



Nairobi Convention Partners Meeting – 31st August 2021

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Impacts of COVID - 19

- COVID-19 prevention measures in place: Handwashing, masking
- Working from home, Travel restrictions (limited field visits)
- Workshops: limited numbers of participants, social distancing; Online meetings and workshops

Impacts of COVID - 19

Innovation and thinking outside the box

- Disruptions in the sea food market: reduced demand and lowered prices of fish

Rehabilitation of cold storage facilities in Nyamisati to secure food safety and processing for longer durations

- Trainings and community engagement reduced
Community representatives and TOTs mobilised

Community empowerment
is key

Livelihood activities



Ecological Mangrove Restoration

A photograph showing a group of people wading through a mangrove swamp. The water is shallow and reflects the surrounding green trees. The text is overlaid on the top left of the photo.

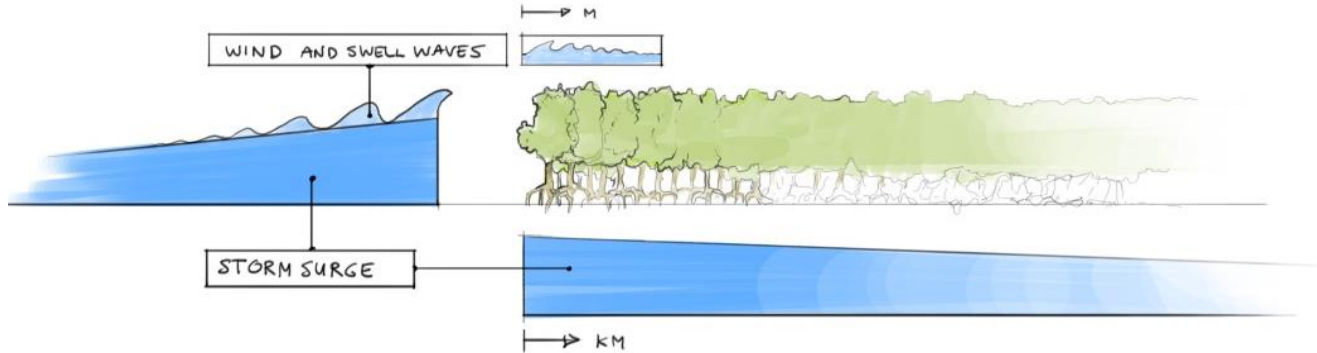
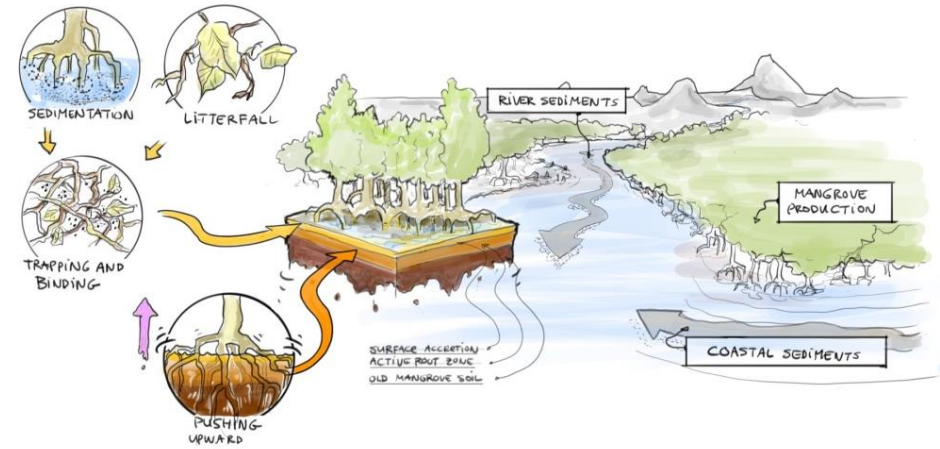
*Kurejeshwa mikoko:
Je, tupande au tusipande?*

Upandaji wa mikoko umetokea kuwa ni jambo la kawaida. Hata hivyo jitihada nyingi za upandaji hazifanikiwi. Njia bora zaidi ni kutengeneza mazingira wezeshi ili mikoko iweze kurejea yenyewe kwa njia za asili. Mikoko inayorejeshwa kwa njia hii hukua na kustawi vizuri. Lengo la jarida hili ni kutoa mchango juu ya mbinu bora ya urejeshaji mikoko kuzingatia swali ambalo wengi wa wanaoshiriki katika jitihada za urejeshaji wa mikoko hujiluliza: "Je, tupande au tusipande?"

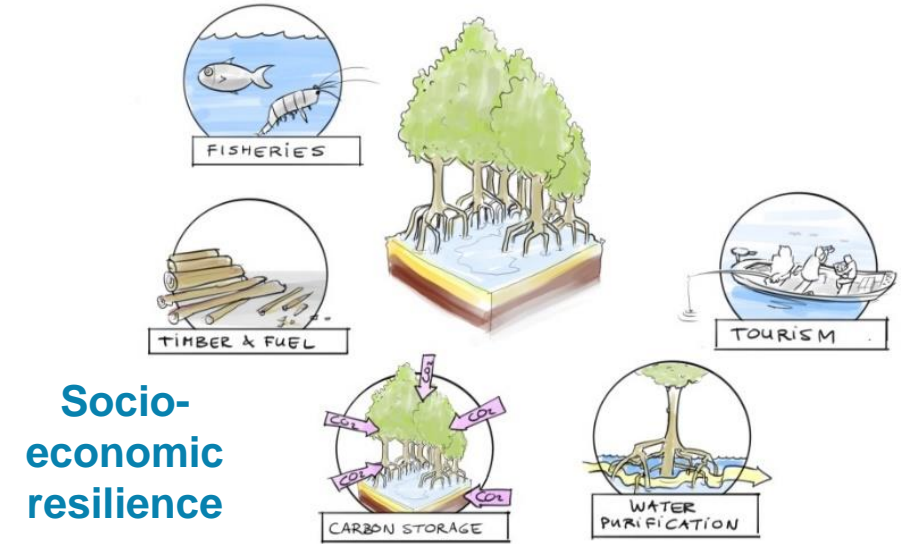
The World Needs Mangroves

Why are they important?

1-10mm/yr soil build up, erosion control



Reducing wave energy and height: 13-66% in 100 meter belt, buffering storm surge



“Despite their values for biodiversity and nature, 67% of global mangroves have been lost or degraded. Hundreds of thousands of hectares remain as abandoned wastelands with limited ecological or economic value”.

Aquaculture development Upstream developments

Climate change Slash and burn agriculture

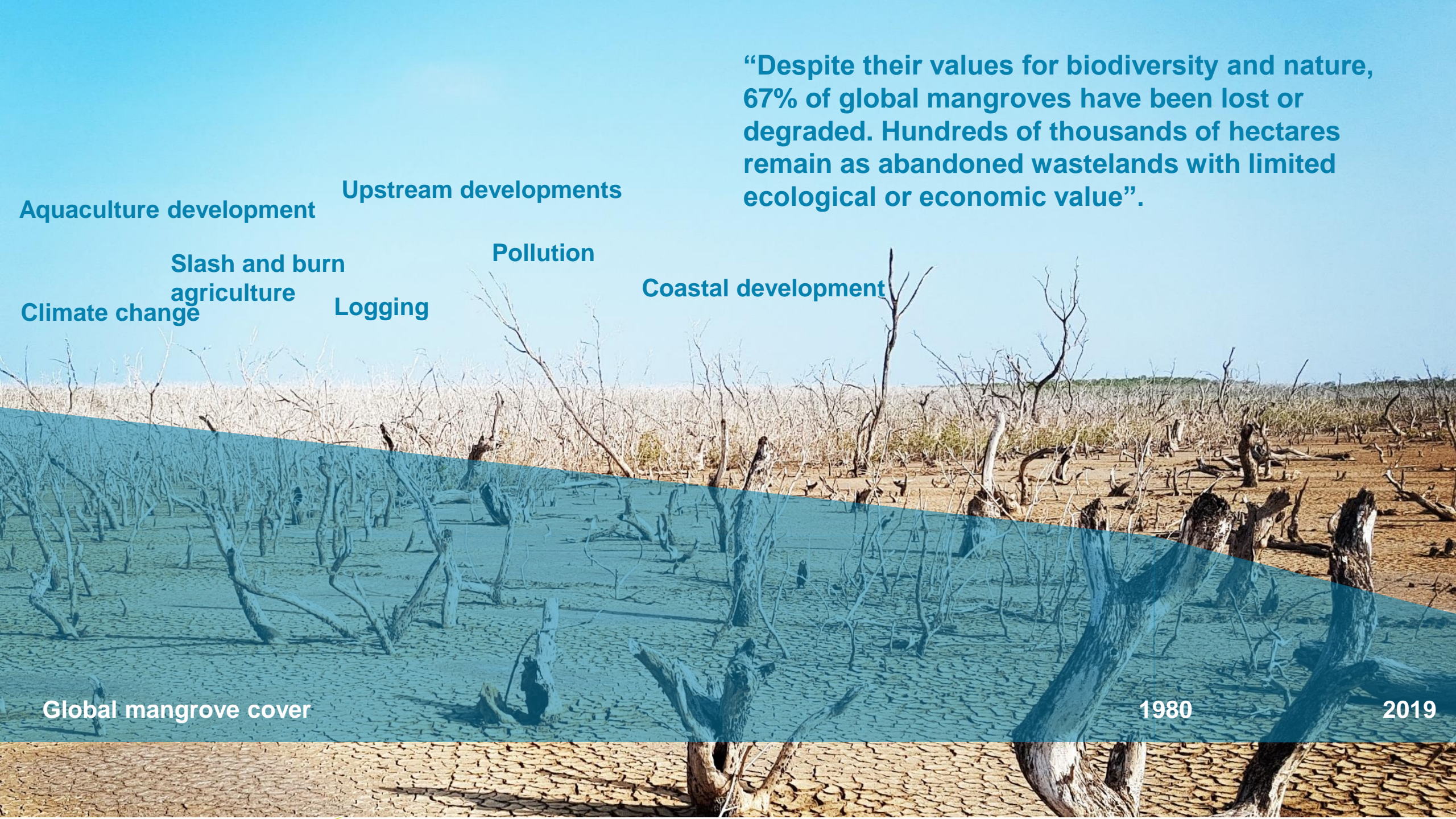
Logging Pollution

Coastal development

Global mangrove cover

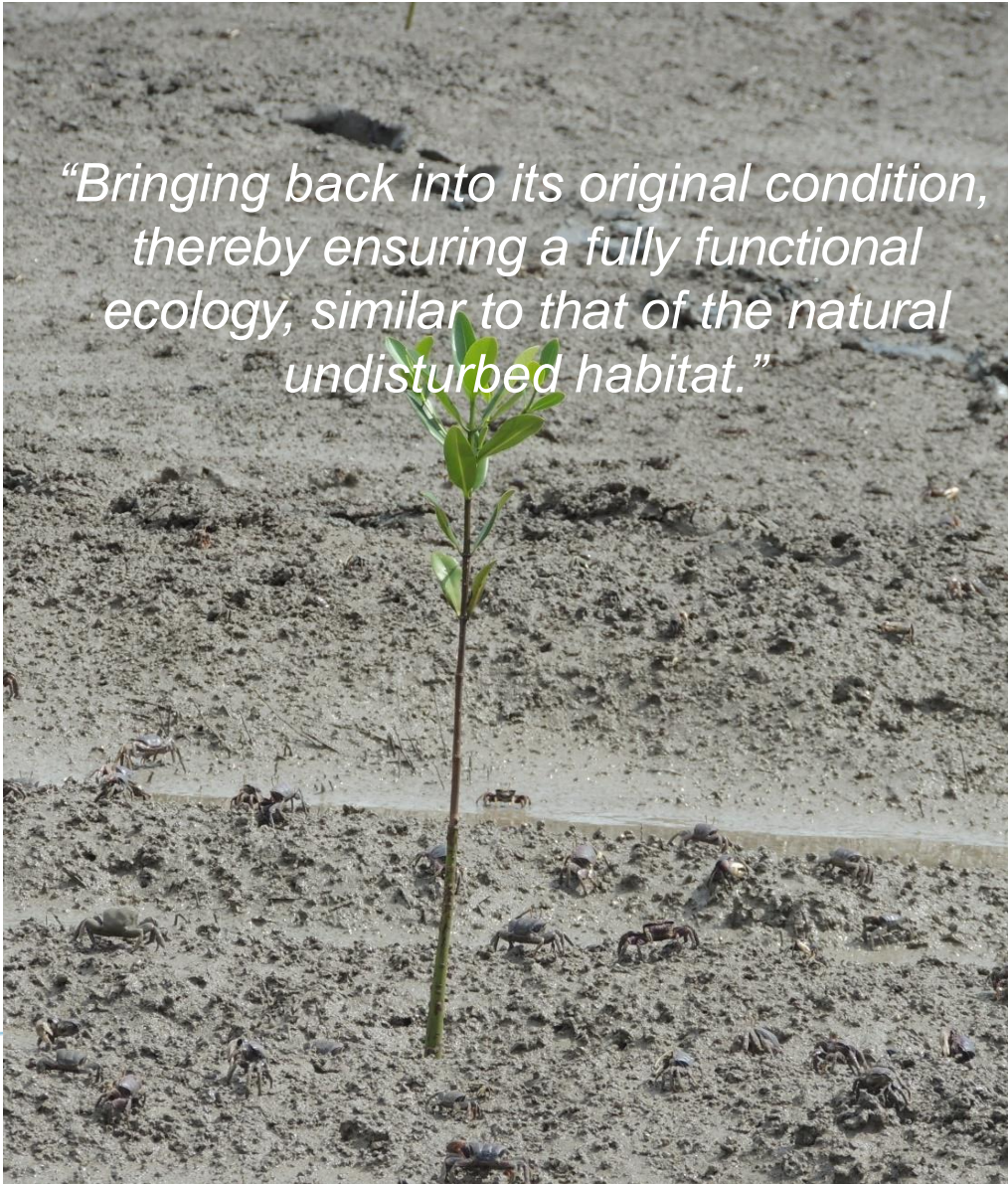
1980

2019



Mangrove Restoration

Objective



“Bringing back into its original condition, thereby ensuring a fully functional ecology, similar to that of the natural undisturbed habitat.”

- Community Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR)
- Natural regeneration or Artificial regeneration - planting

Planting: Reasons for failure

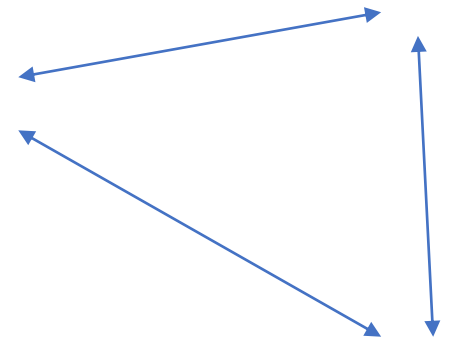
Extreme planting densities



Disturbed hydrology



Disturbed sediment balance



Planting in the wrong locations



Disturbed acidity and salinity



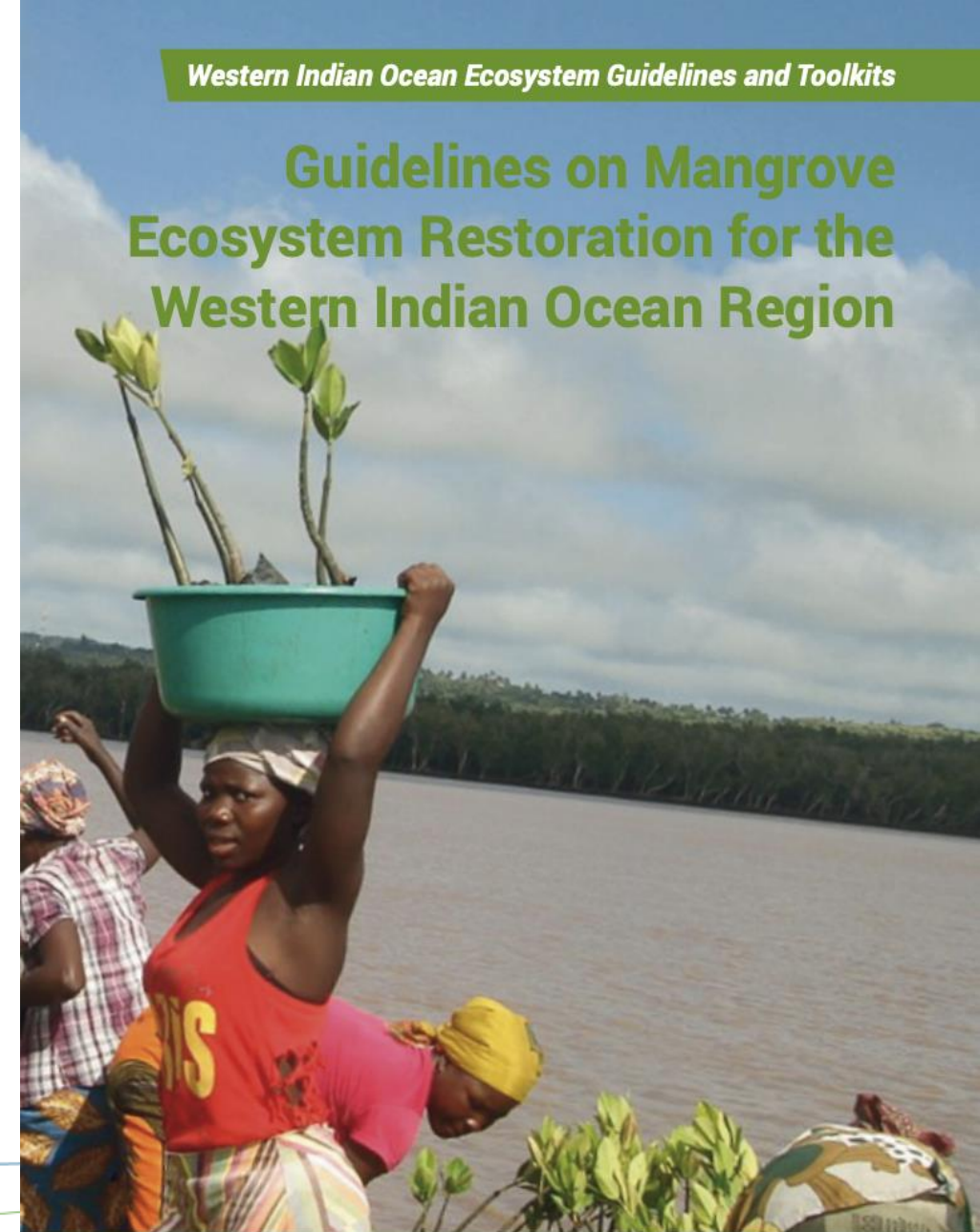
Planting the wrong



The Need

- We have a head start... Guidelines on Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration for the WIO region developed by the WIOMN
- Focus on creating enabling conditions for mangroves to recover naturally, rather than focusing on planting only.
- Costs of this approach are lower compared to traditional tree planting projects.
- More attention for socio-economic and institutional requirements...community engagement

Guidelines on Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration for the Western Indian Ocean Region



So....To Plant or not to Plant?

The science is clear...

Consider the key steps towards restoring ecologically functional mangroves:

- **Understand the ecology** of the mangrove species at the site, in particular the patterns of reproduction, propagule distribution, and successful seedling establishment.
- **Understand abiotic site conditions** (hydrology, sediment dynamics, soil chemistry) that control the distribution, establishment and growth of mangrove species.
- **Assess modifications** of the original mangrove environment that currently prevent natural regeneration (recovery after damage). Address social and economic issues.
- **Restore hydrology** and other environmental conditions that encourage natural recruitment of mangrove propagules and successful plant establishment.
- **Only consider actual planting** of mangrove seedling, if natural recruitment proves impossible, e.g. due to a lack of natural seedstock from areas nearby.

Ongoing Projects

- **Mangrove Capital Africa (upto 2027) - WIO**
 - Plan (Mangrove Management Plan)
 - Act (restoration of mangroves; livelihood activities)
 - Learn (trainings – ecological mangrove restoration; assessments)

- **Global Mangrove Watch (online platform)**
 - Together with TNC, SoloEO, University of Aberyswth
 - Way forward: trainings for local users and ground truthing

- **SOMN! (IUCN, WWF)**
 - facilitate south-south exchanges between Western Indian Ocean and Atlantic Coast of Africa (policy makers and practitioners on mangrove conservation and management)

New Projects

- **To plant or not to plant - Tanzania**
 - Mangrove restoration: Rufiji
 - Building capacity for restoration
- **Source to Sea (Eastern Africa Wetland Initiative) - WIO (SIDA)**
 - Initial focus on Lamu and Rufiji
 - 5 workpackages: Knowledge generation, Capacity building, Action on the ground, Policy (Multistakeholder forums, Agreeing on a common vision, Upscaling of actions), Project governance and management
 - Looking to creating synergies with current initiatives



Thank you!