



**THE 'WATER TOWERS' OF EAST AFRICA: POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR
ENHANCING CO-BENEFITS FROM JOINT FOREST AND WATER
CONSERVATION**



**Proceedings of the first Project Advisory Committee Meeting for Mau
and Mt. Elgon Forests in Kenya**

Sunshine Hotel, Kericho Kenya

March 27, 2018



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Lancaster
University



the green belt
movement



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ACRONYMS

CFA	Community Forest Association
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
FMA	Forest Management Agreement
GBM	Green Belt Movement
ISLA	Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
KWTA	Kenya Water Towers Agency
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
KFWG	Kenya Forest Working Group
NACOFA	National Alliance of Community Forest Associations
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
PFMP	Participatory Forest Management Plan
SCMP	Sub catchment Management Plan
WRA	Water Resources Authority
WRUA	Water Resource Users Association

FOREWORD

The project- The 'Water Towers' of East Africa: Policies and practices for enhancing co-benefits from joint forest and water conservation- held its first Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting for Kenya sites on 27 March 2018. The meeting provided an opportunity for the project team and partners to share the progress and outcomes of the project in the first year of implementation, and explore emerging opportunities to be explored going forward. The meeting convened key stakeholders in the project from the two project sites in Kenya, the Mau and Mt. Elgon forest sites. The PAC was formed following the project inception workshops, which were held in the two sites in April 2017. Members of the committee consist of representatives of site level partners. These include representatives of the Community Forest Association (CFA), Water Resource Users Association (WRUA), National Alliance of Community Forestry Association (NACOFA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Water Resources Authority (WRA), Green Belt Movement, Kenya Water Towers Agency (KWTA), Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG), GiZ, University of Kabianga, and County government representative.

The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ), and runs for three years (2017-2019). The overall aim of the project is to identify innovative practices and institutional strategies that strengthen forest and water resource governance regimes leading to equitable management of forest and water and minimizing forest degradation in Mau and Mt. Elgon forests. This first PAC meeting was convened by KFS. This report provides proceedings for the one day PAC meeting and discussions held thereof.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Remarks-Dr. Esther Mwangi, CIFOR Principal Scientist and project Leader

The 'Water Towers' project leader and CIFOR principal scientist, Esther Mwangi, welcomed participants to the meeting. She highlighted the purpose of the meeting, which was to share the progress and achievements of the project in the first year of implementation. Each participant introduced him/herself and mentioned their expectations for the day. These were some of the expectations:

- To get feedback on the achievements of the project and the emerging opportunities.
- To identify ways of developing synergy among the stakeholders present.
- To know what needs to be done to address community challenges related to conservation, including restoring the degraded forest areas.
- The progress and outcomes of forest and water management plans review process in Mau forest.
- What are the achievements and challenges that stakeholders are facing in implementing activities.
- How the partners can work together to address environmental degradation.
- To identify how management of water can be integrated in the forest management plans.
- What was the impact of capacity building activities conducted under the project in the first year?
- How the research findings will be used to address the resource management challenges.
- Feedback on opportunities to be explored in the second year of the project.
- For partners to energize each other to act and provide leadership in the protection of the environment.
- Where did the challenges come from and how can the project contribute to addressing the emerging challenges?
- How to coordinate to ensure that there is synergy among the different actors.

Remarks by Samuel Waweru, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Mau Conservancy

Samuel Waweru, the Assistant Head of Conservancy (HOC) for Mau forest, delivered the key message from the HOC, Mau forest. He started by affirming the support of the HOC and the KFS staff to the project. He alluded to the message from the Chief Conservator of Forest earlier in 2017 requesting the KFS support to the Water towers project implementation. Samuel emphasized that the PAC meeting presented an opportunity to know the progress of the project and to obtain feedback from PAC members, which would add value to project implementation. He stated the project aim, the three work packages and the research and capacity building of the community, and commended the partners for working together to contribute to smooth implementation. Samuel then delivered the message from the HOC. In his message, the HOC emphasized teamwork, active involvement of the implementing partners, and need to provide feedback. Considering the importance of the Water towers in various sectors of the economy,

Samuel requested that the project could consider expanding the sites to other areas in the Mau forest. In conclusion, he assured the team of the HOC's support to the project.

Remarks by Naomi Olero, Water Resources Authority (WRA)

Naomi Olero, the Deputy Resource Mobilization and Development Partner Coordination Manager at WRA, commended the team for ongoing activities since the project's inception in the Mau and Mt. Elgon sites. Naomi highlighted two unique aspects of the project. First, the project addresses the current management challenges through a system's approach. Secondly, the project has both the research and capacity development components. The research component is important as the results will bring out the management challenges, which will inform the interventions needed to address some of the challenges. Naomi underscored the need for all stakeholders in conservation to work together. Similarly, the community through the WRUAs and CFAs also need to work together to manage the forest and water resources as a system. In conclusion, Naomi mentioned that the partners were interested in knowing the research findings. These findings would bring out the existing gaps in management of forests and water, and help develop suitable recommendations. This would also present an opportunity to develop joint proposals to address the identified gaps. Better results could be achieved when partners are involved in planning, and providing direction during implementation of the project activities.

Opening Remarks by Geoffrey Ruto, CEC Water, Environment and Natural Resources, Kericho

Geoffrey Ruto, the County Executive for Water, Environment and Natural Resources for Kericho County, expressed his appreciation to all partners present. He mentioned that the forum was an indication that the current project in the Mau and Mt. Elgon recognizes the role of different partners. He encouraged the institutions represented in the meeting to develop policies that are targeted at the community and that contribute to equitable management of the country's resources. More importantly, there is need to focus on implementation of the policies developed. Geoffrey highlighted the role of the County Government as an important partner in the projects initiative, and mentioned that the County has a shared responsibility towards managing the natural resources as a key stakeholder. He assured the participants of the support of his office and that of County government of Kericho to the project. He expressed his desire to learn about the project's activities and to ensure that the conservation agenda moves forward. Alluding to other conservation initiatives in the County, Geoffrey mentioned that the water towers project contributes to providing solutions to the current environmental challenges. In conclusion, Geoffrey underscored the need for partners to continue working together and chat a way forward, and more so, focus on implementation.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Esther Mwangi, 'Water towers' Project Leader-CIFOR

Esther Mwangi, the Water towers project leader, provided an overview of CIFOR research work, the thematic working areas and the global presence of CIFOR. The thematic working areas include Forests and Human wellbeing; Sustainable Landscapes and Food; Equal Opportunities, Gender, Justice, and Tenure; Climate Change, Energy and Low-Carbon Development; Value Chains, Finance and Investments; and Forest Management and Restoration. The research conducted is grounded on three pillars, which include Research for impact, Capacity Development, and outreach and engagement. CIFOR's global presence includes three Hub offices in Nairobi, Cameroon and Peru, four project offices and 37 project sites. To achieve impact, CIFOR works with partners. Esther emphasized that CIFOR conducts applied research that is focused towards solving problems, and impact is achieved through working with a wide range of partners. Before the achievements of the first year, Esther reviewed the project aims, the three work packages and outputs and the implementing partners in Kenya. The project work packages include:

- Vulnerability analysis and exploration of measures to conserve forest and water.
- Analysis of institutions for the governance of forest and water resources.
- Capacity strengthening, outreach and dissemination.

The project will deliver five main outputs. These include:

1. Assessments and analyses provide empirical evidence of the status of social-ecological systems.
2. Enhanced understanding of effects of gender differentiation on functions of CFAs and WRUAs and implications for resource condition.
3. Identified governance arrangements that are equitable and foster forest and water management.
4. Knowledge and communication products for strengthening capacity of CFAs and WRUAs members and leaders in forest and water governance.
5. Communications materials for local level awareness raising and dissemination of the research findings.

Status of project implementation

Esther presented the status of implementation of the project activities that were planned in 2017, which was the first year of the project. Activities for year one focused on the preparatory activities, and contributed to outputs 1 and 5. The preparatory activities included reconnaissance visits to the sites, which were organized together with WRA and KFS. These visits informed selection of the five project sites in Kenya. Two inception workshops were then held in Mau and Mt. Elgon to introduce the project to stakeholders. It is during the inception workshops that the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) was formed in each of the sites. CIFOR then held discussions with the project partners leading to developing MoUs and work plans for reviewing forest management plans (PFMP) and Sub-Catchment Management plans (SCMP).

Table 1 below shows the activities implemented in 2017.

Table 1: Project activities implemented in 2017

<p>Output 1: Assessments and analyses provide empirical evidence of the status of social-ecological systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research sites for biophysical and social science were identified.• Training manual for citizen science water quantity and quality was developed• Feedback workshops with WRUAs (up to 171 members in Mau) and WRA to discuss the citizen science approach.• 19 citizen scientists were trained on low-cost methods of reporting nitrate level and turbidity.• Preliminary forest disturbance maps completed for Mau forest.• Data collection protocols were developed, tested and 10 enumerators were trained for data collection for Mau and Mt. Elgon sites in Kenya.• Data collection for Mau was completed in December 2017 and for Mt. Elgon February 2018.
<p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) were trained in the Mau forest (20 women and 30 men). The TOTs have trained additional community members.• A total of 63 (30 women and 33 men) trained under SCMP development for Itare Chemosit and Kipchorian WRUAs.
<p>Output 5: Communications materials for local level awareness raising and dissemination of the research findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Brochure completed and distributed to partners and community. It provides a glance of the project, and will be enhanced to include research results.• Webpage development is ongoing, to be launched soon.• Field stories developed on emerging outcomes of capacity building in blog posts on the CIFOR website. The following are the links to the stories: <p>https://www.cifor.org/corporate-news/water-and-forestry-groups-join-forces-for-better-conservation-of-mau-forest-kenya/</p> <p>https://www.cifor.org/corporate-news/forest-and-water-conservation-go-hand-in-hand-and-partners-see-eye-to-eye/</p> <p>New CIFOR project –Engaging citizen scientists to secure fresh water in Kenya</p>

Capacity building activities are focused at strengthening the link between forest and water. The process of developing the water plans (SCMP) also involved capacity development. The project team is also keen

to document impact stories from capacity building activities. The activities implemented in the first year have also contributed to the end of project outcomes, specifically outcome 1: CFAs and the WRUAs adopt practice options into implementation plans. This is indicated by the completion of Itare Chemosit SCMP and the draft PFMP for Londiani CFA, and inclusion of joint activities between the CFAs and WRUAs in the plans. In conclusion, Esther underscored the important role of the project in bringing together the CFA and WRUAs to work together. Also, the project was on course towards achieving the intended outcomes and there were no major deviations expected.

Community Monitoring through Citizen science, Naomi Njue and Jaqueline Stenfert

Naomi Njue and Jaqueline Stenfert, PhD students under the project, presented the monitoring work under the community based monitoring (citizen science) approach in the Mau forest and planned research activities under the biophysical assessment. This monitoring work has been ongoing in the Sondu basin. The citizen science approach involves volunteers from the community who are trained and participate in collecting water quality and quantity data and sending the data to a central server. Currently, there are 13 stations for water quantity monitoring, and 6 stations for monitoring water quality in the Sondu catchment. The automated stations are for validating the data. Naomi showed an example of time series data from two stations, which indicated a good linear correlation between data collected by the community and that collected from the automated station. In her presentation, Jaqueline Stenfert indicated that she will continue with the biophysical assessment focusing on dynamics and pathways within the headwaters of the Sondu basin. Jaqueline highlighted four objectives that her study will address. These will include the time series of quantified temporal and spatial variation of suspended solids and hydrological processes. Looking and key drivers of suspended solids and soil erosion within three different land use practices in the South West Mau. The key message that citizens can be involved in monitoring.

STATUS AND OUTCOMES OF FOREST AND WATER PLANS

Review of Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP)-Daniel Too, KFS Kericho County

Daniel Too, the Assistant Ecosystem Conservator Kericho County, presented the status and outcomes of the PFMP review for Londiani CFA. He highlighted the objectives and the steps that had been taken in the PFMP process. The review was led by the Integrated Forestry Consultancy and Management Services Ltd (IFCMS). Communities and stakeholders were involved through representatives in the Local Planning and Review Team (LPRT). Several steps had been taken so far. These include consultative meetings with the community and stakeholders, socio economic and biodiversity survey, forest zonation and map, user rights evaluation and development of the management programs. The draft PFMP was already complete, and scheduled to be presented to the community and stakeholders on April 5th, 2018.

Three issues were raised from participants after the presentation on PFMP. These are:

- Forest management agreement: The need for clarity on benefit sharing when negotiating the Forest Management Agreement so that it is clear how much benefits go to the community and to KFS
- Monitoring: There is need for periodic monitoring. The question raised is: How can periodic monitoring be enhanced?

- Grazing plan to address one of the major threat in Londiani forest is grazing.

Review and development of Sub Catchment Management Plans (SCMP)

Itare Chemosit SCMP development- Chrispinus Wafula, WRA, Mara-Sondu sub region

Chrispinus Wafula, WRA Sub regional manager for Mara-Sondu sub region, gave an overview of the progress of developing the Itare Chemosit Sub-Catchment management plan (SCMP). He alluded to previous planning meetings between the CIFOR project team and WRA to discuss the review and development of the SCMPs in Mau and Mt. Elgon sites. an agreement was reached on the roles of CIFOR and WRA in the review process. After the meeting, plans were developed together with the field teams. The process of developing the Itare Chemosit SCMP was facilitated by the WRA team. The development process was preceded with a capacity building program on the SCMP content and the process, which gave participants an insight and better understanding of the SCMP process. This was followed by actual SCMP development program. this included identifying the issues that needed to be addressed in the catchment and developing management programs to address the issues. The two programs were held between November and December 2017. The draft was completed and shared with the community and stakeholders. The last stage was a SCMP adoption meeting, which was held in March 2018 to adopt the draft. Communities and stakeholders presented their comments to WRA team. Chrispinus reported that WRA team was currently integrating the comments to the plan and the final SCMP was expected to be distributed in April 2018. In conclusion, Chrispinus mentioned that the programs in the SCMP are ready for implementation.

Review of Kipchorian SCMP development- Lukas Otieno, WRA Kisumu

Lukas Otieno, from Kisumu WRA regional office provided an update on the review of Kipchorian SCMP. The Kipchorian SCMP expired and needed to be reviewed to incorporate new programs, and identify the programs that were not implemented in the previous SCMP. The review of the SCMP was conducted in February 2018 by the WRA team. The review process was facilitated by the WRA team from the Nyando sub-region. Similar to the Itare SCMP development process, the WRUA and CFA representatives were taken through a 3-day capacity building program before embarking on the actual SCMP development process. Lukas reported that the team was developing the SCMP and the first draft was expected to be shared by the first week of April 2018 for comments in preparation for SCMP adoption.

Capacity Building of WRUAs and CFAs

Teresa Maina, the Program Officer at Green Belt Movement, gave an overview and outcomes of capacity building activities of WRUA and CFA members in Itare and Londiani sites. She highlighted the goal and objectives of the capacity building program. These include raising awareness among communities on the interactions between forest and water health and their condition; building and strengthening community resource management; and fostering experience sharing and exchange of good practice in resource management. Teresa mentioned the preparatory steps

that were conducted before capacity building commenced. The first activity was a reconnaissance visit in the project sites to identify the knowledge gaps in the sites, and to identify areas of interventions. In 2017, four trainings in the Mau forest sites were conducted. The first training conducted covered topics on innovative practices that strengthen the capacity of CFAs and WRUAs to jointly manage forest and water resources. The second training covered gender integration in forest and water resource management. One of the objectives was to ensure people have negotiation skills, to participate more in forest and water management. A total of 105 participants benefited (39 women and 66 men) in the two sites. One reason highlighted for the low number of women is that in some trainings, women were being invited but the men came. The participants, Trainer of Trainers (ToTs), were supposed to train other CFA and WRUA members.

Teresa highlighted some experiences from the trainings. These include:

- The methodology used was interactive and community members were given opportunities to participate actively. This approach revealed untapped skills that women had, but often lacked an opportunity to express themselves.
- Priorities for men and women are different, and when women are given opportunity they can express their priorities.

Positive outcomes have resulted from the trainings. These include:

- The TOTs have trained up to 300 community members.
- The CFAs and WRUAs initiated joint activities including tree nurseries in Itare. Community members planned to have at least 5000 tree seedlings by June 2018. This target has been achieved.
- Three sites were identified for joint activities for planting trees (Two sites in Londiani and one in Itare)
- Increased number of WRUA membership of up to 20 in Itare. The number includes members of the CFA joining the WRUA
- Training of bee keeping activities in Itare
- Communities sharing information related to activities that they do.

Teresa highlighted planned activities for 2018. These will include:

- Planting 15,000 indigenous trees in selected areas in Mau forest.
- Expanding capacity building with communities in Mt. Elgon on practices that strengthen the capacity of CFA and WRUA on effective water and forest management; negotiation and participation, gender integration in water and forest management; transformative leadership to be conducted in in Mt Elgon and Mau; and conflict resolution in natural resource management.
- Provide technical and material support to tree nursery development.
- Continue monitoring the outcomes of capacity building.

Feedback and Discussions

After the presentations, participants expressed their reflections on issues that have an impact on the project implementation. These are highlighted below.

Potting tube for tree seedlings: A concern was raised on whether the CFAs will close tree nurseries due to lack of potting tubes for seedlings. The concern was whether there are available alternative tubes for nurseries in view of the ban on use of polythene bags. One suggestion was to consider the use of biodegradable potting tubes. The KFS representative informed participants that there were ongoing discussions between KFS and the National Environment Authority (NEMA) on possibility of extending the duration of use of plastic tubes till a viable solution is reached. Green Belt Movement is also testing the use of biodegradable potting tubes to know their viability.

Markets for tree seedlings: In Mt. Elgon sites, communities have tree seedlings but they lack market for the seedlings. Therefore, it would add value if communities are provided with incentives for their conservation efforts. One way to incentivize them is for authorities, such as KFS to buy the seedlings that communities produce locally from the CFA user groups.

Implementation of forest and water plans: With the plans already developed for two sites, there is a need for partners to support communities in implementing the plans. Often, communities relied on donor support to develop and implement activities in the plans. One way to assist CFAs and WRUAs is to build their capacity in resource mobilization to enable them develop proposals for funding implementation. Also, the County government is a potential funder through the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) process. The WRUAs and CFAs need to prioritize activities, for instance on a yearly basis, then seek the support of the County government. An example was highlighted by NACOFA on how activities in PFMPs were funded in the Central highland area. Several PFMP programs were funded by developing one joint proposal that covers several CFAs. This is an option that can also be explored. Further, there are opportunities to explore Corporate Social Responsibility of institutions such as that of universities of Kabianga.

Benefit sharing mechanism: Whereas the user rights are defined in the forest management plans, what is missing is a clear benefit sharing mechanism to ensure communities benefit from their conservation efforts. Apart from goodwill, communities expect tangible benefits and incentives for conservation. This is an issue that needs to be considered in the long term.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

Douglas Bwire, the Research Officer, presented the project activities for 2018. The project activities for 2018 will focus on developing project outputs, which include reports from the analyses, how to do notes and expanding the activities to Mt. Elgon sites. These are indicated in the table below and are included.

- Expanding the monitoring work to Mt. Elgon and having the water monitoring database
- Conducting community feedback workshops
- Expand capacity building program to Mt. Elgon sites and experiment with men only gender trainings and women only gender trainings

- Continue monitoring capacity development outcomes and document the impact stories
- Forest and water plans: Review Chebombai SCMPs, develop a new SCMP for Sosio WRUA and review 3 PFMPs in Mt. Elgon sites.
- Conduct value chain analysis for forest products
- Collecting sex-disaggregated data-Completed for Kenya

The table below shows the outputs and targets for 2018.

Table 2: Project outputs and target for 2018

Output	Targets
Output 1. Assessments and analyses provide empirical evidence of the status of social-ecological systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest degradation maps available by Oct-18 for the selected sites • Water monitoring database in place for Mt Elgon by month 12
Output 2. Enhanced understanding of the effects of gender differentiation on the functions of CFAs/WRUAs and the implications for resource conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender analysis conducted • At least 3 technical reports on each forest site available by Aug-18
Output 3. Identified governance arrangements that are equitable and foster forest and water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and water monitoring discussed with local communities leading to 2 technical reports and one communication material by Dec-18 • Detailed analysis of governance arrangements available by Dec-18

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

In the concluding session, participants expressed their views on the way forward. These include:

- There are good cases where communities are implementing forest management activities yet they do not have PFMPs. This is an area to explore further.
- It was also brought to the attention of participants, that transportation of poles for fencing the sites was currently not possible. This would likely affect the project activities in Itare and Londiani.
- In Cheptais, there was an increase in the number of women in leadership positions in the user groups after the elections. This follows the focus group discussions held with the community during data collection under work package 2 of the project. Exploring such discussion forums would enhance community participation.
- There is a need for developing grazing plans for the forest. The plans should include areas that are zoned with stipulated carrying capacity.
- Partners to share information with the WRUA and CFA members and organize discussion forums at the local level.

- The management plans need to be shared with all stakeholders including the County government.
- Learning from successful cases where communities have innovative ways of managing the natural resources.
- Following up on the potting tubes: KFS to provide an update on the duration for using the current potting tubes.

In conclusion, Esther recapped the key points of discussion during the meeting and provided an overview of the next steps under the project. Esther also highlighting the potential areas that the project could explore during implementation. The key question that would need to be considered by all the partners is: How will the activities in the SCMPs and PFMP be implemented? She highlighted that the 'Water towers' project can support some activities up to a certain level given the available resources. Therefore, it will be important partners to assist the community to market the forest and water plans. The next PAC meeting will provide an opportunity for discussing the research results. The project will also strengthen the links with the respective County governments through the CIDP process. Other areas that could be explored in the long run include exploring different forest rehabilitation models that are being used in Kenya. For instance, bush planting vs plantation programs under PELLIS. An example cited earlier is the Serengeti area, where it was reported that PELLIS model was successful. Another aspect highlighted earlier is harmonization of policies. Esther expressed her appreciated for the valuable input of participants and the continued support of partners in implementing the project.

ANNEX 1: PAC Meeting Program

Purpose:

1. To share the progress and outcomes of the Water towers project
2. Feedback from the stakeholders on project progress

Time	Activity	Presenter
9.00-9.15 am	Introduction and Welcome Remarks	Esther Mwangi
9.15-9:30 am	Remarks by CEC (Water, Energy and Environment, Kericho)	William Ruto
9. 30-10.00 am	Overall project progress (Progress, Achievements, opportunities, challenges)	Esther Mwangi
10.00-10.30 am	Tea Break	
10.30-11. 30 am	Status and outcomes of Forest and water plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Londiani PFMP in Mau KFS • Review and development of Itare SCMP • Kipchorian SCMP (WRA) <p>Discussion on the forest and water plans</p>	Daniel Too Chrispinus Wafula Lukas Otieno Open to all
11.30-12.00 pm	Capacity development: Status and outcomes - Green Belt Movement	Teresa Maina
12:00-1.00 pm	Discussions on project progress and way forward	All
1.00-2.00 pm	Lunch	
2.00-3.00 pm	Planned Activities 2018	Douglas Bwire
	Conclusion and Way forward	Esther Mwangi

ANNEX 2: Participants

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