OFFICE OF THE CLERK
COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KITUI
----------------------------------------

KITUI COUNTY
FIRST ASSEMBLY – FOURTH SESSION - 2016
----------------------------------------

COMMITTEE
ON
TOURISM & NATURAL RESOURCES
----------------------------------------

REPORT
ON A BENCHMARKING TRIP TO THE COAST REGION
----------------------------------------

Clerk’s Chambers,
Kitui County Assembly Buildings,
P.O Box 694-90200
KITUI.

MAY, 2016
# Table of contents

Abbreviations/Acronyms: 3  
Executive summary: 4  
1.0 Preface: 5  
1.1 Introduction: 5  
1.2 Committee membership: 5  
1.3 Committee mandate: 5  
1.4 Terms of reference: 6  
1.5 Challenges: 6  
1.6 Approach to and Scope of the exercise: 6-7  
1.7 Acknowledgement: 7  
2.0 Background: 7  
2.1 Specific objectives of the Tour: 8  
2.2 The Itinerary: 8  
2.3 Adoption of the Report by members: 9  
3.0 Report on Benchmarking visit to Coast region: 10  
3.1 Committee findings/Observations: 10  
3.2 Findings/Observations: 10-11  
3.3 Challenges facing the Park: 11  
4.0 The County Assembly of Kilifi: 11  
4.1 Courtesy call on the Clerk of the County Assembly of Kilifi: 11-12  
4.2 Findings: 12  
5.0 Arabuko-Sokoke Forest: 12-13  
5.1 Findings: 13  
6.0 Gede National Museum: 14  
6.1 Findings: 14  
6.2 Gede Snake Park: 15  
6.3 Findings: 15  
7.0 Haller Park: 15  
7.1 Historical background: 15-16  
7.2 Findings/Observations: 15-16  
8.0 Fort Jesus: 17  
8.1 Historical background: 17  
8.2 Findings: 17  
9.0 Shimba Hills National Reserve/Mwaluganje Elephant sanctuary: 17  
9.1 Historical background: 17-18  
9.2 Findings: 18-19  
10.0 County Assembly of Kwale: 19  
11.0 Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park and Reserve: 20  
11.1 Findings: 20  
11.2 Wasini Island: 20  
11.3 Shimoni caves: 20-21  
11.4 Historical background: 21  
11.5 Findings: 21  
12.0 Akamba Handicraft Centre: 22  
12.1 Historical background: 22  
12.2 Findings: 22-23  
13.0 Conclusion: 23  
14.0 Committee Recommendations: 23-25  
15.0 Annexes: 26-39
### List of abbreviations/acronyms

1. **KWS**  
   Kenya Wildlife Service
2. **KFS**  
   Kenya Forest Service
3. **US**  
   United States
4. **MCA**  
   Member of County Assembly
5. **WFP**  
   World Food Program
6. **FAO**  
   Food Agricultural Organization
7. **UN**  
   United Nations
8. **KCDP**  
   Kenya Coast Development Programme
9. **NMK**  
   National Museum Of Kenya
10. **BO**  
    Community Based Organization
11. **EA**  
    East Africa
12. **USAID**  
    United States Agency for International development
13. **ASFGA**  
    Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents a benchmarking visit to Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa Counties by the County Assembly Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources from 14th to 19th March, 2016.

The reports gives a background information for the benchmarking visit to Coast region which was a component of the committee’s annual work plan for the year 2015/2016. The main objective of the visit was to establish the existing tourism framework in the three aforementioned Counties, and the role played by the tourism ministries in enhancing tourism activities in their counties.

The committee, via the letters dated 29th February, 2016, requested the management of the institutions/ tourism attraction sites to be visited, to facilitate meetings with respective key leaderships and stakeholders to enable it achieve the objectives of the visit.

The report contains the findings/observations made by the committee during the tour. Further, the reports documents vital recommendations made by the committee to the County Government of Kitui derived from its main findings from the visit.
1.0 PREFACE

1.1 Introduction

Mr. Speaker Sir,

On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Tourism and Natural resources and pursuant to provisions of Standing Order 179(6), I beg to move the adoption of the Report of the Committee on its benchmarking trip to the coast region which took place from 14\textsuperscript{th} to 19\textsuperscript{th} March, 2016. The committee visited some of the key tourist attractions sites in in Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa Counties to study/acquaint itself with the best practices on tourism management.

1.2 Committee membership

The Sectoral Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources was constituted during the Third Session of the first County Assembly on 21\textsuperscript{st} July, 2015 and comprises of the following members:-

1. Hon. Angeline M. Muthui, MCA Chairperson
2. Hon. Mary P. Ndumbu, MCA vice chairperson
3. Hon. Patrick Mutua, MCA Member
4. Hon. Grogan Tito Mbivi, MCA Member
5. Hon. Robinson Mativo, MCA Member
6. Hon. Stephen K. Wambua, MCA Member
7. Hon. Jeniffer Munuve, MCA Member
8. Hon. Angela Kanza, MCA Member
9. Hon. Peter M. Kilonzo, MCA Member
10. Hon. Jamhuri Mwango, MCA Member
11. Hon. Irene Muvea, MCA Member

1.3 Committee Mandate

The select Committee on Tourism and Natural resources derives its mandate from provisions of Standing Order 190 (5) which defines functions of the committee as to, inter alia; to:-

a) Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation.

b) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;

c) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary, and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;

d) Study and review all county legislation referred to it.

e) Study the programme and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of the implementation.
f) Study, assess and analyse the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives.

1.4 Terms of Reference

The committee was expected to study on the best practices on management of the tourism sector in the coast region and table the report for consideration by the County Assembly a Report that, inter-alia, contains recommendations for Improving the tourism sector in Kitui County.

1.5 Challenges;

The committee encountered the following challenges during the tour;

1) Members of the committee used to get exhausted due to long hours of traveling. In most cases they used to rise at around 6:30 am and retire at around 8pm.

2) The entry to Akamba Handicraft Centre was marked by delay as the management was reported to be in a meeting which lasted for more than an hour. This affected the timing of the program as the committee was enroute to another site.

3) The members were overwhelmed by the abnormal hot weather conditions experienced at the coast region and the entire country at the time. The **equinox** phenomena - where either of the two times of the year when the sun crosses the plain of the earth’s equator and day and night are of equal length saw weather conditions hitting a high of 40 degrees Celsius in the coast region.

These challenges notwithstanding, though, the committee is nonetheless proud to have executed its mission with valor, bearing in mind the importance of the study tour and the fact it had by all means to achieve what it set out to do.

1.6 Approach to and scope of the exercise

The committee’s work was guided by the terms of reference and the following general methodology was adopted:

1) **Preparatory meetings** - Prior to the exercise, the committee held several preparatory meetings during which the itinerary was drawn and letters written to the management of the respective tourist’s attractions sites that were to be visited.

2) **Meetings with officials of the tourists’ sites**: Before moving to the actual sites, the committee used to hold introductory meetings with the relevant officials where pertinent issues were discussed.

3) **Direct observation**: Part of the learning was realised through direct observation

4) **Oral interviewing**: The committee also interviewed key stakeholders including KWS personnel in a bid to collect all the required information.
5) **Recording of information:** This was done using recorders and the information has been maintained for referencing.

6) **Photography:** Photographs of the tourists sites/attractions visited were taken which have been featured in this report.

7) **Working retreat:** The visit led to a working retreat on 17th to 21st April at a Mwingi hotel. A consequence of this retreat was the compilation of the final report for tabling in the house.

1.7 **Acknowledgements**

In conclusion, Honourable Speaker, the committee is grateful to the Office of the Speaker for the support it extended during the tour. The committee also extends its gratitude to the office of the Clerk for facilitating the committee and pre-departure advice which enabled the committee to overcome logistical challenges. Further, the committee appreciates the warm reception it was accorded by the Clerk of the County Assembly of Kilifi Mr. Mkare A. Jefwa, the Speaker of the County Assembly of Kwale Hon. Sammy Ruwa and the Clerk Mr. Dennis Mutui and staffs of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) manning the various tourist’s sites/parks we visited.

Further, I wish to express my appreciation to the Honourable members of the committee who dutifully honoured their obligations and participated in the planned activities. The Committee also wishes to record its appreciation for services rendered by the Clerk to the Committee. His efforts and input made the work of the Committee and production of this Report possible.

Last but not least, the committee extents its appreciation to Mr. Amos Taura Charo- the Driver of the County Assembly of Kilifi for the role he played in transporting the delegation to the various tourists’ sites. The commitment and devotion to duty of all those involved in this noble task made the work of the Committee and production of this report a success. We thank each one of them.

2.0 **BACKGROUND**

In embarking on the benchmarking tour, the committee, as earlier stated, sought to establish how tourism activities in the coast region are managed. This was in view of the fact that the region is undoubtedly the bedrock of tourism in Kenya and as such local players had amassed a chunk of knowledge on the best way of managing the vital sector which is the leading foreign exchange earner in our country. In studying on the best practices on tourism management, the committee’s main goal was to come up with viable recommendations on how the Kitui’s dormant tourism sector could be rejuvenated to boost revenue collection. This is considering that the County is endowed with various tourists’ features which have remained unexploited due to lack of policy frame work and legislation.
2.1 Specific objectives of the tour

The committee sought to study/establish the following:

1) Tourism policy framework in the three Counties.
2) The role played by the tourism ministries in enhancing tourism activities in the three Counties
3) Challenges faced and how they manage human wildlife conflict issues (compensation policy).
4) The role played by legislative/oversight arm of the county government on tourism
5) The tourism marketing strategies used by the other counties.
6) The roles played by different actors and partners in the tourism industry e.g. KWS, community, county government and donors.
7) How revenue generated from the industry is managed.
8) The budget items generated by both the assembly and executive.

2.2 The itinerary.

The committee visited the following tourists’ sites;

1) Malindi Marine Park and Reserve
2) Gede ruins
3) Arabuko-Sokoke forest
4) Haller Park
5) Ngomongo cultural centre-
6) Akamba handcraft centre-
7) Mwaluganje elephant sanctuary-
8) Shimba hills national reserve-
9) Fort Jesus
10) Wasini Island

Mr. Speaker Sir,
On behalf of the Tourism and Natural Resources Committee, I now wish to table the report and urge the House to adopt it and the recommendations therein.

Thank you,

SIGNED ..............................................................................................................................

(HON. ANGELINE M. MUTHUI, MCA)
CHAIRPERSON,

DATE: This 10th day of May, 2016
2.3 ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE’S REPORT ON BENCHMARKING TOUR TO TOURIST SITES IN KWALE, KILIFI AND MOMBASA COUNTIES.

We, members of the Tourism and Natural resources Committee have, pursuant to Standing Order 179(6) adopted this report and hereby affix our signatures to affirm our approval and confirm its accuracy, validity and authenticity:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members’ Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hon. Angeline M. Muthui, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Hon. Mary P. Ndumbu, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hon. Patrick Mutua, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Hon. Grogan Tito Mbivi, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Hon. Robinson Mativo, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Hon. Stephen K. Wambua, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Hon. Jeniffer Munuve, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hon. Angela Kanza, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Hon. Peter M. Kilonzo, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Hon. Jamhuri Mwango, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Hon. Irene Muvea, MCA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following members were co-opted during the report writing retreat:

1. Hon. Titus Kasinga
2. Hon. Jemimah Mbiti
3. Hon. Daniel Ngoima
3.0 REPORT ON BENCHMARKING VISIT TO KWALE, MOMBASA AND KILIFI COUNTIES TOURISTS ATTRACTION SITES.

3.1 COMMITTEE FINDINGS/OBSERVATIONS

3.2.1 MALINDI MARINE PARK AND RESERVE

On arrival at the park, the committee was received by KWS Senior Warden Mr. Godfrey Wakaba in his office. The officer briefed the delegation as follows, that;

- The Marine Park which measures about 6km² is the oldest in Africa having been gazetted in 1968.
- The Park prides itself with its magical island and zebra fish.
- The Park provides a very nice introduction to the coastal attractions in Kenya with its extensive coral reefs and beautiful fine beaches, over 300 species of fish, Crabs, turtles, birds (both migrants and terrestrial), wide variety of terrestrial plants, dolphins, and other marine life.
- Tourists visiting the park can also enjoy surfing, snorkeling, deep-sea fishing and other water sports.
- The park is served by a domestic airport and a highway between Mombasa and Lamu thus making it more accessible by tourists.
- The park receives both foreign and local tourists including students from schools and colleges.

Further, Mr. Wakaba told members that Malindi Marine Park and reserve was established for the following objectives;

- To encourage public education, understanding, appreciation, recreation and enjoyment of marine natural resources.
- To conserve and maintain representative areas of the marine ecosystem.
- To promote research of marine ecosystem.
- To provide opportunities for generation of economic benefits.

Mr. Wakaba said that the County Government of Kilifi partners with KWS in;

1. Conducting public sensitization on the importance of wildlife.
2. Involving the surrounding communities in wildlife conservation programs. This, he said, is done through assisting of local schools. He cited construction of two (2) classes and equipping them with desks to win the support of the communities. This, he noted, helps the community to appreciate the importance of wildlife.
3. Offering free lectures on environmental issues to selected schools.

3.2.2 Findings/Observations

i The Malindi Marine Park and Reserve lie about 118km from Mombasa town and is located south of Malindi town.
The marine park is endowed with magnificent resources such as fringing reefs, coral gardens in the lagoons, sea grass beds, mangroves, mudflats, and high fish diversity, marine mammals, turtles and various species of shorebirds which serve as major attractions of tourists.

Within the vicinity of the park at the deep waters lies a Magic Island consisting of sandbanks that appear out of the ocean during low tides but which are inundated at all other times providing good site for barbeque.

The two most popular activities in the park are both diving and snorkelling. The clarity and quality of the water and underwater life make Malindi-Marine Parks one of the top underworld destinations in East Africa for scuba divers.

The park is home to more than 600 species of fish, 145 types of hard coral, 12 species of echinoids, 135 types of gastropods and 200 species of benthic cover algae.

Visitors can enjoy the following activities at the marine park; water skiing, deep sea fishing, windsurfing, kitesurfing, cultural tours watching the pristine ocean and having a picnic with friends and family.

3.3.3 Challenges facing the Park

Mr. Wakaba cited the major challenges as follows;

1. Terrorism/pirates which has adversely affected the flow of tourists into Kenya due to insecurity which prompt frequent travel advisories issued by the U. S and other European countries.
2. Oil spillage from ships transporting none refined oil which affects/kills marine life.
3. Lack of proper methods of waste disposal which suffocates waters affecting marine life negatively.
4. Suffocation of ocean waters as a result of illegal farming by farmers along river Sabaki especially during rainy season. This also affects marine life.
5. The danger posed by stom fish. This breed of fish is poisonous and each year inflicts injuries to scores of tourists scaring away others.

4.0 THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KILIFI

4.1 COURTESY CALL ON THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KILIFI, MR. MKARE A. JEFWA.

The committee while enroute to Arabuko-Sokoke forest, paid a courtesy call at the County Assembly of Kilifi where members were warmly welcomed by the Clerk of the County Assembly Mr. Mkare A. Jefwa. Speaking in his office flanked by the senior Sergeant –At-Arms, Mr. Felix Mwarabu, the Sergeant-At-Arms Mr. Omar Chupi and the Internal Auditor Mr. Karisa, Mr Jefwa thanked the delegation for the visit. He said both Kilifi and Kitui counties have a lot to learn from each other. He said Kilifi County has several tourists’ attractions which generates a lot of revenue which benefits the residents. He
noted that the Kilifi County Assembly has one of the best building structures in the Country citing the state-of-the art debating chamber. He conducted the members to a tour of the modern model facility. He said in addition, the Assembly was in the process of constructing a six (6) storey building block to host offices for the MCAs. He further said both the MCAs and staffs of the Assembly had benefited from the Mortgage and Car Loans kitty.

4.2.1 Findings

1. That the County assembly of Kilifi has indeed one of the best and well equipped debating chamber in the country.
2. That all the Assembly departments are headed by Directors.
3. The Hansard and Legislative practice and procedure departments are the core departments which are fully equipped and hosted in adequate office space.
4. That the Assembly is based at Malindi town while the Executive offices are stationed at Kilifi town - 65km apart.
5. That the Assembly sits on Monday afternoon, Tuesday the whole day and Wednesday afternoon. The committees only meets on Thursday and Fridays.

5.0 ARABUKO-SOKOKE FOREST

The Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve is a 420 km2 coastal forest which is managed by Kenya Forest Service (KFS). It forms the centrepiece of a world-renowned habitat for rare and endangered mammals and birds. It was originally declared as Crown Forest in 1932 and was gazetted as a forest reserve in 1943. Within the forest area, about 4,300 ha was designated as a strict Nature Reserve in 1977.

The forest is the largest single block of indigenous coastal forest remaining in East Africa with 20% of Kenya's bird species, 30% butterfly species and at least 24 rare and endemic bird, mammal and butterfly species. It has been ranked as the second most important forest for the conservation of threatened bird species on the mainland of Africa. The forest hosts the following wildlife species;

- **Mammals:** The forest has 40 recorded mammal species including African Elephant, African Buffalo, African Civet, Caracal, Syke’s Monkeys, Yellow Baboons and Lesser Galago (or bushbaby). Some of Kenya’s rarest mammals are found here, including the Golden-rumped Elephant-shrew, Sokoke Bushy-tailed Mongoose and Ader’s Duiker.

- **Birds:** There are over 270 species of birds recorded in the forest including several rare and endemic species. The Clarke’s Weaver is only found in Arabuko-Sokoke and another area 30 kms further north of Arabuko-Sokoke in the whole world. Other globally threatened bird species found in Arabuko-Sokoke include: Amani Sunbird, East Coast Akalat, Sokoke Scops Owl, Sokoke Pipit, and the Spotted Ground Thrush. Other birds restricted to Kenyan coastal forests are found the most easily in Arabuko-Sokoke, making it a great place to visit.
• **Reptiles & amphibians:** The forest has 49 reptile and 25 amphibian species.

• **Other areas of special interest in Arabuko-Sokoke forest.** In addition to the animals and plants mentioned above, Arabuko-Sokoke forest has the following attractions:
  ❖ A network of well-marked walking trails.
  ❖ More than 30 kms of driving tracks traversing the different forest types.
  ❖ Beautiful seasonal pools hidden amongst the Miombo woodlands teeming with birds and amphibians.
  ❖ Two tree platforms for a birds-eye-view of the forest.
  ❖ Nyari viewpoint, an elevated area of the forest with a panoramic view of the forest canopy, looking out the coast beyond.
  ❖ Mida Creek, a beautiful tidal inlet with six species of mangrove trees situated less than 1 km from the entrance to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. The Creek is a major wintering site for migrant birds including Crab-plover, Greater Flamingos, Terek Sandpipers and Sandplovers. Mida Creek Boardwalk and Bird Hide is located here, a facility that generates income for forest conservation and education of local children.

5.1 **Findings/observations**

i The forest is a major tourist attraction due to the endemic birds, mammals and butterfly species. Visitors can enjoy the following activities at the forest; forest walks, forest drives, bird watching, Butterfly watching, camping, cycling, picnicking and running.

ii The forest is well conserved and no illegal encroachment is allowed. It hosts 41 species of snake, 21 lizards and 2 tortoises. It is also home to 52 mammal species including the Golden-rumped Elephant-Shrew, Ader’s Duiker and the Sokoke Bushy-Tailed Mongoose.

iii Butterfly farming is the most successful income generating activity practised in the forest. The farmers produce pupae from flying cages set within the forest by villagers residing adjacent to the forest. The residents sell the pupae for export at the Kipepeo Project in Gede. The forest also produces a range of fruits and vegetables which benefit the surrounding communities.

iv The forest lies along the tarmac Mombasa – Malindi highway, approximately 100 km from Mombasa town and 18 km from Malindi. The entry is clearly signposted and visitor services are available at the offices of Kenya Forest Services (KFS) Malindi Forest Zone located there. Kenya Forest Service (KFS) charges an entry fee of Ksh 250 at the point of entry to promote forest conservation.

v The forest has a network of driving tracks and walking trails. Trained guides are available to help one explore the forest. The guides are members of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association (ASFGA) and charge as per the time spent and service rendered.
6.0 GEDE NATIONAL MUSEUM

On arrival at Gede National Monument and the Gede Reptile Rescue Park (the snake park) within the museum, the committee was taken around by a tour guide by the name Ms. Esther Wanjiru. She informed the delegation as follows, that;

- Gede ruins was an establishment of Swahili people which was built in 12th century. The town is believed to have a population of about 3000 people. The name Gede is a Galla or Oromo word meaning “precious” and is also used as a personal name. It is either a name of the town which they destroyed or the name of the last Galla leader to camp on the site. It is believed that the true name of the town could be Kilimani.
- The town was surrounded by two protective walls i.e. the Inner wall with a height of seven feet and the Outer wall with a height of nine feet. The inhabitants of Gede involved themselves in various trading activities both locally and internationally. This factor is supported by archaeological finds which are displayed in the museum.
- The population of Gede is believed to have been of the Islamic religion. This is evidenced by the presence of eight mosques.
- Gede reached its climax in the 15th century and it is thought to have been abandoned probably in the early 17th century due to various speculated theories like Shortage of water occasioned by the falling water table as evidenced by the deepening of the well outside the great mosque, civil war, the removal of the Sheikh of Malindi and the Portuguese to Mombasa in 1593, diseases, and the hostilities which arose with the coming of the Galla or Oromo people from Somalia.
- In 1927, Gede was gazetted as an historical monument. In 1939 valuable work was done by the public works department in cementing together the crumbling walls of the more important buildings. In 1948, Gede was declared a national park an archaeologist was appointed as warden and excavation began, which continued until 1958. Responsibility for its administration was taken over by the museum trustees in 1969.

6.1 Findings

i. The site is inhabited by quenon monkeys, which frequently interact with visitors.
ii. Gede indigenous forest is a sacred site for traditional rituals and sacrifices for the surrounding community.
iii. Local and international tourists frequent the museum contributing a lot in terms of revenue collection.
iv. The museum is home to other attractions including a snake park and butterfly (Kipepeo) center.
v. The structures which hosted the museum were made from coral reef derived from the Indian Ocean.
vi. The site was first visited by Sir John Kirk, a British resident of Zanzibar in 1884 and remains the first intensively studied site at the coast.
6.2.1 Gede Snake Park

This park is within Gede National Museum. On arrival at the site, the team was received by the snake handler Mr. Shadrack Kombe.

6.2.2 Findings

- The park is an integrated entity of the National Museums of Kenya which educates the public and especially the young generation on snake/amphibians phobia.
- The park started as a reptile rescue centre-handling cases of reptiles that were on the verge of being killed, burnt or trafficked to other countries.
- The park has been instrumental to the community particularly the neighbouring schools whose students had previously been affected by the snake phobia. However with the collaboration of the Museums and the schools administration, students are given free lectures and visits to the snake park. This has really changed the once prone hysteria experienced in the area.
- The following types of snakes are found at the park;
  - Puff adder
  - Rock python,
  - Small Scaled Burrowing asp/viper,
  - Boomsag,
  - Egg Eater,
  - Black Mamba,
  - Green Mamba,
  - Forest Cobra,
  - Brown Spitting Cobra.
- That the snakes are well caged in wooden cubes with transparent glasses for visibility.

7.0 HALLER PARK

7.1 Historical background

Haller Park (formerly Bamburi Nature Trail) is located south of Bamburi cement plant along Mombasa-Malindi highway. It is the transformation of a quarry wasteland into an ecological area. It holds a variety of animal species which serves as a recreation spot for foreign and local tourists. The park is named after a manager Rene Haller who managed the garden department in 1959 and tasked to beautify the area. In 1970s, Haller embarked on the reforestation project on the barren landscape of disused limestone quarries. The park holds a variety of plant and animal species. Animals found in the park includes Hippos, giraffes, buffalos, antelopes as well as small mammals and birds.

The Park consists of a Game Sanctuary, Reptile Park, small demonstration Fish Farm area, Palm Garden, Crocodile pens and a giraffe viewing platform, offering a variety of attractions at the various points to educate and entertain.
visitors who visit the park. The diversity of vegetation is considerable, from mangrove palms and majestic indigenous shade trees to coastal forests where several of these plants are rare and endangered; a haven for botanist. Yet each plant plays an important role in the overall harmony of the ecosystem.

On arrival at the park, the committee was taken around by Ms. Joy Mkakesi, a tour guide and established that the park hosts the following;

- **A variety of snakes including:** Spitting cobra, link-marked sand snake, Rufous beaked snake, Boomslang, green mamba, common house snake, Puff adder and Eastern striped bellied sand snake. It is also home to monitor lizards and turtles and tortoise. The members were impressed by the big size of one of the tortoise said to be more than 100 years old and having originated from Seychelles.

- **A crocodile pod:** where two types of crocodiles are bred. They include the Albino specie which have a v-shaped mouth and are not common in Africa and said to have originated from Australia. The other one is the normal specie which is the dominant in Africa.

- **A fish aquarium:** where different variety of fish are bred. It produces between 30–35 tons of fish per year which are sold generating income.

- **Giraffes view point.** The park has a view point where visitors can interact with the friendly animals. The members gathered that park was hosting a total of ten (10) giraffes with the oldest being nineteen (19) years.

- **Breeding of Antelopes and hippos** with the following species of antelopes being available at the park at the time;
  a) **Elands Antelopes.** The breed was chosen for domestication at park because of the following benefits;
    - Production of nutritious milk
    - Possession of antibiotic properties which cause the milk stay fresh for months.
    - The Elands being resistant to most livestock diseases and being tamed easily.

  b) **Oryx Antelopes.** This breed was introduced to supplement the Eland group. Their usefulness was outlined as follows;
    - Ability to cope/survive drought conditions and
    - Capacity/ability to digests fibers.

7.2.1 **Findings/observations**

i. The Park consists of a Game Sanctuary, Reptile Park, small demonstration Fish Farm area, Palm Garden, Crocodile pens and a giraffe viewing platform, offering a variety of attractions at the various points to educate and entertain visitors.

ii. Animals species found in the park includes Hippos, giraffes, buffalos, antelopes, monkeys as well as small mammals.

iii. Birds species found here includes weaver birds, Kingfisher, Storks, Herons, Egrets, Owls, Eagles, Kites, Cranes, Ibis, Sandpipers.
iv. The diversity of vegetation ranging from mangrove palms and majestic indigenous shade trees to coastal forests where several of these plants are rare and endangered; a haven for botanist.

8.0 FORT JESUS
8.1 Historical background
Fort Jesus which is one of the Kenyan world heritage, is located on the edge of a coral ridge overlooking the entrance to the Old Port of Mombasa. It was built by the Portuguese in 1593-1596 to protect their trade route to India and their interest in East Africa. The fort was completed in 1596, the plan was a quadrilateral with four bastions: S. Felipe, S. Alberto, S. Mathias and S. Mateus. Mombasa became Portugal’s main trading Centre along the East Coast of Africa. The Fort is today known as one of the best examples of 16th century Portuguese military architecture.

8.2.1 Findings;

i. That the fort is a major source of income to the County Government of Mombasa. It generates between Kshs. 10 to 15 million worth of revenue per year. Visitors must pay ksh 200 at the entrance and issued with official receipts.

ii. The fort also serves as source of income to groups/individuals who play the role of tour guides.

iii. The edges of the fort had started wearing out due to harsh climatic conditions hence threatening its existence.

9.0 SHIMBA HILLS NATIONAL RESERVE/MWALUGHANJE ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

9.1 Historical background

On arrival at the KWS offices in Shimba Hills, the committee was welcomed by the Deputy Warden Mr. Tsiganyiu Dadley. Briefing the members, Mr Tsiganyiu revealed that the Shimba Hills National Reserve measures 300km² and is a conglomeration of the forested areas on the Eastern and Southern slopes of the plateau including Mwaluganje and Mkongani. He said conservation, which KWS treats as a national heritage is an expensive and uphill task. The committee gathered that the forest reserve which is located approximately 33km south of Mombasa, in Kwale County was first designated a Forest Reserve in 1903 and later gazetted as a National Reserve and placed under joint management between the Wildlife Department and the Forest Department. It further learned that the twin objectives of Shimba Hills National Reserve were to protect the water catchment and contribute to tourism revenue. Mr Tsiganyiu said the Mwaluganje Community Elephant Sanctuary which measures 6km² is located between Shimba hills national reserve and Mwaluganje area. The flora of the reserve is exceptionally rich and important. A total of 1,396 plant taxa in 145 families and 686 genera have been documented, around 280 of which are endemic to the Shimba Hills area.
and nearly a fifth considered rare globally. This qualifies Shimba as a centre of Plant Diversity.


**Reptiles includes:** Python, Cobra, Lizard, and Gecko.

**Insects:** Butterflies, mosquito and beetle.

Mr. Tsiganyiu said KWS and KFS partner with local communities to implement projects which are beneficial to them so as to make them see the value of the forest reserve/ecosystem. He cited the activities as:

- Building schools, water points, dispensaries.
- Undertaking community mobilization/sensitization with the aim of discouraging local residents from engaging in illegal activities within the park such as poaching, charcoal burning and grazing which he said in most cases happens as a result of ignorant / illiteracy and poverty.
- Supporting income generating ventures undertaken by organized groups. This is done by KWS in partnership with international players such the World Food Program (WFP). Such activities include bee-keeping and farming done courtesy of encouragement by the United Nations (UN) and Food Agricultural Organization (FAO). The officer gave an example of the Kenya Coast Development Programme (KCDP) which partners with them to help the community do nurseries for tree seedlings, conservation of mangroves, building Bandas for visitors to sleep in thus helping them generate income. This improves their livelihood and stops charcoal burning.

The officer explained that with management of community land being a devolved function, any party interested in acquiring land to start any conservation work like nursery tree planting must liaise with the County Government of Kwale for allocation of the land. On the issue of illegal poaching, he said there is need for the county government to foster a close working relationship with other stakeholders to fight the menace. He said people injured by wild animals are compensated by KWS as stipulated in the compensation Act 2014. He said the county government ought to adopt measures to tame illegal encroachments in the forest.

**9.2.1 Findings;**

i. The Shimba hills ecosystem is endowed with unique varieties of wildlife, species of plants and birds which serve as major tourist attractions.

ii. With many different species of plants (estimated to be over 100), the ecosystem is very fitting/suitable for research works especially on tropical ecology, medicinal plants and genetic diversity. Also important could be studies of how local residents interact with the forest, in terms of secondary forest product use and tourism development. Further,
Research and Education is done to promote application of research for educational awareness, community participation and capacity building.

iii. The forest reserve is a proposed water tower with four (4) permanent rivers namely Marere, Ramisi, Manolo/Pemba and Mkurumdzii originating from it.

iv. The major tourist attractions in this reserve includes Elephants, hyenas, warthogs, sable antelopes, the Mwaluganje forest, the various view points and Sheldrick Falls. The sable antelopes are reported to be 98 in number and in Kenya, they are only found in this reserve.

v. The forest reserve which is jointly managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Forest Service generates about Kshs. 25-30 million in form of revenue per year.

vi. Culture Preservation-the ecosystem has cultural significance in that it historically sheltered small-fortified villages referred to as Kayas (i.e. homesteads) of various groups when they first appeared in the region three centuries or more ago. Cutting of trees and destruction of vegetation around these sites was prohibited to screen the villages from enemies; thus today the Kayas are very botanically diverse and have a high conservation value. Some Kayas are still used today for traditional cultural ceremonies and burial grounds and seen as scared places.

10.0 COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KWALE.

On the way to Shimba Hills, the committee paid a courtesy call to the Speaker and Clerk of the County Assembly of Kwale Hon. Sammy Ruwa and Mr Denis Mutui respectively. The Speaker Hon. Sammy Ruwa said Kwale County has a lots of opportunities for tourism. He noted that it is in Kwale where the best sandy beaches are found citing Diani beach. He also cited Shimba Hills National Reserve and Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary, Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park and Reserves, Wasini Island, the historic Shimoni caves, corals, birds’ habitat areas, hotels and turtle breading grounds as the other key tourist attractions. He explained that the County Government of Kwale had programs targeting the Shimba Hills National Reserve, Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary and Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park although they fall under the national government. He cited the challenges facing the local tourism as follows;

• Low participation of locals in trade, tourism and industry- very few locals have invested in both medium and large business to boost tourism.
• Overdependence on traditional tourism attraction- the tourism industry has been focusing on marketing traditional attraction such as leisure and wildlife and neglecting areas like cultural attractions, sport tourism, event tourism and conferencing.
• Under exploitation of local cultural heritage-despite the county having one of the largest shares of tourism, the local cultural heritage is not aggressively promoted as one of the tourist attraction.
11.0 KISITE-MPUNGUTI MARINE PARK AND RESERVE/WASINI ISLAND

11.1 KISITE-MPUNGUTI MARINE PARK AND RESERVE

On arrival at the KWS offices at Shimoni, the committee was welcomed by the organization’s Customer Service Manager Mr. Joseph Mutuku who said the Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park which comprises an island is manned by KWS. He said the park which was established in 1973 and gazetted in 1990 lies in the coral gardens starting about 1KM south of Wasini Island. He further said, the park covers an area of 28 km² while the Reserve covers 11 km². He said the Mpunguti Reserve is situated only on one side (Northeast) of the park, contrary to other parks where the Reserve surrounds the whole park and functions as a buffer zone. He said the park is rich in corals which are the main source of food for the fish as well as providing shelter.

11.2.1 Findings:

i. The park generates revenue in the range of Ksh. 20 million per annum from local and international visitors.

ii. Going to the park on boat takes about one hour hence people with phobia on tides may not be able to access it due to scaring surges.

iii. Migratory birds frequent the island to breed.

iv. Visitors enjoy swimming in the presence of Dolphins which makes it enchanting.

v. The area hosts a unique crab measuring the size of a human head which feeds on coconut.

11.2.2 WASINI ISLAND

11.2.3 Historical background

Wasini Island is a site of early Swahili civilization. The island is occupied by the Vumba, a Bantu-speaking and predominantly Muslim people with a rich history. The Vumba live a fairly traditional lifestyle based around fishing and, more recently, ecotourism. The Wasini Women Group-an enterprise entity-formed in 1978 to champion incomes for local women maintains a boardwalk which is a raised looped wooden platform stretching over 500 metres within the island’s beautiful fossil coral gardens and mangrove vegetation. During high-tide, the seawater covers the coral gardens. Along various points on the boardwalk the visitors not only get to enjoy the breath-taking scenery but are also educated by the tour guides on the various mangrove species and other significant formations and ecosystem functions.

11.2.4 Findings:

i. Major tourist attractions of the island includes prehistoric buildings, exposed coral reef, pristine mangrove forests, beautiful fossil, coral
gardens, intermittent bird watching sites, viewpoints and clear ocean waters and beaches.

ii. Fish and crab farming, bee-keeping and ecotourism are the main economic/income generating activities practised in the area.

iii. The Wasini women group who operates a group curio shop which sells souvenirs to visitors. They also have *The Flavors of Wasini Island*, a cookbook containing a collection of some of Wasini Island’s mouth-watering recipes as compiled by the women.

iv. A coral garden with boardwalk which is managed by Wasini Women Group. They use these corals to shape different animals and ornaments and sell them to visitors.

v. The group also partners with Royal Embassy of Netherlands, USAID and European Union in supporting primary education through paying school fees for local children and salaries for teachers, support Madrassa classes, buy medicine supplies for local dispensary, among others.

11.2.5 Shimoni caves:

11.2.6 Historical background

This site is at the entrance of the KWS gates manning the Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park. The cave is 5km long made from corals. Adjacent to the caves, there is shimoni slave’s museum which is managed by National Museum of Kenya (NMK). In 2010, the US embassy sponsored the restoration of an old colonial district commissioner’s residence built in 1885 and abandoned in 1980s with an aim of attracting tourists from America. This museum has a collection of the local Digo people’s cultural artefacts and others collected from the East Africa (EA) coastal areas like Pemba and Zanzibar that were centres of the famous Arab slave trade stretching from the 8th to the 19th centuries. Local folklore has it that locals trying to escape the marauding slave hunters initially used the natural formations to hide. Old iron shackles, wooden crates and rusted chains and metallic studs that are well reserved in the caves tells the sorry story of the Africans slave trade victims.

11.2.7 Findings:

1) The cave, which is managed by a Community Based Organization (CBO) is a popular tourist site and hence a major source of revenue as the many local and international visitors must pay entry fee.

2) Kaya elders used to converge at the historic cave for prayers and to offer sacrifices to the deity. This used to happen prior to the invasion of the cave by slave traders.

3) The cave also used to serve as a waiting pen for the slaves captured from the hinterland.
12.0 THE AKAMBA HANDICRAFT CENTRE

12.1 Historical background

The Akamba Handicrafts Cooperative is a nonprofit organization that manufacturers and exports fine woodcarvings, animal sculptures, decorative accessories, and fancy customized goods. The Handicraft was registered in 1963 with a membership of 200 then. The handicraft is registered as a cooperative society under the ministry of industrialization. It was started by people who worked as handicrafts. Members contributes their capita share as it a norm to Sacco’s. Currently, the association has about 5000 members from all tribes but mostly they are kambas. They produce high quality animal woodcarvings on site. Customers can walk into the workshops, meet the friendly artists and witness the creative process.

12.2.1 Findings

i. The carvers are not formally trained but acquire handcrafting skills through voluntary practicing/ coaching by pioneers.

ii. The Centre which is run by management committee of seven (7) people is comprised of three groups namely the Akamba general services handicraft, Ngomo multipurpose and Uchongaji band which are used as a marketing avenue. There is also a supervisory committee which oversees the work of the management committee. The management committee is tasked with marketing the handicraft products.

iii. The facility, which runs Uchongaji Sacco society Ltd enjoys both local and international customers some of whom purchase the handicrafts in large quantities for export.

iv. The cooperative society has extended its operations to Chumvi area (Machakos junction) where it has put up a big shop for handicraft products.

v. It operates two big show rooms with a variety of fancy wood carvings.

vi. The center supplements its income by operating a bar located at the Centre and which is the main income generating activity.

vii. Currently, the center hosts over 400 carvers while others operate from outside.

viii. The committee gathered that the management of the handcraft center wanted to open up a branch at the precincts of Nzambani rock and had met with senior officials of the county ministry of tourism and natural resources with whom they discussed on the possibilities of acquiring a piece of land for the purpose but no response had been offered.

ix. Challenges facing the center were cited as follows;

- Decline of sales (up to as little as 15 per cent) due to low number of tourists as a result of insecurity perpetuated by the Al-Shabaab terror network. Terror attacks peaked in 2014 resulting to travel advisories by key European countries including the US which scared away international tourists.
- Insufficient supply of raw/carving materials. The industry is hit by shortage of supply of materials especially the ebony and mahogany logs/stumps which are the best for carvings.
- High rate of withdrawal of members from the venture due to poor income/huge losses occasioned by lack of customers due to rampant insecurity and other unforeseen factors such as politics and unscrupulous middlemen.

13.0 CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker Sir,
This report contains the recommendations which if implemented by the County government will go a long way in rejuvenating the dormant tourism sector in the county.

14.0 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

In view of the above findings/observations, the County Government of Kitui should do the following to rejuvenate the dormant tourism sector.

i. Come up with laws prescribing effective management of the existing tourists’ attractions in the county. The legislation should;
   - Ensure that all tourists’ sites and cultural values are well preserved and protected.
   - Set up of a special agency to spearhead establishment of artificial/man-made forests in potential areas of the County such as swamps.
   - Make it mandatory for all the residents and public institutions in the County including primary and secondary schools, churches, health facilities, and colleges to plant and nurture a specific number of trees in their compounds with a view to improving rainfall patterns and weather conditions in coming years. Such a move will also assist in boosting the national goal of increasing the country’s forest cover to 10 per cent in line with the international recommendation and in addition help in curbing the effects of global warming.
   - Spell out deterrent penalties on activities which contribute to the plunder of the natural resources such as charcoal burning, cutting down of trees for harvesting of timber for commercial purposes or illegal settlements, illegal encroachment into public forests and so forth.

ii. Prioritize development of the physical infrastructure including roads leading to the tourists’ attractions, accommodation facilities and communication networks among others.

iii. Work closely with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to promote the conservation of the existing forests or rather fight the rampant destruction of the natural resources occasioned by illegal logging,
charcoal burning, overgrazing, illegal settlements and other illegal human activities.

iv. Conduct civic education to communities living near tourists’ sites including the game parks/reserves to promote public ownership of the entities. This will encourage conservation/protection of the entities. This should be supplemented through community mobilization/sensitization programmes through building schools, digging boreholes. This will make the public feel that they are benefiting from the reserves/parks.

v. Create public awareness on the importance of conserving wildlife and forests in the county for the sake of posterity.

vi. Resolve all the land disputes involving people residing near the tourists’ sites and especially around the South Kitui Game Reserves where a conflict pitting local residents versus the county government had caused construction of a revenue collection gate to stall. It should also move with speed in resolving the dispute on the ownership of Nzambani rock to pave way for the envisaged developments around the rock. Additionally, no budgetary allocation should be made in respect of any development activities before the dispute is settled.

vii. Ensure all game parks/reserves are installed with electrical fencing to curb illegal encroachments and minimize human-wildlife conflict.

viii. Reinforce the capacity of game rangers in protecting game parks/reserves by training and equipping them with modern tools and weapons.

ix. Encourage public-private partnership in the development of high class hotels with a capacity of accommodating foreign tourists.

x. Invest in effective marketing of the main tourists’ attractions in the county to attract both local and international tourists. This can be achieved through effective and sustained advertisement spearheaded through documentaries, brochures, online platforms, printed materials like flyers, caps and T-shirts among other means. For example, carrying out effective publicity on the uniqueness and mythology of Nzambani rock that when you go round it for seven times, your gender changes automatically as you complete the seventh round would be interesting to potential tourists who might visit with a view to establishing the truth about the bizarre stories.

xi. Hasten the process of developing a reptile park at Mutomo Hills Plant Sanctuary (MHPS) for which a substantial amount was allocated this financial year.

xii. Map out and develop areas with potential for attracting tourists including historical sites and shrines to the County to boost revenue collection.

xiii. Invest in supporting community tourism initiatives such as the Mumoni hills and Endau conservancies to enhance their economic base and promote tourism.

xiv. Revive the waning Kamba traditional practices such as the captivating folk songs, dance and other cultural values including the weaving of baskets (Ciondos) to enable local and international visitors to sample our traditional way of life.
xv. Establish a Kamba cultural centre in the county modelled on the structures and operations of the Bomas of Kenya.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

All the recommendations made by the committee were arrived at by consensus by all the members who went for the tour.

The committee, therefore, unanimously urges the House to adopt the report with the recommendations thereof.
15.0 Annexes

Figure 1: Senior Warden at Malindi Marine Park Mr. Wakaba with Committee Chair Hon. Mbula and Hon. Jennifer Munuve
Figure 2: Clerk of the County Assembly of Kilifi Mr. Jefwa briefing members of the committee who had paid him a courtesy call in his Office
Figure 3: Kilifi County Assembly Modern Chamber

Figure 4: Committee members inside Kilifi County Assembly Modern Chamber
Different species of butterflies in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Reserve.

Figure 5: Sokoke Scops-Owl - the smallest owl in Africa
Figure 6: Committee Members inside the Gede ruins

Figure 7: The Inner Wall of Gede Ruins
Figure 8: Snake Handler Mr. Kombo demonstrating to members of the committee on how to hold python.

Figure 9: Hon. Kilonzo stepping on a tortoise’s back at Haller Park.
Figure 10: Committee members at the Haller Park Fish aquarium site

Figure 11: Albino crocodile pen inside Haller Park
Figure 12: Committee members interacting with the Giraffe at Haller Park giraffe viewpoint site

Figure 13: An elephant herd in Shimba Hills National Reserve
Figure 14: A herd of Sable Antelopes inside

Figure 15: Deputy Senior Warden (Mr. Tsiganyiu Dadley) at Shimba Hill giving lecture to committee members Shimba Hills National Reserve
Figure 16: Hon. Sammy Ruwa (Speaker) and Clerk Mr. Denis Mutui of county Assembly of kwale with members of the committee in the speaker’s office.

Figure 17: Members of the committee at the Sheldrick falls inside Shimba Hills National Reserve.
Figure 18: Committee members enjoying the Wasini Women boardwalk at Wasini Island
Figure 19: Members walking through Coral garden using wasini Women Group boardwalk structure

Figure 20: Mangrove forest inside Wasini Island
Figure 21: Samples of carvings from Akamba Handicraft Centre
Figure 22: Committee members in a meeting with Akamba Handicraft centre management committee