



THEME: CLIMATE JUSTICE, NATURE, LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE ALONG THE COAST OF KWALE

CLIMATE JUSTICE, NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS SEAWEED FARMING & MANGROVE RESTORATION



A Morning in Vanga

The tide begins to rise just after sunrise. Along the shores of Vanga, fishermen ready their boats while women walk toward the shallow coastal waters where seaweed lines sway gently beneath the Indian Ocean's slow currents. Nearby, mangrove forests stand like patient sentinels, their roots twisting through mud and tide, forming a living barrier between the community and an increasingly unpredictable coastline.

For generations, these ecosystems have quietly protected livelihoods, stabilized shorelines, and nurtured marine life. Today, they are also frontline defenses against climate change. Across Kwale County, communities are feeling rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, coastal erosion, and declining fish catches. Despite contributing very little to global emissions, coastal residents carry a disproportionate burden of the climate crisis — a reality that climate justice seeks to redress.

Climate Justice Is About Fairness

Climate justice is not only about emissions; it is about fairness. It asks who suffers most, who can access resources, who sits at the decision-making table, and whose knowledge shapes climate solutions. In Kwale, resilience is not being forged in distant conference halls but in fishing villages, mangrove nurseries, youth innovation spaces, and women-led blue economy projects.



The Forest Between Ocean and Community

Mangroves may appear quiet, but beneath their canopy they are always working. These forests sequester carbon, dissipate wave energy, reduce shoreline erosion, filter water, and provide nursery grounds for fish. For coastal families in Kwale, mangroves are natural infrastructure, food systems, and economic protection.

**NATURE'S
PROTECTION,
OUR FUTURE**



Stores Blue Carbon



Protects Our Shores



Supports Fisheries



Improves Livelihoods



Conserves Biodiversity



Seaweed and the Quiet Rise of the Blue Economy

Sometimes adaptation looks simple: rows of seaweed drifting in shallow water, tended by women and youth. Where fishing incomes are under pressure, seaweed farming is providing an alternative livelihood and a source of dignity. The work is physically demanding — tending lines during low tide, monitoring growth, and preparing harvests — yet the returns can mean school fees paid, household needs met, and small enterprises seeded.

In Kwale, seaweed cultivation is growing into a broader blue-economy conversation: about sustainable marine use, women’s economic empowerment, and community-led pathways to resilience.

Coastal Resilience Across the Region

The East African coastline faces sea-level rise, coral bleaching, unsustainable coastal development, and more frequent extreme events. Mangroves are central to resilience: they store “blue carbon,” protect shores, support fisheries, and conserve biodiversity.

Community-led restoration in Kenya and neighbouring countries has shown tangible benefits — reduced erosion, improved fish habitats, increased incomes through eco-tourism and sustainable fisheries, and stronger local stewardship. These outcomes underline a core lesson: when communities lead restoration, results are more durable and equitable.



Why Climate Financing Matters

Global climate finance remains skewed. Adaptation receives less than a fifth of global climate finance, and locally led organisations rarely receive direct funding. Nature-based adaptation projects remain under-resourced despite strong evidence of their long-term value. Climate justice advocates are calling for direct access to finance for communities, loss-and-damage mechanisms, youth-inclusive governance, and transparent carbon markets that do not exclude or displace local people.

Youth Leadership and Technology

At Kwale Tech Hub, young people are reshaping climate action. They tell local stories through digital platforms, map environmental change with community tools, run clean-up campaigns, and apply low-cost technology to restoration efforts. These innovations connect climate resilience with entrepreneurship and governance, and they open new possibilities for inclusive development.



VOICES FROM THE COAST

“When we restore mangroves, we are not just planting trees. We are restoring our fisheries, our homes, and our future.”

– Community Member, Msambweni



A Collective Future

Climate change is already here, but so is hope. Across Kwale, people are restoring mangroves, farming seaweed, protecting watersheds, innovating with technology, advocating for justice, and reimagining development. The path to climate resilience will not be easy, yet communities are proving every day that solutions rooted in nature, equity, and local leadership can create a future where both people and planet can thrive.

TOGETHER FOR A JUST AND RESILIENT KWALE

The Climate Justice Pillar at Kwale Tech Hub invites you to walk this journey with us. Engage. Support. Collaborate. Because when nature thrives, communities thrive — and when communities lead, justice is possible.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Get involved. Share ideas. Champion climate justice. Together, we can build a resilient and just Kwale.

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