based ecotourism project in which the people of Kimana have sought to exploit the commercial advantage of their communal land which lies near Amboseli National Park (ANP) in southern Kenya.

The Kimana Community Wildlife Sanctuary represents one of the best examples of a community-based ecotourism project that promotes the ideals of local participation in wildlife management and

creates opportunities for the local Maasai pastoralists to benefit from wildlife tourism.

Whilst local participation has a positive resonance, the case study suggests that a great deal of the ecotourism potential for the Kimana area has not materialised. Internal political rifts within the community have both hampered meaningful Maasai participation in tourism benefits and facilitated the exploitation of Kimana's tourism potential by external commercial operators

### **Arabuko sokoke**

Arabuko Sokoke Forest Eco-tourism and Schools Project (Mida Creek)

This is

An eco-tourism project for:- awareness promotion and sustainable eco-tourism development.

The project affects over 100,000 people in 50 villages around Arabuko Sokoke Forest.

Approximately over 10,000 are directly involved in Nature Based enterprises e.g. Butterfly farming, Apiculture, Agro forestry, Aloe farming and Mushroom farming. The Butterfly farmers have been clustered into 26 community groups whose representatives interact with the project management through regular meetings where production, marketing and welfare issues are discussed.

The project staff also visits members in the various villages on regular field visits.

### **Kipepeo project**

Fostering an increased awareness & better understanding of the natural environment is one of the primary courses of Kipepeo project,

To achieve this goal the project extension work closely with teachers/students through its multi-faceted environmental education program (<https://kipepeo.org>)

### **Ng'wesi**

Ngwesi Lodge contributes to developing the local communities by supporting: education, health and livelihoods projects,

by providing jobs and business opportunities with surrounding tourism and other businesses.

There are six Maasai villages in Il Ngwesi Group Ranch, all rooted in a traditional pastoralist lifestyle. Since the mid 1990s, profits from the lodge and generous donations from visitors and well-wishers have contributed to secondary and university school fees and provided funds for