

Project Update: September 2013

The project effectively commenced in May 2013. The first 3 months of project excursion involved mobilisation of field equipment from the US and UK suppliers. The first field mission to Wami Estuary was conducted from 1st – 7th September 2013. As planned, six circular (10 m radius) permanent sampling plots (PSPs) for vegetative and soil sampling were established following suggested protocols by Kauffman and Donato (2012). Plot centres were marked with permanent coloured concrete markers and geo-referenced and mapped using a high precision GPS. Mangrove tree inventory data were collected and six soil cores (one from each plot) of up to 2 m deep were retrieved near plot centres. Discussion with a group of estuarine/near shore dependent fishers was also done to gain their perception of the conservation and management of the mangrove resources and associated ecosystem services. Laboratory processing of the soil samples for carbon estimation and analysis of vegetative data for ecological attributes, biomass and carbon estimates is underway. Preliminarily, field-based observations indicated considerable signs of mangrove deforestation that occurred prior to the management transformation Wami Estuary as part of the Saadani National Park. This could potentially have affected the forest capacity to sequester and retain carbon. Nonetheless, there are promising signs of ecological recovery from the rampant deforestation, but this ought to wait for a complete analysis and interpretation of data to ascertain. A field mission to a second site of Ruvu Estuary is scheduled for early October 2013.



Field crew working at one of the plots in Wami Estuary. **Left:** Taking measuring of a standing stump. **Right:** Retrieving soil core using a Multi-stage sediment corer close to the plot centre (concrete mark with red paint at top).