



Capacity, Policy and Financial Incentives for Participatory Forest Management in Kirisia Forest and Integrated Rangelands Management

EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

© FAO/Luis Tato



BACKGROUND

This final evaluation aims to assess the achievement of planned results, identify implementation barriers and determine factors influencing success or failure. It serves accountability and learning purposes. Primary users include the Government of Kenya, FAO (representatives, Project Task Force, Lead Technical Unit, programme and operations personnel), the donor and other stakeholders. The evaluation covers the entire project area in Kirisia Forest, encompassing GEF, government, and partner components, along with co-financed elements. It was conducted by the Regional Office for Africa with technical support from the FAO Office of Evaluation.



ABOUT THE EVALUATION

KEY EVALUATION QUESTIONS

The evaluation asked:

- *How much has the project enhanced biodiversity conservation, increased carbon sequestration and promoted sustainable forest management on dryland public and communal lands for global environmental goals?*
- *Has the project enhanced community livelihoods by utilizing products and services from dryland forests as part of its development objective?*

EVALUATION METHODS

A participatory approach was adopted, adhered to “do no harm” principles. Attention to gender and human rights ensured diverse interviews with women, youth and men, providing comprehensive insights for sustainability and future programming.



PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE

GCP/KEN/073/GFF

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Kirisia Forest, Kenya

START/END DATE

2017 / 2023

FUNDED BY

Government of Kenya,
FAO, GEF

PRIORITY AREAS

BE2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture

BE3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture

PARTNERS

Kenya Forest Service, Kenya
Wildlife Service, Samburu
County Government

EVALUATION FINDINGS



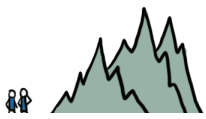
WHAT DID THE PROJECT ACHIEVE?

The project successfully strengthened capacities, promoted local forest governance, and had positive impacts on biodiversity, carbon sequestration and livelihoods in Kirisia Forest.

However, sustaining these gains requires additional support and funding for long-term outcomes. Further assistance is needed for low-income locals to invest in maintaining Kirisia's ecological infrastructure.

The project also supported various livelihood initiatives (honey cooperative, ecotourism, tree nurseries, poultry, agroforestry, non-timber forest products), providing financial incentives for conservation.

Notably, it developed and distributed high-quality information products for awareness among school-goers and adults about the importance of conserving the Kirisia ecosystem.



WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES?

The project initially assumed it could build on an existing Community Forest Association (CFA), but faced conflict due to the unrecognized CFA and political tensions from the 2017 elections.

Consequently, the project had to establish new CFAs, involving unexpected efforts in awareness-raising and trust-building, ultimately successful in overcoming challenges.

The Kirisia CFA now boasts a well-defined governance structure, constitution, elected officials and office space. While the project enhanced the CFA's capacity, it revealed gaps in transparency and accountability in managing affairs.



LESSONS LEARNED

The project demonstrated efficient and cost-effective implementation, with well-designed management structures and strategies that generated successful outcomes. It effectively adapted to changing conditions, enhancing overall efficiency.

Notably, the project successfully promoted women's participation in Community Forest Association formation and management, engaging them in diverse user groups. Proactive measures were taken to address gender concerns, including a gender analysis study and the adoption of strategies to allocate resources and benefits among various community gender groups.

Click [here](#) to find out more in the full report.



NEXT STEPS



The governance and institutional capacity of Kirisia CFA should be further strengthened for it to effectively play its role in implementing the recently launched participatory forest management plan (PFMP).



Mechanisms for mobilizing project co-financing partners in the planning and execution of agreed activities, and for quantifying and tracking project co-financing, should be improved.



The sustainability of accrued benefits and results of a project should be given priority when planning project interventions and result.



There is a need to develop a knowledge management system and a communication strategy for Kirisia Forest.