

IPEN GLOBAL PLASTIC MONITORING PROJECT, BEACH SAMPLING NARRATIVE REPORT

Background

CJGEA is a member of IPEN and has partnered with it on numerous projects geared towards realizing a toxic free future.

In August 2019, CJGEA partnered with IPEN to conduct a project on beach sampling exercise to collect plastic polyethylene pellets and plastic scrap samples to be sent to the lab in Czech Republic for analysis.

The samples were to be analyzed to determine one or more additional hazardous chemicals they possess to raise global awareness about hazardous chemicals related to plastics through generation of data on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and/or EDCs within plastic pellets and fragments. This was in line with IPENs focus area which aims at a toxic free future.

Project implementation

1. Brief description of beach location

The sampling location was at Baobab Beach in Kilifi town, the beach is located between coordinates -3.624040N, 39.874551S which is around 5minutes drive from Kilifi town center. The beach is a public property and it is located 3km north of Kilifi town. It is extensive in length and covers a distance of close to 3km. The main landmark that directs one to the beach is the presence of the Mada hotels known as the Baobab Sea lodge.

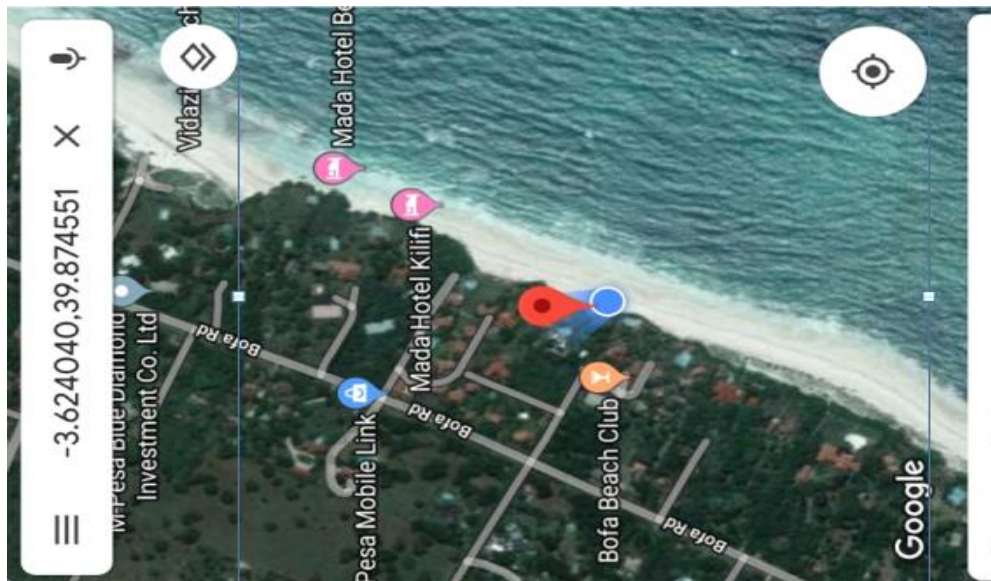


Figure 1 Aerial photograph showing Baobab Beach location

2. Additional significant information about the beach.

The beach is located next to Mada Hotels and some other hotels within the surrounding. The hotels are adjacent and in close proximity to the beach. Several domestic and international tourists frequent this beach hotel just to enjoy the sandy beaches. There are no industries next to this beach except that there is a highway, The Bofa road that is around 70meters from the beach and a couple of beach houses along the beach strip. The beach is littered by plastic and polythene wastes and this shows the level of pollution the wastes have caused in this area.



Figure 2 showing a hotel built next to the beach.



Figure 3 plastic waste littered all over the beach surface.

3. Comments about the activity

The sampling exercise was conducted by a team of three staff members from CJGEA and they managed to collect all the required amount of the samples. The exercise lasted for close to three hours. The collection of the plastic scrap samples was stress-free as they were easily visible on the beach while the polythene pellets took us quite some time to locate and collect. All in all the exercise was a success and the samples were taken back to the office awaiting shipment to Czech Republic for lab analysis.



Figure 4 Showing a field personnel from CJGEA collecting the samples from dirt spread along the beach

4. Photos of sampling activity.



Figure 5 showing samples of plastic scraps collected from the beach.



Figure 6 showing samples of polythene pellet samples collected during the exercise.



Figure 7 showing field personnel from CJGEA collecting the samples at Baobab beach

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