NEWS LETTER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project launch 1

Kick-off meetings 1

Site visit 1

Baraawe District Authorities 2

Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy 2

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, SWS 2

Baraawe Fishery Cooperatives 3

Community Elders 4

Women 5

Youth 6

Civil Society and Minority Communities 7

Jubaland Fisheries and Blue Economy Forum in Kismayo 8

BARAAWE MARINE CONSERVATION AREA TAKES OFF WITH LAUNCH, SITE VISIT AND EIGHT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



PROJECT LAUNCH, BARAAWE

In August 2026, the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Network (CRAN), in partnership with the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) and with funding from the Minderoo Foundation, commenced Phase I of the Baraawe Marine Conservation Area (BMCA) project. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the South West State Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy, the Baraawe District Commissioner, and relevant government authorities and community stakeholders. It was officially launched by the South West State Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy.

Two inception meetings an official kick-off meeting and a public project launch were held to introduce the Baraawe Marine Conservation Area (BMCA) project and discuss how it would be implemented. These meetings aimed to ensure that stakeholders fully understood the project's goals, expected outcomes, planned activities, and the roles and responsibilities of the implementing team, government authorities, and community representatives. They also provided an opportunity to discuss coordination arrangements, gather initial feedback, and identify practical considerations for implementation.

SITE VISIT



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT · PART 2

SITE VISIT WITH THE MINISTER



BUILDING SUPPORT ACROSS GOVERNMENT AND RESOURCE USERS



BARAAWE DISTRICT AUTHORITIES

CRAN met district leadership and administrative staff to agree how the project will work at district level. The meeting covered district responsibilities for the coast and landing sites, local coordination and security arrangements, community mobilisation for upcoming consultations, and the district's role in future co-management.

Discussion focused on:

- District responsibilities for the coastline and landing sites
- Coordination with state and federal institutions
- Security and access arrangements for fieldwork
- Mobilising communities for the coming consultations.

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND BLUE ECONOMY

CRAN briefed the federal ministry on BMCA objectives and the Phase I plan. Discussion covered alignment with national fisheries and blue-economy policy, the ministry's mandate for marine protected areas and fisheries management, its role in recognising an interim co-management arrangement, and arrangements for continued coordination.

Discussion focused on:

- National fisheries and blue-economy policy and how BMCA supports it
- Federal mandate for marine protected areas and fisheries licensing
- Federal–state coordination on coastal management
- Federal recognition of an interim co-management arrangement.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT · PART 1

BARAAWE FISHERY COOPERATIVES



Fishers and cooperative leaders described their fishing grounds, seasons, gear and landing sites, and the main pressures on their catch and income. They shared how a conservation area could affect access and livelihoods, and how fishers should be represented in decisions on its management.

Discussion focused on:

- Fishing grounds, seasons, gear and landing sites
- Pressures on catch, income and market access
- Expected effects of a conservation area on access
- How fishers want to be represented in management.







STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT · PART 2

COMMUNITY ELDERS



Elders and customary leaders shared traditional knowledge of the coast and customary rules on access to fishing grounds and resources. Discussion covered how disputes over coastal resources are resolved today, and how customary authority can support the governance of the conservation area.



Discussion focused on:

- Customary rules on access to the sea and coast
- How disputes over resources are settled today
- Role of elders in community decision-making
- Linking customary authority with formal governance.



WOMEN



In a women-only session, fish processors, traders and women leaders described their work along the fisheries value chain and the barriers they face in being heard. They set out their priorities for the conservation area and how women should be represented in its management.



Discussion focused on:

- Women's roles in fish processing and trade
- Barriers to women's participation in decisions
- Priorities for livelihoods and the coastal economy
- Meaningful, not token, representation of women.



YOUTH



Young fishers and youth-group members discussed their role in the coastal economy, the livelihood challenges they face, and how they can contribute as future stewards, from awareness-raising and monitoring to taking part in decision-making.

Discussion focused on:

- Youth livelihoods in fishing and the coastal economy
- Barriers young people face in being heard
- Roles in awareness-raising and monitoring
- Youth representation in BMCA governance.





STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT · PART 2

CIVIL SOCIETY AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES



Civil Society and Minority Communities

Local civil-society organisations and minority community representatives discussed inclusion in coastal decision-making. They identified groups at risk of being left out and the safeguards needed to keep the BMCA process fair, transparent and open to all.



Discussion focused on:

- Groups at risk of exclusion from coastal decisions
- Risks of elite capture and unequal influence
- Role of civil society in transparency and feedback
- Safeguards for minority participation



JUBALAND FISHERIES AND BLUE ECONOMY FORUM IN KISMAYO



On 7 October 2026, CRAN participated in the Jubaland Fisheries and Blue Economy Forum in Kismayo, organized by the Jubaland Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy. Held for the second consecutive year, the forum brought together government officials, members of the Council of Ministers and Parliament, traditional elders, women and youth representatives, international organizations, fisheries cooperatives, and business representatives.

The forum was officially opened by the Speaker of the Jubaland Parliament, Sheikh Abdi Mohamed Abdirahman. Discussions focused on developing the fisheries sector, strengthening community and stakeholder participation, and creating sustainable economic opportunities. Participants also explored the responsible use and conservation of marine resources, emphasizing cooperation among institutions and communities involved in fisheries and the blue economy.

The Jubaland Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Ahmed Hassan Omar, highlighted the importance of the forum and the opportunities that marine resources offer for livelihoods and economic development. Following the discussions, participants visited an exhibition organized by fisheries cooperatives, showcasing a variety of foods prepared from fish and demonstrating opportunities for value addition within the sector.

CRAN's participation provided an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and learn from discussions on sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, and inclusive blue economy development in Jubaland.

CRAN

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION NETWORK

Our Partnership with

WIOMSA

Coasts Ocean and People

WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MARINE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

MINDEROO FOUNDATION

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