



Vipingo Property *Conservation Actions*

Restoring the garden to a more natural coastal landscape — the species to remove, the species that can stay, and a gradual transition led by indigenous planting.

3

SPECIES FLAGGED

3

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

350

NATIVE SPECIES AT KITN



A garden of *two halves*

The garden is a mix of both native and non-native species. Restoring it to a more natural landscape will require a slow transition, training of the onsite staff, and the removal of selected species while adding indigenous species where feasible.

Not all non-native species harm the environment — but a few should be removed, managed, or no longer planted.

FRONT OF PROPERTY

Mostly natural

Largely natural, with indigenous species that are already well established.

 Indigenous-led

BACK OF PROPERTY

A designed ‘English’ garden

Well maintained and designed in an ‘English’ style, with a mix of native and non-native species.

 Focus of the transition

THE APPROACH

01

A slow transition

Change the garden gradually rather than all at once.

02

Staff training

Equip the onsite gardener to tell indigenous from exotic.

03

Remove & replant

Take out selected species and add indigenous ones where feasible.

Remove, manage *or stop planting*

Frangipani

Plumeria spp.

NOT NATIVE

WHY

- ⊖ Not native.
- ⊖ Offers no benefit to local wildlife or the natural environment — planted purely for decoration.
- ⊖ No native insects, arthropods, birds or reptiles have evolved to use it, so, like many exotics, it creates a 'green desert'.

ACTIONS GOING FORWARD

- 1 Cease planting any *Plumeria* spp. going forward.
- 2 Remove frangipani from the garden and replace it with an indigenous species.

Neem

Azadirachta indica

NOT NATIVE

WHY

- ⊖ Not native.
- ⊖ Grows well and can become very invasive, outcompeting native species.
- ⊖ Can dominate the landscape if not managed.

ACTIONS GOING FORWARD

- 1 The gardener should go round the garden weekly and remove all neem saplings and wildlings.
- 2 Remove only neem trees with a trunk diameter of approximately 8 cm. Keep more established trees for shade and forest cover; they could be removed later, once indigenous species are established.



Palms *Arecaceae spp.*

NOT NATIVE

WHY

- ⊖ Not native — all palms originate from South America.
- ⊖ Planted purely for decorative purposes.
- ⊖ Very high water consumption.
- ⊖ Does not prevent erosion and can change soil composition, out-competing other plants.
- ⊖ Palm fronds are very resistant and cannot be composted.
- ⊖ Some palm species are very invasive.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

An average oak compared with a palm

17×

more ozone removed

14×

more carbon removed

Ozone removal — oak



Ozone removal — palm



Carbon removal — oak



Carbon removal — palm



Relative values as stated in the original assessment; palms also produce little oxygen.

ACTIONS GOING FORWARD

- 1 Cease planting any Arecaceae spp. going forward.
- 2 Ideally remove all palms and replace with indigenous species — but not all palms are invasive, so removal can be gradual.
- 3 Further assessment with Norbert (founder, Kivokuni Indigenous Tree Nursery) will identify the invasive species.



Species that *can stay*

Some non-native species found along the coast do benefit native species and are not invasive. These should remain — but future planting should always favour indigenous species.

MAY REMAIN

Bougainvillea

Bougainvillea spp.

MAY REMAIN

Moringa tree

Moringa oleifera

MAY REMAIN

Flamboyant tree*

Delonix regia

MAY REMAIN

Mango tree

Mangifera indica

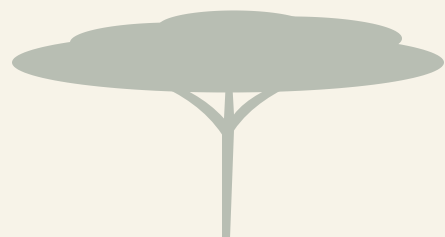
Instead of mango

Plant a variety of *Ficus* spp. — several species are native to the coast and are favoured by a high diversity of wildlife.

* The flamboyant tree often seen along the Kenyan coast is not native. However, a native *Delonix* sp. is found along the coast and can be purchased at the Kivokuni Indigenous Tree Nursery (KITN).

Equally beautiful, *far more giving*

Numerous species native to Kenya offer similar decorative results — and, being native, provide far greater environmental benefits.



01

Wildlife returns

Indigenous species encourage wildlife — from mammals to insects — to visit and use the garden, as animals have evolved special adaptations to use native flora.

02

Soil & water in balance

They will not alter the soil composition or absorb too much water, as some non-native species do.

03

Low maintenance

Once established they need very little maintenance, being already adapted to survive in this environment.

04

Never invasive

They will not become invasive, again because they are growing in their natural environment.

Beauty without *compromise*

350 | native species at KITN in Kilifi — all found in the area,
many on the IUCN Red List

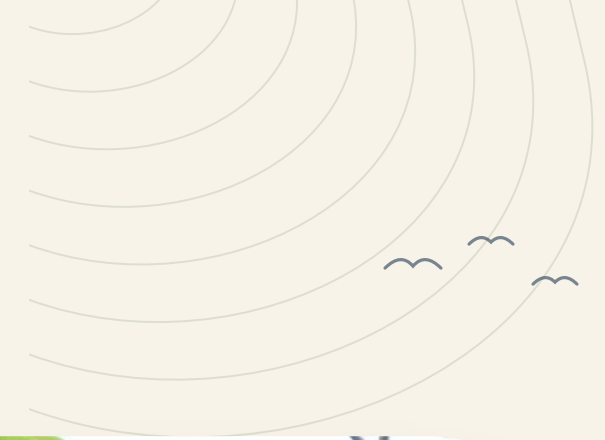
The following pages show some of the species at KITN that offer real ornamental value.

“The Vipingo garden could eventually be a great living example of how people along the coast can still have a beautiful garden without compromising the environment.”

Pictured: indigenous species that produces unusual green flowers.

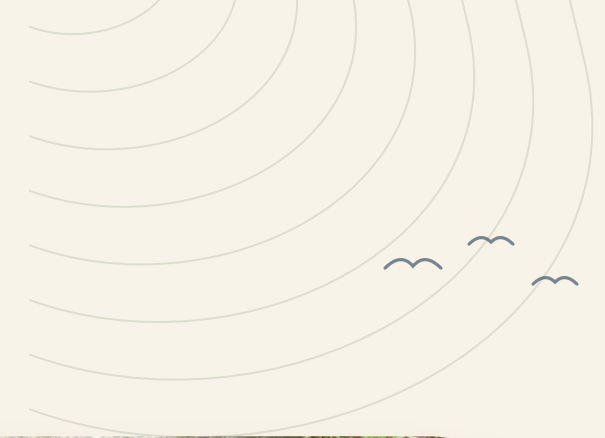


Ornamental *flowering species*



— Indigenous species that produce very pretty ornamental flowers.

Indigenous *euphorbias*



Some of the indigenous euphorbia species at the nursery. Those photographed are all on the IUCN Red List and highly endemic. Often mistaken for cactus, euphorbias are indigenous to Africa — unlike cactus species.

A living *example*

The garden should be transitioned slowly, aiming for a high percentage of indigenous species and minimal exotics — a well-manicured garden that uses indigenous species.

People often choose exotic species over indigenous ones, through lack of awareness or because they have a set vision and see indigenous planting as ‘messy’ or ‘ugly’.

Showcase

Promote the diverse species already available, discourage developers’ habit of planting exotics, and show homeowners, businesses and landowners what a mostly indigenous garden looks like.

Restore

Help restore some of the vulnerable species that are slowly declining along the coast.

LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP

KITN & Colobus Conservation



Reforestation projects



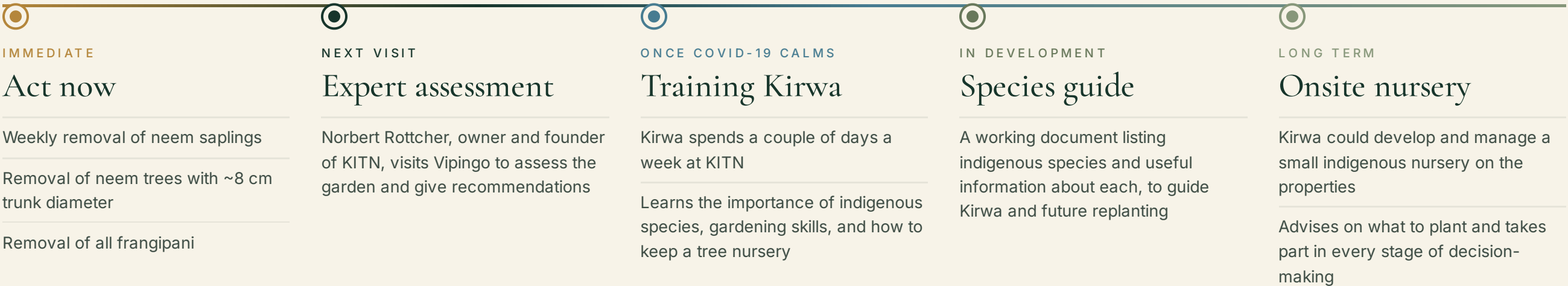
Educational campaigns



Developing and distributing materials along the coast

A gradual transition, *led by Kirwa*

Beyond the immediate actions, the garden is developed slowly so Kirwa can take part in every stage — learning to identify indigenous vs exotic species and act on it.



⊖ Ongoing throughout: no new planting of frangipani (*Plumeria* spp.) or palms (*Arecaceae* spp.).