



SPECIAL ISSUE JULY 2009

Habari!

News from WWF Eastern & Southern Africa

In this issue

WWF in Eastern & Southern Africa

Coastal East Africa Network Initiative

Switch off! Kenya marks Earth Hour 2009

Special feature: the Dugong sojourn

News: Out & about

Green! Kiunga on 100% green energy

for a living planet®

Green!

Kiunga on 100% sustainable energy



Wind turbines and solar panels generate clean 'green' power in Kiunga Kenya. (Sam WERU / WWF-EARPO)

Picture a smoky, noisy electricity generator, rumbling away on an old van (matatu) modified diesel engine in the heat of the day in Kenya's desolate, arid and humid Northern coast. This was the norm at one of Kenya's most picturesque beach fronts, where WWF runs a marine conservation project. In March 2009, the noisy racket stopped, replaced by breaking waves on the beach. A 'green' era had dawned with the installation of wind and solar power with a total capacity of 19.5 kW.

Located in Kiunga Division of Lamu District, Kenya, WWF's Kiunga Marine National Reserve Conservation and Development Project was launched in 1995. Kiunga Marine National Reserve was established in 1979 under the state law and designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1980 together with the adjacent terrestrial Dodori National Reserve. All are managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service

Remote area

Kiunga is an extremely remote area along Kenya's northern coast on the Indian Ocean. From Lamu—the nearest urban town—one will travel 8-12 hours by road or battle with the sea for 2 hours. With no public infrastructure for electricity supply in the area, the project has had to rely on expensive diesel-generated power. The generator could only be run for 4 hours every day to keep costs down.

Diesel fuel consumption at the WWF/KWS Camp alone was 20 litres per day, a whopping 7,200 litres per year! This translated to 72 tonnes of CO₂ emission and a US\$12,000 annual fuel and maintenance bill. The cost nearly doubles when other costs are considered; personnel, damaged office equipment—due to fluctuation of generator power, data loss and recovery cost during an abrupt power outage.

The adverse effects on the environment did not only stop at the pollution from the generator. The diesel had to be transported by sea from Lamu, an 8 hour dhow trip. This meant more carbon emissions from the dhow

engine and intermittent spills. There was also the issue of sound pollution when the generator was running.

'Green' capacity

The WWF/KWS Camp has an 8 kW capacity. In Kiunga Village, the fisheries, Beach Management Unit and a WWF outpost now have 7 kW of power, while the Mongo Sharif Turtle Monitoring Camp has 1.5 kW.

Other government and community partners have also benefited from 'greening Kiunga'. With 1 kW of green power, the Kiunga Health Center can now afford to provide better health care to the local residents as they can now store vaccines. The same can be said of Mkokoni Dispensary that boasts a 2 kW capacity.

Funding

This US\$70,000 'greening' project was made possible by Southwest Windpower and David Calley, in collaboration with WWF-US and the WWF Kiunga Project.

"By greening Kiunga, WWF will showcase sound and practical environmental management as well as affording the community an opportunity to experience modern life. WWF is about humans living in harmony with nature, and cares about the direct welfare of the people," says Sam Weru, WWF's National Marine Coordinator (Kenya).

(Kimunya Mugo, WWF-EARPO / Fred Okong'o, WWF Kiunga Programme)

Changing faces

As we transition into the new WWF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Programme Office (ESARPO), we are revamping our quarterly newsletter. Future issues will have news from each of our Country Offices. Other sections will be special features and news of global importance. Of course, you can still expect to read other short news updates from across the region.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by WWF-EARPO

Communications Manager, WWF-EARPO, ACS Plaza, Lenana Road, P.O. Box 62440, Nairobi 00200, Kenya
Tel: +254 (0)20 3877355 • Fax: +254 (0)20 387 7389 • KMugo@wwfearpo.org • info@wwfearpo.org