

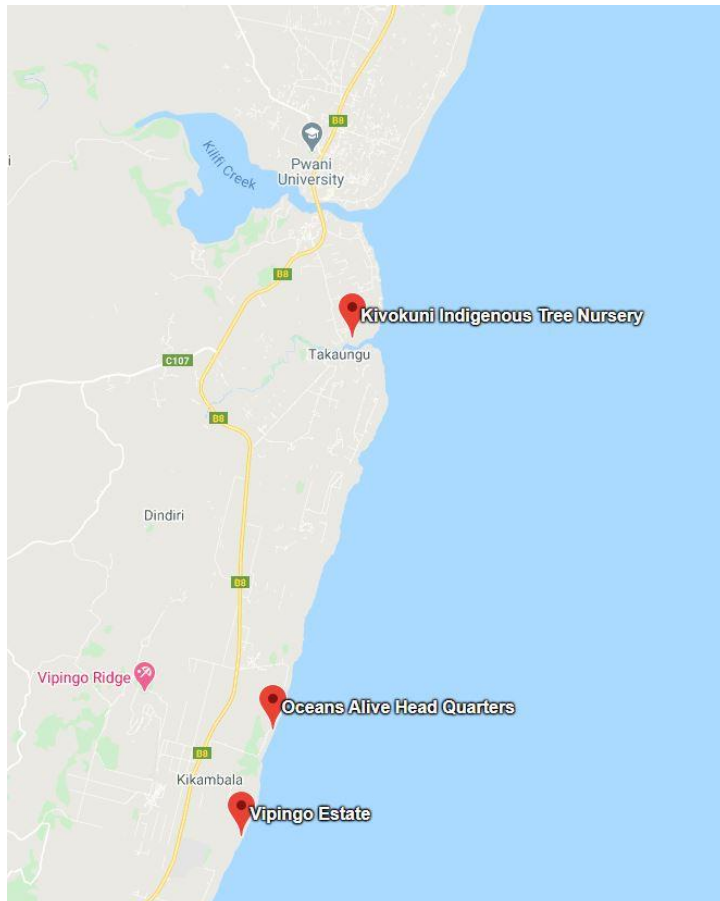
Kivokuni Indigenous Tree Nursery and Oceans Alive

Visit Report on 9th November 2020

Description of Organisations Visited

The Kivokuni Indigenous Tree Nursery (KITN) is located in Kilifi, approximately 30 km from the Vipingo Property. The nursery is home to approximately 350 indigenous species. The centre has a large nursery and also an area which is currently being 'rewilded'. The rewilding project involves the slow introduction of indigenous species and the removal of exotics overtime. A number of species currently being grown can be found on the IUCN Red List. KITN has a collection of species, which were currently believed to be locally extinct, and is attempting to revive these species in the area.

The Oceans Alive Trust (OAT) and the Kuruwitu Conservation and Welfare Community Based Organisation (KCW-CBO) are both based in Vipingo, approximately 10km from the Vipingo property. KCW-CBO was founded in 2003 and formed the first Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) on the Western Indian Ocean. OAT was created in 2016, drawing upon 17 years of experience from KCW-CBO. KCW-CBO is a locally managed organisation with which OAT closely works with and supports. Their goal is to develop education programmes for their beneficiaries; to support current LMMAs as well as increase the number of LMMAs along Kenya's coast and; provide alternative livelihood opportunities for the local community.



Picture on the left: Map of the locations of both organisations.

Summary of Visit

KITN Visit

- A tour of the nursery was provided and several plant species identified and discussed.
- A tour of the forest patch on the property that is currently being 'rewilded'.
- A discussion of conservation problems in the area, main concerns being:
 - Rapid development in the area
 - Deforestation in the area, including the removal of protected indigenous species.
 - The problems associated with planting non-native species, which are outcompeting native species.
- KITN have several replanting projects and partnerships, this includes a partnership with Pwani University and plans for a reforestation project on their campus. A reforestation project is also being planned for the area near to the Vipingo property.
- Biggest challenge is funding and is the main hindrance in progressing with projects, even though it is much needed.
- KITN would be open to training Valor to Virtue (V2V) staff at the nursery, so they in turn can bring this knowledge to developing V2V projects.
- KITN can provide trees to V2V for replanting projects, large orders ideally need to be ordered in advance, as most of the trees are already 'allocated' to projects.
- There are over 350 indigenous species of various ages and this is reflected in the cost.
- KITN are open to the idea of collaborating with V2V in reforestation projects, assisting with the development of property gardens, providing expertise and other related work.

OAT/KCW-CBO Visit

- The operation manager from OAT provided V2V representative, a tour of both OAT and KCW-CBO projects and offices. The visit included; the KCW-CBO headquarters and community area, The OAT offices and headquarters, a community area allocated for fisherman near the beach and a permaculture farm.
- OAT have several volunteer groups scheduled over the next few months, which helps them with both the running of programmes and financial support.
- KCW-CBO recently received funding from a grant to improve their facilities, but need assistance in running and managing this. The current facilities include large shipping containers that have been developed into classrooms and offices. They have dilapidated a great deal and need improvements.
- KCW-CBO funding comes from several avenues, including a membership scheme with Vipingo residents. Residents pay an annual membership fee that supports the management and operating costs of the LMMA and community programmes.
- OAT are working on several income generating programmes for both their organisation and community, this includes the management of a permaculture farm and local art pieces made from driftwood.
- OAT also fund patrol groups along LMMA's to ensure that people are adhering to the LMMA rules.

- The operations manager advised that they work with local Beach Monitoring Units (BMU) in best fishing practices, habitat protection and alternative livelihoods. The last being the most vital, this is due to fish stock populations not being sufficient to support all fishermen in the area, therefore a big focus should be on job creation.
- OAT are open to working with V2V on marine based conservation.
- A Vipingo community member was identified and recommended to V2V, for turtle conservation. Contacts were provided.

NB: Further conversation via Zoom was conducted with the founder, to discuss the above in further detail and possible synergies.

Next Steps...

V2V is focused on partnering with organisations aligned with V2V goals, this being the protection of areas for conservation, both terrestrial and marine and to support the local community. Partnerships are vital to the success of V2V, who will be developing programmes that counteract the rapid loss of the coastal forests and tourist/urban development. V2V endeavors to protect sea turtle and colobus populations and in general supporting programmes that aim to better the lives of the coastal communities. OAT, KCW-CBO and KITN are established organisations in the area and doing significant work within conservation. V2V will continue to identify local projects that fit within its remit and will continue to build and strengthen these partnerships. This will ensure the success and longevity of V2V's conservation efforts and others. Possible places for synergy include;

- Reforestation projects in collaboration with KITN.
- Possible development of indigenous nurseries on properties.
- Training opportunities with KITN for V2V staff.
- Purchasing of indigenous plants for properties.
- Collaboration on conservation based research.
- Sharing of data and facilities.
- Protection of marine habitats and wildlife, in particular sea turtles, in partnership with OAT.
- Financial support for KCW-CBO, this could be in the form of V2V becoming members and paying annual fees.
- Exploration and possible collaborations with OAT on alternative livelihoods.
- The development of education programmes for communities and schools in the area.

The above are initial thoughts and ideas. The next steps for V2V will be to continue to develop formal relationships with the above organisations as well as identify further organisations in the area. V2V will continue to keep an open dialogue with the above projects, which will help form V2V's own strategic objectives.