

This brochure thus highlights recently strengthened and upscaled cultural enterprises that are aimed at cushioning the Kauma community against loss of opportunities caused by Covid 19.

II. CULTURE BASED ENTERPRISE

Basketry is the art of making interwoven objects, usually containers, from flexible vegetation fibers, such as twigs, grasses, osiers, bamboo, and rushes, or plastic or other synthetic materials. It is one of the most ancient art older than pottery or the carving of stone and probably the origin of all the world's textile skills. The process of interweaving twigs, seeds, or leaves for baskets and mat making it's one of the universal craftworks, ranking among the most ancient industries. Basket making survives in many parts of the world today in forms, techniques, and materials similar to those used in past ages. An interesting fact about the age-old craft of basket making is that, while many other skills have become mechanized, no one has ever invented the machine to make baskets



Culture based group display necklaces

They are still handmade. It's not even an easy task to mass-produce baskets with the aid of molds, electric saws and sanders, and a multitude of "assembly line" processes. The earliest and most basic techniques of basket making are still alive and regularly used. This brochure highlight introduction and up-scaling of culture based enterprises for forest adjacent communities, funded by the Germany Commission of UNESCO, and aimed to help them to cope with impacts of COVID –10.



An assortment of necklaces made by the group

A) BASKETRY/WEAVING.

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The culture based group were taken on 2 days of experiential training to learn weaving for an assortment of items including floor and table mats, and baskets,. The raw material for this enterprise were sourced from the Kilifi town markets.



A local trainer instructing group members



Floor mat weaving process

B) BEADWORK

Beadwork is the art or craft of attaching beads by stringing them with a sewing needle or beading needle and thread or thin wire or sewing them to the cloth. Beads come in a variety of materials, shapes, and sizes. Beads are used to create jewelry or other personal adornment articles, wall hangings and sculpture, and many other artworks. Beadwork is often used as a creative hobby to make jewelry, handbags, coasters, plus additional crafts. Beads are available in different designs, sizes, colors, shapes, and materials, allowing many variations among bead artisans and projects. Many African nations have different bead working traditions and techniques.



Bead instructor demonstrating the skill

Material for beadmaking were mostly plant seed that occur in farmland and at the kaya forest margins. Members were taken through a two day experiential training in bead making and at the end most were able to develop various styles of bead.

C) POTTERY

In the Kauma community, pottery has some cultural traditions attached to it, from the digging up of the clay to the pottery itself. The trainer took time to explain the cultural practices associated with it. She explained that any man or woman who had had sexual intercourse the previous night was not allowed or supposed to dig up the clay or be involved in the pottery process.



Trainee in pottery process



Also, any woman on her monthly period was not supposed to be involved in the process. Failure to adhere to this would lead to the breaking and cracking of the pots. She explained that this was an old-age tradition that is being observed today.

ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF THE SACRED MIJIKENDA KAYA FORESTS WORLD HERITAGE SITE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Culture based enterprises to cushion the community adjacent to Kaya Kauma forest against Covid-19.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The onset of coronavirus in late 2019 has negatively impacted the world with close to 1.85 million fatalities. While Africa's confirmed infections, cases stand at 1,996,064 (World Health Organization, Ministry of Health report 2021); as of 6th January 2021, Kenya has recorded 96,909 Covid-19 cases with a total of 79,257 recoveries (Ministry of Health report 2021). However, 1,686 persons have lost their lives due to the pandemic. As a result, many livelihoods for local and urban communities have been negatively impacted, with many people losing their jobs in urban places and opting to return to the rural villages. This exodus has created new pressures on resources, particularly in protected forests (for example, the Kaya Forest) due to charcoal burning and harvesting of timber for sale and subsistence use.

Kaya Kauma is a natural forest located near Jaribuni location in Kilifi County and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, under the care of the National Museums of Kenya (NMK).



Kaya Kauma UNESCO world Heritage site (forest)

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