

*Best Practice in Mangrove Conservation and
Community Development*

Kwetu Training Centre for Sustainable Development, Kenya



Oliver Hughes, UK

Background...

- Studying for a Master's in International Development, Fordham University, New York, USA
- Interning with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Equator Initiative...



Equator
Initiative

The Equator Initiative...

The screenshot displays the Equator Initiative website interface. At the top left is the logo "Equator Initiative" in blue and green. To the right are links for "Home", "Contact Us", and a "Google" search box. Below the logo is a horizontal navigation menu with buttons for "WHO WE ARE", "WHAT WE DO", "NEWS", "EVENTS", and "LIBRARY". On the right side, there are three vertical buttons: "EQUATOR PRIZE", "EQUATOR KNOWLEDGE", and "EQUATOR DIALOGUES". A large yellow box on the right contains the text "Informing Policy" in a cursive font, with sub-sections for "Community Poble" and "Dialogue Spaces". A central photograph shows a group of seven people, with one man in the center holding a framed certificate. Below the photo is a "Recent News" section with a blue header. The news item is titled "Biodiversity for Local Livelihoods" and describes a collaboration between the Equator Initiative and the GEF Small Grants Program, hosted by the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is dated "10 February 2010" and mentions the "North American Launch of the International Year of Biodiversity" at "The American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY". A large white box with a blue border is overlaid on the bottom center, featuring the "Equator Prize Winner" logo (a laurel wreath) and the text "Announcing the 2010 Equator Prize Winners!". To the right of this box is a "Multimedia" section with a video player showing a group of people in a field.

The Equator Initiative (2)

- Founded in 2002, at the Earth Summit in Johannesburg
- Housed in the UNDP, but significant overlap with the Environment and Energy Group (EEG), a part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Awards the biennial Equator Prize to twenty-five groups around the world
- Recognises grassroots initiatives that work to promote biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation...
- ...in the equatorial belt, which contains some of the world's richest biodiversity and poorest countries

The Equator Prize

Equator
Initiative

Home Contact Us
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Google™ Custom Search

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

NEWS

EVENTS

LIBRARY

EQUATOR
PRIZE

EQUATOR
KNOWLEDGE

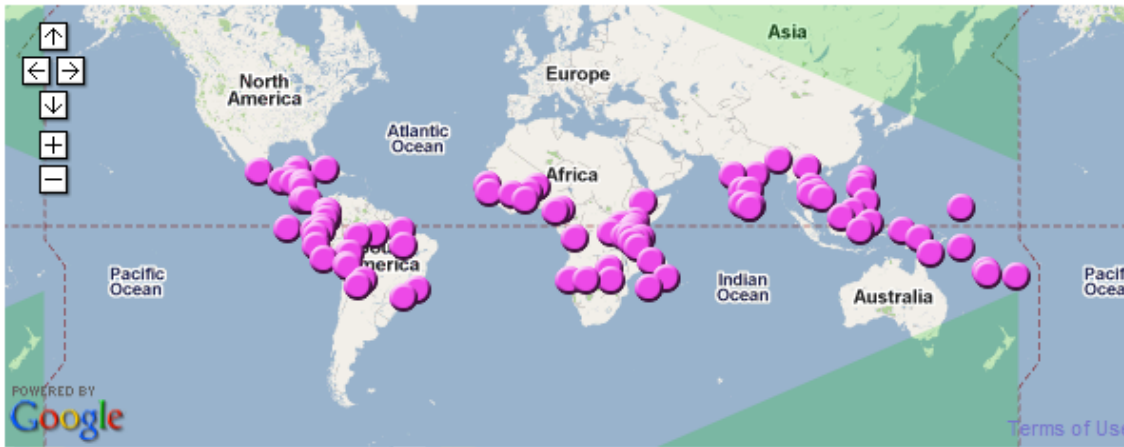
EQUATOR
DIALOGUES

Celebrating Success

Equator Prize 2010

Winners

Past Prizes



Currently 128 Equator Prize winners around the world, from prize cycles in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010

Biodiversity for Local Livelihoods

Profiling how indigenous communities are meeting the challenges of **biodiversity loss** and **poverty**, through the sustainable conservation and use of biodiversity and ecosystems for **local livelihoods**.

Arabic | English | Español | Français | Русский | 中文 | 日本語

CBD | UN Sign Up for an Account | Sign In



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

Welcome About Celebrations Partners Resources Participate

Worldwide By Countries Calendar Success Stories Biodiversity and Local Livelihoods

Biodiversity for local livelihoods

Equator Initiative gef The GEF Small Grants Programme UN DDP

Map of Case Studies on Biodiversity and Local Livelihoods

View corresponding list



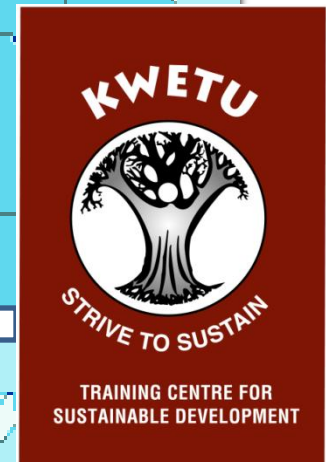
The map displays various countries with blue location pins indicating case study sites. Countries shown include Canada, United States, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste.

In partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNDP Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP)

Biodiversity for Local Livelihoods (2)

- Profiles include three “products”:
 - Case Study, based on interviews with project staff concerning biodiversity and socio-economic impacts
 - “Photo Story”, using photographs, music and narration to display the activities being done
 - Millennium Development Goals Poster, linking the group’s work to the MDG targets

Biodiversity for Local Livelihoods in East Africa



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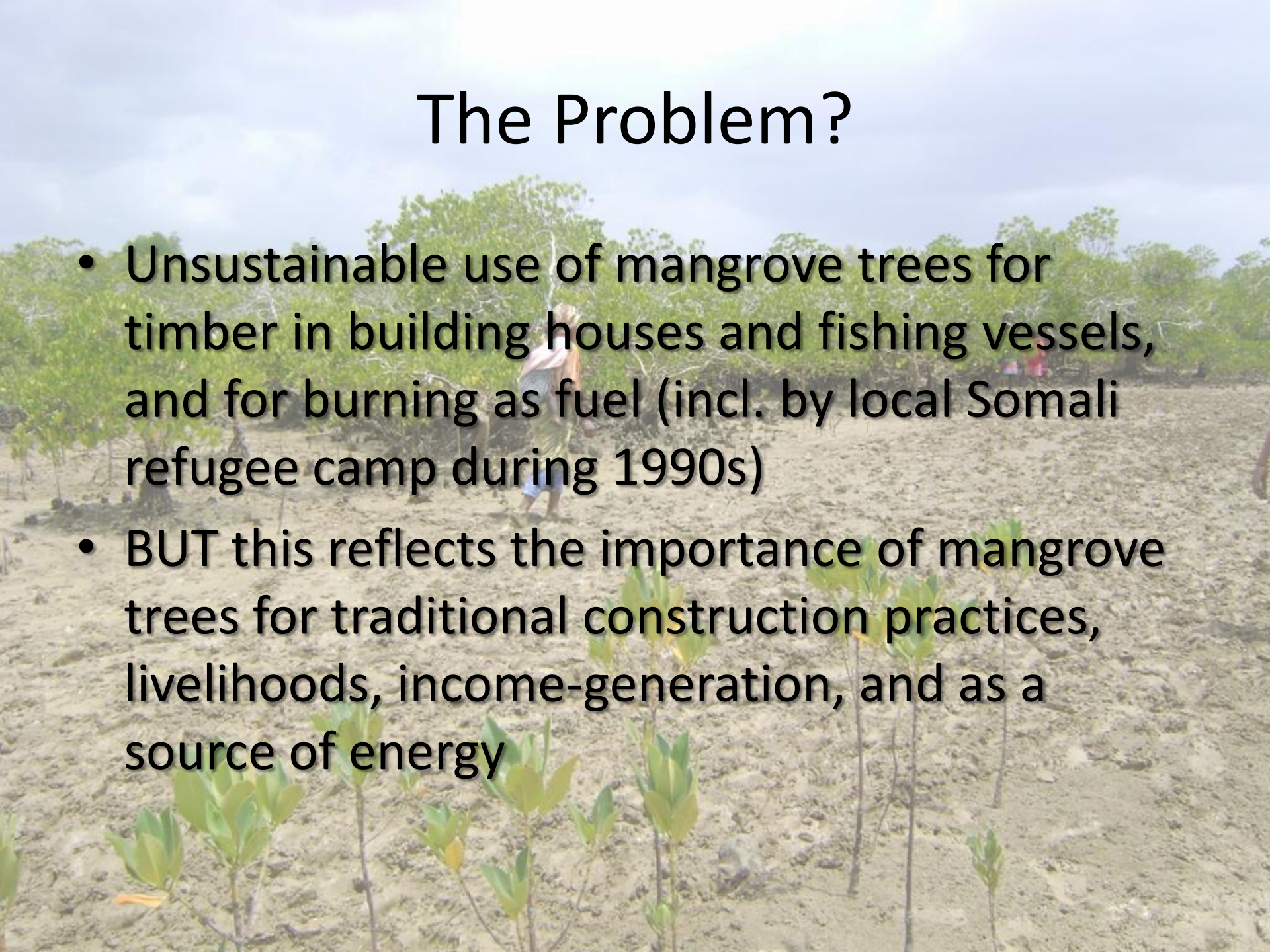
Kwetu

- Founded in 1996
- Mtwapa Town, Kilifi District, Coast Province
- Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) working with local Community-based Organisations (CBOs)
- These include groups of youth, women, and artisanal fishermen
- Their aim is to encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of mangroves along the coast through promoting environmentally-friendly silviculture activities.



The Problem?

- Unsustainable use of mangrove trees for timber in building houses and fishing vessels, and for burning as fuel (incl. by local Somali refugee camp during 1990s)
- BUT this reflects the importance of mangrove trees for traditional construction practices, livelihoods, income-generation, and as a source of energy

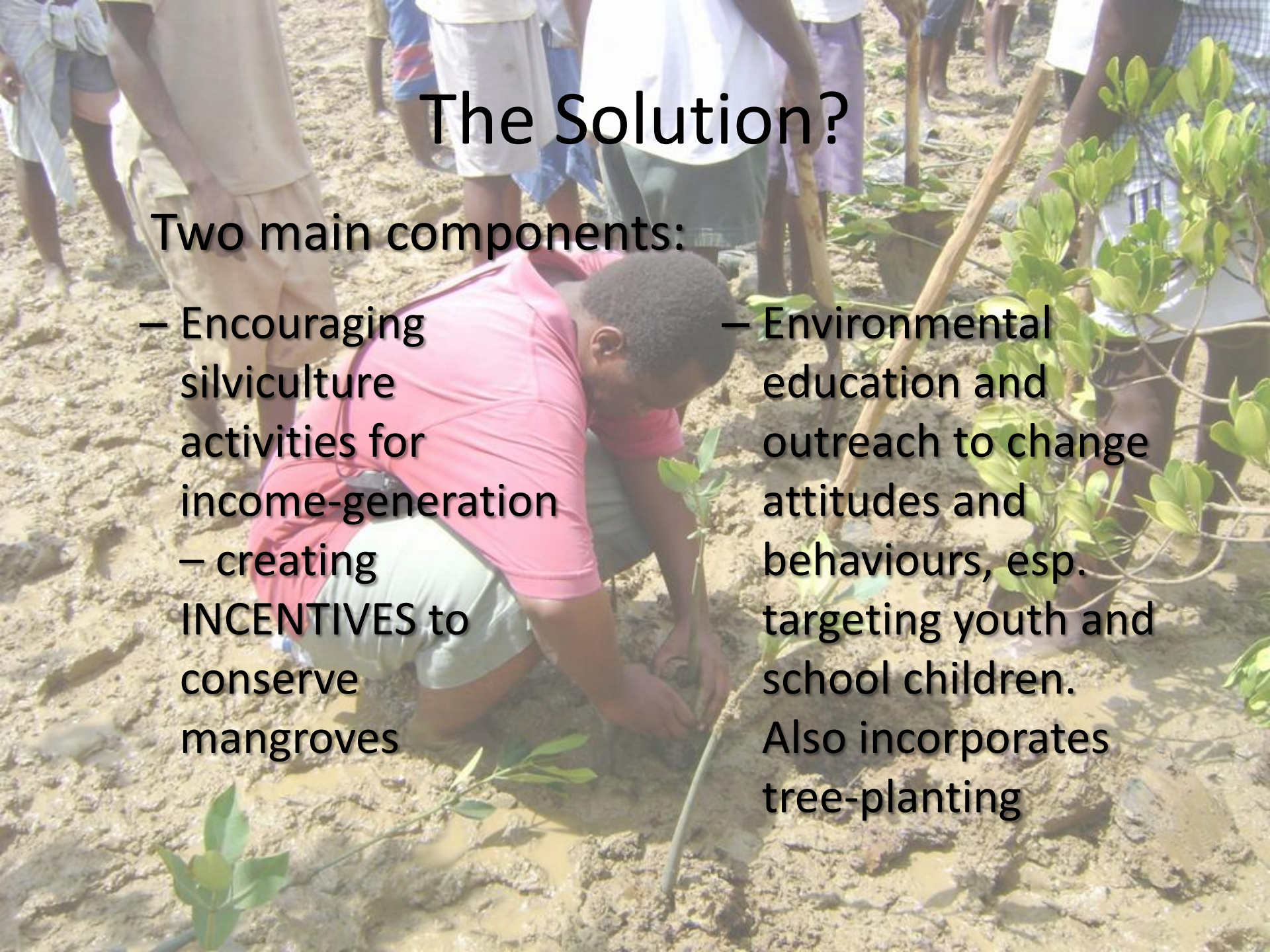


The Solution?

Two main components:

- Encouraging silviculture activities for income-generation
- creating **INCENTIVES** to conserve mangroves

- Environmental education and outreach to change attitudes and behaviours, esp. targeting youth and school children. Also incorporates tree-planting



1. Alternative livelihoods

- Kwetu gives funding and training to groups looking to generate income from alternative livelihood activities based on the mangrove forests. These activities include...
 - Apiculture
 - Mariculture
 - Secondary processing of natural materials
 - Eco-tourism



BEE - KEEPING STORE

BHN



BH No. 52



BH No. 57





















2. Environmental education

- Kwetu uses World Environment Days and other international events to hold activity days and outreach events with local communities and schools, both on location and at their own demonstration site on Mtwapa Creek
- They have supported the planting of over 100,000 mangrove seedlings along the coast since 2007











One important success variable...?

FUNDING

Two partners...



GEF

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

- Long-term commitments
- Tied to specific results, e.g. the scaling-up of fish-farming projects for large-scale production and marketing, or the development of eco-tourism initiatives



Kwetu Training Centre for Sustainable Development

Kwetu Training Centre for Sustainable Development promotes community participation in the sustainable use and conservation of mangrove forests through silviculture innovations. The organisation supports local groups of young people, women and fishermen engaged in fish-farming, bee-keeping and eco-tourism activities in the coastal districts of Kenya. The coastline is home to seven different species of mangroves, which have been depleted through unsustainable harvesting by indigenous populations for timber and fuel. The coastal districts are among the poorest in Kenya; Kilifi District is home to 800,000 people, 60% of whom are under 25. 80% of the population are employed in agriculture or fishing, but there are high numbers of unemployed youth. Kwetu was founded in 1996 and has been registered as a secular, non-profit organisation since 1997. The centre owns a 2.5 acre plot on Mhwapa Creek in Kilifi District, Coastal Province, from which all its programs are run. Although the surrounding area has no connection to public water and electricity supplies, Kwetu has been able to establish its own infrastructure, using solar panels to supply electricity. The centre activities with the local coastal communities. Much of Kwetu's work has been ena



What did we achieve?

Successful silviculture activities have included apiculture and mariculture. Currently two local groups are active in bee-keeping, while research is being conducted at four sites to improve production in fish and crab farming, to meet the demand from hotels in the tourist industry.

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Activity days are held with coastal communities to encourage conservation, while Kwetu is actively engaged in environmental education with local schoolchildren. Competitions and drama contests promote environmentally-friendly messages; winners are presented with water tanks for their schools.



Eco-tourism situated in mangrove forests has been promoted at various sites, especially by Dabaso Youth Group at Gede, who have so far generated around \$2,500 from their boardwalk attraction.

1 7

Ten local youth centres will be set-up in
n partnership with Global Fund. These will
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stal

4 6

Kwetu has used solar drier technology to process Neem leaves and seeds, making products such as soaps, candles, and detergents that act as natural mosquito repellents. These are sold to local communities at affordable prices to reduce rates of malarial infection.

4 5 6 7

The Millennium Development Goals

- 1 1 **1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
- 2 2 **2 Achieve universal primary education**
- 3 3 **3 Promote gender equality and empower women**
- 4 4 **4 Reduce child mortality**
- 5 5 **5 Improve maternal health**
- 6 6 **6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
- 7 7 **7 Ensure environmental sustainability**
- 8 8 **8 Develop a global partnership for development**
- G G **9 Good Governance**

Good governance is about how decisions are taken and implemented in a state. Originally, the connotation of this notion included an efficient public sector, accountability and controls, but also decentralization and transparency. Today, good governance means more: it is not just confined to government action alone but also encompasses the interaction between government and civil society.



Challenges?

- Not all of the silviculture activities being encouraged by Kwetu have seen returns yet – research is needed into more efficient fish-farming techniques, while eco-tourism initiatives are in their infancy...
- ... but we believe Kwetu is seeking to solve the dilemma of conservation or development – BOTH are possible, and can be mutually reinforcing, if local communities are engaged in truly participative processes
- **NOT JUST COMPENSATION!** Active participation of communities has been integral to success

Most important factors...

- Employees taken from local communities
- Diverse portfolio of activities
- Consistent funding support
- Innovation and resilience in the face of challenges
- Engagement of YOUTH!!!
- Community participation
- Emphasis on socio-economic benefits
- Importance of mangrove forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation





Thank you very much!