

GO BLUE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Go Blue Project Kenya

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Go Blue Project and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union



The Go Blue Project is a result of collaboration between the EU and the Government of Kenya to advance the Blue Economy Agenda through Coastal Development with an overall objective to unlock the potential of land-sea opportunities in coastal urban centers for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth with employment impact, while conserving and sustainably using the coastal and marine environment as well as promoting effective and integrated maritime governance.

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MAZINGIRA PARK GROUNDBREAKING, KILIFI

by *UN-Habitat*

UN-Habitat through its local partner the Kenya Alliance for Resident Associations (KARA) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in Mazingira Park which was led by the Kilifi County Governor, H.E Gideon Mung'aro. During the ceremony, designs of the park were unveiled. Local communities have been involved in data collection and analysis, and co-designing workshops using Minecraft where community members contributed their insights and ideas, making this a true collaborative effort. The Kilifi County Government has offered invaluable support and commitment to the project. Their contribution has been and continues to be instrumental, and they will remain the custodians of the park upon completion



LAMU BLUE CARBON STAKEHOLDER INCEPTION WORKSHOP

by *UNEP*

In May, UNEP together with one of its local implementing partners, the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), came together for a stakeholder inception workshop, marking the launch of the Lamu-Tana Blue carbon project at the picturesque King Fahd Hospital beachfront. Lamu County's Governor, H.E Issa Timamy, graciously hosted the event in Amu, welcoming the esteemed presence of Ms. Betsy Njagi, the Principal Secretary for the State Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries. This collaboration signifies Lamu's commitment to sustainable development and conservation of its coastal resources. The Lamu Blue Carbon facility will integrate blue carbon into coastal development programs with the aim of achieving climate benefits and enhance livelihoods along the Kenyan coast.

COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN KENYA: EXPERTISE FRANCE AND THE BANDARI MARITIME ACADEMY MAKING WAVES

by *Expertise France*

Expertise France collaborates with Kenya's Bandari Maritime Academy to develop an interagency curriculum on Maritime Security Governance, with a focus on combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. IUU fishing has severe consequences for marine ecosystems, local economies, and food security, depleting fish stocks and undermining the prosperity of coastal communities. The curriculum covers various aspects, including monitoring techniques and enforcement strategies, and aims to equip maritime security agencies with the necessary tools to effectively combat this illegal activity. The initiative also aims to enhance surveillance and enforcement capabilities, empower maritime security agencies to protect Kenya's waters, and promote sustainable fishing practices.

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USALAMA BAHARINI (SAFETY AT SEA): STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND KENYAN MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY AGENCIES

by *Expertise France*

Kenya, a frontrunner in maritime security governance in East Africa, is actively pioneering the testing of innovative solutions to tackle various maritime challenges. The Kenya Coast Guard Service, in collaboration with Expertise France, has initiated the Community Watch Programme, a pilot initiative aimed at strengthening the relationship between coastal communities and maritime law enforcement actors. At the heart of this program is a smartphone application called 'Usalama Baharini - Kenya' ('safety at sea' in Kiswahili), which serves as a direct communication channel between coastal communities and maritime safety and security agencies. The mobile application facilitates the reporting of suspicious activities at sea and enhances search and rescue efforts.

[Read more here](#)

IN THE BUSINESS OF SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

by Germany's Development Corporation Agency, GIZ

On July 13th in Mombasa County, we joined our trainees from Sinapis Group to celebrate the accomplishments of 184 graduates who successfully completed various programs in business support training.

The event highlighted the diversity and inclusivity of the participants, with 51% of them being female and 49% male. Additionally, 63% of the graduates were youth, while 37% were above 35 years of age, indicating a mix of young and experienced individuals. Notably, the training had a strong focus on entrepreneurship and business development. An impressive 93% of the graduates already run their own businesses, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit and determination. Furthermore, 7% of the participants had business ideas they wished to launch, indicating a desire for innovation and future business ventures.

This ceremony marked the beginning of incredible business transformations



AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF KENYA SHOW-MOMBASA 2023

by Germany's Development Corporation Agency, GIZ

The Go Blue project made a triumphant return to the Agricultural Society of Kenya show, marking its second successful participation. The event, inaugurated by Deputy President H.E Rigathi Gachagua, drew exhibitors from around the world, including representatives from GIZ, Italy, and Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani. The show provided an exceptional platform for the Go Blue Project to showcase its achievements, forge business connections, and establish networks for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) involved in the initiative.

Read more [here](#)



AFRICAN PRO-POOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (APTDC) : UTILIZING TOURISM AS A STRATEGIC TOOL FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITIES IN KWALE COUNTY.

by Camões, I.P

The African Pro-Poor Tourism Development Centre (APTDC) utilizes tourism to enhance social and economic growth in local communities. Their project under the Go Blue Tourism and Cultural Heritage aims to support Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) towards sustainable operations. Five CBOs were selected and provided comprehensive business development training. The project's main objective is to create employment opportunities for youth and women, and improve the livelihoods of the community through tourism-based activities. Positive developments have been observed among the groups, resulting in improvements in their operations and activities.



TANAFRIK: APPLYING THE CONCEPT OF CULTURAL TOURISM IN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN TANA RIVER.

by Camões, I.P

The TanAfrik Initiative promotes environmental, social, and economic empowerment of communities in Tana River County. They are currently implementing a project called "Application of the Concept of Cultural Tourism in Cooperative Societies in Tana River" to integrate cultural heritage tourism into cooperative societies, creating new employment opportunities and sources of income for women and youth. The project aims to improve environmental conservation practices of cooperative societies and has identified three sub-grantees through a selection process. The cooperative societies will establish tourism and cultural heritage enterprises and promote environmental conservation exercises.



KENYA, AICS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACTIVATE A REVOLVING FUND SCHEME FOR BOATS MANAGEMENT

by Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Aics) has donated 26 boats to Beach Management Units (BMUs) in Kenya to limit the dependence of small-scale fishermen on intermediaries, who often charge high costs for renting boats. The BMUs will regulate the use of boats through a revolving fund mechanism that will generate capital by requiring fisherfolks to deposit a small sum for boat use. The scheme aims to bridge the gap along the small-scale fishery value chain by addressing the scarcity of boats and equipment. The boats will be managed according to an agreement being signed by the local partner (JKP Secretariat), the BMUs, and the governments of the coastal counties. The intervention is associated with the introduction of a code of conduct to strengthen the sense of belonging to a community and promote ethical behavior. The Go Blue Programme, funded by the European Union and realized by the Italian Cooperation in partnership with CIHEAM of Bari and with the JKP Secretariat, aims to promote sustainable fishery and the empowerment of small-scale fishermen.



BLUE ECONOMY AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES' DEVELOPMENT: KENYA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO ITALY TO BOOST THEIR SKILLS AND NETWORKS

by Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

On July 2023, 14 Kenyan County government officials traveled to Italy for a one-week workshop focused on sustainable coastal management and blue community development. The workshop, held in Tricase, was organized by the Agronomic Mediterranean Institute of Bari in partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and funded by the European Union. Key topics included small-scale fishery management, environmental conservation, rural development, and policy planning. Participants engaged with Italian industry representatives and discussed the transition of Beach Management Units into cooperatives as per Kenyan law. The workshop aimed to enhance Kenya's blue economy initiatives and build valuable skills for coastal communities' sustainable development.



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