

PROJECTS: KENYA

CABESI: PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE SMALL TRADE AND PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY IN SEMI-ARID AREAS OF WEST KENYA



Project

The „Cabesi“ project promotes the production and marketing of local honey and wild silk. The local population is supported in professionally expanding their sources of income and knowledge of honey production and marketing of wild silk. Important topics such as business management are thematised and addressed through local partner organisations. Local aloe plants will be used to produce soaps and lotions, thereby creating new income opportunities for the local communities. In this phase the focus is on establishing the independent business “Cabesi Development Company” which will ensure the continuation of the Cabesi-initiative after phasing out of the project. For this purpose a mid-term business plan for Cabesi is being drafted with all stakeholders in a participatory way.

Project number:
BV EH-02

Project active since:
December 2003

Project duration:
until December 2012

Budget for 2010:
135'000 USD

Project coordinator:
Rolf Gloor, Biologist and
marketing specialist *icipe*

Program responsibility:
Verena Albertin

Relevance

The Pokots are small-scale farmers. They traditionally keep sheep, goats and cattle, and more and more frequently they cultivate crops. Due to the increasing occurrence of drought, food regularly becomes scarce and leads to conflict between neighbouring tribes. Soil degradation is already well advanced due to the traditional use of land for grazing and collection of firewood. Cabesi offers small-scale farmers the opportunity to increase their income in a sustainable, environmentally sound manner. Income generation that does not tax natural resources further is important for survival. The status and reputation of Pokot women has already been very effectively improved by their active inclusion in the project work and participatory decision making processes.

Beneficiaries

3000 beekeepers and their families, 350 members of the community based organisations, 20 direct employees of the Market Place, 4 schools and 200 farms through the campaign for malaria prevention, 200 families (around 2000 people) through the production, sale and individual use of jatropa oil.

Development Goal

Sustainable improvement of the living standard of communities in Pokot through practice-oriented knowledge dissemination and income generation through sustainable use of natural resources.



Beeswax used to be seen as a useless byproduct of honey production. Now it is being used to produce candles in the „Cabesi Market Place“.



The project helps to generate new sustainable income sources in the region which enable families to pay the school fees for their children.

Goals

1. Sustainable increase in production of honey and other bee products: Establishment of 3 new **honey collection centres**, training of 6 additional persons in managing the new collection centres, educating the local community in beekeeping, production and marketing.
2. Promotion of **wild silk production** and establishing 30 beehives with stingless bees to produce stingless-bee honey. Training of 2 additional “trainer of trainers” for the production and processing of the honey.
3. Diversification of **income opportunities** for the communities by using local aloe-plants. Training of at least 200 community members (140 women) in planting and processing **aloe plants** to produce soaps and lotions.

Partner Organisations

International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology www.icipe.org; Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development; Arid Lands Kapenguria; Kerio Valley Development Agency (KVDA)

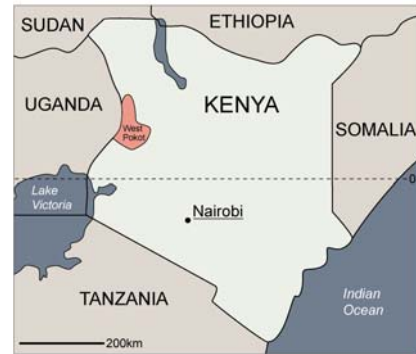
Local project partners

Six community based organisations which operate the collection centres for bee products as well as two local community based organisations that specialise in the production of wild silk; beekeepers, wild silk producers, secondary schools that run “Cabesi-Clubs” (honey production, malaria-sensitisation).

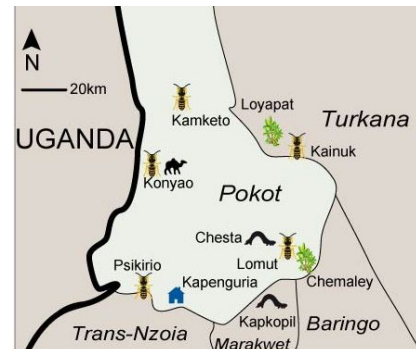
Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. (4x Health, 4-H Strategy). Every project supported by Biovision effects considerable improvements in at least one of the four health areas. The key to effectively replicating the success of the project is the

availability of specific information on the methods applied and the results achieved. With this approach and its ‘helix of effects’, living conditions are improved and the poverty of the people is gradually overcome while the environment is protected.



West Pokot.



Project areas in and around Pokot



Contact:

Biovision - Foundation for Ecological Development
Schaffhauserstr. 18
CH-8006 Zurich
Tel. +41 44 341 97 18
Fax +41 44 341 97 62
info@biovision.ch
www.biovision.ch
Swiss Post Account:
87-193093-4

A future for all, naturally