Day 2 Site Visit Briefings:  
“Baseline Characterization, Impact Identification and Mitigation Approaches”

Instructions:  
See session summary in Participant Sourcebook.

Group 1:  
Sugar Plantation/Biofuel project  
(MUKURUNGE VILLAGE, BAGAMOYO DISTRICT. ~ 5km from Bagamoyo town)

SEKAB BioEnergy Tanzania Ltd is a company formed following signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Tanzania and Swedish Ethanol Chemistry (SEKAB), BioAlcohol Fuel Foundation (BAFF), and Community Finance Company (CFC).

(SEKAB) is committed to developing the first regional role-model BioEnergy “cluster,” eventually to amount some 400’000 hectares under cultivation. Roll-out will include a number of “role-model projects” (of around 15’-30’000 hectares each), as well as industrial-scale projects.

These role-model projects will focus on large-scale cultivation of high-yield energy crops (particularly sugar cane and sweet sorghum) in the form of a commercial estate supplemented by community farming schemes.

It is expected that the industrial-scale projects will foster social development in parallel with the commercial development of the cluster.

Full rollout of the cluster is anticipated to create some 70,000 direct jobs (depending on the level of mechanization), supporting over 210,000 people, assuming an additional 3 people sustained per job.

Razaba Farm pilot site. SEKAB BioEnergy Tanzania has selected some 18,000 ha (? figures vary) of land near Mukurunge village (~5 kilometers from Bagamoyo town) as a “role model” project site. This role model project (Razaba Farm) is intended to:

- demonstrate sustainability best practice, for larger rollout
- demonstrate commercial viability of BioEthanol production in the country;

The land earmarked for this project is home to approximately 60 families and is being used for smallholder cultivation of vegetables, maize rice and for livestock.

Irrigation water for the plantation would be abstracted from the Ruvu river. Potentially competing uses of water include rice irrigation and fish farming and the fishing activities.

There is very little vegetation in the area. The ground is flat and water table is very high—suitable conditions for sugar cane and rice cultivation.

Current status. The company has leased prison land to start seed cane multiplication in preparation for larger planting of sugarcane on Razaba. The construction of the factory is currently in progress. The cane seed has been planted on 200 hectares. The establishment of the plantation will continue during 2009 and the factory and plantation is supposed to start production by mid 2010.

Group 2: Hotel & Tourism Development  
The group will travel ~2kms from the Paradise Hotel to the sites of 3–4 new hotels under construction.

The hotels are within the 60 meter zone on the shore.
Existing economic activities in the area include salt ponds about 1km from the Livingston hotel. Fishermen use the area to gain access to the shore.

Mangrove trees have been cleared in front of the beaches. However, one hotel faced pressure from a strong conservation ethic in the community, thus construction has been halted and mangrove bushes saved from clearance.

Note: a key part of the “baseline situation” for this group will be Bagamoyo’s historical heritage, the state of its preservation, and threats or barriers.

**Group 3: Mariculture—Mlingotini Seaweed Farming (on-going activity)**

(MLINGOTINI VILLAGE, BAGAMOYO DISTRICT. ~10kms from Bagamoyo Town).

Like most rural coastal communities, Mlingotini villagers rely on coastal resources for their livelihood. Their economy is dependent on small scale farming (cassava, bananas, mango, coconut are principal cash crops), subsistence forestry, mangrove harvesting, artisanal fishing, lime and salt production, livestock husbandry, small-scale trade, handicrafts and seaweed farming.

This field visit focuses on seaweed farming and its impacts.

Mlingotini villagers began individually farming seaweed in 1999. In 2002, the farmers came together to form the Msichoke seaweed farming group. The group now has 58 members (47 women and 11 men). Mrs Kishind Khamis chairs the group.

The seaweed farmers in Mlingotini are independent; that is, they purchase their own inputs and are free to sell to any buyer.

Seaweed farming takes place in a semi-enclosed shallow lagoon adjacent to the village. While the lagoon is well-protected from open sea conditions, there are high tidal variations that result in good water flow and tidal flushing.

Farmers use the “off-bottom” cultivation method: up to 20m of line is strung between mangrove poles driven into the lagoon bottom. Several small branches of seaweed (seed) are tied to each run of line. Average cultivation depths are about 30cm.

Seaweed is harvested every 14 days, with farmers taking an average of 7 days to harvest 20 lines. Each line produces about 5 kilograms of wet seaweed. The seaweed is hand-carried in polythene bags to drying racks. Each of the 20 lines will produce 1 kilogram of dry seaweed. The dry seaweed is packed in polythene bags ready for the market.

In summary, production steps are (1) tying the “seed” to the line; (2) management of the farm; (3) harvesting; (4) carrying to dry; (5) packaging and storage; (6) delivery to market; (7) removal of old ties from the main line.

The main species of seaweed grown by Msichoke farmers are spinosum and cottonii, a more expensive species.

Cottonii is used as a thickener for ice creams and yoghurt. Spinosum is used in making toothpaste.