

ABOUT SAVE LAMU



Dhows sailing near Manda Island in Lamu

The mission of Save Lamu is to engage communities and stakeholders to ensure participatory decision-making so as to achieve sustainable and responsible development and preserve the environmental, social and cultural integrity of the indigenous Lamu community

Objectives

The objectives of Save Lamu are to:

- Raise awareness on the environmental, social, & political challenges facing the peoples and environs of Lamu
- Document and raise awareness on community knowledge, practices and rights over natural resources
- Foster sustainable and responsible development and use of natural resources
- Preserve the cultural and social identity of the marginalized indigenous communities in Lamu
- Advocate and lobby for the recognition of the communities natural resource rights
- Build capacity for the local community in natural resource rights advocacy
- Enhance partnerships between local, multinational, and national groups to carry out any of the above objectives

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Who we are

In 2009, Lamu Environmental Protection and Conservation (LEPAC) spearheaded an initiative to unite groups and individuals in a campaign to save the Lamu Archipelago. Out of this initiative, a coalition of groups came together under the banner Save Lamu. The coalition includes community members from a variety of local and national organizations.

Current Focus:

Currently, Save Lamu efforts are focused on the environmental and social risks posed by the proposed Lamu port. Though Save Lamu does not oppose the development of Lamu, we maintain that:

- the Lamu community needs to be consulted before the plans materialize
- an environmental and cultural assessment report needs to be tabled and discussed
- land reforms are requisite before proceeding with the port
- the indigenous communities in the county must benefit from the proposed project

Activities

With assistance from our partners, Save Lamu is visiting communities in Lamu County to facilitate culturally rooted, participatory decision-making processes within communities with the aim of asserting rights over their communally managed lands and traditional knowledge. So far Save Lamu volunteers have visited 46 villages and settlements in Lamu County to sensitize local Lamu communities about the port project and collect information about the community resource use, cultural practices and concerns over the development project. The collated information will form the basis of a Bio-cultural community protocol (BCP), a legal tool to obtain community rights as constituted in local and international laws.

Our Partners

Save Lamu is partnering with Natural Justice, an international NGO based in South Africa, INUKA Kenya Trust, a grassroots movement promoting respect, diversity and self-belief and Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF), a think-tank examining land and resources in Coast Province. Other partners include:

- Lamu Communities
- Faza Youth Action Group
- Huduma Self-Help Group
- Imams of Lamu
- Kililana Farmers Association
- Lamu Council of Elders
- Lamu Beach Management Unit
- Lamu Environment and Conservation Network
- Lamu Environmental Protection and Conservation
- Lamu Marine Conservation Trust
- Lamu Marine Forum
- Lamu Youth Alliance
- MUHURI, Lamu
- Sauti ya Wanawake
- Shungwaya Welfare Association
- Wanaharakati Okoa Lamu