

WHV – Conservation and Restoration of Kaya Forests

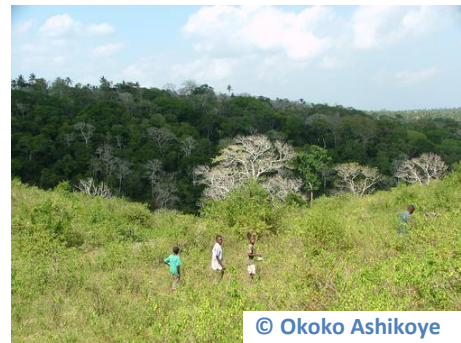
Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Kenya

 Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 2008

09/07/2016 – 30/07/2016



The Mijikenda Kaya Forests consist of 11 separate forest sites spread over some 200 km along the coast containing the remains of numerous fortified villages, known as kayas, of the Mijikenda people. The kayas, created as of the 16th century but abandoned by the 1940s, are now regarded as the abodes of ancestors and are revered as sacred sites and, as such, are maintained as by councils of elders. The site is inscribed as bearing unique testimony to a cultural tradition and for its direct link to a living tradition.



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Project objectives: The site has been facing challenge from deforestation for agricultural use. In this context, the main objective of the project is to enhance the contribution of young people, youth organisations and local communities towards the protection, conservation and promotion of the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forest.

Project activities: The volunteers will mainly be involved in tree planting. They will also learn about the importance of the forestation process and its effects on environment. Then they will run awareness raising events including the site visit and meetings concerning its conservation among the local community and the national/international volunteers.

The volunteers will run hands-on activities such as tree planting. The project will also offer intercultural exchanges and learning between the national/international volunteers and the local communities.

Partners: Primary and secondary local schools, Government departments, grassroots community based organizations, UNESCO local chapters, and private sector companies.

Kenya Voluntary Development Association (KVDA)

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