

Down at the Creek

It was undoubtedly a 'gentle' day ... a perfect temperature, beautiful scenery, great company and definitely the stuff dreams are made of.

Expensive yachts with vivid blue rigging cases, bobbed contentedly on the Creek. The peaceful tableaux of emerald green water, dense and lush vegetation, manicured lawns and silver shimmering Baobabs – not yet in full leaf – provided a matchless backdrop. Supple palms swayed gently to the rhythm of the tender breeze – stretching tall to tickle and encourage the soft downy clouds to come and play. Sardines displaced the water, like erupting oil slicks, leaping and darting either in elation or an endeavour to escape some persistent pursuer.

Further along the Creek, the vegetation became lawless in its design not to allow man to interfere, or cultivate it with his staple, regimented crops. The coastal Vervet invaders may remain shielded from human hostility whilst in its fruitful care. The foliage varied in density and permeation – their hues lying somewhere between yellow and blue on nature's palette. The reflective water absorbed these images into its dappled shade and gently lapped the bank some four feet below its high tide register.

Early signs of life were minimal – no feathered fisherman, no gardeners commanding resounding lawnmowers, no excited children enthusiastically searching recreation, and no dogs harshly broadcasting territorial claims.

This was how we spent one of our Branch meetings – on an Aquamarine Dhow journeying up and down the Mtwapa Creek. No musical serenades, courteous guides, throbbing bongo drums or sweaty dancers to interfere with the gentle ambience and our blissful reverie. Just a comfortable and carefree excursion we would all be happy to repeat again and again.

In contrast, of course, it would seem that we, the Mombasa Branch, with our cheerful chatter, clashing crockery, flashing cameras, and our dhow's pulsating engine, must have sounded like 'twittering sparrows' at a disorderly disco.

We innocently invaded the tranquil environment and wildlife of Mtwapa Creek – and issue warning that we intend to do again ... and soon!

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