



Scientists as agents of change: working with the local community along the coast of Kenya

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Oceans of Opportunities, Rivers of Ideas (OORI)

ALUMNI EVENT

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Belgium
partner in development

‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world’



‘Mahatma Gandhi’

From a forester to a marine ecologist



Bachelor of science in Forestry (2003)



Master in ECOMAMA (2008)



PhD in Bio-engineering sciences (2016)

Maintaining the link with VUB



Transboundary coastal processes & resource use patterns as a basis for a Kenya-Tanzania conservation area initiative

1. Sediment Impacts on ecosystems (catchment + landuse)
2. Coastal currents modelling
3. Population genetic patterns on coastal organisms
4. Transboundary resource use
5. Wood density & carbon sequestration
6. Translation of scientific data of the research lines into policy-support document



Forest structural surveys



Republic of Kenya

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES

NATIONAL MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PLAN



Biodiversity monitoring



- State of aquatic environment report
- State of the coast report (second edition)
- Implementing the ecosystem management plans

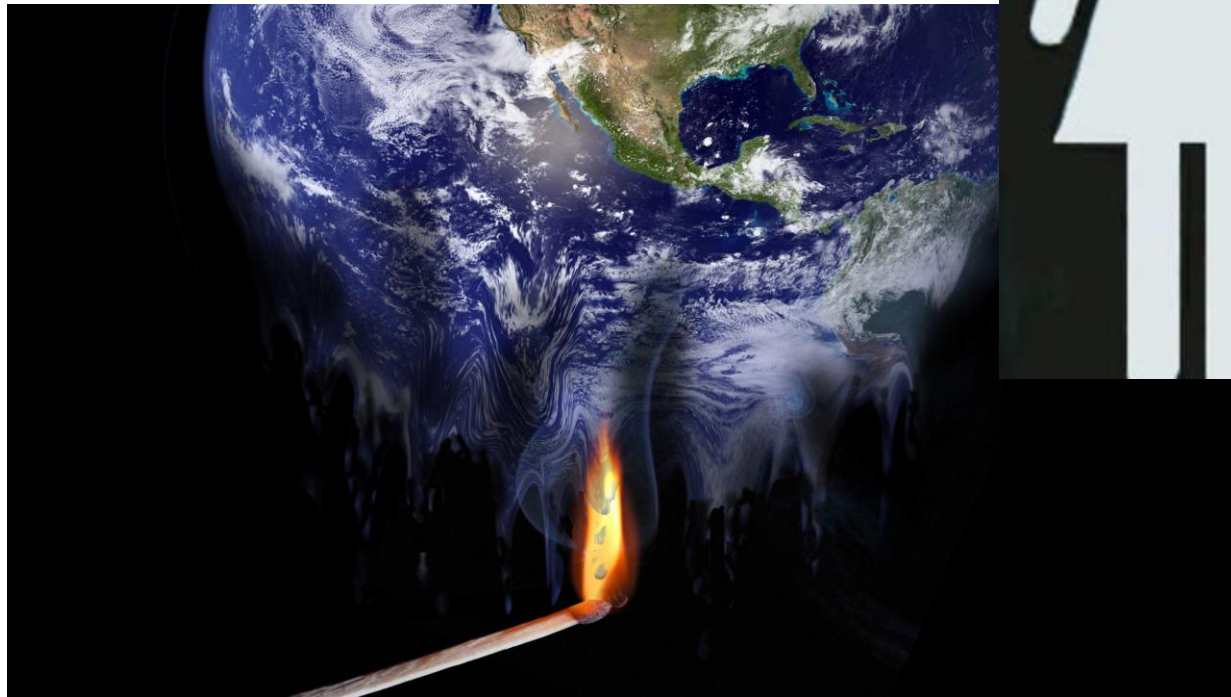
Researchers and change

- Getting one out of their usual way of life- 'comfort zone'
- Transformation or adaptation towards a more efficient lifestyle including but not limited to working towards environmental sustainability
- Coming up with science based solutions to effect positive change especially in the lives of women and the marginalized groups



Move away from the norm

- Gender discrimination
- Climate change



Demand for resources pushing ecosystems to the extremes



Cascading effect where not only the trees are lost but entire associated biodiversity



Conventional restoration attempts by the local community are futile



How to effect change

Move away from supervisory



Walk the local community through the process of ecological restoration



Scientists integrating well with the community



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Training while working together

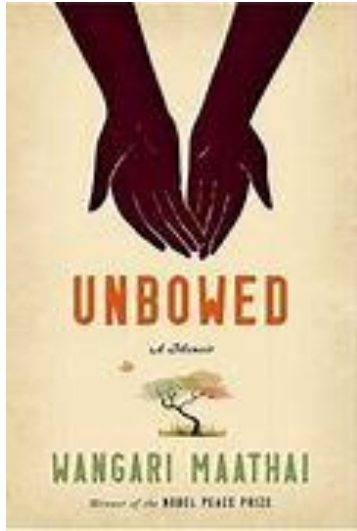


Silvofisheries in bare tidal flats

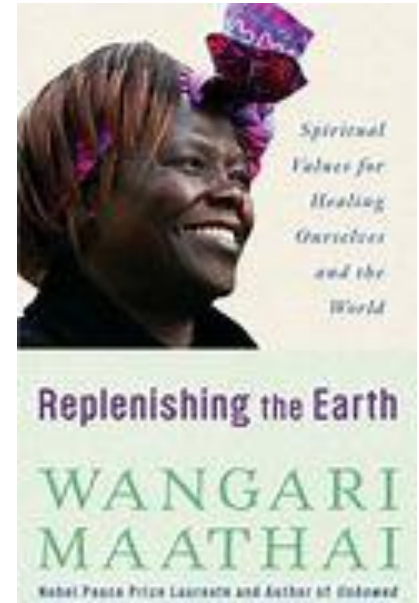


Modifying hydrology





Scientists in their small way can
change the world



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SHARING MINDS, CHANGING LIVES

