



# 2022 Annual report





# Table of Contents

01

About COMRED

02

Sustainable finance in  
marine conservation

03

Management and  
governance of marine  
resources

04

Marine  
Conservation

05

News & stories



## LETTER FROM DIRECTORS

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

We are pleased to present the Coastal and Marine Resource Development (COMRED) Annual Report for the year 2022. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the previous two years, COMRED made exceptional progress in all areas of our work. Our committed teams made significant advances in critical areas ranging from fisheries governance and co-management to livelihood interventions, to improve environmental protection and sustainable urban development.

We worked to build strong partnerships with national government agencies, county governments, and partner organizations. Building the capacity of local communities also took Centre-stage in our efforts to empower them to take charge of their future. We continue to support Beach Management Units (BMUs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and county governments in effectively carrying out their mandate.

We made a significant difference in the lives of coastal communities, coastal resource governance, sustainable coastal cities, and port city spatial planning through our work. Key accomplishments in the year included the establishment of 10 eco-credit groups with a total of 276 founding members (176 women and 100 men), complete with a seed grant, improving the capacity of 9 Beach Management Unit (BMU) leaders in the governance of marine resources and training 57 community members (30 youth and 27 women) on climate change, mangrove restoration, fisheries, and seaweed value chains. We helped deliver the Mombasa County Climate Change Policy and the formation of the Mombasa Smart Sustainable City Forum (MSCF). We were also pivotal in developing land use and land cover change maps, Mombasa and Durban Spatial Maps, as well as Mombasa, Durban, and Moroni Land Use Survey Profiles.

We would like to express our gratitude to our industrious staff, COMRED associates, and supporters. We are excited to continue our work in the coming years and make a significant difference in the lives of the people and communities we work with.

Our efforts were made possible by the generosity of our donors and strategic partners who have demonstrated faith in our ability to deliver on a shared vision. We therefore cannot fail to mention and appreciate Blue Ventures, Norad, WIOMSA, and WWF-VCA who partnered and provided financial support. We are grateful for the support.

**Sincerely,**

**Dr. Innocent Ngao Wanyonyi, Dr. Kimani Patrick, Dr. Tunje Joseph , Mr. Nyaga Kanyange and Dr. Andrew Wamukota**  
**Directors, COMRED**





## Who are we?

We are a Kenyan-led, Kenyan-founded, coastal-based organization passionate about creating a diverse intergenerational pool of expertise and competencies.

We bridge science and management through an inclusive, participatory process focused on results and impact.



## What problem are we solving?

Coastal communities in Kenya face various challenges such as marine and coastal degradation, poverty, and climate change. These communities also have limited power and authority to manage the finite coastal and marine resources sustainably.

As a result, overuse and degradation of these resources force these populations into poverty. Poverty increases dependence on limited natural resources and exacerbates competition between nature and human survival, especially in the face of climate change.



## Where to find us

📍 2nd Avenue, Links Road, Nyali - Mombasa, Kenya

📞 10222-80101, Bamburi. Mombasa-Kenya

✉️ [info@comred.or.ke](mailto:info@comred.or.ke)

🌐 [www.comred.or.ke](http://www.comred.or.ke)

# STRATEGIC GOALS

Since 2006, we have worked on advancing practical and sustainable solutions to problems facing coastal and marine environments and communities.

**VISION:** Sustainable marine and coastal environments support thriving communities and cities in the WIO region.

**MISSION:** To build resilient coastal communities and environments in the WIO region supporting livelihoods and marine conservation.

The following three goals help us achieve our mission and vision.

**01** Enhanced and diversified sustainable livelihoods and access to finance

**02** Improved governance and management of coastal and marine ecosystems in coastal communities and cities

**03** Conservation of coastal and marine resources is supported

**Guided by our 3 strategic goals, in 2022 we implemented programs that continue to deliver impactful results and drive positive change.**

**This annual report showcases those programs and their impact.**

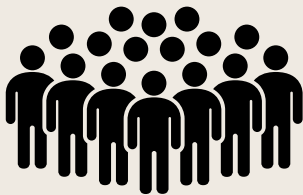
# 02

## ENHANCED AND DIVERSIFIED SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND ACCESS TO FINANCE

### ECO-CREDIT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



**10 eco-credit groups  
established**



**276 founding members  
(176 women, 100 men)**



**Each group received a  
grant of ksh. 80,000**



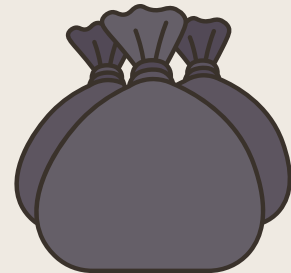
**40 eco-credit Community Based  
Trainers (CBT) trained on data  
collection and record keeping**



**300 community members direct  
beneficiaries of eco-credit loan**



**227,463 mangrove seedlings  
raised and 60,410 transplanted**



**8.6 tonnes of waste have  
been collected and sold**

**metals: 1.4 kg;  
glass: 3,808 kg;  
plastics: 1,137 kg;  
flip-flops: 1,332 kg;  
HDPE: 2,326 kg**



# Sustainable Financing Incentives for Marine Conservation; the Kwale Community Eco-Credit Project



Bodo Eco-Credit group members during the fund disbursement

COMRED has been facilitating communities to diversify their livelihoods through multiple approaches, as well as improve access to finance. In the intervening period, we promoted access to finance as an incentive to enhance the participation of coastal communities in conservation under the Eco-credit project in Kwale.

This project was initiated to provide monetary incentives as a motivation for communities to continue conserving their shared natural resources. This follows the findings of a theory of change exercise with the BMUs we work with in Kwale.

The BMU leaders indicated that they lacked support from their members because they didn't provide any incentives to participate in conservation activities. This was the beginning of the idea to establish a community-level loan scheme that also promotes conservation. That is how the Kwale Community Eco-credit project was born in 2021.



Kibuyuni Eco-Credit group members taking loans during one of the group meetings

This partnership is between COMRED, GreenFi, and Blue Ventures. In the Eco-credit model, a group member borrows and repays a loan, in addition to commitment to engage in environmental conservation activities.

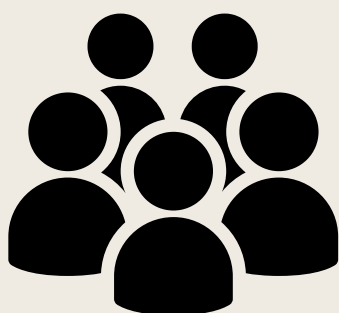
This builds community financial wealth and promotes environmental conservation at the same time.

The project has been piloted amongst 10 community groups in six villages; Mkwiro, Kibuyuni, Majoreni, Munje, Mwandamu, and Bodo.

# 03

## IMPROVED GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND CITIES

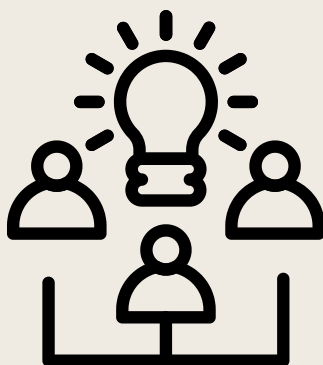
### LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE IN NUMBERS



**7 new community groups reached:**  
**6 BMUs in Kwale (Mwaembe, Mkunguni, Bodo and Funzi)**  
**2 in Kilifi County (Roka and Wesa)**  
**1 Community Forest Association in Kwale County**



**Trained over 120 executive committee members from 9 BMUs on leadership and governance**



**90 leaders were trained and mentored under this training.**



## Improving the capacity of BMU leaders in governance and management of marine resources



COMRED has been working with Beach Management Unit (BMU) leaders to improve their capacity in the governance of marine resources. BMUs are the lowest-level fisheries management institutions, composed of communities that co-manage the resources with the government. The aim is to build, restore and improve the fisher community's trust in its leadership, accountability, and transparency.

### Lessons learned:

- One-off training is not sufficient to strengthen the capacity of BMU leaders. Therefore, mentorship and frequent follow-up are crucial to ensure that the knowledge and skills acquired during the training are applied in order to improve the governance and management of marine resources.
- The lack of sustainable financing frustrates the efforts of BMU leaders in the implementation of BMU activities hence, there is a need for both technical and financial support from government institutions and non-governmental institutions.
- There is a loss of skills and knowledge already imparted to the leadership after every election cycle. It is therefore prudent to have continuous training reaching more people outside the executive committees



In photos: On-site mentorship sessions for Beach Management Units executive committee members

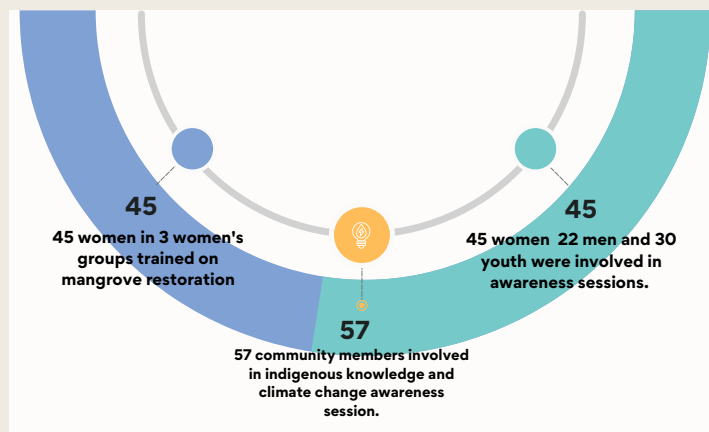
# VOICES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

## Facilitating collective actions of women in the Shimoni-Vanga seascape

COMRED, in partnership with WWF-Kenya, implemented a one-year project "Facilitating Collective Actions of Women in the Shimoni-Vanga Seascape." aimed to increase women's ocean literacy by 30% per year in order to better manage ocean resources from an informed perspective.

The project is part of Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA), a global program that supports local civil society and underrepresented groups to mobilize popular support for regionally tailored climate solutions. This entails forming wide-ranging climate alliances that amplify voices in novel and unique ways. A total of 45 women from Bodo, Wasini, and Kibuyuni conservation groups and 22 men and 30 youth from Shimoni Vanga Seascape were involved in the project through awareness sessions.

### Highlights:



### Key interventions of the project included:

- Undertaking an ocean literacy assessment to identify knowledge gaps amongst women in conservation and situational assessment of women's leadership
- Training to build women's understanding based on identified knowledge gaps about the value of key marine habitats, their interconnectedness, and threats related to their degradation and loss
- Identifying, mapping, and creating awareness of indigenous knowledge systems and nature-based solutions in relation to climate change
- Development of an engagement strategy for women actors in the seascape
- Development of a gender guide as a training tool and reference for conservation actors



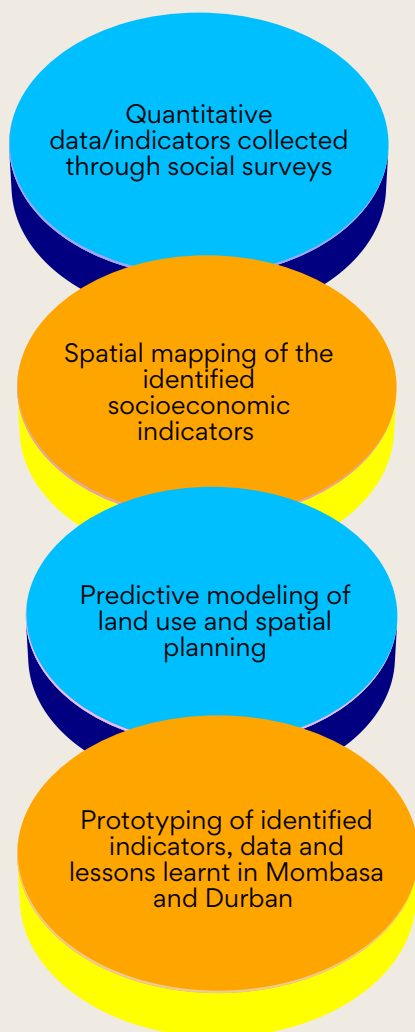
In photo: Khadija a member Mkwiwo eco-friendly conservation group during a VCA engagement



# BANDARI BORA PROJECT

## Making port cities smart and sustainable

### Analytical framework



The project, dubbed "Bandari Bora" (Swahili for "Smart Ports"), worked with the county government of Mombasa in undertaking a comparative assessment of the spatial planning approaches and Land Use Land Cover Changes (LULC) over time as a result of port development, expansion, and changing patterns of urban sprawl in 3 cities in the Western Indian Ocean—Moroni, Mombasa, and Durban.

It also aimed at encouraging synergistic planning between ports and cities that consider socio-economic aspects. This project was supported by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA). Cities and Coast Project.

#### Key achievements:

- Land Use and Land Cover Change spatial maps for Mombasa and Durban prepared
- Land use survey profiles for Mombasa, Durban, and Moroni prepared
- Spatial and temporal (time period) analysis of land cover change in Moroni, Durban, and Mombasa conducted
- Two peer learning exchanges were conducted in Durban for Mombasa and Moroni city and port authorities.
- 1 stakeholder workshop with Moroni City officials undertaken
- Stakeholder engagement workshops of port and city authorities conducted
- A technical working group for Mombasa Port and the city was established.
- Moroni technical working group for Port and city planning established.



Obakeng Molelu making a presentation on Bandari Bora



# MIJIBORA PROJECT

## Making coastal cities smart and sustainable



Stakeholders during the 2nd plastic waste management dialogue

### Climate Change Action policy for Mombasa City

The project led to the development of the Climate Change and Adaptation Policy for Mombasa County, 2021, and a complementary Climate Change and Adaptation Plan (CCA Plan). The policy will provide an enabling environment for transforming Mombasa County into a climate-resilient coastal city. Following the Mijibora model in Mombasa, other counties in Kenya have gained interest to replicate similar initiatives. Mijibora will continue supporting coastal cities in the Western Indian Ocean region with an interest in developing Smart City Forums and related products.

### Situational Assessment

An assessment of the urban drivers of change in Mombasa City was undertaken to establish information gaps of key drivers prioritized by the county government among them: Solid waste management, water and sanitation, energy and transportation

### Future scenario for Mombasa city

The project built on previous activities to assess future trends in urban drivers of change for Mombasa City under "the business-as-usual scenario" and "other varied scenarios in the future." Stakeholders reflected on the urban drivers and solutions required to transition Mombasa into a smart and sustainable city. Then, the project predicted the future state of key sectors amidst climate change through scenario building using forecasting tools and interactive community processes.

### Peer-to-peer learning exchanges

This was done between Mombasa and Durban's eThekweni Municipality. Durban has successfully addressed city issues such as solid waste, water and sanitation, energy, and transport in a systematic way that involves communities.

### Piloting Transformative River Management

Piloting of Mtopanga River Transformative River management in Mombasa was undertaken following the peer-to-peer exchange in eThekweni Municipality, which highlighted community-based approaches applied in Sihlanzimvelo Transformative River Management. This piloting is being spearheaded by the Mtopanga River Transformative River Management Technical Working Group (TRM-TWG), which was established under the Mombasa Smart Sustainable City Forum (MSCF).



In photos: Stakeholders in a break-out session during the 2nd Mombasa Plastic waste management dialogue

### PORT CITY IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

It's important to recognize the role of the port city context and to ensure that its development is in line with the needs of the local population.

**01**

### WIO'S PORT CITIES SUSTAINABILITY

Development of the cities should consider the impact it has on the local ecology, and the potential for renewable energy sources to be used in the city.

**02**

## KEY LEARNINGS FOR WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN COASTAL PORT CITIES IN PLANNING

### DATA MANAGEMENT

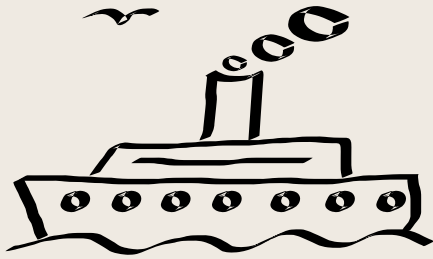
Collecting and analyzing data related to port cities and development helps identify trends, social impacts, and anticipate future needs.

**03**

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

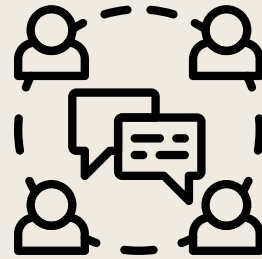
It's important to consult and involve local communities in the planning process

**04**

MUNJE OCTOPUS CLOSURES AT  
A GLANCE

**16 Munje BMU members  
were trained to undertake  
sea patrols**

---



**Over 1,000 community  
members from Munje, Mwaembe, and  
Funzi villages reached in awareness  
sessions**

---



**20 Munje BMU members were  
trained in fish handling, quality  
assurance, and marketing**

---



**8 Munje BMU members were  
trained on ecological reef  
monitoring**

---



# Advancing community-led management of fisheries through the piloting of octopus closures in Munje, Kwale County

Since September 2021, COMRED, in partnership with Blue Ventures, has been working with Munje BMU to establish an octopus closure in their conservation area. The main aim of the project is to strengthen and protect community-led management areas. It is expected that the octopus closure will increase community participation in resource conservation and improve the livelihoods of fisher communities

## Lessons learned

- Awareness is key to the success of any octopus closure. Community awareness creation ensures that the community has accurate information regarding the project, thereby clearing up any misunderstandings and ensuring their views and grievances are considered. Thus, awareness creation is a way of promoting community acceptance, ownership, and support of a project. This lesson will be useful in setting up future closures.
- Good governance is a prerequisite to the functioning of Beach Management Units. Previously, Munje BMU had an octopus closure that failed due to poor governance. To prevent this from recurring, COMRED is providing leadership and financial management training, followed by mentorship. This has largely improved their performance in governance and resource management.
- Community-conceived and led projects have a high chance of success. The octopus closure idea was conceived by Munje community members. The initial idea was to protect the area without targeting a specific species. However, it turned out that after 6 months of trial, octopus catches increased, which triggered the idea of an octopus closure.



Hamadi, an Octopus gleaner in Munje shows off his catch



Munje ecological monitoring team receive monitoring gear from COMRED



Munje patrol team during an patrol training facilitated by COMRED

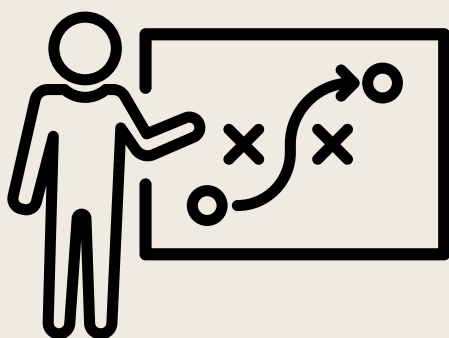
# FISHERIES DATA MANAGEMENT IN A SNAPSHOT



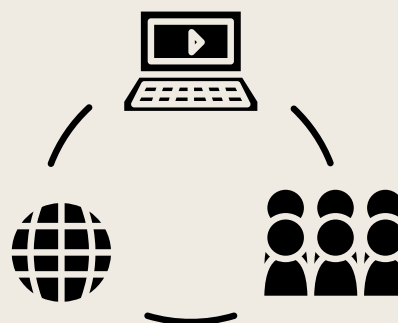
**Over 90 community members were sensitized on fisheries data management process.**



**18 community data collectors in 9 BMUs were employed to collect fisheries catch data.**



**27 BMU data collectors and chairpersons were trained in fish identification, measurement, and sampling techniques**



**COMRED staff upskilled on fisheries data management**

## Fisheries data management



on-site mentorship for a fisheries data collector in Jimbo BMU



Majoreni BMU fisheries data collector at work

Fisheries data is critical for providing useful information on fishery dynamics, which is required for developing management and conservation strategies for fishery resources. Our goal is to use fishery data to guide BMUs in making fisheries management decisions, assess the impact of our intervention, and inform resource users and managers at the national and local levels of the trends.

In 2022, COMRED in partnership with Blue Ventures initiated the fish catch data management system. This began with data needs assessment for 9 target BMUs in Shimoni - Vanga seascape (Vanga, Jimbo, Wasini, Shimoni, Majoreni, Kibuyuni, Mkwiro) and Msambweni (Munje & Mwandamu). In 2023 we hope to initiate a similar data collection system in Kilifi County.



Majoreni BMU fisheries data collector(Right) and COMRED fisheries officer (center) sensitize a fisherman during a monthly mentorship session for data collectors

## Lessons learned

- Community ownership of fisheries data: Community involvement in collecting, interpreting, and managing fish catch data creates a sense of ownership thus promoting fisheries monitoring at a community level
- Upskilling communities on fisheries management: Training, mentorship, and follow-ups with BMU leaders, fisheries data collectors, and fishermen is important as it builds their skill to draw management measures from data
- Manual versus digital fisheries data collection: Digital data collection methods are efficient, faster, and timely as compared to the tried and tested paper-based method



# NEWS & STORIES

# 5

## Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC)



Two representatives (Patrick Kimani and Jane Muteti) from COMRED attended the IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) between July 18 and July 23, 2022, in Kigali, Rwanda.

This was the first-ever continent-wide gathering of African leaders, conservationists, local communities, indigenous peoples, youth, academia, and other interest groups to discuss the role of protected and conserved areas in conserving nature, delivering vital life-supporting ecosystem services, and promoting sustainable development.

**"Building the knowledge and skills of BMU leaders and providing incentives to community members increases community participation in conservation"**

**- Jane Muteti, Program manager COMRED**

The Congress was convened jointly by the Government of Rwanda through the Ministry of Environment, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF). More than 2,400 participants from 53 African and 27 other countries participated.

The two COMRED representatives had the opportunity to present their work, network with conservationists, and share impacts and lessons learned.



**"Conservation and livelihoods cannot be separated. We need to put communities at the center of conservation in order to achieve our conservation targets"**

**- Patrick Kimani, Director COMRED**

# Safeguarding



In photos: COMRED staff and directors during a safeguarding workshop

Safeguarding at COMRED means protecting the people we interact with from harm and abuse. Everyone at COMRED is responsible for ensuring that programs are designed and delivered safely to staff, associate partners, and community members.

## The purpose of COMRED'S safeguarding is:

- To ensure COMRED staff is aware of and guided by the organization's code of conduct, ensuring that activities are implemented in a safe environment where harm and abuse are prevented and responded to appropriately.

With support from Blue Ventures, COMRED is currently developing and improving existing safeguarding policies on:

- Communication, and data protection policy
- Human Resource Manual
- Complaint reporting guideline

## THE 12TH WIOMSA SYMPOSIUM



Coastal and Marine Resource Development (COMRED) was represented at the 12th WIOMSA Scientific Symposium by 15 enthusiastic scientists, with roughly 65% of them being women and early career scientists. The symposium provided COMRED with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to network with others from various fields and share experiences and lessons learned about scientific advancements that can support human well-being and the environment.

### The MASMA and CITIES grantees' meeting

At the annual grantee's conference for the WIOMSA Cities and Coasts project, COMRED presented scientific findings for the Miji Bora and Bandari Bora projects. The grantees could now discuss the status of their projects, their findings, and possible next steps.

### Mini-symposium

It was an honor for COMRED to organize the mini-symposium on Smart and Sustainable Port Cities, which featured six presentations.

The presentation themed "Interaction of Port Development to City Inhabitants: Assessing the Socio-spatial Scale of Mombasa," deeply examined the advantages and disadvantages of infrastructure development and how they affect the socio-spatial organization of the City.



Eunice Ogada, making a poster presentation at the 12th WIOMSA symposium

### Poster presentations

Jackline Mutisya and Eunice Ogada from COMRED presented two posters:

The status of the Mombasa transportation sector in light of climate change and the impact of solid waste management on the Kenyan coast, a case of Mtopanga River in Mombasa County respectively.



## A thousand miles later : OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Wanyonyi Innocent is seated under a casuarina tree, his cheerful demeanor on full display, and giraffes are gracefully standing in the backdrop as he takes me down memory lane of how this Kenyan-led and founded marine organization came to be.

"COMRED started from a state of knowledge. We were concerned with how the affairs of the marine environment were going," he starts, his eyes looking into the horizon as though fetching the memories.

At that time, he says, their primary goal was to combat and turn around the fortunes and state of fisheries and the low-scale livelihoods of communities depending on the marine environment.

A decade and six years down the line, this institution's portfolio has grown by leaps and bounds—in donor and partner numbers and the scope of the communities it works with. In addition, the team has grown from just three to six directors, 15 full-time employees, and 20 associates.

Furthermore, this Mombasa-based organization has expanded from implementing one project to five concurrently! That is no mean feat. The work and effort that have been put into the system by multiple stakeholders have yielded results.

Riding on the tailwinds of this growth's momentum, COMRED started the process of formulating its 2022–2026 strategic plan. This process brought together all the directors and employees in an effort to encourage teamwork and a sense of ownership of the plan for all individuals involved.



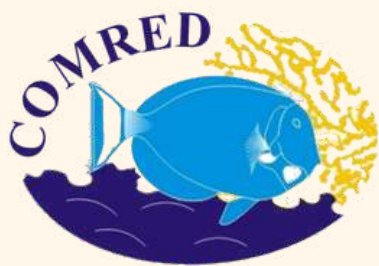
Team COMRED during the 3rd strategic plan workshop

Right from the initial stage of conducting a situational analysis to the first workshop where we drafted our problem statement, vision, mission, and value proposition to the second workshop, which saw the drafting of 6 organizational goals, to the third workshop in Naromoru, where we reviewed and refined this input and cut our goals down to three strategic goals, this has been a journey of contentment, renewal, denial, and even confusion!

This strategic plan will be a great tool for directing our focus and time to the right things as well as aligning us with the right partners. This process has been an awakening period for us to see the opportunities and strength we have in being a voice for much-needed positive impact in the marine conservation space. Even as we await the official launch of our strategic plan, we have already started working on the set goals.

To Maliasili, our facilitators, and Blue Ventures, who have been at the helm of this process, we say thank you! To greater heights of coastal resilience!





# Inquiry? Contact us.

[info@comred.or.ke](mailto:info@comred.or.ke)

[www.comred.or.ke](http://www.comred.or.ke)

