

A Report of Mikoko Pamoja Social Survey



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1. Introduction

This report describes/highlights the outcome of the 2016 social survey carried out by the Mikoko Pamoja team in Gazi Bay, Kenya. Mikoko Pamoja, a carbon-offset project that aims at enhancing mangrove productivity while participating in the voluntary carbon market, has been operating in Gazi Bay since 2012. As part of the achievements, MP has been able to channel income earned into community development projects such as purchase of education materials, drinking water facilities and improving sports facilities to local youths. As the project continues to address issues that are relevant to people's livelihoods, there was need for a social survey within the project area to monitor and evaluate its performance, assess its impacts and also identify potential gaps in the project.

2. Methodology

The social survey was carried out between September and October 2016. A team of 6 enumerators were trained and the questionnaires translated into Swahili. The village heads of Gazi and Makongeni were approached and informed about the proposed study. Two field guides from the study areas and 4 enumerators were engaged in the exercise. Data collection was through questionnaires and key informant interviews whereby 92 households were randomly selected from the two villages and questionnaires administered. Key informants included nurse, lab technician, head teacher, BMU chairman, CFA chairman, Gazi women, Baraka women group and village heads. The key informants were chosen due to the fact that their constant engagement with the project.

The main sections covered in the questionnaire included;

- Demographics
- Energy
- Health and water
- Project impacts
- Community 'baraza' attendance
- Participation in project activities



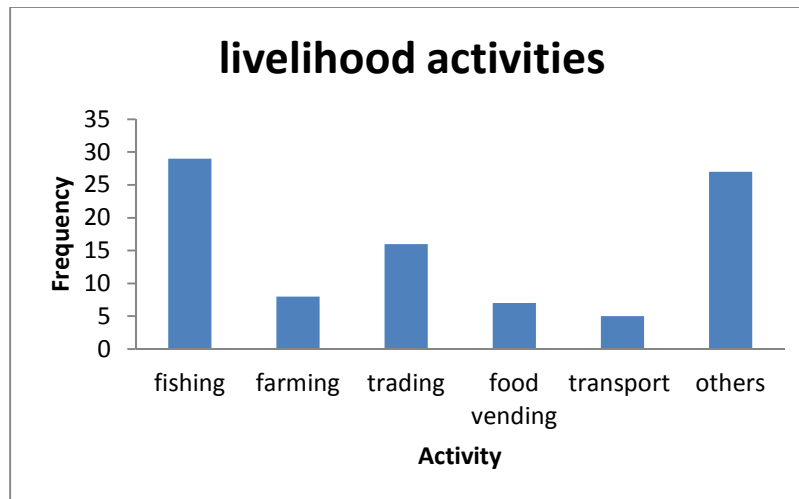
Figure 1: (left) part of the enumerators going through the questionnaire ahead of the survey (Top right) an enumerator conducting the survey in the village (bottom right) The team informing the village head about the exercise

Results and Discussion

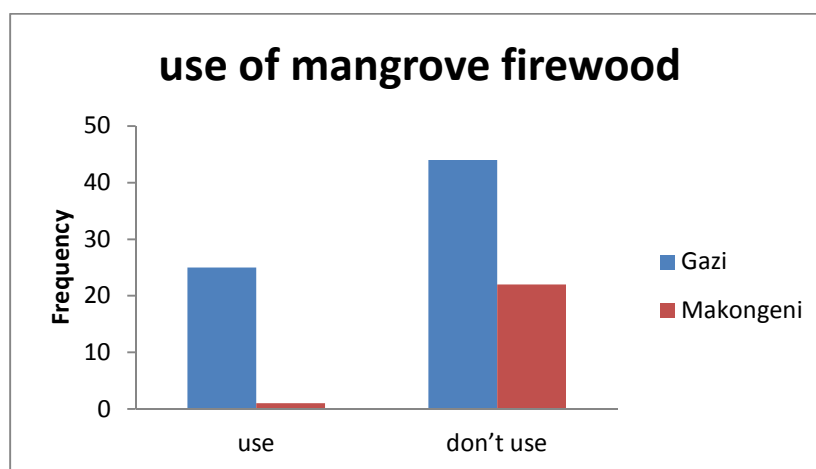
2.1 Mangrove products

Majority of people from Gazi Bay rely on mangroves for their wood and non-wood products. When asked whether they use any product from the mangroves, 52% responded 'yes' while 48% responded 'no'. Of the ones who use the mangrove products 98% mentioned mangrove poles while 2% mentioned seafood.

It is therefore evident that majority of people in Gazi Bay community still rely on mangrove forests for their livelihood. Mangrove poles are the main mangrove products they extract from the forest. The dependence on mangroves could be attributed to their durability and resistance to termite attack. The residents also depend on mangrove areas for fishery as majority (32%) are fishers.



The type of fuel used by households is related to their socio-economic status. Low level energy sources such as firewood are related to low socio-economic status while High level energy sources are cleaner but cost more and are used by households with level of income. (KNBS and SID ., 2013). 76% of the respondents mentioned open fire (three stones) as the main source of energy. 28% respondents answered 'yes' to using mangrove firewood while 72% responded 'no'. Some of those interviewed mentioned fear of being arrested by Kenya Forest Services as the reason as to why they were not using the resource. KFS require a person to pay KES 100 in order to get a permit to extract mangrove firewood. Other possible reasons could be availability of alternative sources of



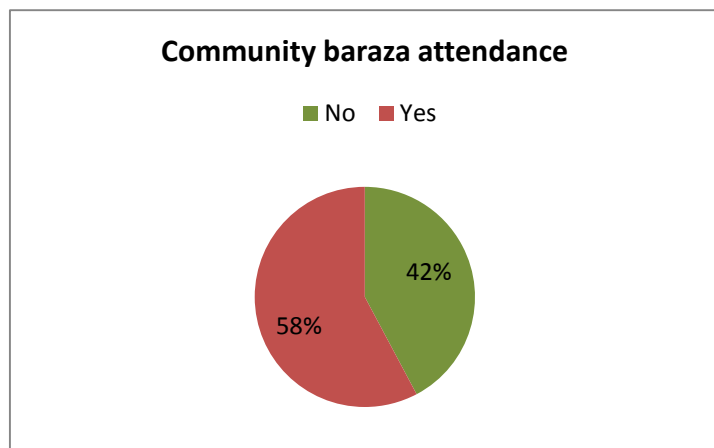
firewood from the terrestrial area. According to the results, majority of those who use mangrove firewood were from Gazi village (75%). This could be due to the proximity of Gazi to the mangroves as compared to Makongeni. Makongeni village on the other hand is quite extensive and the residents might be required to walk for long distances to access the mangrove areas. In addition, it is also quite bushy and thus has alternative sources of firewood.

2.2 Water

Most of the water points in Gazi are salty due to the proximity of the villages to the ocean. The main source of water is provided by Mikoko Pamoja. 73% of the community members use either Mikoko Pamoja water points or have installed Mikoko Pamoja water in their houses. 75% of those using Mikoko Pamoja water were from Gazi while 25% from Makongeni. Other sources that provide water include boreholes (25%) and private sources (2%). Mikoko Pamoja water project has been financed through money gotten from the sale of carbon credits. The water project has not only availed water to the community but it has also created employment to two water sellers. The community members buy the water at Ksh 3 per 20 L jerican as opposed to the previous price of Ksh 20. Water accessibility is still a problem in Makongeni. This is because village is big and that may be the reason why only 25% of the respondents who use Mikoko Pamoja water are from there. For those who live far from the water points, they access water at Ksh 50 per jerican from the water vendors.

2.3 Community baraza

58% of the respondents said 'yes' to attending communities barazas while 42% said 'No'. The reason given for attending barazas was for the community members to know the amount of money available for community development and thus be able to decide how it was going to be used. Those who said 'no' mentioned being busy at work as the main reason

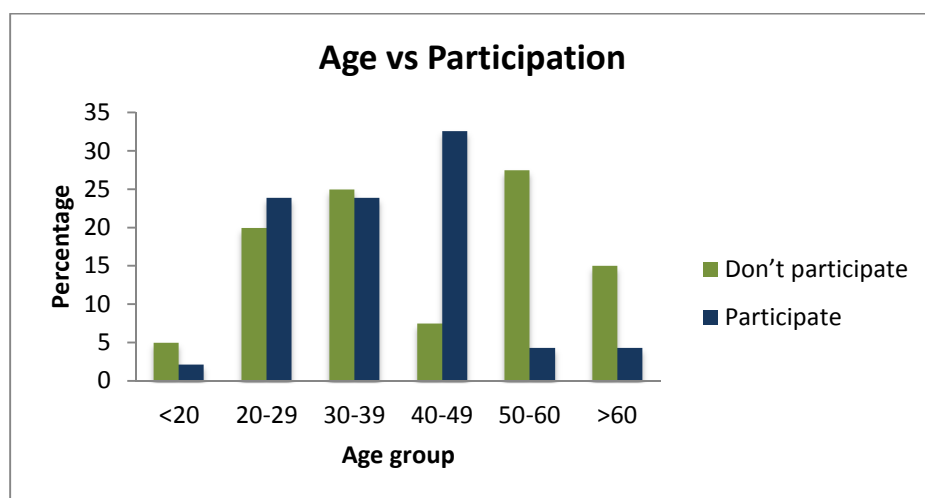


for not attending the barazas. 61% thought that the decisions made in the barazas pertaining benefit sharing represented the community and other vulnerable groups in the society such as women and children. Mikoko Pamoja uses community barazas as an avenue for engaging the community members. It is therefore evident that majority of people participate in decision making in the community through attending community barazas. When the community is engaged in a project, they feel that they own it and this is important for a project.

Community barazas is a traditional form/system of village engagement and information sharing. Where village members are able to meet and discuss issues pertaining to development, security among other village issues. MP takes advantage of the existing village structure headed by a village chairman who facilitates the call for a baraza through volunteer young people. These barazas are usually headed/coordinated by the village head and the MP committee. The desions made are dependent on public opinion done through voting(raising hands). The advantage of barazas is that the decision is made by the community however, this mght not reflect the whole communities views. Some may go along with the decision made as they are afraid to oppose another person's opinion whom they might view as more superior to them. Due to fear, the community might agree on a project / decision that is not totally favourable for the whole community.

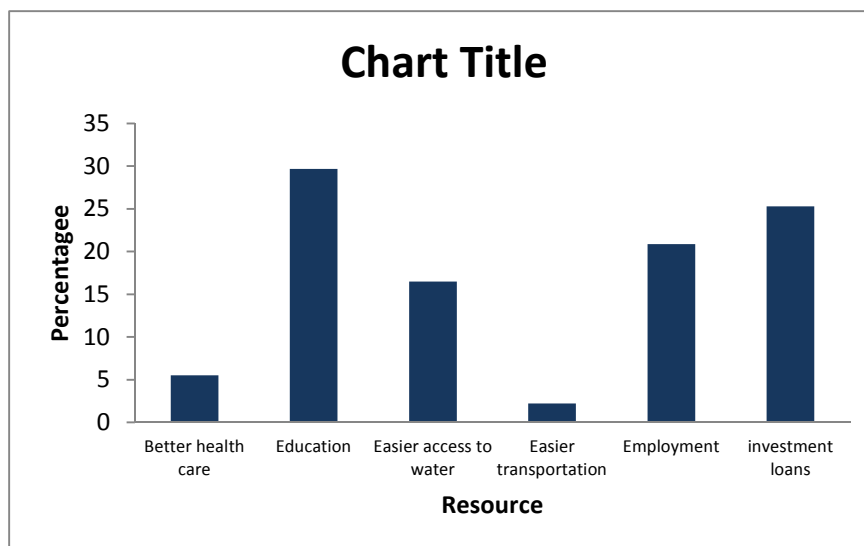
2.4 Participation in project activities

Mikoko Pamoja activities include planting, monitoring, village clean-ups and marking events such as world oceans day, International Day of mangrove conservation e.t.c. 49% of the respondents have participated in at least one of Mikoko Pamoja activities while 51% have not engaged in any activity. Majority of those who have participated lie between 20-49 years while the least participation comes from those above 50 years. This may be because the people in this group are readily available and have vital energy. However, the need for more people to be engaged for project success is important.



2.5 Allocation for future funding

Improvement in the level of education can lead to improved livelihood. When asked on the resource that they would like to be made available, majority (30%) felt that education should be improved followed by 25% who felt that loans should be made available to help them invest in businesses.



The literacy level in Kwale County has been very low and this might be the reason why the community felt that more investment should be done in education.

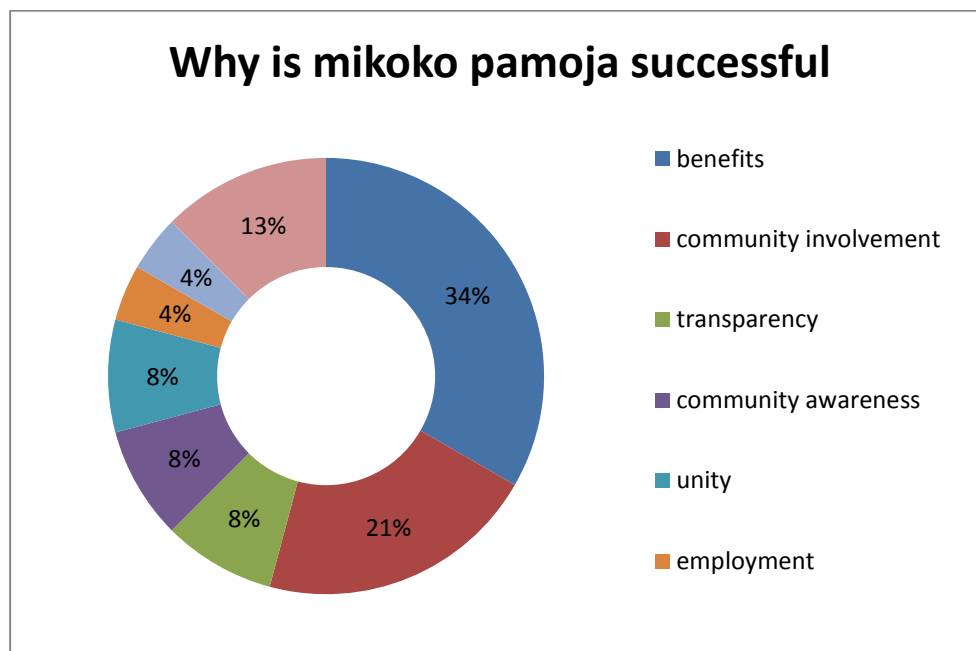
2.6 Upscaling

Based on the benefits already witnessed in Gazi Bay through MP project, 74% consider the upscaling /replication of MP to other areas as most appropriate thing to do. This is will have positive returns on

livelihoods, climate and biodiversity and also reduce leakages in mangrove degradation from nearby villages. However, a small proportion (4%) still think the project is yet to fully benefit the whole village while 22% do not know whether that is possible.

2.7 Reason for project success

There are numerous carbon projects in Africa. However, most are at an infant stage with only 5% generating financial benefits to communities. (World Agroforestry Center., 2009). Mikoko Pamoja is a model project and has gained global recognition especially after being highlighted in COP 21. When asked to rank why Mikoko Pamoja is successful majority (34%) of the key informants mentioned 'benefits' the community gets, followed by 'community involvement'(21%). Other reasons mentioned included 'transparency' (4%), 'community awareness', 'unity', 'employment opportunities', 'environment conservation' and 'improved cultural practices'. These aspects of the projects can be taken up by others who want to start carbon projects.



When asked what areas they thought Mikoko Pamoja should improve, some respondents mentioned awareness creation, involving more people in project activities, increase the conservation area and also expand current projects such as water.

3.0 Key findings

1. Community engagement in benefit sharing, transparency and awareness creation are vital for the success of a project.

2. The project needs to engage more community members in project activities preferably one person from each household. There should be willingness from the community on the other hand to create time to engage in project activities
3. An economic survey should be carried out to find out the main source of firewood. This will prevent leakage from the mangroves to the terrestrial forest adjacent to the communities due to restrictions in assessing the mangrove areas.

4.0 References

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Society for International Development. 2013. Exploring Kenya's inequality pulling apart or pooling together.

World Agroforestry Center. 2009. Africa's biocarbon experience; lessons for improving performance in the African carbon markets