

WHV – Conservation and restoration of the Coastal Forests of Kenya (Arabuko Sokoke Forest and Shimba Hills)

Coastal Forests of Kenya (Arabuko Sokoke Forest and Shimba Hills, Kenya)

Natural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2023)

PROJECT DATES

15 July – 28 July 2025

THE SITE - The coastal forests of eastern Africa are ranked among the 35 identified world's biodiversity hotspots due to the concentration of many endemic species and habitat loss. They originally extended from southern Somalia to northern Mozambique, an area roughly corresponding to the Swahilian regional centre of endemism that hosts a large number of unique plant species and assemblages.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to conserve and restore the endangered Coastal Forests of Kenya—specifically Arabuko Sokoke Forest and Shimba Hills—by addressing deforestation, habitat degradation, and biodiversity loss. It also seeks to empower local communities through awareness, sustainable livelihood training, and international volunteer engagement to promote long-term ecological stewardship.

ACTIVITIES - The project combines awareness-raising and hands-on activities to protect the Coastal Forests of Kenya. It includes community workshops, school sessions, an eco-tourism day, and a global social media campaign to educate and engage the public. On the ground, volunteers participate in tree planting, biodiversity monitoring, conflict mitigation using beehive fences, and clean-up drives—promoting forest restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and local community involvement.

PARTNERS – Kenya Forest Service (KFS); UNESCO Regional Office; Local Community Groups.

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