

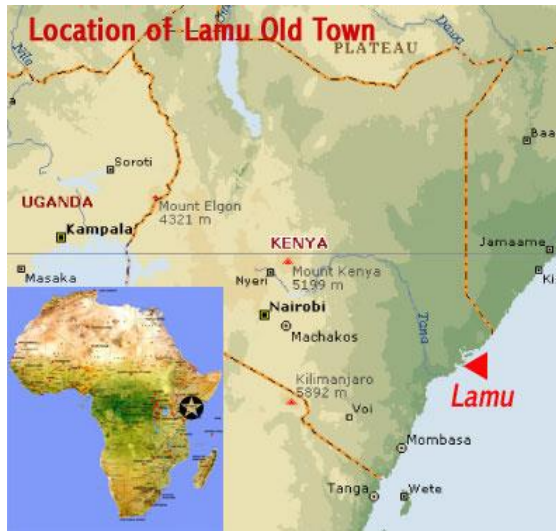


*Promoting Participatory and Sustainable
Development*

Dear Friends,

Lamu is a magical place, unique culturally and its biodiversity stunning. Lamu County is comprised of islands and mainland located some 340 km of Mombasa, nestled along Kenya's northern coast line. It is rich in history and culture and blessed with exquisite natural beauty—from its white sand beaches, extending for miles, to its lush mangrove forests that provide a cornucopia of marine life.

The mangrove forests that ring the coast and its islands form a natural protection to the coastline and enrich the marine life. Here there are sea turtles, dugongs, coral, fish, prawns, crab, lobster and other exotic marine life.



Areas of the Lamu Archipelago and its mainland are internationally recognized and protected as valuable biospheres. One is the Boni-Dodori Forest National Reserve which covers 877 km² of indigenous coastal forest vibrant with wildlife and endemic plants including elephant, lion, leopard, African wild dog, coastal topi, warthog, buffalo, hyena, bushbuck, monkey, golden-rumped elephant shrew, dik-dik and the endangered hirola (Hunter's hartebeest) as well as hundreds of bird species. The second is the Kiunga Marine National Reserve, which consists of shoreline and about 50 islands and coral reef in the Lamu Archipelago.

Fishing is a major activity as well as farming, artisanal crafts of boatbuilding and woodworking and, of course, commerce. More recently tourism has injected new life into the traditional patterns of life here.

Lamu's natural wealth, its untouched beaches, natural forests, coral reef, mangroves, need to be protected and conserved as a precious community resource for future generations. The pressure to develop the area is mounting thus the need for increased awareness of the value in maintaining a natural habitat to provide the necessary environment for a rich marine life as well as plentiful endemic flora and fauna. We join hands with the County government, for local participation of natural resource conservation.



Recently the Kenya Government has laid out plans to develop Lamu, one of the developments includes a 960 MW coal-fired electricity plant, the first coal powered plant in Kenya, indeed in the whole of Africa, except for South Africa. The plant's location is along mangrove forests at the mouth of an inlet rich in prawns, crabs and fish. The area is a traditional fishing ground for a number of the more than 3,000 artisanal fisher folk in Lamu County. The land that the developers are eyeing for the coal plant belongs to a



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number of communities, namely from the neighbouring island of Pate. They have traditionally used this land for their farms during the planting seasons for generations. However, they lack title deeds.

The private developers are carrying on information sessions saying that technology today makes coal safe and also they will be using 'clean' coal imported from South Africa. We recognize that technology has advanced but we have yet to find any information that would point to 'safe and clean' coal burning.



What they haven't said is how hot the waste cooling water will be and what is its effect on mangroves. They haven't said how they will be handling the waste sludge with its heavy metals like mercury, arsenic and lead so it will not leach into our marine ecosystem. And how can we live with the fact that it is adding to the greenhouse gases that threaten our climate.

We need your help. We have created a petition to halt the construction of a coal-fired electricity generating plant, which we will hand over to the Lamu County Governor and to the Secretary of Energy, Kenya Government. Will you help us by sending this petition to your members and friends asking them to please sign the petition to halt the threat to our environment, our culture and our livelihoods?

Please help to halt a proposed Coal-Fired Electricity Generating Plant in Lamu

We believe that we need to be smart and use renewable energy like solar or wind farms. These forms of energy have minimal impact on our environment and the health of our communities. Help us to halt the coal powered plant!!

Save Lamu's mission:

To engage communities and stakeholders to ensure participatory decision-making, achieve sustainable and responsible development, and preserve the environmental, social and cultural integrity of the Lamu community.

Join Us.

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/Lamu_Governor_Issa_Timamy_We_call_on_you_to_prohibit_the_planned_coal_generating_plant_in_Lamu_County/edit/