

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



VALOR TO VIRTUE

AN OVERVIEW

2021 was a challenge for many due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has also slowed our progress in pushing forward our programmes, however we are happy to report that despite the challenges we were still able to achieve a lot in 2021.

Valor to Virtue was founded in 2017, with majority of our activities being in Kenya. Our three main areas of interest being; conservation, education and health.

In 2021, we provided several internal and external trainings to the Valor to Virtue team in sustainability and, marine and land conservation. This consisted of visits to several local initiatives. We also participated in a Sea Turtle Festival, funded and organised a safari for students from a community based school in Vipingo. Our team have also been conducting beach clean ups throughout the year and participated in the annual and globally recognised Coastal Clean up.

We also supported a young man through university, paying his school fees. Our biggest expense and focus in 2021 was the healthcare for a young boy. Born with a rare vascular tumor on his face, Valor to Virtue paid for the removal of the tumor, this consisted of two major surgeries and he is now on the road to recovery.

Another major area of interest for us we was networking, building important and strategic partnerships with local stakeholders. We also launched our online platforms in 2021.

We have a lot planned for 2022, which you can view at the end of this report. Finally, thank you to everyone who supported us in 2021.



WHERE WE WORK

Valor to Virtue works along the Kenyan coast, with a particular focus in Kilifi County. Kenya's coastline is home to an array of wildlife, this includes the Vulnerable black and white Angolan colobus in Kwale county, elephants in Kilifi county, five species of sea turtles, whale sharks and boasts a high number of endemic bird species. The coast also has vital ecosystems, from mangroves, coral reefs and coral rag forests. Furthermore, the coastal forests of Kenya are part of the Eastern Africa Coastal Forests eco-region and are recognized as one of the top 25 biodiversity hotspots worldwide and Birdlife International ranks these forests as one of the most globally important sites for endemic birds.

The coast is also home to many vibrant communities and a popular spot for tourism. People living along the coast heavily rely on natural resources to survive. This has a detrimental impact on the environment when done unsustainably. In addition, services such as education and health are limited and local communities are often uneducated, poor and lack the opportunity to improve their situation.

Lastly, although Valor to Virtue's main focus is Kenya, Valor to Virtue have historically supported work overseas, financially supporting programmes in Thailand, Panama, Uganda and USA.



WHAT WE DO

Valor to Virtue was founded in 2017 with the main goal to support conservation efforts in Kenya, this is achieved through land security and protection and, education and awareness. Valor to Virtue have also been spending time meeting with potential partners through 2021, because to make a strong impact, we need to work together.

Although conservation is the main focus, Valor to Virtue understands that the health of individuals, communities and our planet are strongly interlinked. This is why Valor to Virtue have also financially supported educational institutes, individuals studying at university level and also medical support for individuals.



CONSERVATION



Top Left: Valor to Virtue visiting Local Ocean Conservation to learn about sea turtles. **Top Middle:** A photo of the trash collected by Eco World Watamu. **Right:** EcoWorld Watamu demonstrating how eco-bricks are made. **Bottom Left:** Some of the nursery beds at Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery. **Bottom Middle:** Valor to Virtue team learning about indigenous plants.

In 2021, we were able to secure two properties in Kilifi County for conservation and sustainable tourism as well as secured 3 land leases in Diani, Kilifi and Vipingo, these leases are for 10 years and means Valor 2 Virtue will be able to protect them from development and leave for nature, these 3 leases cover an area of nearly 10km.

We also provided several trainings and workshops on conservation and sustainability with the Valor to Virtue team. This included internal training on plastic pollution and sustainable alternatives. Other trainings included visiting several local projects to learn about local conservation initiatives, visiting Local Ocean Conservation in Watamu, to learn about sea turtles, the visit consisted of a tour of the centre's facilities and observation of medical treatment of a sea turtle.

The team also visited the Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery in Kilifi, where they learnt about indigenous tree species and their importance to the environment. The team visited EcoWorld Watamu, a recycling project in Watamu. Here, they learnt about challenges with plastic, observed part of the recycling process and were exposed to several reusable initiatives, from using old plastic for building materials and artwork. The team also visited the Kenya Wildlife Services Watamu headquarters in 2021, to learn about a new initiative, the building of a public library which will stock marine themed books and information.

CONSERVATION



Top Left: Students on safari learning about wildlife from one of the rangers. **Top Right:** Some of the art pieces submitted into the Diani Sea Turtle Festival. **Bottom Left:** Students after a long hike while on safari. **Bottom Right:** The Valor to Virtue team out on their regular beach clean up.

We participated and sponsored the Diani Sea Turtle Festival in 2021. An annual conservation festival in June, with the sole purpose of increasing awareness of local sea turtle conservation. This event is free to all, and brings 200 students from the local area to join in on the festivities. Our donation went towards the running of the art competition. You can read more about the festival by going to <https://ceskenya.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/DSTF-2021-Report-V2.pdf>

Our Conservation Programmes Coordinator (Kelly Martin) was gazetted as a Kenya Wildlife Services Honorary Warden for her work in conservation. This will help with conservation efforts going forward.

In late June, we sponsored 16 students and 4 teachers from Vipingo to go on a 3-night safari in the Rukinga Conservancy. For many of the students, this was the first time they had left their area of residence, let alone experienced a safari. The students engaged in several activities, from nature walks, hiking, elephant dung paper workshops and got tours of the Wildlife Works facilities. At the end of the trip, we created a photo safari book for the students, you can check it out here; <https://valor2virtue.org/project/the-future-hope-montessori-school-safar-trip/>.

In 2021, the Valor to Virtue team began conducting beach clean ups twice a week along Bofa beach, Kilifi. Helping keep the beach clean and plastic free! The team went further and joined forces with volunteers and local organisations to clean the beach in celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup, a day the world comes together to clean up the coast!

Lastly, Valor to Virtue purchased two vehicles; a canter and staff transport vehicle to support rangers in Laikipia and sponsored a conservation project in Panama.

EDUCATION

In 2021, Valor to Virtue donated funds to the Vipingo Village Fund, this was in support of Future Hope Montessori School in Vipingo, a community school for family's who have been impacted by HIV and AIDS. The funds were allocated to teachers salaries; to ensure continuous learning was on going during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Valor 2 Virtue also supported Dindi Mbingi throughout his education, paying his school and university fees as well as purchasing equipment for his studies. Dindi graduated this year with a Second Class Honours in Health Services Management. Valor to Virtue have also donated funds overseas to a local education project in Thailand



Dindi Mbingi on his graduation day, celebrating with friends!

HEALTH

In late 2020, we was introduced to a young boy with a rare vascular tumor which had disfigured his face to the point were living a normal life was made impossible. Valor to Virtue used their resources to find the young boy the help he needed and in April 2021, he began his long journey in removing the tumor. After 2 major operations, he is now on the road to recovery. All medical expenses were covered by Valor to Virtue. You can read more on this by going to <https://valor2virtue.org/project/life-saving-surgery-for-one-young-boy/>.



Before and after surgery photos of the young boy.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

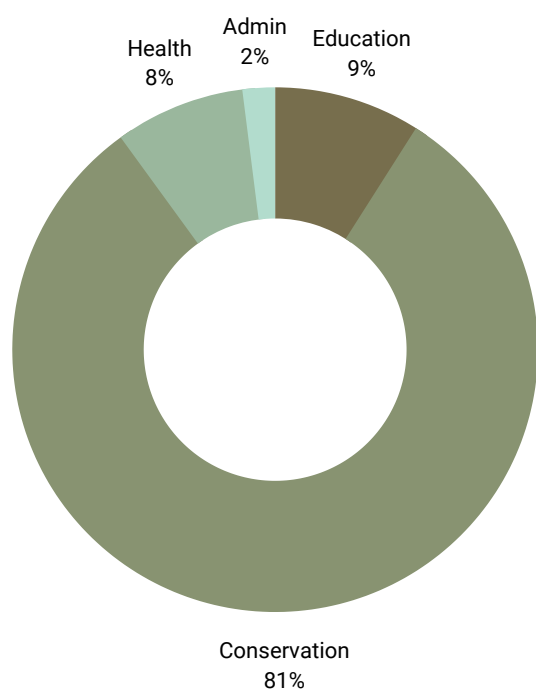
In 2021, we launched our website and social media platforms. This not only helps publicize the project and work done by Valor to Virtue but increases awareness on important issues and campaigns. Valor to Virtue hope to create a network of people all with a passion to make the world a better place. If you haven't already, please check us out and follow us on social media, links can be found on the last page.

Partnerships are vital for a better future. This is why Valor to Virtue have been building relationships with a variety of institutions throughout 2021. There has been a number of meetings with lecturers and students at Pwani University, with the plan to work closer with the University in 2022.

In late 2021, Valor to Virtue also visited Arabuko Sokoke Forest, meeting with the CEO of the Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest, a community group working to protect the forest. We have now become corporate members and hope to collaborate on programmes in 2022. We have also had several meetings with Oceans Alive, an ocean conservation based organisation working in Kilifi, we will be supporting their efforts in protecting coral reefs and marine life in Kenya.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Expenditure for 2021 was as follows;

Education (university fees, teacher salaries and other) - \$71,500

Health (medical bills and other) - \$64,000

Conservation (education programmes, purchasing of land leases along Kenya's coast for nature protection and vehicle purchases for rangers in Laikipia) - \$638,260

Administration (overheads and other) - \$11,040

We received a total of \$64,500 in donations in 2021. Donations were from individuals and Valor to Virtue's USA charity.

THANK YOU

In 2021, we were faced with many challenges, in particular, challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This at times, has limited us in furthering our programmes. COVID-19 has impacted each one of us and this is why we are especially thankful for the continuous support we have received from each and every one of you in 2021. Whether you have supported us through donations, expertise, partnerships or simply just by following our work, it has given us the drive to continue working towards a better and brighter future for all. Our achievements in 2021 are also yours, because without you, they would have not been possible. We look forward to your continued support in 2022!



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2022, we have some very exciting projects planned. Below are some of our priorities;

- Formalise and strengthen our work with key partners, this includes but not excluded to Oceans Alive, Pwani University and Friends of Arabuko Sokoke Forest.
- To work alongside a Masters student from Pwani University on sea turtles, researching sea turtle nest temperatures.
- To reforest a section of land secured in 2021 with indigenous tree species, as well as implement a recycling scheme and composting station.
- To set up an education centre for the community. The centre will cover an array of topics including, marine and land conservation as well as sustainability.
- To continue supporting Future Hope Montessori School, continuing to provide a safari for their Grade 8 students.
- To continue training staff in sustainability and exposing them to local conservation initiatives.
- To identify local threats to sea turtles in Kilifi county and developing an appropriate action plan for their protection.
- To conduct a baseline study for Oceans Alive to support their work in protecting marine life.
- To complete a 5 year Strategic Plan.



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