

## "World Heritage Volunteers - "Património Voluntário 2011"



**WHV – Mijikenda Kaya Forest, KENYA**  
**10 – 31 July 2011**

### **Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forest, Kenya**

**Cultural site inscribed in 2008**

The Mijikenda Kaya Forests consist of 11 separate forest sites spread over some 200 km along the coast containing the remains of numerous fortified villages, known as kayas, of the Mijikenda people. The kayas, created as of the 16<sup>th</sup> century but abandoned by the 1940s, are now regarded as the abodes of ancestors and are revered as sacred sites and, as such, are maintained as by councils of elders. The site is inscribed as bearing unique testimony to a cultural tradition and for its direct link to a living tradition.



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*Cultural site inscribed in 2008*

**Project objectives:** The project aims at enabling the participants to appreciate and learn more about the local cultures and the significance of the forest towards nurturing the culture of the community and the role played by the forest in bringing the people together; enhancing the involvement of the local people towards the conservation of the Sacred Mijikenda Kaya Forest.

**Project activities:** The volunteers will engage in several activities as trees planting, Clearing and labelling the nature trails in the forest, conducting topical discussions with school children and community members, discussions and trainings on environmental issues and conservation concepts, training of peer educators among school going children's and developing a curriculum to guide the conservation efforts.

**Partners:** The project will be mainly supported by local partners such as the Shimba Hills Forests Guide Association who will work together with KVDA in coming up with conservation materials to be used in the implementation of the project; collaboration with the local schools and the UNESCO National Commission of Kenya will also be sought.

**Kenya Voluntary Development Association (KVDA)**

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