

# Kaya Kinondo Ecotourism Project

## Explore the Kenyan coast's diverse past

- ~Experience the local culture
- ~Walk in a mysterious forest
- ~See rare plants and animals



**Kenya's coastal forests** are remnants of a once extensive ecosystem that dominated East Africa. The kayas (meaning home or village) were once the home of the mijikenda people when they appeared on the coast many centuries ago. Protection of the kayas was deeply entrenched in traditional culture and was guarded by a council of elders who employed a system of taboos and rules to protect the forests. Kaya Kinondo, also known as Kaya Ngalaani, is one of the most diverse ecosystems on the Kenyan coast with 187 types of trees, 32 species of birds, 45 types of butterflies and the endangered colobus monkey all calling Kaya Kinondo a home



**Today the forest** is used for traditional ceremonies and contains the spirits of its ancient inhabitants. The local people are implementing ecotourism activities around this



sacred forest with the aim of achieving long-term environmental preservation as well as distributing tangible socio-economic benefits.



**A guided forest walk** exposes visitors to the nature and culture of Kaya Kinondo. The walk is followed by a visit to local villages to see the local lifestyle and visit the medicine man and a primary school.

**The executive agencies** of Kaya Kinondo are National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and WWF - EARPO.

**Kaya Kinondo's collaborators** include: Hotels and Cottage, Tours and Safari Companies, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Public Universities, local schools, Diani Residents Association, Camp Kenya and the Ecotourism Society of Kenya (ESOK).



### Contact Kaya Kinondo

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