



## EAST AFRICA: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE USE IN A CRUCIAL COASTAL ECOSYSTEM

*“There is a wealth of evidence that conservation action, particularly in developing countries, is best led by those residing where the action is needed. We strongly urge the United Nations to ensure financial investment is ramped up significantly and this funding reaches local actors to address the threats to nature and biodiversity loss. These threats are already having catastrophic effects on all of humankind.”*



**Melita Samoily, CORDIO, Kenya**

*“In our 15 years of leading the locally managed marine area movement on the Kenya coast and building resilience within our 500-strong community members, we have never experienced a time that is more challenging than it is today. **We work within a community that has no buffer against unexpected disasters that negatively affect their already fragile livelihoods.** We are in a position now where we have to rely on those larger organisations that can influence positive change and how they react will determine their credibility and importance to the many communities like us, who depend on natural resources for our survival.”*



**Dickson Juma, Kuruwitu Conservation and Welfare Association, Kenya**

Kenya’s and Tanzania’s coastline is home to globally important yet severely threatened marine megafauna, coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangroves, including some species found nowhere else in the world.

Unsustainable fishing practices, pollution, mangrove clearance and recent infrastructure development significantly threaten this coastal ecosystem and, as a result, the livelihoods of local people who live there.

For a number of years, Fauna & Flora International has been working with national and local partners

to support communities on the Kenyan and Tanzanian coast to sustainably manage their marine and coastal resources.

As a result, people are now taking a more active role in managing their local waters, carrying out voluntary patrols of their fishing grounds and informing the authorities of illegal fishing activity observed ensuring that communities can continue to earn a living while also protecting the rich marine environment upon which they depend – a win-win for people and biodiversity.