

## Help Conserve the Endangered Mangroves

Mangroves are the only trees that have been remarkably successful in colonizing the intertidal zone at the boundary between land and sea, and cope with high salt concentrations. They occur along the sheltered regions of tropical and subtropical coastlines. The importance of mangroves lies in their contribution to coastal fisheries, stabilizing and protecting shorelines and enhancing water quality in coastal streams and estuaries. Mangroves are the third most productive ecosystem in the world, supporting a variety of insects, birds, small animals and fishes.



Most mangrove areas have received practically no attention in terms of proper management. Large areas have been reclaimed for agriculture, fishponds, saltpans, and human settlement. Mangrove forests are vital for healthy coastal ecosystems. You can do a part in protecting this priceless resource by making a visit to the Gazi Women Mangrove Boardwalk. Come to see and learn about the fascinating and rare world of mangrove ecosystems.

## Gazi: A Rich History and Scenic Location

Gazi village has a unique and rich history. In the colonial periods 'Gasi' was Kwale District's administrative center. It contains ruins that were once used as a concentration center for slaves before being shipped to Far East countries. The ruins were also used by Sheikh Mbaruk Bin Rashid as his residence. He was notorious for torturing local people. The British troops eventually defeated him, and he ended his exiled days in Tanzania.

Gazi Bay is located in Kwale district, 50km South of Mombasa City and about a 15 min. drive from Diani Beach. The bay is bordered by 700ha of mangrove forest. Several villages surround the bay, the largest being Gazi with a population of 1,000 people. These people depend on the mangrove for fishing, building poles and firewood, and for medicinal products; hence the need for rehabilitation, conservation, and sustainable utilization of mangroves at Gazi.



### A World of Knowledge

Gazi Bay has attracted a lot of attention worldwide because of its rich history and convenient location. Consequently, many local and international scientists have conducted many research programs here, making it one of the most studied mangrove bays in the world. A storehouse of information ranging from the rich mangrove environment to the local people's culture awaits all visitors.

## The Peoples of Gazi

You will have the pleasure of meeting the friendly women of Gazi who are the able managers of this community project. The hospitality of the local people at Gazi is a great attraction to many local and foreign visitors. A fresh and cool *Madafu*, a natural thirst quenching drink from palm trees, served in the ever present "summer" heat crowns your tour.



### Eco-tourism for Community Development

The Gazi Women Mangrove Boardwalk is a true community-based conservation

effort. 100% of the profit generated through the boardwalk goes into the Gazi community. Funds realized from this project will be used to provide bursaries to the best performing but poor children from the village; to improve health care; to improve the physical facilities of Gazi Primary school, the only one in the village, and to support the 'clean water for all' community water project. You will be glad you contributed to the welfare of this community by coming to visit the mangrove boardwalk.

## Welcome on Board!

The building of the mangrove boardwalk was funded by the City Council of Overijse (Belgium) and the International Ocean Institute (IOI), through the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, employing local villagers for construction. The boardwalk provides a 300m long relaxing walk through animal-rich mangrove forest. The walk is punctuated by cool resting points strategically located. In addition, the boardwalk contains a view point providing a panoramic view of the 'bathing mangroves'. On the walk you will most likely spot the impressive bird life, the scurrying crabs of diverse colours, not to forget the jumping mud skippers. You cannot afford to miss the opportunity to taste the nutrient rich oysters, fresh from the oyster farms beside the boardwalk. By boat the boardwalk can be accessed from Chale Island or the adjacent Sea Horse resort. A canoe ride through the serene mangroves with local fishermen will make the whole experience unforgettable.

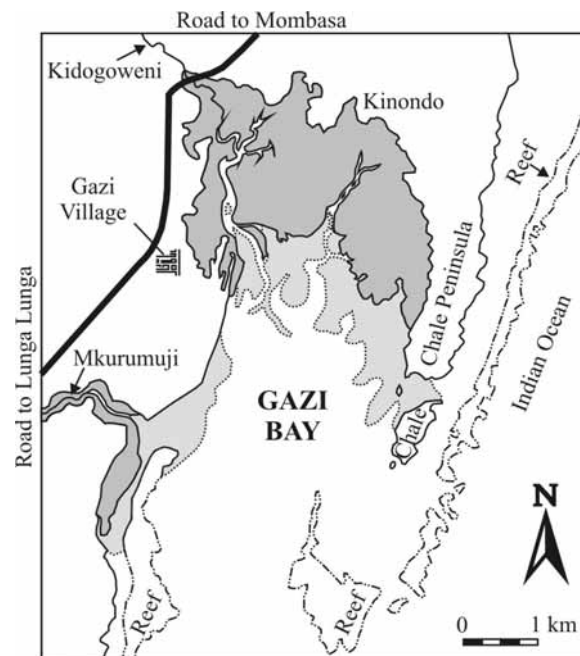
The Project is run by Gazi Women as an alternative source of income.

### Activities :

- encounter mangrove fauna & flora
- plant a mangrove tree
- canoe through mangrove creeks
- make excursions to the coral reef
- enjoy bird watching
- experience a traditional African village
- taste local Swahili cuisine

## Directions

Gazi Bay is located 50km south coast of Mombasa. The village is along Lunga Lunga road, just a 15 minute drive South of Ukunda. Coming from the North you will see the signs for the village and the Gazi Women Mangrove Boardwalk on the left hand side of the road. After entering, follow the road to the center of the village where you will see the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute office building (KMFRI). Check in at the office to inquire about your mangrove tour.



## Need More Information?

Contact: The Chairlady Gazi Women Group  
P.O. Box 18, Msambweni, Kenya.  
Or e-mail at [gkairo@yahoo.com](mailto:gkairo@yahoo.com)

# The Gazi Women Mangrove Boardwalk

Come experience a true community based conservation effort. Visit the **Gazi Women Mangrove Boardwalk** and help conserve the endangered mangrove trees!



The Mangrove Boardwalk in Gazi Bay located south of Mombasa is a must see for a taste of Gazi serenity, biodiversity, and culture.

### Supported by

