

GLOBAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS OF REDD+ IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REDD READINESS ACTIVITIES IN KENYA AND ROLE IN TACKLING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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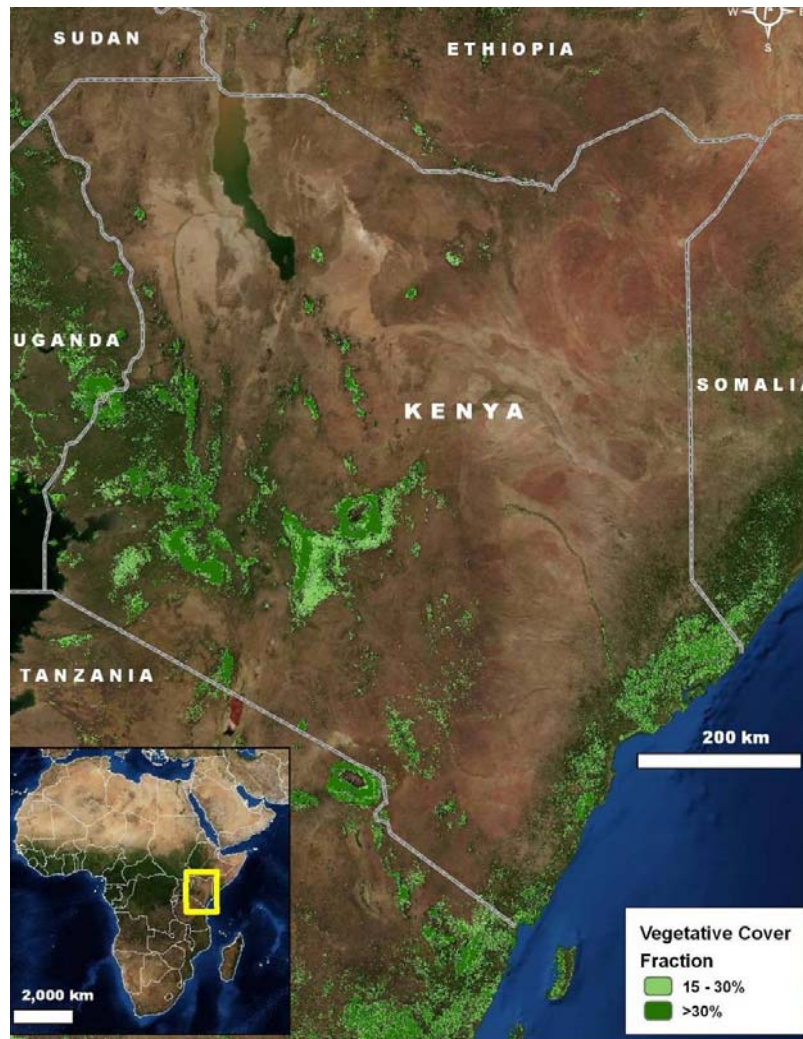
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Kenya Country Profile

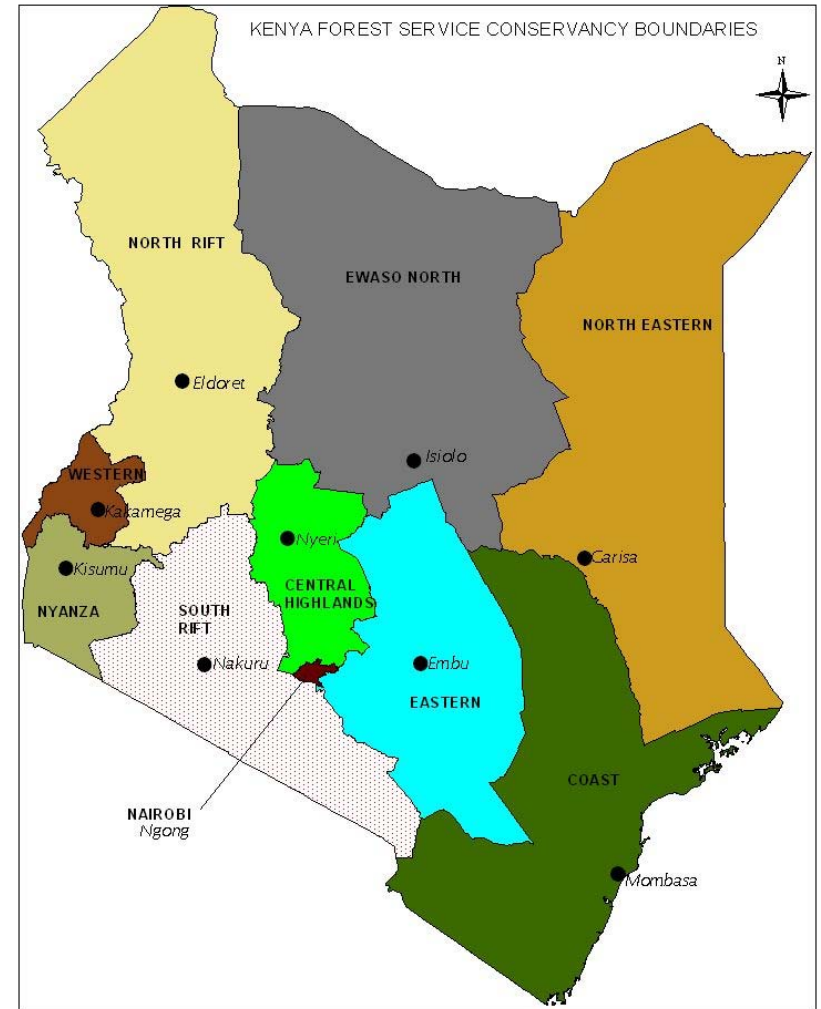
- Kenya measures 582,650 sq. Km
- Has a population of about 40 million people.
- Over 70% of Pop. depend on agriculture for their social and economic livelihood
- Only 20% of the country is classified as arable; 80% is classified as arid and semi-arid areas.
- More than 70% of the national energy demand is derived from fuelwood
- The national forest cover stands at 5.9% with an annual deforestation rate estimated at 12,000 ha per annum.
- There is a new forest legislation (Forests Act 2005) that requires all forests subscribe to sustainable forest management regardless of ownership.

Maps of forest cover



Kenya's Forest administration

- Coast
- North Eastern
- Ewaso North
- Eastern
- Nairobi
- Central Highlands
- Mau
- North Rift
- Western
- Nyanza



Forest biodiversity

Gazetted forests covered about 1.6m ha (natural forest + plantation) forming <2% of the area of the country

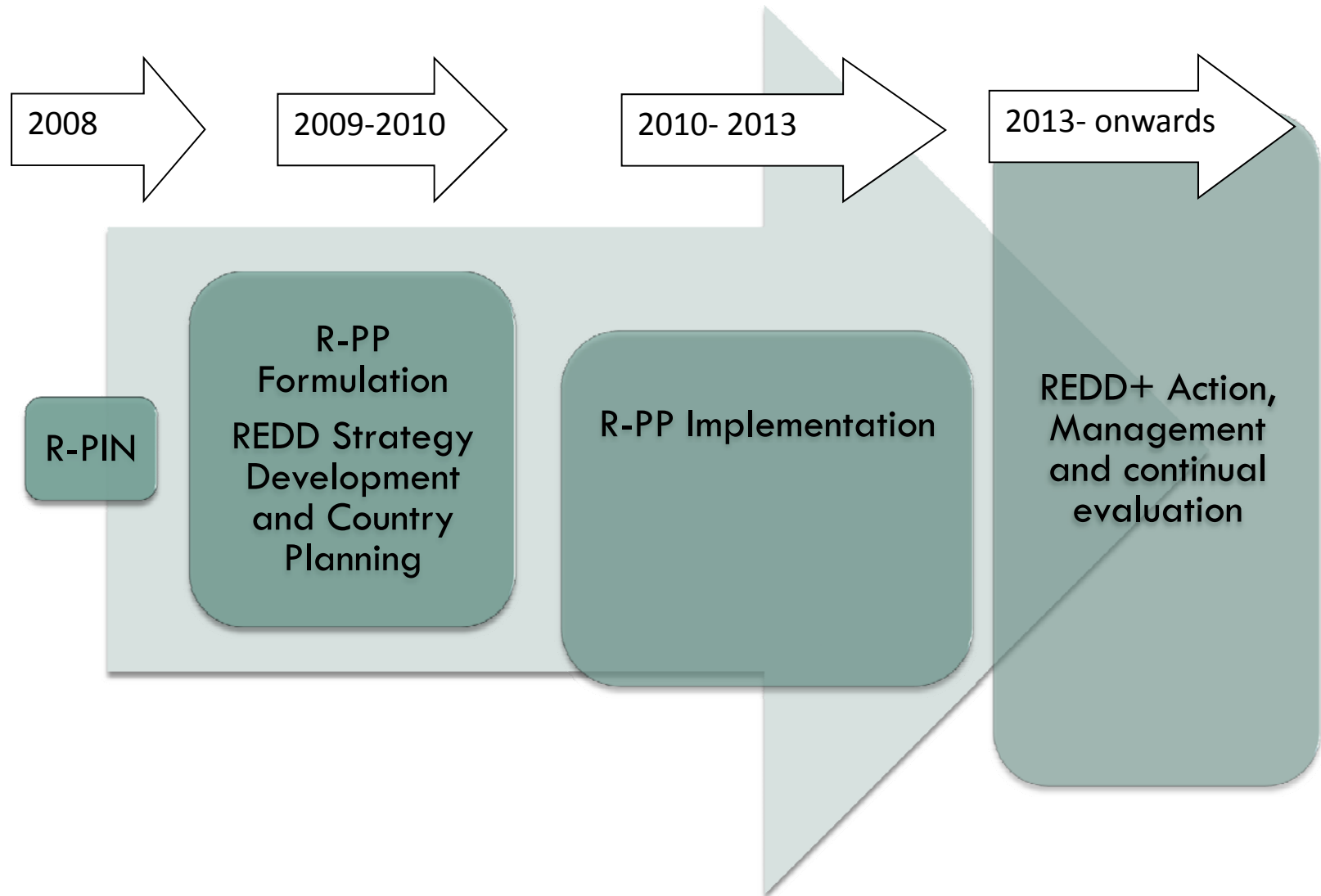
and yet

- contain >50% of the tree species, > 40% of the large mammals, and > 30% of the birds among them numerous endemic as well as threatened species.

REDD readiness activities in Kenya

- Kenya with support from the **FCPF** started the process of preparing a readiness package through a **multi-stakeholder, multi-institutional** process.
- A Participation Agreement between GOK and PC signed
- A Grant Agreement between GOK and WB was signed to support development of the Readiness Plan Proposal (RPP).
- A multi-sectoral REDD- Technical Working Group established
- Process of establishing a Steering Committee initiated
- Process of formulating the REDD Preparation Proposal that will inform the other phases finalized and forwarded to FCPF.
- A consultation and participation plan developed and 5 regional consultation workshop held of which one focused on indigenous communities

TIMELINE of REDD+ Readiness preparation in Kenya



Key steps towards implementation of RPP

- Detailed analysis of policies relevant for REDD+ (e.g. forest, agriculture, infrastructure policies), legal and technical requirements for different policies and measures
- Setting of the Reference Emissions Level (REL)
- Confirmation of institutional roles, responsibilities and oversight for REDD+ arrangements
- Nomination or establishment of one or several entities responsible for MRV
- Selection of potential REDD+ early action and testing activities
- Continued consultation, information sharing and awareness raising on REDD+ strategy, legislative and institutional proposals
- Finalization of REDD+ strategy (to progress towards REDD+ readiness)

Key drivers for deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya identified through R-PP process

Several socio-economic factors contribute to Kenya's loss of forest:

- Pressure for expansion of agricultural land, settlement and development,
- Unsustainable utilization of forest resources,
- High dependence on wood energy for lighting and domestic consumption especially firewood and charcoal
- Overgrazing and Forest Fires,
- Institutional failures arising from weak governance structures, inadequate capacity to enforce the law and lack of real stakeholder participation forest management.

Proposed interventions

1. Strict protection of water catchment forests Mt. Elgon and Cherangany, Aberdare, [Mt. Kenya](#), Mau Complex
2. improved stoves & other energy conservation technologies
3. Promotion of nature based micro enterprises
4. Institutional strengthening to enhance sustainable management
5. Public education and awareness
6. Improvement on fire monitoring and management
7. Provision of incentives, particularly payment for environmental services and tax holidays / tax rebates
8. Incentives to promote efficiency in forest resource utilization
9. Supporting afforestation and reforestation to reduce the current national timber deficit

Benefit sharing

- The new policy and legislation introduces provision for empowerment of communities in forest management and equitable sharing of benefits through the Community Forest Associations (CFAs),
 - ▣ Aimed at improving livelihoods by increasing the benefits of forests and thereby reducing the pressures on forests.

- Benefit sharing arrangements are being discussed between KFS and communities but are not finalized.
 - ▣ The benefits include access to firewood and other wood and non wood resources in forests and participation in taungya system
 - ▣ The new arrangements support sustainable forest management (SFM) which brings greater social and environmental benefits as well as resulting in higher carbon stock in forests.

Climate Change initiatives with multiple benefit

1. The Green Belt Movement currently coordinating a community based reforestation of 1,800 ha of Mt. Kenya and Aberdares ecosystems
2. Farmers around Mt. Kenya & Laikipia Districts implementing carbon financed farm forestry reforestation programme.
3. Afforestation and reforestation activities in Kikuyu escarpment by a community forest association covering 300 ha
4. KFS and partners supporting community afforestation prog of 500 ha in Kakamega forest as a carbon offset project
5. Development of a REDD project in Rukinga Wildlife sanctuary in coast province covering 30,000 ha

Investing in water Tower forests

- The Government has already embarked on a massive restoration programme for the Mau ecosystem but would benefit greatly from the carbon markets to supplement local resources.
- Mau ecosystem, the biggest in the country covers approximately 400,000 ha.
- It is estimated the complex lost 67,000 ha to deforestation between 2000 to 2005
- This is the area the government is keen on reclaiming and rehabilitation and securing for environmental conservation including climate change mitigation
- This area is particularly very promising for establishing REDD demonstration activities and which can be replicated in other water towers.

Key challenges

- Forest assessments to establish an emission reference scenario; the baseline accounting for carbon leakage, as well as for biodiversity leakage
- Establishing a monitoring system for emissions, emission reductions -Forest resource assessments and monitoring and verification of carbon stocks
- Generating synergies in support of REDD activities across the stakeholder spectrum
- Enlisting formal support across the government to facilitate and entrench cross-sectoral collaboration.
- Development of benefit sharing framework



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