

## **Outline of the Regional Consultation and Participation Process**

### **Introduction:**

Kenya is embarking on the formulation of the REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) which requires a multi-stakeholder consultation and participation process to sensitize the various relevant stakeholders on REDD+ and its concepts, solicit their views and understanding of REDD+, capture their presumed expectations anticipated roles and responsibilities in the REDD+ process.

Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has administratively divided the country into 10 ecological boundaries forming 10 conservancies namely: North Eastern, Eastern, Ewaso North, Central Highlands, Nairobi, Coast, Mau, North Rift, Western and Nyanza. Of great importance also are the five critical water towers (Mt Kenya, Aberdare Ranges, Mau Complex, Cherangani Hills and Mount Elgon) located within four of the 10 conservancies. These water towers are classified as montane forests and serve as water catchments for several rivers draining into the major water bodies in Kenya and the East African Region.

These water towers contribute significantly towards the economic and social development of Kenya and the surrounding East African countries. They support agricultural growth, production of energy, tourism, timber and other forest products. Secondly, a considerable number of local communities including Indigenous Peoples (IPs) depend on these forests for their livelihoods. There are also other significant forest areas in the coast and in the arid and semi arid parts of Kenya that provide important forest products and services that support livelihoods. In fact research has shown that 80% of the Kenyan territory is classified as Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASALs). These ASALs support two thirds of Kenya's wildlife population, and also livestock for pastoralist communities.

### **Situation of Forest Areas in Kenya:**

It is estimated that Kenya losses about 12,000 hectares of forest through deforestation, degradation, land use change activities (primarily conversion of natural forests to agriculture or for public or private development projects), legal & illegal logging (for charcoal and timber). Deforestation and degradation is severe in both the water towers and the ASAL areas. Charcoal burning is very rampant because majority of Kenyans especially those living in peri-urban and urban areas heavily depend on charcoal as a source energy for cooking and heating.

However, there are deliberate efforts being made by the government, private sector, development partners, local communities and civil society to conserve and restore degraded forest areas throughout the country. For example in the Mau complex, the government in collaboration with civil society and local communities recently launched an aggressive restoration program supported by donors.

In line with these, REDD+ is a multi-sectoral program which the government is in the process of developing in order to address the challenges faced within the forestry and other natural resource management sectors in Kenya. The REDD+ program will look into the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation, as well as promote sustainable forest management for improved livelihoods.

### **Outline of the Consultation and Participation Plan:**

During the participation working group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2010 it was agreed upon that the group conduct the consultations on the basis of the 10 conservancies through a process of clustering them in such a way that solicit participation and engagement of communities and other stakeholder groups with diverse interest in the REDD+ process.

Within this context the following clustered areas/regions were identified for C&P:

#### **1. Western, Nyanza and North Rift (Western Block)**

The rationale for clustering these three conservancies into this block is that they all consist of representative ecological areas in the country; two water towers (Mt. Elgon and Cherangani Hills), an important tropical rainforest (Kakamega forest) and arid and semi-arid areas (Baringo, West Pokot and Turkana) all in close proximity to each other. This cluster also has very diverse stakeholders with different interests in concepts like REDD+. The diversity consists of Indigenous peoples, pastoralists and other forest dependent communities, farmers, fisher-folk, public institutions and the private sector. However these stakeholders have common user interest in any program that will influence the management of the forest resources. It is important to note that there are ongoing forestry-related projects within this cluster (World Bank funded Natural Resource Management Project and a Carbon Forestry Project financed by Hyundai Motors Corporation). Both projects support livelihood improvement activities for the local communities and will provide valuable lessons for the R-PP.

#### **2. Mau block**

The Mau conservancy will be treated as a special stand-alone case because of its unique attributes in terms of expansive and diverse forest type, it is the largest water catchment with 12 rivers draining into 5 major lakes; some of which are trans-boundary and recognized by the UN as Ramsar sites. One of the rivers supports the (Mara-Serengeti ecosystem) of which a spectacular annual wildebeest migration has been declared one of the e Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

The conservancy comprises the Mau forest complex that has 21 forest blocks and a large number of other forest areas managed by communities and/or local governments and are not yet gazetted. This region is of significant importance to Kenya's Sustainable Development Agenda including Vision 2030 and the National

Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) as it supports agriculture, energy, and tourism sectors among others. Mau block consists of diverse stakeholders that include the Indigenous Peoples, the biggest logging companies, the largest tea and wheat industry, pastoralism and tourism. On the other hand, , it is one of the most deforested and degraded conservancy at the moment. Due to past illegal forest excisions, issues of land tenure are being brought to the forefront. There are several ongoing conservation efforts in the area that need coordination and goodwill for their success. This include a UNEP Community Integrated Forest Resource Management (COMIFORM) Project, a WWF supported Mara River Basin Project, Save The Mau Initiative supported by the Green Belt Movement, East Africa Breweries & Equity Bank, TUNZA Mau projected supported by USAID through Forest Action Network, and the Green Zone project supported by the African Development Bank among others.

### **3. Central Highlands, Eastern, and Ewaso North (Central Kenya block).**

The rationale for clustering these three conservancies is that there are two water towers (Mt. Kenya and Aberdare Ranges, the largest concentration of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) involved in numerous conservation activities. These areas also experience high level of deforestation and degradation especially in the water towers. Population density is extremely high with strong negative impacts on natural resources usage and management. The human population increase has resulted in encroachment of the wildlife migration corridors and breeding areas. These have contributed to increased human wildlife conflicts over time. Furthermore, it has the highest concentration of charcoal and wood fuel consumption whereby the demand for charcoal far outweighs the supply. Lately there has been an attempt to explore alternative sources of energy to include biofuels, solar reflectors, and biogas. The severe droughts in the Ewaso North region always contributes to the massive migration of the pastoralist communities to the water catchment areas thus creating additional social tensions and conflicts. One interesting observation in this cluster is the high concentration of trees in individual farm lands.

### **4. Coast block.**

Kenya's coastal region has no water towers. But has significant forest areas that range from dry land forests, coastal mangroves and high water table forests that have their own biodiversity uniqueness. This region is 90% ASAL and faces similar challenges in terms of deforestation and general environmental degradation. There are numerous conservation efforts in this region including the Arabuko Soko forest, the Kaya forests and a carbon forestry project in Kwale.

#### **Identification of Stakeholders to consult with:**

The consultation processes will involve the following stakeholders:-

- Civil Society Organizations, Forest dependent/ adjacent communities, Community Based Organizations, Women and Youth groups

- Indigenous Peoples
- Private sector including saw-millers and timber loggers, charcoal associations, agro-based industry including the tea, wheat, coffee industries, small scale farmers, Kenya Private Sector Alliance among others.
- Public institutions including research institutions, government institutions, and local authorities.

### **Regions to perform consultation:**

- Two consultations will occur in Mau. One with Indigenous Peoples - this will include IP representatives from the other clusters. The second workshop will target the other relevant stakeholders within the Mau cluster. Both of these consultations will be held in Nakuru
- One consultation will occur in the Central block that comprises Central Highlands, Eastern and Ewaso North conservancies. The workshop will take place in Embu.
- One consultation will occur in the Western region comprising of Western Kenya, Nyanza and North Rift conservancies and this will take place in Eldoret
- One consultation will occur in the Coast region with the workshop being held in Mombasa.
- A national validation workshop will be held in Nairobi after the regional workshops.

The regional consultation workshops will run from mid-February to Mid- March culminating in a national validation workshop to be held in the week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010. The regional consultations will target 250 stakeholders from diverse backgrounds with special attention being given to women and youth. 100 participants drawn from the regional workshops will be invited to validate their views at the national validation workshop. It is important to note that key stakeholders from Nairobi and North Eastern conservancies will be invited to the Central block consultations.

### **Contents of the consultation workshops**

- Introduction to REDD+
- The REDD+ process in Kenya.
- Expectations: roles and responsibilities.
- Opportunities and challenges : social and environment issues

### **Implementing agencies -**

- Kenya Forest Service
- Forest Action Network
- Kenya Forests Working Group

- Kanyinke Sena supporting the process.

### Methodology for Consultations

1. Information dissemination through use of the developed brochure & RPP template to the head of conservancies and head of CFAs

2. Organized workshops within the various clusters as indicated in the table below:

#### Timeline and budget estimate:

Cluster	Target Stakeholders	Venue	Consultations	Timeline	Budget KShs
Western block (Western, Nyanza, North Rift)	CFAs, CBOs, Civil society, PS, Public Institutions: total number of participants - 50 people	Eldoret	One workshop	Feb 16/17 2010	<b>500,000</b>
Mau block	IP groups. Total # of participants 50  Other stakeholders groups: PS, Public Institutions, civil society. Total # of participants 50	Nakuru	Two workshop	Week of Feb 22 collaborate with USAID	<b>1 million Kshs</b>
Central Block (Central, Eastern and Ewaso North)	CFAs, CBOs, Civil society, pastoralists, farmers, PS, Public Institutions: total number of participants -70 people	Embu	One workshop	March 2/4	<b>700,000</b>
Coast Block	Other stakeholders. Total # of participants 40	Mombasa	One workshop	Week of March 10/11	<b>400,000</b>
Nairobi	National Validation W/shop 100	Nairobi	One workshop	23/3/10	<b>1 million Kshs</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>3.6 million Kshs 48,000USD</b>

## **Participatory mechanisms to enhance consultations and stakeholder engagement:**

The participation working group has identified several existing participatory mechanisms and structures in place that will be build on to enhance the consultation process as well as facilitate the active engagement of various stakeholder groups in the formulation of the R-PP. At the national level, the REDD technical working group has representation at the local level; the KFS structures which include the: 10 forest conservancies that have decentralized structures all the way to grassroots levels; Forest Conservation Committees (FCCs); National Alliance of Community Forest Associations; and the Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers. At regional levels there are Head of Conservancies, Forest Conservation Committees which comprise of representatives from: CFAs, KFS, National Environmental Management Authority, Agriculture, Provincial Administration, Timber Merchants Associations, and women & youth representatives. At district levels there are KFS Zonal Managers, District Environment Committees (DECs), and representative of NRM ministries. At local levels, there are CFAs which comprise of various forest user groups such as Water User Associations, Grazers, Village Forest Conservation Committee and also various government representations<sup>1</sup>

FAN has over 20 resources centers found within the 10 forest conservancies that are mostly managed by CFAs and volunteers. These centers are mainly used for dissemination and outreach.

KFWG is a network of individuals and organizations with representation from the government, NGOs, local and international NGOs. They work with CFAs and other locally based institutions for social mobilization, advocacy and awareness raising on forestry related issues.

All these channels will be explored to: disseminate information, provide a forum for outreach to grassroots, encouraged participation, and establish a channel for feedback loops.

## **Communication Strategy**

There are several channels and means of communication that will be used to reach out to key stakeholders and general public. This will include:

- Radio programs which will build on the ongoing Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) *Mazingira Yetu* radio program. This program is facilitated by FAN to disseminate information about sustainable management of the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> It is recognized that the identified structures lack resources to effectively implement their planned activities. We propose that the institutional assessment to be conducted under the formulation stage takes this into consideration.

- Development and dissemination of IEC materials such as the information brochure, posters, leaflets, calendars, newsletters etc. All of these exist in KFS and other agencies including FAN and KFWG. It is expected that the REDD+ agenda will use these things
- Community drama groups will be used to communicate the REDD+ message down to community levels
- Barazas will also be used as a medium of communication
- The utilization of KFS, FAN KFWG's website to disseminate information