



FOREWARD

Welcome to the CES annual report. The year 2012 marked a milestone for CES with the accomplishment of many planned activities. Under our natural resource manager's program, eight major trainings were carried out following a needs assessment study. The trainings ranged from natural resource conservation and governance of water and forest resources to advocacy. The other set of trainings was on climate mitigation activities such as development of tree nurseries and rehabilitation of degraded forests. In addition, community livelihoods and enterprise development such as beekeeping, tissue culture bananas and cassava growing as a climate adaptation strategy for food security and income generation. All these capacity building and empowerment activities for natural resource managers and communities were geared towards strengthening citizen's participation in natural resource governance while improving community livelihoods.

The environmental education program gained momentum within the year. A clean and secure environment is the foundation for sustainable development. This program aims to develop and nurture stewards for the environment. We planted the seeds of environmental stewardship to the youth. More than ten environmental clubs were formed in learning institutions. The patrons of these environmental clubs were also trained. This program is envisioned to be a movement to contribute to environmental conservation moving forward. During the year, CES expanded its staff by recruiting new staff members in tandem with the increased activities. For documentation and dissemination purposes, we started a newsletter (The Steward) to inform our partners and the public on CES activities, contributions and achievements in conserving the environment.

CES looks forward to the new-year 2013 with the opportunities brought about by a devolved system of Government. We look forward to a continued working relationship with our partners and constructive engagement with new partners especially the County governments in matters of environmental stewardship.

Mbaabu Mathiu
Executive Director

1.0 PROGRAMS REPORT

1.1 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGERS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

This is a capacity building program for natural resource managers which seeks to empower them with values, knowledge and skills that stimulate them to provide leadership in finding lasting solutions to environmental issues so as to improve livelihoods while ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.

1.1.1 Strengthening Governance and wise use of Natural Resources in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties

This year CES received funding from the Government of Sweden & DFID through ACT-Kenya CRM facility to implement a two year program titled: Strengthening Governance and Wise use of Natural Resources in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties, Kenya. This project aims to build the capacity of Water Resource Users Associations and Community Forest Association leaders on water and forest resources governance respectively who in turn will educate the grassroots citizens on the same as well as engage with policy makers for implementation of the water and forest laws and policies.

1.1.1.1 Needs Assessment Study

Between 6th and 28th March, 2012, CES undertook a comprehensive needs assessment study targeting Community forest Associations and Water Resource users associations in Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties. Data was collected from 10 WRUAs and 10 CFAs being representatives of the 17 WRUAs and 12 CFAs found in Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties through interviewing the leaders and selected members of these Associations.



Figure 1: The Chairman of Tungu WRUA filling in a questionnaire

The Kenya Forest Service Zonal managers within Meru region and the Water Management Authority in Meru were also consulted to provide general information on the extent to which these Authorities have collaborated with the local communities in management of the natural resources.



Figure 2: The KFS Zonal Manager Meru North, during the needs assessment interview

In conducting the needs assessment, we sought to attain the following objectives:-

1. To establish the level of participation of the local communities in forest and water management.
2. To assess the level of community understanding and practice of the laws governing forest and water resources.
3. To identify the challenges faced by the CFAs or WRUAs in carrying out their mandate as per the law.
4. To recommend the possible interventions to address the identified gaps in the management and governance of forest and water resources.

1.1.1.2 Validation workshop

The validation workshop was held on 28th March, 2012 at K.K Retreat Centre located at Kithaku Shopping Centre in Meru County. The purpose for this workshop was to give the findings and receive feedback from the CFAs and WRUAs on the needs assessment research conducted by CES.

The workshop brought together 20 representative leaders of CFAs and WRUAs within Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties and WRMA, Ministry of Water and Irrigation and KFS officials in the same region. In addition, 4 journalists from NTV and Kenya News Agency (KNA) television networks and Q fm and Kameme radio station were present to cover the highlights for the day.



Figure 3: WRUA and CFA leaders going through the needs assessment findings

1.1.1.3 Development of M & E Framework workshop

This workshop took place on 29th March 2012 at KK-Retreat Centre in Meru County. The object of this workshop was to come up with Monitoring & Evaluation framework for CFAs and WRUAs with CES within Meru and Tharaka-Nithi counties. The participants formed two groups in which they identified the key activities they are to undertake to meet the goal of the project, the performance indicators, baseline, target, and means of verifying that the intended activity took place and finally the responsible or the actor. The end product of the workshop was an M&E framework for WRUAs and another one for CFAs.

1.1.1.4 Trainings

1.1.1.4.1 Forest resource governance training

This was a three day training which was held in Thiiri Cultural Centre in Meru County on 6th to 8th June 2012. The participants comprised of 30 CFA leaders, 2 Community Based Organisation (CBO) leaders, 2 Zonal Managers of Kenya Forest Service (KFS) Meru Central and Meru North Regions, 1 KFS Forester, Meru South Region and the Forest Conservancy Committee, Eastern Region, Chairman Dr. Mworio Mugambi. The areas of focus for the training were leadership, policy development and laws and their implementation with specific reference to the Forest Act, 2005. We also analyzed the proposed changes in the Forest Bill, 2012. The objectives for the workshop were:-

- ◆ To enhance the participants' knowledge and practice of good leadership;
- ◆ To enhance the participants' level of understanding of policy development process and inform them how they can participate in the process; and
- ◆ To increase their understanding of laws governing forests resources and how they can get involved in the implementation of these laws.



Figure 4: Mr. Evans Maneno, the then Meru Central KFS Zonal Manager facilitating the forest governance training

As part of the activities to be executed during the training, we visited the degraded Lower Imenti Forest in Meru County which once full of large shady indigenous trees which offered a cool shade during the dry season and wild fruits in all seasons but has now been reduced to is a vast area of Lantana Camara bushes, scanty grass patches and countable trees. The degradation was caused by illegal deforestation for farming activities and burning of charcoal and overgrazing.



Figure 5: A photo of the degraded Lower Imenti Forest. What is left of it is Lantana Camara

The upshot of this visit was the acknowledgement by all participants that this problem of degradation does not only affect the Lower Imenti CFA but is a collective issue that needed to be addressed by all the CFAs. All the CFAs resolved to be united in rehabilitating the forest. The Meru Central KFS Zonal Manager promised that his office will also work hand in hand with the CFAs towards the same goal. To that end, the Zonal Manager immediately put a temporary ban on livestock grazing in the forest until rehabilitation has been completed. In addition, he promised to deploy more forest rangers to prevent illegal logging and charcoal burning in the forest, and to decline issuing permits for firewood collection in that forest since it is already destroyed.

Pursuant to the visit to the degraded Lower Imenti Forest, the participants unanimously agreed to petition the Members of Parliament for North Imenti and Tigania West Constituencies, Hon. Silas M. Ruteere and Hon. Kilemi Mworira respectively, the areas within which the forest is located, to intervene in the conservation and rehabilitation of the degraded forest. This petition was copied to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources and the Director General, Kenya Forest Service. The Petition among other things requested:-

- ◆ The Honorable MPs of North Imenti and Tigania West Constituencies to financially support the local initiatives in the management and rehabilitation of Lower Imenti Forest;
- ◆ The Honorable MPs of the 13 Constituencies in Meru and Tharaka Nithi counties to support the CFAs through the CDF kitty to develop Forest Management Plans and rehabilitate the degraded forest sites;
- ◆ That all the hills under the custody of county councils to be gazetted as state forests and
- ◆ That measures be taken by the relevant authorities to repossess the grabbed hills e.g. Subuiga and Kiamacharia.

The petition was signed by 2 representatives of each of the 11 CFAs

represented in the workshop.

1.1.1.4.2 Water resource governance training

This was a three day training which was held in Thiiri Cultural Centre in Meru County on 21st to 23rd June 2012. The participants comprised of 31 Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) leaders, the Catchment Management Officer- WRMA Tana Catchment Area and the Hydrologist, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Meru. Also present were journalists and reporters from Qfm, Meru FM, Kenya News Agency and Daily Nation.

The areas of focus for the training were leadership, policy development and laws and their implementation with specific reference to the Water Act,2002 and the Water Management Rules,1999. The objectives for the workshop were:-

- ◆ To enhance the participants' knowledge and practice of good leadership;
- ◆ To enhance the participants' level of understanding of policy development process and inform them how they can participate in the process; and
- ◆ To increase their understanding of laws governing water resources and how they can get involved in the implementation of these laws as well as understanding the proposed changes in the Water Act.



Figure 6: Mr.Maina, of WRMA, Tana Catchment Area facilitating the Water resource governance training

At the end of the workshop on water resource governance training, the WRUA leaders pledged to work together in close partnership with the Water Resource Management Authority and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to protect, rehabilitate and sustainably utilize the water resources within their jurisdictions. To this end, they signed a petition to the Member of Parliament for North Imenti Constituency and Chairman of Meru Parliamentary Group, Hon. Silas M. Ruteere and copied to the Permanent secretary, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Permanent secretary Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources and the Chief Executive Officer, Water Resource Management. The requests contained in the Petition included:-

- ◆ That WRUAs be represented in the Environment and development Committees from the grassroots to County level.
- ◆ WRMA to move with speed to reclaim the grabbed and encroached wetlands and riparian zones.
- ◆ That WRUAs be substantially involved in the ongoing amendments of the water sector laws and policy and in particular the amendment should clearly spell out the financial and other incentives accruing to WRUAs as local resource managers and
- ◆ That the honorable MPs in the 13 constituencies in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties to support WRUAs through the CDF kitty to rehabilitate the degraded wetlands.

1.1.1.4 Advocacy skills training for Community Forests Associations

This was a four day training which was held in Thiiri Cultural Centre in Meru County on 14th to 17th August 2012 and whose participants comprised of 20 CFA leaders and 2 CBO leaders. The training objectives were:

- ◆ To enhance participants knowledge and understanding of advocacy
- ◆ To enhance participants engagement in effective planning and implementation of advocacy training

The topics covered during the training were key features of advocacy, advocacy as a development approach as compared to other approaches such as service delivery, IEC campaigns, public relations and community mobilization, identification and analysis of the problem and developing problem statements, setting advocacy goals and objectives, identifying stakeholders/ key target audience and working as a team, building support, developing advocacy messages tailored to suit each target audience, strategies and methods of delivering the message, choosing the right media for message, resource mobilization, developing advocacy action plans and monitoring and evaluation.



Figure 7: CFA leaders busy discussing the steps in advocacy process

1.1.1.4.4 Advocacy skills training for Water Resource Users Associations

This was a four day training for 32 WRUA leaders which was held in Thiiri Cultural Centre in Meru County on 28th to 31st August 2012. The training objectives were:

- ◆ To enhance participants knowledge and understanding of advocacy
- ◆ To enhance participants engagement in effective planning and im

plementation of advocacy training.

The topics covered during this training included key features of advocacy, advocacy as a development approach as compared to other approaches such as service delivery, IEC campaigns, public relations and community mobilization, identification and analysis of the problem and developing problem statements, setting advocacy goals and objectives, identifying stakeholders/ key target audience and working as a team, building support, developing advocacy messages tailored to suit each target audience, strategies and methods of delivering the message, choosing the right media for message, resource mobilization, developing advocacy action plans and monitoring and evaluation.



Figure 8: WRUA leaders doing an activity to learn why it is important to work as a team in advocacy

Pursuant to the training the participants felt the need to form a network of all WRUAs in Meru and Tharaka Nithi and went ahead to form a Committee to spear head the process of registration of the network.

1.1.2 Integrated Community Management of Lower Imenti Forest (INCOME-LIFE) Project

CES in strategic partnership with Kithoka Twajai Forest Community based

Organization received funding from Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) to implement the above referenced project in the degraded Lower Imenti Forest in Meru County. The project goal is to support community projects aimed at poverty reduction through improved livelihood systems

and the conservation of community natural resources and enhance environmental conservation and management. The objectives of the project are:

- ◆ To contribute to climate mitigation and adaption through planting indigenous trees in degraded areas and adaption of energy saving cooking stoves.
- ◆ To establish bee keeping as a nature based enterprise and adopt orphaned and high value crops for income generation.
- ◆ To enhance community participation in environmental conservation and natural resources management through awareness creation, capacity building and exposure visits



Figure 9: Lower Imenti Forest rehabilitation -Pitting in preparation for tree planting

1.1.2.1 CDTF/ Community Environmental Facility II Regional workshop
This workshop took place at Sportsman's arms hotel in Nanyuki on 30th July to 2nd August, 2012 and organized by CDTF. The objectives of the workshop were:

- ◆ To provide a forum where the participants will have a better understanding of CDTF operational procedures.
- ◆ To provide a forum for beneficiaries to share experiences in project set-up, implementation and challenges faced so far and solutions proposed.
- ◆ To share information on key implementation procedures such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Baseline survey, and Feasibility studies.
- ◆ To ensure that all the projects' stakeholders clearly understand their roles and responsibilities to enhance cooperation during project implementation in order to minimize conflicts.

CDTF/CEF II projects manager Mr. Ruhiu urged all the projects in the same region to form a network with a common interest of improving their performance. Such networks help every individual project to benefit from sharing experience with the others and that CDTF and other organization all over the world prefer to offer support to those networks because they cover a very large region. He therefore advised the projects to put into place mechanisms of forming networks and strengthen the existing networks.

1.1.2.2 Training of trainers on tree nursery establishment and management

This workshop took place at Thiiri Cultural Centre on 21st and 22nd May, 2012 and was organized by Integrated Community Management of Lower Imenti Forest Ecosystem (INCOME-LIFE) protect implementation committee. Its objective was to enhance the ability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the sub-committee on tree nursery establishment to establish and manage tree nurseries well including managing trees in the field after transplanting.



Figure 10: Kithoka Twajai CBO members establishing tree nurseries

1.1.2.3 Training of

trainers on bee keeping

This was a three day training of trainers meeting from 7th to 9th of August 2012 on bee keeping and management. 18 trainees were trained on apiculture who will in turn train the community and this will result to improved community knowledge and skills on apiculture.

1.1.2.4 Training of trainers on bananas husbandry and management

This was a three day training on 14th to 16th of August 2012. 20 trainers were trained on tissue culture bananas husbandry and management who will in turn teach the community on the same and this will result in improved community knowledge and skills on banana husbandry and management.



Figure 11: Mama Julia tending Tissue culture plantlet in one of the community managed TC banana Screen house

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

1.2.1 Introduction

Environmental Education Program (EEP) seeks to address the challenge of environmental ignorance among people and entails public awareness and education on various topical environmental issues. The program targets primary, secondary and college students, youth groups, men and women self help groups, community based organisations, decision and policy makers.

1.2.2 Environmental Clubs in Schools in Kajiado County

This year we have been able to work with the primary and secondary schools within Kajiado County-Kajiado North constituency with the objectives of:-

- ◆ Carrying out environmental awareness and educative forums.
- ◆ Facilitating availability of environmental information through promotional materials and resource handbooks

We have established environmental clubs in the schools as hereunder.

1. Township Primary School (Ngong) with 39 members under the patronage of Mrs. Jedida
2. Kibiku Primary School with 90 members under the patronage of Mr. Joseph Kimani
3. Kibiku Secondary School with 21 members under the patronage of Mrs. Ndoro
4. Oololaiser Boys High School with 52 members under the patronage of Mrs. Siole
5. Oololua Secondary School 40 members under the patronage of Mr. Kabiru

We are in the process of establishing environmental clubs in following schools:

1. P.C.E.A. Manyatta Primary School
2. Kenvic Primary School and

3. A.I.C Primary School

CES staff has been visiting the various schools and educating the club members on following topical issues;

- ◆ Definition of the Environment and its components
- ◆ How to conserve the environment.
- ◆ Advantages of conserving environment.
- ◆ Consequences of not conserving the environment.
- ◆ How God gave man the responsibility to protect the environment.
- ◆ Definition of Climate Change, Cause, Effects and Mitigation measures.
- ◆ Global Warming definition, causes, effects and mitigation measures.
- ◆ Ecosystems definition and importance of different types of ecosystems.
- ◆ Importance of recycling, reuse and reduce 3Rs.
- ◆ Discussions on the Role of the youth in environmental conservation.
- ◆ Biodiversity conservation, importance and effects of biodiversity loss.

In addition, the clubs have support activities like: tree planting, bird feeding, essay writing on environmental topics, debates on environmental topics, drama and songs on environmental topics. CES has also disseminated educative materials such as our quarterly news letters, flyers, pamphlets and handouts to the schools we work with.



Figure 12: Environmental club students and their patrons during one

1.2.3 Environmental Club Patrons Meeting

CES in partnership with Amani Communities Africa held training for the environmental clubs patrons and peace clubs patrons on 27th November 2012. The training objectives were:

- ◆ To know the importance of having peace and environmental clubs
- ◆ To discuss activities to foster sustainable and vibrant peace and environmental clubs
- ◆ To prepare a work plan for the clubs for the next two years
- ◆ To provide an opportunity for networking and sharing best practices to inform vibrant environmental and peace clubs

The training brought together the environmental and peace clubs patrons of 7 schools who prepared a work plan that will see the clubs carry out several activities to support the sustainability of the clubs. Among the chosen activities was that all schools create peace benches in their schools, have an eco-enterprise for their clubs to generate income and beautification and tree planting as a way to combat climate change effects.



Figure 13: Environmental clubs and peace clubs patrons, CES and ACA staffs pose for a group photo

2. RESOURCE, DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

2.1 Staff and Board Members

This year we have expanded our staff base to include Rose Nyawira, Ann Kinya, Jane Mwititi and Dickson Kimathi who are serving in the capacity of Advocacy Officer, Programs Officer, Accountant and Field Officer respectively.

This year also saw the entry of one Board Member, Ms. Jamila Mohammed, an advocate by profession and holds a Masters degree in Environmental Law and currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the same field. During the year, we held 3 Board meetings, one staff retreat and several in-house staff trainings.



Figure 14: CES staff and board members during the retreat

2.2 Publications

This year we published two quarterly Newsletters titled the “The Steward”. Basically, the newsletters inform our stakeholders about CES, what it has achieved in the previous quarter and the activities intended for the following quarter. (Tesh.....U can put the front cover of the 2nd issue of the steward here.)

We have also reviewed our Constitution to incorporate the a gender equity clause to the effect that not more than two thirds of the members of the Board shall be of the same gender. In addition, we have reviewed the Human Resource Policy to include Internship and Volunteer Policies. Other organisational documents we have prepared in this year include Risk Management Plan, Board Manual, Internal Communication Strategy, Resource Mobilisation Strategy, Information Management Systems and Calender of events.

2.3 Research

During the year, we prepared a number of research proposals and we are hopeful to secure funding for implementation

2.4 Capacity Building

Our staff was able to attend the following events/activities /trainings during this year.

Date	Training/ Event/ Activity
February 2012	The Project Accountant attended a workshop on finance management in Nairobi organised by Act!.
28thFebruary- 1st March 2012	The Advocacy Officer attended a 4 day training on Advocacy Skills in Nairobi organised by Act!.
20th to 23rd March 2012	The Project Cordinator attended a Monitoring & Evaluation training in Limuru organised by Act!.

18th-19th June 2012	All staff and 2 board members attended an Organisational Capacity Assessment organised by Act! in Nairobi.
22nd to 25th October, 2012	The Executive Director and Programs Officer attended a resource mobilisation training organization organised by Act! in Nairobi.
1st November 2012	The Field Officer attended the launching ceremony of the Lower Imenti CFA Forest Management Plan in Meru

2.5 Networking and collaborations

During the year under review, CES held meetings with prospective partners and other like minded organizations. These include:-

Last Friday of every month	The Programs Officer attends monthly forums organised by the Kenya Forest Working Group bringing together organisations working in the forest sector.
5th June 2012	We marked the World Environmental Day by partnering with other like minded organisations in planting trees at Ngong Hills.
29th October, 2012	The Executive Director attended a water sector round table conference organised by Act! in Nairobi.

1st November 2012	The Executive Director paid a courtesy visit to the Director of Gradif (K) to discuss on how we can collaborate in strengthening governance and wise use of natural resources in Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties.
12th to 16th November 2012	The Programs Officer attended the 5th National Youth Conference on Climate Change whose theme was “Transformative Leadership for Sustainable Development - Back to Basics” in Yatta.
21st November 2012	The Executive Director attended the Launch of ACT CRM Facility at the Norfolk Hotel. A week later, the ED participated in a workshop to review ACT strategic plan.
10th December 2012	The ED paid a courtesy call to the Nature conservancy to discuss programs of mutual interest
December 2012	The Executive Director paid a courtesy visit to the Director of Farm Practice Initiative to discuss the possibility of partnering in a project value addition and livelihood improvement.