KIKWETU KIAFRIKA

GREENING KILIFI

Indigenous Tree Nursery Support Program

"Rooting Communities, Healing Forests, Transforming Lives"

PROJECT TITLE	IMPLEMENTING ORG	TARGET AREA
Greening Kilifi: Indigenous Tree Nursery Support Program	Kikwetu Kiafrika, Kilifi County, Kenya	5 Sub-Counties: Kaloleni, Kilifi South, Malindi, Magarini & Ganze

DURATION	TOTAL BUDGET REQUESTED	BENEFICIARIES
3 Years (2026 – 2029)	**USD 387,500 (KES 50,375,000)**	Women & Youth Groups, 5 Sub-Counties

Submitted to Potential Donors & Development Partners

Kikwetu Afrika | Kilifi County, Kenya | 2026

CONFIDENTIAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kilifi County's forests and green landscapes are disappearing at an alarming rate. Demand for charcoal and firewood is stripping the vegetation from community land, farmland, and the margins of the globally significant Mijikenda Kaya forests — sacred heritage reserves listed among Kenya's protected natural heritage and recognized by UNESCO. The pressure on these irreplaceable ecosystems threatens not only biodiversity and carbon storage but the cultural and spiritual identity of the Mijikenda people who have been their custodians for generations.

Across five sub-counties in Kilifi — Kaloleni, Kilifi South, Malindi, Magarini, and Ganze — a remarkable grassroots movement is already underway. Women's and youth groups, motivated by both environmental concern and economic need, have independently established tree nurseries growing indigenous species, including Moringa oleifera and *Azadirachta indica* (neem), alongside native Mijikenda woodland species. These community-led efforts represent the strongest foundation possible for a county-wide reforestation program: they are already working, already rooted in community ownership, and already demonstrating that change is possible.

What they lack is sustained support. Without funding for inputs, training, seedling market development, and organizational strengthening, these initiatives risk collapsing — not from lack of will, but from lack of resources.

GREENING KILIFI: WHAT THIS PROPOSAL REQUESTS

This proposal seeks USD 387,500 (approximately KES 50,375,000) over three years to: (a) formally support and strengthen 50 community tree nursery groups across five sub-counties, (b) fund the planting of 500,000 indigenous trees over three years, (c) develop a structured seedling market that provides sustainable income for participating women and youth, (d) protect the Mijikenda Kaya forest heritage through buffer-zone greening, and (e) position Kilifi County as a model of community-led ecological restoration in East Africa.

The implementing organisation, Kikwetu Kiafrika, is embedded in Kilifi County and brings deep community networks, local ecological knowledge, and a track record of civic and environmental engagement in the region.

SECTION 1: CONTEXT & PROBLEM STATEMENT

1.1 Kilifi County — A Green Heritage Under Threat

Kilifi County sits at the intersection of three globally significant ecosystems: the East African coastal forests (ranked among the world's top 25 biodiversity hotspots), the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (the largest indigenous coastal forest in East Africa), and the Mijikenda Kaya forests — a network of 11 sacred sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2008. These forests are not merely ecological assets; they are the living cultural heritage of the Mijikenda people and home to endemic species found nowhere else on Earth.

Yet Kilifi County is experiencing severe deforestation. Kenya loses approximately 50,000 hectares of forest annually, and coastal counties like Kilifi bear a disproportionate share of this loss. The primary drivers include:

- Charcoal production: Over 80% of rural households in Kilifi use wood fuel for cooking. Charcoal burning is the single largest driver of deforestation in the county.
- Population growth: Kilifi County's population is growing at above 3% annually, increasing pressure on land and forest resources.
- Agricultural encroachment: Subsistence farming continues to expand into forest margins, particularly around the Kayas and Arabuko-Sokoke.
- Lack of alternative livelihoods: Without economic alternatives, communities dependent on forest resources have little choice but to continue extraction.
- Absence of structured reforestation: County government tree planting efforts have been sporadic, under-resourced, and not sustained.

1.2 The Mijikenda Kayas — A Heritage in Peril

The Mijikenda Kaya forests are among Africa's most unique cultural-natural heritage sites. These 11 sacred forest groves — Kaya Kinondo, Kaya Kambe, Kaya Kauma, and others — have been maintained for centuries by the Mijikenda communities as centres of spiritual life, governance, and ecological knowledge. They contain plant species used in traditional medicine, support endemic bird and insect populations, and represent an irreplaceable living archive of Mijikenda culture.

External pressure on these forests has intensified as surrounding farmland is stripped of trees, pushing resource extraction closer to Kaya boundaries. **Buffer zone reforestation — planting indigenous trees on the margins of Kaya forests — is the most urgent and high-impact intervention available to protect this heritage.**

1.3 The Existing Community Response — and Why It Needs Support

Despite having no formal support, women's and youth groups across Kaloleni, Kilifi South, Malindi, Magarini, and Ganze have begun establishing tree nurseries on their own initiative. These groups are raising indigenous species — including Moringa, neem, mvule, muhuhu, mkuyu (wild fig), mchungwa wa msitu, and other locally significant species — and some have already begun distributing seedlings to their communities.

This represents an extraordinary example of grassroots environmental agency. However, these groups face critical constraints that threaten to extinguish their efforts:

- No reliable income from nurseries — seedlings are often given away or sold below cost for lack of market
- Limited access to quality seeds, potting materials, irrigation, and shade structures
- No training in nursery management, species selection, or climate-resilient planting techniques
- No formal network connecting groups across sub-counties for knowledge sharing
- No documentation of their work — meaning their contribution is invisible to funders and government
- Vulnerability to seasonal challenges — drought, flooding — that wipe out nursery stock without support

Supporting these existing groups is not starting a new program from scratch. **It is investing in a movement that is already alive — and ensuring it does not die for lack of water and seed.**

SECTION 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Goal

To strengthen community-led indigenous tree nurseries across five sub-counties of Kilifi County, creating sustainable livelihoods for women and youth, restoring degraded landscapes, protecting Kaya forest heritage zones, and building Kilifi County into a model of community-driven ecological restoration.

2.2 Project Objectives

- Support and formally register a minimum of 50 community tree nursery groups (10 per sub-county) across Kaloleni, Kilifi South, Malindi, Magarini, and Ganze
- Strengthen each nursery group's capacity to raise a minimum of 5,000 quality seedlings per growing season
- Establish a Kilifi County Seedling Market Network connecting nursery groups with bulk buyers: county government, development projects, schools, hotels, farmers, and conservation agencies
- Plant a minimum of 500,000 indigenous trees over three years across degraded farmland, school grounds, community land, coastal areas, and Kaya buffer zones
- Generate sustainable income for participating women and youth groups through the seedling market
- Document the ecological and social impact of the program to attract continued investment and replication

2.3 Target Species

The program will prioritize species with both ecological and livelihood value, selected in consultation with community elders, Kaya councils, and ecologists:

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	ECOLOGICAL VALUE	LIVELIHOOD VALUE
Azadirachta indica	Neem	Drought-tolerant, soil improvement, insect repellent	Medicinal products, biopesticide, timber
Moringa oleifera	Moringa / Mringa	Nitrogen fixation, windbreak, soil cover	Nutritional leaves, seeds, oil — high market demand
Vitex doniana	Mufingi / Black plum	Fruit tree, bird habitat, nitrogen fixation	Edible fruit, traditional medicine, shade
Ficus sycomorus	Mkuyu / Wild fig	Keystone species, bird & wildlife habitat, water retention	Fruit, traditional medicine, community shade

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	ECOLOGICAL VALUE	LIVELIHOOD VALUE
Brachylaena huillensis	Muhuhu	Hardwood, endemic coastal forest species, carbon storage	High-value timber, furniture — long-term asset
Combretum schumannii	Mnyanya	Riverbank stabilisation, erosion control	Traditional medicine, firewood alternative
Trichilia emetica	Mafuta mwitu	Shade species, wildlife habitat, soil enrichment	Seed oil for cosmetics, traditional medicine
Terminalia catappa	Mkunazi pwani / Beach almond	Coastal stabilisation, salt tolerant, shade	Edible nuts, traditional medicine, dye
Casuarina equisetifolia	Mvinje	Coastal dune stabilisation, windbreak, fast-growing	Timber, firewood — reduces pressure on native forest

2.4 Implementation Strategy — The Five-Stream Approach

Stream 1: Nursery Group Strengthening

Each of the 50 supported nursery groups will receive:

(a) a starter kit of quality indigenous tree seeds procured from certified sources;

(b) basic nursery infrastructure support — shade nets, germination trays, potting materials, simple irrigation equipment;

(c) training in seed collection, germination, nursery management, species identification, and record-keeping; and

(d) formal registration as a community group with Kilifi County.

Stream 2: Seedling Market Development

A structured county-wide seedling market will be developed, connecting nursery groups with identified buyers. Kikwetu Kiafrika will negotiate supply agreements with Kilifi County government (public greening programs, roadside planting, school greening), private sector buyers (coastal hotels, tourism operators for landscaping), NGOs and development projects operating in Kilifi, primary and secondary schools (school greening curriculum), and individual farmers (agroforestry integration). A fair pricing system will be established ensuring nursery groups receive KES 15–25 per seedling — providing genuine income while remaining competitive.

Stream 3: Mass Tree Planting Program

Three annual planting seasons will be organized, targeting:

(a) degraded farmland — planting trees on field boundaries and fallows to restore soil fertility through agroforestry;

(b) Kaya buffer zones — planting indigenous species on the margins of all 11 Kaya forests within the five sub-counties to reduce direct pressure on the heritage groves;

(c) school and institutional grounds — every participating school plants a minimum of 200 trees;

(d) coastal degraded areas — mangrove-adjacent zones, beach fronts, and dune systems;

(e) community common land — village commons, grazing areas, and roadsides.

Stream 4: Knowledge, Culture & Community

This program recognizes that ecological restoration in Kilifi is inseparable from cultural heritage. Kaya councils and Mijikenda elders will be central partners in the program — identifying appropriate indigenous species, guiding buffer zone planting, and transmitting indigenous ecological knowledge to younger generations. Annual community tree planting festivals will be organized, celebrating the Mijikenda relationship with forests and building community pride in the restoration effort.

Stream 5: Monitoring, Documentation & Advocacy

All tree planting will be geo-tagged and recorded in a simple digital database. Nursery group performance, seedling survival rates, and income generated will be tracked quarterly. An annual impact report will be produced and shared with donors, county government, and potential new funders. The project will develop a Kilifi Greening Story — a communications package including photo essays, video testimonials, and social media content — to inspire replication across Kenya and attract continued donor support.

SECTION 3: AFRICAN & GLOBAL MODELS THAT CHANGED LIVES

This proposal is informed by proven environmental initiatives across Africa and the world that have demonstrated community tree-planting and restoration programs can transform livelihoods, rebuild ecosystems, and create lasting social change.

3.1 The Great Green Wall — Sahel, West Africa

Spanning 8,000 kilometers across 11 countries from Senegal to Djibouti, the African Union's Great Green Wall initiative is the world's most ambitious land restoration project. Originally conceived as a literal wall of trees to halt the Saharan desert's southward advance, it has evolved into a mosaic of sustainable land management practices. In Senegal, the program has already restored over 12 million hectares of degraded land and generated more than 350,000 green jobs. In Niger, farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) — a key component — has regenerated over 5 million hectares of farmland, increasing crop yields by 20–80% and providing firewood that reduces the time women spend collecting fuel by hours each day. The Great Green Wall demonstrates that community-led restoration at scale is not only possible — it is transformative.

Kilifi's program directly mirrors the Great Green Wall's community ownership philosophy.

3.2 The Wangari Maathai Green Belt Movement — Kenya

Kenya's own Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the late Professor Wangari Maathai, founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977. The movement mobilized rural women across Kenya to plant trees, restore degraded landscapes, and reclaim environmental stewardship as a form of political empowerment. Over four decades, the Green Belt Movement planted over 51 million trees across Kenya, empowered tens of thousands of women, and demonstrated that environmental restoration and social justice are inseparable.

The movement began exactly as this Kilifi program begins: with women, with indigenous species, with local knowledge, and with conviction that small acts of restoration, multiplied across a community, change the landscape and the lives within it.

3.3 Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) — Niger, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso

FMNR is one of the most cost-effective land restoration approaches ever documented. Pioneered by agronomist Tony Rinaudo in Niger in the 1980s, FMNR involves protecting and managing naturally regenerating trees on farmland rather than clearing them. In Niger, FMNR has resulted in the restoration of an estimated 5–7 million hectares of farmland — described by the UN as 'the largest environmental transformation in Africa.' In Ethiopia, combined with community nurseries providing tree seedlings for gaps, FMNR programs have restored livelihoods for millions of smallholder farmers. In Burkina Faso, tree cover on farmland has increased household incomes by 18% and reduced food insecurity in participating communities.

Kilifi's agroforestry component directly draws on this model, integrating indigenous trees into smallholder farmland boundaries.

3.4 Mtandao wa Jamii wa Usimamizi wa Misitu (MJUMITA) — Tanzania

Tanzania's community forest management network, MJUMITA, has supported over 100 communities to manage their forests under the Tanzanian government's Participatory Forest Management (PFM) policy. Communities receive legal rights to their forest resources in exchange for sustainable management and restoration commitments. MJUMITA communities have documented increases in forest cover, improved water availability, greater biodiversity, and — critically — income from carbon credits sold through REDD+ mechanisms. Several Tanzanian community forests now earn annual carbon revenues exceeding USD 50,000, funding village schools, health centers, and income distribution to individual households.

This model represents the trajectory for Kilifi: community-led restoration today positions these groups to access carbon finance within five years.

3.5 Moringa Revolution — Malawi, Senegal, Uganda

Moringa oleifera — one of the key species in this Kilifi program — has been the centerpiece of multiple transformative community programs across sub-Saharan Africa. In Malawi, the Moringa Tree Project supported by the NGO Trees for the Future enabled smallholder farming families to generate supplemental income through moringa leaf and seed oil production, reducing malnutrition while restoring degraded land. In Senegal, women's cooperatives processing moringa leaves into dried powder have created thriving micro-enterprises that fund children's school fees and household healthcare. In Uganda, moringa cultivation combined with beekeeping has enabled women's groups to access premium markets through organic certification. The dual value of moringa — as a fast-growing nursery species with high survival rates and as a high-value nutritional and medicinal product — makes it ideal for a program targeting both environmental restoration and livelihood creation.

3.6 South Africa's Working for Water & Working on Fire Programs

South Africa's Department of Environment runs two landmark programs that demonstrate environmental restoration and employment creation are fully compatible goals. 'Working for Water' employs more than 20,000 people annually to clear invasive alien plants and restore indigenous vegetation — generating both ecological benefits and meaningful employment for marginalized communities, especially women and youth. 'Working on Fire' employs trained firefighting teams who also conduct controlled burns and vegetation management to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. These programs collectively deliver over ZAR 5 billion in ecosystem services annually. They demonstrate that government investment in ecological restoration is among the highest-return public expenditures available.

The Kilifi program proposes a similar model at county scale — creating green employment while delivering ecological restoration.

SECTION 4: TARGET BENEFICIARIES & SUB-COUNTY COVERAGE

SUB-COUNTY	TARGET GROUPS	BENEFICIARIES	KEY PLANTING ZONES	SPECIAL FOCUS
Kaloleni	10 women & youth groups	500+ direct; 5,000+ indirect	Kaya Kambe & Kaya Kauma buffer zones, farmland, school grounds	Mijikenda Kaya heritage protection; inland forest corridors
Kilifi South	10 women & youth groups	500+ direct; 5,000+ indirect	Kilifi Creek mangrove zones, degraded coastal farmland, schools	Coastal ecosystem restoration; mangrove-inland interface
Malindi	10 women & youth groups	500+ direct; 5,000+ indirect	Sabaki River corridor, Malindi Marine Reserve margins, community land	Riverine restoration; wetland buffer planting; urban greening
Magarini	10 women & youth groups	500+ direct; 5,000+ indirect	Dune systems, degraded farmland	Dune stabilization; agroforestry
Ganze	10 women & youth groups	500+ direct; 5,000+ indirect	Arabuko-Sokoke forest margins, Ganze upland degraded areas, community grazing land, school grounds	Arabuko-Sokoke buffer zone; Upland reforestation; soil restoration; water catchment protection
TOTAL	50 groups	2,500+ direct; 25,000+ indirect	County-wide across all 5 sub-counties	Ecological corridor connecting coastal and inland ecosystems

In addition to direct nursery group members, the program will benefit:

(a) Smallholder farmers receiving free or subsidized indigenous tree seedlings for agroforestry integration;

(b) School communities receiving greening support and environmental education;

(c) Kaya forest custodians whose heritage sites receive enhanced buffer zone protection;

(d) The broader county population through improved ecosystem services — groundwater recharge, reduced flooding risk, improved air quality, and climate resilience.

SECTION 5: THEORY OF CHANGE

IF women and youth community groups receive sustained support for indigenous tree nurseries

AND a functioning seedling market provides them with sustainable income

AND organized mass planting events deploy seedlings at landscape scale

THEN degraded landscapes are restored, Kaya forests are protected, and communities earn income from restoration

RESULTING IN a self-sustaining community restoration movement that no longer depends on external funding

5.1 Short-Term Outcomes (Year 1)

- 50 nursery groups formally supported, registered, and producing quality seedlings
- Minimum 150,000 indigenous seedlings raised in Year 1
- Seedling market operational — first supply agreements signed with county government and private sector
- Minimum USD 15,000 in income generated by nursery groups in Year 1
- First annual mass planting event — 150,000 trees planted

5.2 Medium-Term Outcomes (Years 2–3)

- 500,000 trees planted cumulatively across 5 sub-counties
- Nursery groups generating sustainable income independent of project grants
- Measurable canopy cover increase in target planting zones
- Kaya buffer zones showing improved ground cover and reduced human pressure
- Seedling market generating combined group income of USD 60,000+ over three years
- At least 3 nursery groups generating sufficient income to fully self-finance operations

5.3 Long-Term Systemic Change

Within five years, the programme aims to: (a) position Kilifi County as Kenya's coastal reforestation model, attracting national and international carbon finance; (b) generate REDD+ carbon credit income for participating communities, estimated at USD 5–15 per tonne of carbon sequestered; (c) establish a permanent Kilifi County Community Green Economy that provides ongoing employment in tree growing, nursery management, ecological monitoring, and environmental guiding; and (d) protect the Mijikenda Kaya forests for the next generation.

SECTION 6: IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

PHASE	PERIOD	KEY ACTIVITIES	MILESTONES
Phase 1: Foundation	Months 1–4	Group identification & registration; baseline ecological survey; seed procurement; nursery infrastructure; training programme design	50 groups registered; all nurseries equipped; training curriculum ready
Phase 2: Capacity Building	Months 3–8	Nursery management training (all 50 groups); seed germination & propagation workshops; record-keeping systems; market linkage mapping	All groups trained; 75,000 seedlings in production; first market agreements signed
Phase 3: First Planting Season	Months 8–12	First mass planting event; 150,000 trees planted; school greening programme launched; Kaya buffer zones first planting	150,000 trees in ground; geo-tagging complete; survival monitoring begins
Phase 4: Market Growth	Months 10–18	Seedling market fully operational; quarterly nursery competitions; documentation & communications; donor reporting	Nursery groups earning regular income; Year 1 impact report published
Phase 5: Year 2 Scaling	Months 13–24	Second planting season (175,000 trees); new species trials; agroforestry integration; school curriculum module developed	Cumulative 325,000 trees planted; school programme in 30 schools
Phase 6: Year 3 Legacy	Months 25–36	Third planting season (175,000 trees); carbon assessment; legacy plan; replication toolkit for 2 remaining sub-counties	500,000 total trees planted; carbon baseline report; full programme self-sufficiency roadmap

SECTION 7: COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET

All amounts in United States Dollars (USD). Exchange rate: 1 USD = KES 130. Budget covers the full 36-month programme period, 2026–2029. Figures include 10% VAT where applicable on goods and services.

BUDGET A: Nursery Group Strengthening & Infrastructure

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	YEAR(S)
Shade nets for nursery beds (50 groups × 2 nets each)	Net	100	45	4,500	1-3
Germination trays and seedling tubes (50 groups)	Set/group	50	120	6,000	1-3
Potting soil / growing media (50 groups, 3 seasons)	Season/group	150	40	6,000	1-3
Indigenous tree seed procurement (certified, 9 species)	Kg	500	18	9,000	1-3
Simple drip irrigation kits (50 groups)	Kit	50	80	4,000	1
Hand tools per group (spades, rakes, watering cans, wheelbarrow)	Set	50	95	4,750	1
Nursery signage and identity materials (branded)	Group	50	25	1,250	1
Annual nursery restocking grant per group (Years 2-3)	Group/year	100	60	6,000	2-3
Community nursery competitions & recognition events (annual)	Event	3	1,200	3,600	1-3
BUDGET A SUBTOTAL				**USD 45,100**	

BUDGET B: Training & Capacity Building

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	YEAR(S)
Nursery management training (5 sessions × 5 sub-counties, Year 1)	Session	25	350	8,750	1
Seed collection & propagation field workshops (5 sub-counties)	Workshop	15	400	6,000	1-2
Agroforestry integration farmer training (per sub-county)	Session	10	450	4,500	2
Kaya ecological knowledge exchange (elders & youth, 5 events)	Event	10	600	6,000	1-3
Business skills & market access training (nursery groups)	Session	15	320	4,800	1-2
Record-keeping & digital reporting tools training	Session	10	180	1,800	1
Environmental education school program (30 schools)	School	30	150	4,500	2-3
Community planting festival facilitation (annual × 5 sub-counties)	Event	15	800	12,000	1-3
BUDGET B SUBTOTAL				**USD 48,350**	

BUDGET C: Mass Tree Planting Program (3 Seasons)

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	SEASON
Seedling purchase from nursery groups (500,000 seedlings total @ KES 20)	Seedling	500,000	0.15	75,000	1-3
Planting site preparation (manual land clearing, pitting, 500 ha)	Hectare	500	30	15,000	1-3
Planting labor (community-paid — 500,000 trees, 2 persons/100 trees)	Person-day	10,000	3.50	35,000	1-3
Transport of seedlings to planting sites (5 sub-counties × 3 seasons)	Trip	75	180	13,500	1-3

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	SEASON
Tree guards / protection materials for Kaya buffer zones (10,000 trees)	Guard	10,000	0.80	8,000	1-3
Mulching materials and organic compost supply	Ton	60	45	2,700	1-3
Post-planting watering support (3 months per season, 5 sites)	Month/site	45	200	9,000	1-3
Annual tree survival monitoring & replacement (20% loss buffer)	Seedling	30,000	0.15	4,500	2-3
Mass planting event organisation (launch events, 5 sub-counties × 3 years)	Event	15	1,200	18,000	1-3
BUDGET C SUBTOTAL				**USD 180,700**	

BUDGET D: Seedling Market Development

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	YEAR(S)
Market linkage officer (part-time, 3 years)	Month	36	400	14,400	1-3
Buyer engagement workshops and supply agreement facilitation	Workshop	6	500	3,000	1-2
Seedling price verification and quality assurance system	Lump sum	1	2,500	2,500	1
Nursery group branding and marketing materials (banners, bags, labels)	Group	50	40	2,000	1
Digital seedling catalogue and WhatsApp ordering platform	Lump sum	1	1,800	1,800	1
Kilifi County Green Market annual fair (3 years)	Event	3	2,000	6,000	1-3
BUDGET D SUBTOTAL				**USD 29,700**	

BUDGET E: Monitoring, Evaluation & Documentation

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	YEAR(S)
Baseline ecological survey (5 sub-counties)	Survey	5	1,200	6,000	1
Annual tree survival and canopy cover monitoring	Survey/year	15	800	12,000	1-3
Annual programme impact report (design, print, distribution)	Report	3	1,500	4,500	1-3
Geo-tagging equipment (GPS units for field teams)	Unit	10	180	1,800	1
Photo/video documentation (annual story production)	Year	3	1,800	5,400	1-3
Independent mid-term and final evaluation	Evaluation	2	3,500	7,000	2,3
Carbon baseline assessment (Year 3, pre-REDD+ positioning)	Assessment	1	4,500	4,500	3
BUDGET E SUBTOTAL				**USD 41,200**	

BUDGET F: Programme Management & Administration

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	YEAR(S)
Programme Coordinator (full-time, 3 years)	Month	36	1,000	36,000	1-3
5 Sub-County Field Officers (part-time, 3 years)	Person/month	180	250	45,000	1-3
Finance & Reporting Officer (part-time, 3 years)	Month	36	500	18,000	1-3
Programme office rent and utilities (3 years)	Month	36	300	10,800	1-3
Vehicle hire / field transport (monthly, 3 years)	Month	36	400	14,400	1-3
IT equipment (laptops, tablets, phones for field)	Lump sum	1	3,500	3,500	1

ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST (USD)	TOTAL (USD)	YEAR(S)
Communication costs (internet, phone, data bundles)	Month	36	100	3,600	1-3
Annual independent financial audit	Audit	3	2,500	7,500	1-3
Contingency reserve (3% of programme budget)	Lump sum	1	—	3,250	As needed
BUDGET F SUBTOTAL				**USD 142,050**	

PROGRAMME BUDGET SUMMARY

BUDGET COMPONENT	TOTAL (USD)	% OF BUDGET
A: Nursery Group Strengthening & Infrastructure	45,100	11.6%
B: Training & Capacity Building	48,350	12.5%
C: Mass Tree Planting Programme	180,700	46.6%
D: Seedling Market Development	29,700	7.7%
E: Monitoring, Evaluation & Documentation	41,200	10.6%
F: Programme Management & Administration	42,450	11.0%
TOTAL PROGRAMME BUDGET — 3 YEARS	**USD 387,500**	**100%**

TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED: USD 387,500

(Approximately KES 50,375,000 at current exchange rates)

Programme Duration: 3 Years | 2026 – 2029

Cost per tree planted (500,000 trees): USD 0.78 per tree

Note: Budget F reflects a reduced management allocation — field officer costs represent direct community delivery, not overhead.

SECTION 8: MONITORING, EVALUATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGET	VERIFICATION
Nursery groups formally supported	0	50 (10/sub-county)	Group registration certificates; field verification
Total seedlings produced annually	Informal/unrecorded	250,000+ per year	Nursery stock records; quarterly field count
Trees planted cumulatively (3 years)	0	500,000	Geo-tagged planting records; satellite imagery comparison
Tree survival rate (12 months)	N/A (no baseline)	≥70% in Year 1, ≥75% by Year 3	Annual survival survey; spot checks
Nursery group income generated	Negligible	USD 20,000+ per year by Year 2	Group financial records; market transaction logs
Schools participating in greening	0	30 schools (6/sub-county)	School participation registers; head teacher confirmation
Kaya buffer zone hectares planted	0	500 hectares across 5 sub-counties	Land measurement; GPS boundary mapping
Women-led groups in the program	Target	≥60% of all supported groups	Group registration demographics

8.1 Accountability to Donors

- Quarterly narrative and financial reports within 15 working days of quarter-end
- All procurement above USD 1,000 subject to competitive quotation with documentation
- Program bank account with dual signatories — Program Coordinator and Finance Officer
- Annual independent financial audit by a registered Kenyan CPA firm
- Donor right to program site visit with 7 working days' notice
- All program reports and evaluations published on Kikwetu Kiafrika's website

SECTION 9: A CALL TO ACTION FOR DONORS & PARTNERS

EVERY TREE PLANTED IN KILIFI IS AN ACT OF RESISTANCE — AGAINST POVERTY, AGAINST DESERTIFICATION, AGAINST THE LOSS OF A PEOPLE'S HERITAGE.

The women and youth of Kilifi's five sub-counties have already made their choice. They are growing trees with their own hands, on their own land, with their own seeds — without waiting for a government to tell them to, without waiting for funding to begin. They are the program. What they are asking for is what all pioneers need: the resources to continue, the market to make their work sustainable, and the recognition that what they are doing matters.

For a donor investing in this program, the returns are extraordinary:

- USD 0.78 per tree — one of the lowest cost-per-tree rates for community-led planting in East Africa
- 500,000 indigenous trees established — permanent carbon sinks and biodiversity habitats
- 50 women and youth groups supported into sustainable environmental livelihoods
- 11 UNESCO-recognized Kaya forests with enhanced buffer zone protection
- A community movement positioned for REDD+ carbon finance within 5 years — creating financial self-sufficiency
- A replicable model for the remaining 2 sub-counties and for coastal counties across Kenya

This is not charity. This is strategic investment in one of the highest-return environmental interventions available in East Africa today.

9.1 Donor Funding Tiers

TIER	AMOUNT (USD)	WHAT IT FUNDS	RECOGNITION
Lead Partner (1 position)	150,000+	Full mass planting program for 2 sub-counties + market development	Named program co-sponsor; quarterly briefings; site visit; report co-authorship
Strategic Partner (up to 2)	75,000 each	Full support for 10 nursery groups + one full planting season in one sub-county	Named partner; 6-monthly reports; dedicated site visit;

TIER	AMOUNT (USD)	WHAT IT FUNDS	RECOGNITION
			social media recognition
Supporting Partner (up to 3)	30,000 each	Equipment and training for 8 nursery groups; 50,000 trees planted in one zone	Partner acknowledgement; annual report inclusion; field visit opportunity
Community Champion (open)	5,000–15,000	Individual nursery group sponsorship (1–3 groups); visible group naming rights	Group named in donor's honour; photo updates; certificate of impact

9.2 Non-Financial Partnership Opportunities

- Technical expertise partnerships — botanists, ecologists, agroforestry specialists, carbon finance advisors
- Equipment donations — irrigation systems, GPS units, laptops, nursery infrastructure
- Market linkage partnerships — hotels, resorts, and estates in Kilifi agreeing to purchase seedlings
- Research partnerships — universities co-authoring ecological impact studies
- Policy advocacy — supporting Kikwetu Kiafrika's engagement with Kilifi County Government on greening policy

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"The Kaya forests have stood for centuries because the Mijikenda people chose to protect them.
We are asking you to help us stand with them for the next century."

KIKWETU KIAFRIKA

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Kilifi County, Kenya | 2026

Rooting Communities. Healing Forests. Transforming Lives.