

WHV – Conservation of the Natural Forest

Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forests, Kenya

Cultural property inscribed on the List of World
Heritage since 2008

07/07/2018 – 28/07/2018



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. The kayas, created in 16th century, are now regarded as the abodes of ancestors and are revered as sacred sites and maintained as by councils of elders. The site is inscribed as bearing unique testimony to a cultural tradition.

Project objectives:

For its eighth implementation, the project aims to engage the volunteers and the local community in conservation works of the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forest to enlighten them about the importance of environmental conservation. It also aims to promote volunteering and work ethics to combat unemployment in the surroundings of the site.

Project activities:

Through workshops and debates, the volunteers and the local youth will learn about the importance of the site and create artistic content (theatre and poetry) to raise awareness among local community. They will also plant trees to combat deforestation, and paint and label relevant tree species to improve the access to the site. Under the supervision of the site management authorities, the volunteers will learn about conservation methods, and assist in the construction of classrooms at local primary schools with the help of the local community.

Partners:

Shimba Hills Forest Guides Association, Government of the Republic of Kenya, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Primary and Secondary Schools

Kenya Voluntary Development Association

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