The conservation of sacred cultural and natural landscapes in Kenya: the work of the Coastal Forests Centre for Understanding (CFCU). 

The history of National Museums of Kenya’s (NMK) involvement with the coastal sacred Mijikenda Kaya forests dates back to 1986, when it commissioned two coastal forests surveys. The “Preliminary floristic survey of the kaya forests of coastal Kenya” was completed in 1988 by Robert Robertson, S. A. This survey identified 113 native tree species and one fern species growing within the kaya forests. Subsequently, the “Preliminary floristic survey of the kaya forests of coastal Kenya” was completed in 1988 by Robert Robertson, S. A. This survey identified 113 native tree species and one fern species growing within the kaya forests. Subsequently, the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) began to support the conservation of the kaya forests through two key projects. The first was the Coastal Forests Centre for Understanding (CFCU), established in 1990 as a joint funding scheme for an expanded conservation mandate of coastal forests. Charged with the protection and management of the kaya forests in Kilifi District, the CFCU’s work included conducting surveys of the forests, developing management plans, and promoting the cultural significance of the kaya forests. The CFCU was funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and operated from 1990 to 2001. Since its creation CFCU has achieved a number of key goals:

- Conducted and documented the first ever comprehensive inventory of coastal forests in coastal Kenya.
- Developed a coastal forest management plan for the Kaya forests of Kilifi District.
- Facilitated the gazetting of the Kaya forests as a national park.
- Conducted and documented the first ever comprehensive inventory of coastal forests in coastal Kenya.

In 2001, the CFCU project came to an end due to funding constraints, but the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) continued to support the conservation of the kaya forests. The NMK continued to fund the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) to support the conservation of the kaya forests, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) continued to fund the Coastal Forests Centre for Understanding (CFCU) to support the conservation of the kaya forests. The NMK continued to fund the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) to support the conservation of the kaya forests, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) continued to fund the Coastal Forests Centre for Understanding (CFCU) to support the conservation of the kaya forests. The NMK continued to fund the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) to support the conservation of the kaya forests, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) continued to fund the Coastal Forests Centre for Understanding (CFCU) to support the conservation of the kaya forests.