



Delivering Nature-based Solution Outcomes by addressing
Policy, Institutional and Monitoring gaps in Forest and
Landscape Restoration
Project Inception Workshop
Voi, Kenya
25th – 27th April 2023



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project team

30 June 2023

Acronyms

ADSE - Anglican Development Services

ASDF - Africa Sand Dam Foundation

AWF – African Wildlife Foundation

CBO – Community Based Organization

CDF - Chyulu Development Foundation

CEC – County Executive Committee

CFA – Community Forest Association

COG – Council of Governors

DABICO - Dawida Biodiversity Conservation Community-based Organization

DESNZ – Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

EAM - Eastern Arc Mountains

FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization

FCDO – UK Government’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

FCMA – Forest Conservation and Management Act

FFS - Farmer Field School

FLR – Forest and Landscape Restoration

FMNR – Farmer Management Natural Resource

FOLAREP – Forest and Landscape Restoration Plan

GESI - Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion

H.E. – His Excellency

IBA - Important Bird Area

IBM – Important Bird Area

ICIPE - International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

ICRAF - International Center for Research in Agroforestry

JICA - Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

KCEP - Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme

KEFRI - Kenya Forestry Research Institute

KFS – Kenya Forest Service

KWS – Kenya Wildlife Service

LDSF – Land Degradation Surveillance Framework

M. E. P – Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

MELIA – Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Impact Assessment

MSF - Multi-stakeholder Forum

NACOFA - National Alliance of Community Forest Associations

NbS – Nature-based Solutions

NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution

NDMA – National Drought Management Authority

NEMA – National Environment Management Authority

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

PFMP – Participatory Forest Management Plan

RMP – Risk Management Planning

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

SMART – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound

SSA – Sub-Sahara Africa

TAWWDA - Tanathi Water Works Development Agency

ToT – Trainer of Trainers

TTCA - Taita Taveta County Assembly (TTCA)

TTWCA - Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association

UK PACT – UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions

WP – Work Package

WRI - World Resources Institute

WRUA - Water Resource Users Association

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

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I. Introduction and Project Overview

Unsustainable agricultural practices and over-exploitation of natural resources, including forest degradation, have eroded ecosystem health on over approximately 2 billion hectares globally, including 60% of agricultural and pastoral lands in Africa. This degradation continues to negatively impact 3.2 billion people globally resulting in reduced climate resilience, exacerbating poverty, food and nutrition insecurity, as well as increasing vulnerability to climate change.

Nature-based solutions (NbS), including forest and landscape restoration (FLR), have the potential to increase biodiversity and ecosystem services, secure jobs and improve livelihoods while accelerating action on climate change at local, national and international levels. This requires multi-stakeholder commitment and action to co-generate the evidence and to implement evidence-based policies to deliver nature-based solution outcomes.



Figure 1: Landscape of the Taita Taveta Hills.

In Kenya, there is an opportunity to strengthen policy implementation at the community, county and national levels. This includes the development and implementation of gender transformative solutions for reduced emissions, as well as cross-sectoral coordination and co-learning around the monitoring of FLR at the farm, county and national scale.

The project will focus on two counties in Kenya, Makueni and Taita Taveta, in partnership with CIFOR-ICRAF, AWF, and FAO-Kenya. The objectives of the project include: 1) Increase capacity on implementation and monitoring of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR); 2) Implement evidence-based recommendations for reduced emissions at local, county and national levels; 3) Domesticate



Figure 2. Location of Taita Taveta and Makueni Counties

national policies (i.e. FOLAREP) around FLR at the county level; 4) Build capacity of Community Forest Associations (CFAs); and 5) Implement and incorporate gender-transformative, equitable and socially inclusive approaches into FLR implementation, activities and policies.

The project has six work packages as described in Figure 3. Here is the link to the project brochure: <https://www.cifor-icraf.org/knowledge/publication/34681/>

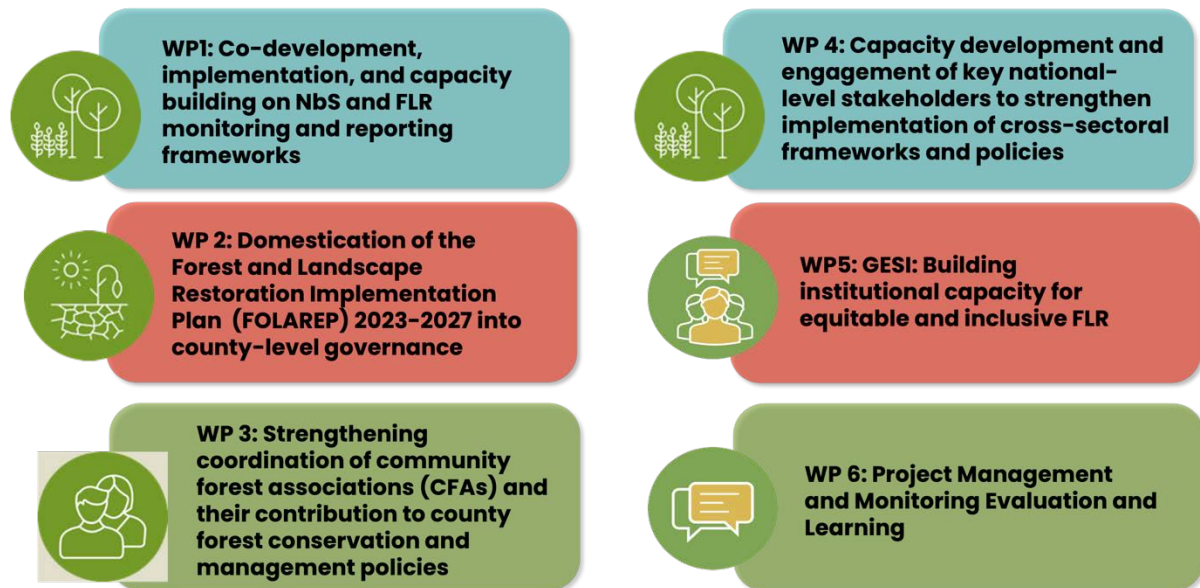


Figure 3: Work packages in the project.

II. Inception Workshop

The three-day project inception workshop was held on the 25th-27th of April 2023 in Voi, Taita Taveta County, Kenya. The workshop brought together 60 participants including representatives from Taita Taveta and Makueni County governments, Palladium Group, FAO-Kenya and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Nature Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Conservation International, World Wide Fund (WWF) Kenya, Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association, members of the Chawia Community Forest Association and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

The aim of the workshop was to officially launch the Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) funded project on “Delivering Nature-based Solution outcomes by addressing Policy, Institutional and Monitoring gaps in Forest and Landscape Restoration” and to bring together project partners to discuss, plan and agree on the project activities and implementation in the next two years.

Specific objectives of the workshop were:

- 1) Communicate and further refine project goals, objectives, and deliverables.
- 2) Outline roles and responsibilities across project stakeholders.
- 3) Finalize the project work plan outlining the timeline and milestones.

- 4) Build social capital with project stakeholders.
- 5) Build capacity on forest and landscape restoration.
- 6) Establish clear communication channels and protocols across the project.

III. Report back on the Workshop

A. Workshop opening

The workshop began with opening remarks from Joyce Kasyoki (Senior Manager, CIFOR-ICRAF). She invited the Principle Investigator of the project – Dr. Leigh Winowiecki (Global Research Leader: Soil and Land Health, Co-lead: Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health, CA4SH) who welcomed the workshop participants and went on to provide the background of the project and its objectives.

H.E. Governor Andrew Mwadime of Taita Taveta County gave an opening speech and expressed his gratitude to ICRAF for selecting both Taita Taveta and Makueni counties as project implementation sites due to their shared climate change effects and challenges as neighboring regions. He commended the collaboration and cooperation between the two counties in ecosystem restoration, which aligns with his manifesto's goal of promoting sustainable conservation of the country's environment.

He expressed his appreciation for the UK PACT funded project, which aims to realize nature-based solutions by strengthening policy implementation, enhancing institutional capacity, and improving monitoring and reporting for forest and landscape restoration outcomes. The Governor also emphasized the importance of youth from both counties working together. By working collaboratively, the Governor believes that the negative trends in the region can be reversed. Having made the above remarks, H.E. Governor Andrew Mwadime declared the inception workshop open and urged all participants to engage fully and be optimistic about the discussions ahead.



Figure 4. Workshop opening by the Governor of Taita Taveta County, Hon. Andrew Mwadime.

B. Director for Africa, CIFOR-ICRAF, Dr. Peter Minang

The CIFOR-ICRAF Director for Africa, Dr. Peter Minang made his speech by video. He welcomed the County Governors, representatives of partner organizations, and all stakeholders to the workshop and emphasized the importance of the project to communities in Taita Taveta and Makueni and Kenya, to find solutions to climate change. The project will support the implementation of policies developed at the County level and National levels and enhance capacities in monitoring the progress towards restoration goals. Peter Minang also mentioned that CIFOR-ICRAF is committed and happy to be working closely with both Makueni and Taita Taveta Counties and is grateful for the support of the Government of Kenya. The Director was also grateful to UK PACT for the funding and, importantly, to the workshop participants who are here to contribute and make the project a success.

C. The Palladium Group, Representing FCDO, UK PACT Kenya, Ann Kirugi

Anne Kirugi, from the Palladium Group who is also the Country associate for UK PACT, represented the grant managing firm and also spoke on behalf of the FCDO and the British High Commission. UK PACT is a unique program that supports capacity-building initiatives that foster support for emissions reduction. It also supports high-emission countries to increase their emission reduction through their NDCs to meet the 2050 agreement set.

UK PACT is a demand-driven and the program is designed to address transformative climate change initiatives within the communities. It supports capacity building in governments and communities regarding policies and the policy environment. Anne Kirugi introduced the UK PACT project team that we will be closely relating with i.e. Project Director, Jim Nicholas, Country Portfolio Manager Lorraine, Country Associate, and other staff who will be backstopping.

The collaboration model is that Palladium Group would be in direct contact with the donor FCDO and the implementing partner ICRAF who have contracted downstream partners. The beneficiaries are the County Governments and the communities living around the forest areas. She mentioned that the expectations of the donors are enhanced capacities, policy brief recommendations, developed knowledge, communications products and gender equality and social inclusion. And she concluded by declaring the project officially launched.



Figure 5: Ann Kirugi of the Palladium Group opening the workshop on behalf of the donor.

D. Introduction to the Project

Dr. Leigh Winowiecki, Global Research Lead for Soil and Land Health and Co-lead of Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) provided background of the UK PACT Nature-based solutions (NbS) project and the potential of NbS solutions, including forest landscape restoration (FLR) as a means of increasing biodiversity and ecosystem services, securing jobs and improving livelihoods while accelerating action on climate change at local, national and international levels.

To support the delivery of NbS in Kenya, CIFOR-ICRAF has formed a compelling consortium from the agriculture, forestry, development, and wildlife conservation sectors, to build capacity for forest conservation and landscape restoration (See organogram below). The consortium acknowledges the complex drivers of soil, land, and forest degradation across SSA, with expertise and collective experience in Kenya.

Leigh Winowiecki emphasized that this requires commitment from stakeholders in implementing evidence-based options to deliver nature-based solution outcomes and that, in Kenya, there is an opportunity to strengthen implementation at the community, county and national levels. She then gave a snapshot of the project timeline journey towards the eventual signing by FCDO and explained the project organogram and outlined the project Work Packages.



Figure 6: Project Principal Investigator, Leigh Winowiecki of CIFOR-ICRAF.

Link to her presentation here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1lgSDVsTLe9a1MuirDxeY8Bje3IOSOhP7/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112505622669342583341&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Project timeline journey:

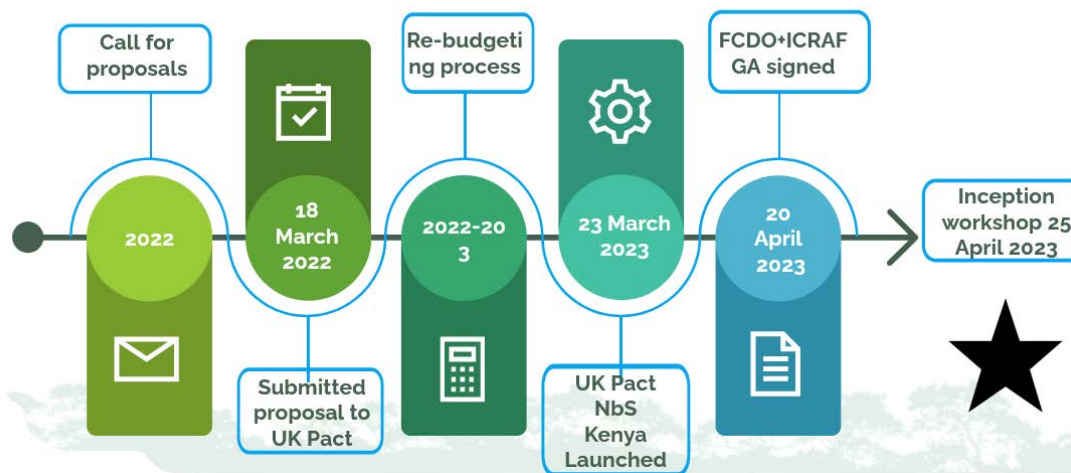


Figure 7. Project timeline journey

Dr. Winowiecki also mentioned that the project will build on the ongoing partnership with the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, KFS, KEFRI and NEMA as national government agencies, County governments of Makueni, Taita Taveta, as the sub-national level partners, CFAs at ward level and AWF, FAO, and ICRAF as technical and implementing partners. This partnership is built on a national movement for restoration, including working closely with government agencies for coordination, monitoring, and reporting. The project will aim to create a replicable engagement framework to ensure tailored capacity development, strengthened policy implementation, and the co-creation of a robust monitoring framework for evidence generation and interpretation to track NbS and FLR on the ground. This will lead to further scaling of evidence-based policy implementation and development, all of which will contribute to the scaling and replication of impact in other regions and sectors.



Figure 8: Visit to Makueni and Taita Taveta Counties.

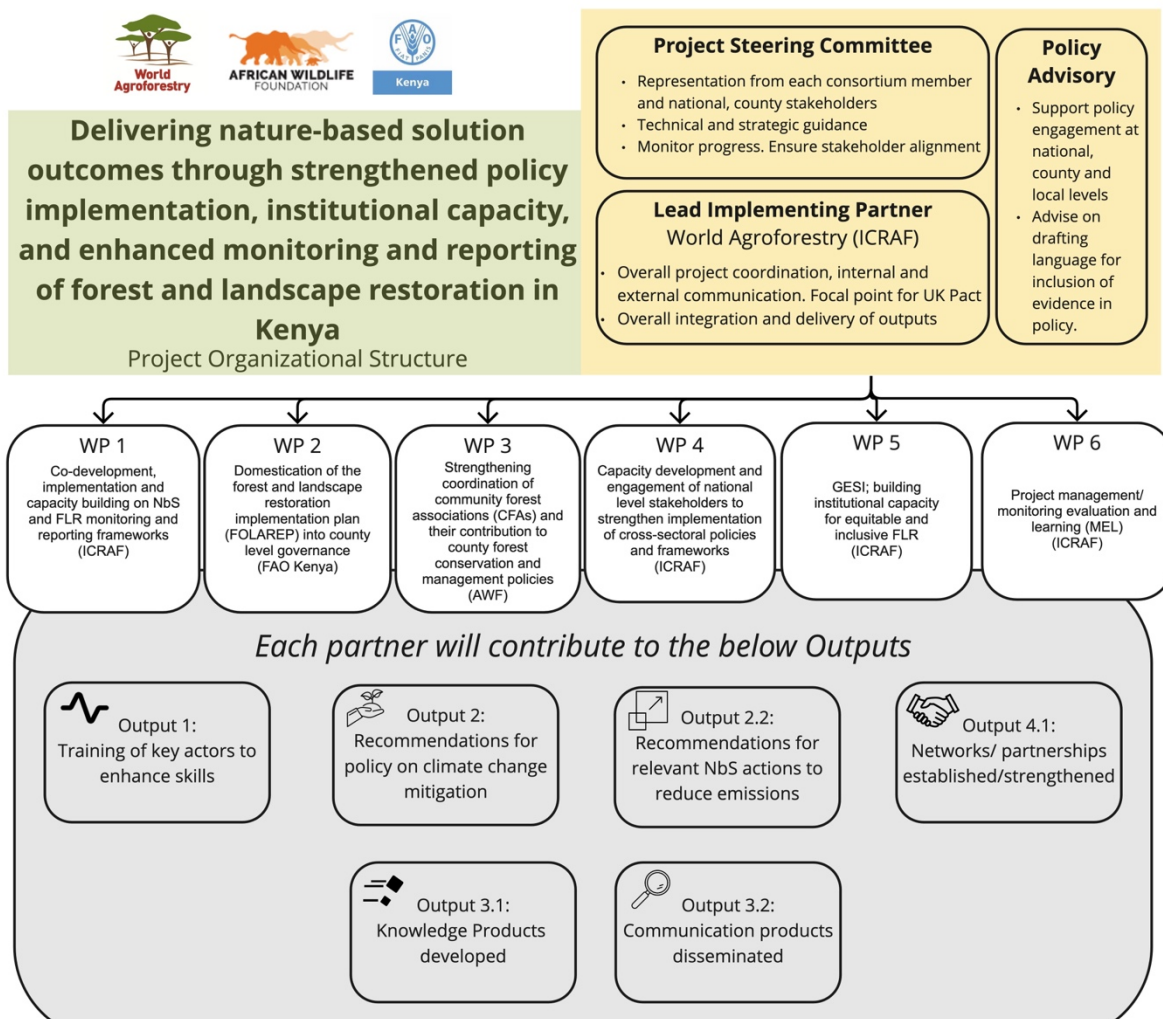


Figure 9: Project organogram.

IV. Presentations from project partners

A. African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) - Work Package 3: Strengthening coordination of community forest associations (CFAs) and their contribution to county forest conservation and management policies.

Kenneth Kimitei provided an overview of the African Wildlife Foundation's (AWF) objectives in strengthening the coordination of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and their role in county forest conservation and management policies.

The AWF aims to empower communities, conserve habitats, and protect species through initiatives implemented in forest landscapes. These efforts aim to create an enabling environment for conservation by improving the governance and management of CFAs, developing forest value chains, and reviewing policies related to forest



Figure 10: Kenneth Kimitei, Senior Landscapes Ecologist, AWF.

management and conservation. By enhancing the coordination and capacity of CFAs, the AWF supports the sustainable existence of these associations. The AWF recognizes that the benefits derived from forests can be maximized through the development of value chains. In his presentation, Kenneth stated that to achieve this, it is important to identify potential investments and involve the public in the participatory planning process. Additionally, the capacity of forest officers and extension officers within the County needs to be strengthened. In order to improve County forest policies and acts, it is necessary to review and propose amendments. CFAs should be encouraged to actively contribute to the implementation of forest policies by providing feedback and suggesting improvements or solutions. The reviewed policies should be shared, and guidelines for their implementation should be developed. Moreover, forest management and governance should be decentralized to the County level to facilitate effective implementation and management of the policies. He concluded by expressing gratitude to key partners whose contributions are essential in realizing the goals of County forest conservation and management policies.

B. FAO- Kenya - Work Package 2: Domestication of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Action Plan (FOLAREP) into county-level governance

Meshack Muga presented the background of FAO's mandate in achieving food security for all and making sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead an active and healthy life. He stated FAO's priorities and that the governance of natural resources i.e. land, forest and water can enhance multiple benefits of Forest and Landscape Restoration. His presentation revealed that the main restoration opportunities in Kenya (MENR, 2016) include; forest lands, croplands, rangelands and roads. FAO-Kenya's engagement in Forest and Landscape Restoration activities under the Global Environment Fund in Kenya focuses on Capacity Development, Policy and Financial incentives, Restoration Initiatives and Integrated Landscape Management for conservation and restoration.



Figure 11: Meshack Muga, National Project Coordinator, The Restoration Initiative, (FAO-Kenya).

The Policy Development and Integration of FLR are initiated at the National and County levels. Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Plan (FOLAREP) is a 5-year cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholders coordination framework that accelerates actions toward restoring deforested and degraded landscapes and the implementation of this plan is estimated to cost about 150.3 billion Kenya Shillings (approx. USD 1.25 billion) over five years.

The FOLAREP specific objectives are: 1) To strengthen policy, regulatory frameworks, and institutional coordination for enhanced FLR implementation; 2) To put 2.55 million ha of degraded forests and landscapes under restoration for improved biodiversity and climate change reversal; 3) To mobilize resources from public and private partnerships for FLR implementation; 4) To promote inclusive nature-based value chains for improved livelihoods for communities; and 5) To strengthen FLR research, monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management.

Key stakeholders included: relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, County governments, development partners, the private sector, PBOs, and Community Based Associations' representatives. Domestication of FOLAREP into county-level governance would require constituting a technical working group, development of a draft, briefing of CECs and County Officers on the draft, public participation in drafting, incorporation of comments into the final draft, validation, signing and launching of FOLAREP and capacity building of CFAs and CECs on implementation.

V. Icebreaker

As mentioned, a key objective of the workshop was to Build social capital with project stakeholders. Therefore at the beginning of the workshop, we spent time learning and sharing knowledge about the project participants, their organizations and their passion.



Figure 12: Photo collage of the icebreaker with participants.

VI. Deep Dive into the Project Work Packages

A. WP1 - Co-development, implementation, and capacity building on NbS and FLR monitoring and reporting frameworks

Dr. Tor Vagen shared the plan of the activities for this Work package. The output is to deliver training of key actors (County officials interested in the monitoring) and enhance skills. The work package will address “Co-development, implementation, and capacity building on NbS and FLR monitoring and reporting frameworks”

The activities are:

- Activity 1.4 Capacity building on NbS monitoring in the field in each county - Conduct assessments of landscape restoration initiatives on the ground in Makueni and Taita Taveta using the LDSF framework -soil sampling and analysis
- Activity 1.5 Capacity building on database management and analysis of NbS indicators at local and county levels in order to scale NbS and Forest and Landscape Restoration monitoring, to support evidence-based policy combined with National: Co-create a data reporting, analysis and learning platform for Forest and Landscape Restoration and broader

Nature-based Solution reporting, to build on and link to the knowledge platform developed by KEFRI and other stakeholders.

Table 1: Workplan for work package 1

Plan	Year	Activity
July-Sept 2023	Year 1	LDSF Field Survey in Taita Taveta
Oct-Dec 2023	Year 1	Processing and Analysis of LDSF data
Jan-May 2024	Year 1	Soil analysis
Apr-June 2024	Year 2	Training on the use of Regreening App & Data analysis workshops
July-Sept 2024	Year 2	Learning platform development & Database development
Oct-Dec 2024	Year 2	Prototype data reporting and learning platform
Jan -March 2025	Year 2	Launch of learning platform & Co-design workshops

Dr. Vagen also introduced the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework which is the tool that will be used to provide the biophysical baseline assessment at the landscape level and also used as a monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing processes of land degradation and the effectiveness of rehabilitation measures over time. It can also be used in rangeland health data collection. Here is the link the LDSF field manual:

<https://www.cifor-icraf.org/knowledge/publication/25533>

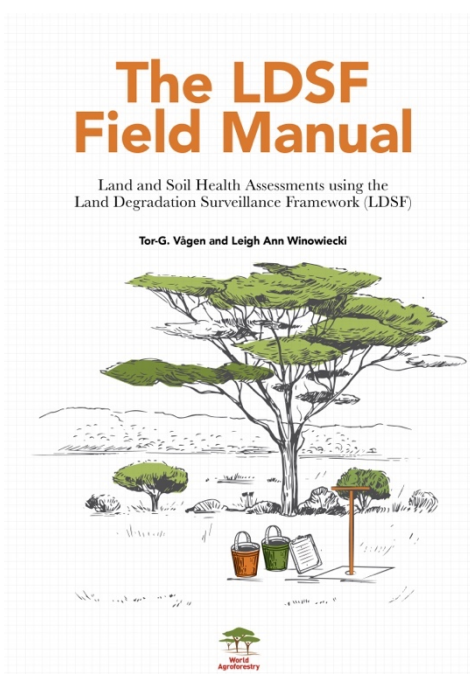
He also presented the dashboard which will be developed. It is a resource hub concept that is a data-driven overview of project-level evidence and local-level evidence and actionable information to monitor progress and to inform future investment.

He also introduced the Regreening Africa App which is a collection and monitoring tool that has five modules i.e. Training data, Tree planting data, FMNR data, Engagement data and Nursery data. This was already installed on participants' Android phones on the first day of the workshop and was used in the field visit on the second day for building capacity.

B. WP5 - Gender, Equity, and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Dr. Mary Crossland gave an insight into the WP5 which seeks to "Build capacity for equitable and inclusive Forest Landscape Restoration" by establishing a multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) on gender and social inclusion in forest and landscape restoration and to strengthen capacity in the use and scaling of gender transformative approaches in Makueni & Taita Taveta.

Activity 3.1.1 in this WP will involve developing, editing, and producing a comprehensive manual with training modules on gender transformative approaches for forest and landscape restoration, showcasing experiences and lessons learned from past restoration initiatives where this approach was applied. For RMP, one manual will be comprehensive, targeting the



County governments and restoration initiatives that need to mainstream gender and social inclusion within restoration activities and the other manual will be geared towards Training of Trainers (ToT). Some important gender dimensions in land restoration include land right and ownership, perceptions and priorities, time use and workloads, and costs and benefits.

Communities will gain a safe space to talk about gender roles and perceptions where participants will make their conclusions and actions. They would make the change guided by the new insights on how gender impacts their lives. This can be scaled through a ToT model.



Figure 13: Dr. Mary Crossland, GESI lead.

Table 2: Workplan for Work Package 5.

Planned date	Taita Taveta	Makueni
Jul/Sep 23	Establishing a multi-stakeholder forum on GESI, training workshops, establishing the ToT model	
Oct/Dec 23	Reflection workshop	
Jan/Mar 24	Synthesis of lessons	
Apr/Jun 24		Planning for workshops
Jul/Sep 24		Establishing a multi-stakeholder forum on GESI, training workshops, establishing the ToT model
Oct/Dec 24		Synthesis of lessons
		Planning for workshops
Jan/Mar 25	Reflection workshops and cross-county exchange.	Reflection workshops and cross-county exchange!

C. WP4 - Capacity development and engagement of key national-level stakeholders to strengthen implementation of cross-sectoral frameworks

Dr. Mieke Bourne enlightened the participants on the activities associated with WP4 and how they would build the capacity of agencies in monitoring platform management and reporting on FLR and linked indicators. Activity 1.2 will below address this.

Activity 1.2 The activity will build the capacity of National government staff in the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and agencies in the monitoring platform management and reporting on FLR and linked indicators. Data collected from the field level in

this project will be included. The activities under this WP will include monitoring of technical working group meetings organized in two meetings in the project year two (2024/2025) and synthesizing the data from Counties and partners for reporting on the monitoring framework. This will be done through small engagements or workshops. There will be training on the use of the online platform developed and co-designed under WP1 (2025).



Figure 14: Mieke Bourne presenting on engagement with the Technical Working Group (TWG) Group Activity One

A group activity for the participants was also conducted to identify key examples of successful efforts of implemented restoration initiatives across scales. Specifically, groups were asked to identify:

- An area that has been restored well – it could be a forest, farm area, or rangeland
- A successful Community Forest Association (CFA)
- A national policy in the nature-based solutions space that has been domesticated well at the county level
- A successful attempt to monitor activities in the County



Figure 15. Group discussion on a successfully restored area or well-domesticated nature-based solution.

D. Feedback from table groups

Table 3. Feedback from Table Group1 on restored or NbS domesticated areas

Table Group 1. Samburu Forest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirisia Forest • Timaiu Forest • Mau Forest • Kirisia community forest Association (formed 2013-2015)
<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory forest management framework – (using by-laws) which if not community-driven will collapse. If the government withdraws it will collapse, therefore CFAs need to be more community-driven
<p>Successes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative food/livelihood options hence less pressure on the Mt. Kenya forest. • Community participatory By-law development • Collaborative culture/ sharing decisions, more gender relations/norms (still a challenge) • Governance of CFA PMF for forest management • Accountability through technical and financial reporting • A key person and collaboration • Support from multiple partners such as AWF, FAO, and County Government (PS supported and after leaving stakeholders such as AWF strengthened the governance). Governance was in the beginning chaotic but political help and partners put in resources to start it off. Help came in the form of grants and open governance. • Cultural practices to be considered and constituted by laws. The by-laws are developed by the community through sensitization. • Socio-economic benefits – Honey refinery was managed by CFA, the Chair of the CFA was chair of the refinery and the market was provided by Kerio Valley (Government Parastatal) which brought back money to the CFA. • Governance of Support from multiple partners

Table 4. Feedback from Table Group 2 on restored or NbS domesticated areas

Table Group 2: Successful Monitoring and Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCEP – CRAL Project – Climate Smart Agriculture. • NARIGGP – Poultry and Water Conservation • KCSAP – Crops and Livestock to Improve Livelihoods
<p>Reasons for Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottom-up approach for example village level to National level. • ICT tools. • Community identification and ownership of the project. • Intervention lives even after the project life.

- Embracing cooperatives – private sector involvement.
- Well-planned financial assistance (gradual exit strategy) resulted in 100% farmers. ownership and sustainability.
- Data publicity is available for future sustainable planning.

Recommendations

- Use of ICT technology to make data available for future planning (data is in the county government).
- Develop a dashboard under UK PACT 2 designed with the help of stakeholders to create healthy competition.

Policy

- Climate change regulation (2015)
- Makueni County Climate Change Act 2022
- Taita Taveta County Climate Change Act 2021
- Taita Taveta County Climate Fund regulation

Successes

- Catalytic effect to run the process.
- Floca funds (Attract funding).
- Capacity and institutional support.
- Political goodwill.
- Global initiative.
- Ownership of the ward projects.
- Benchmark for other counties.
- Successful implementation of Action plans.

Table 5. Feedback from Table Group 3 on restored or Nbs domesticated areas

Table Group 3: Kibwezi Forest Restoration
Area: 5849.6 ha 4,000 ha – electric fenced and protected from Charcoal burning business
<p>Successes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric fence installation. • Appropriate community sensitization. • REDD+_came in after there was success in reinforcing the protection. • Established community groups such as enforcement with KFS. • Reduced human-wildlife conflicts. • Frequent forest boundary monitoring. • Improved goodwill between government, community and non-actors. • Kasigau REDD+ (16 Ranches). • Baseline: 500,000-ton carbon, now @1.7 mil tones. • Open field – 4000 elephants + protected game range. • Grazing plans established.

- Nature based enterprises to control charcoal burning.
- Tree planting has been established.
- Carbon financing has reached the community.
- Involved stakeholders do the monitoring.
- Improved governance at ranges and conservancies.
- Enabling the community to diversify in terms of enterprise.

E. Introduction and installation of Regreening App Data Reporting System

Muhammad, Ahmad, Spatial Platforms Technical Lead and Benard Onkware, Geospatial Programmer and Mobile App Developer both from CIFOR-ICRAF led the session.

Muhammad, Ahmad introduced the Regreening Africa App to the participant as a tool that can be used to monitor restoration in project areas and for resource data access. The Regreening App is a Data Reporting System (DRS) and is a web-based data portal. Being web-based it can be operated via Android phones. To foster knowledge creation and build capacity, the participants were taken through the operation of the four modules in the tool, including the installation process in readiness for use at the field visit and how to upload and access data. The App can also be easily installed via the google play store on Android phones. Insight into the Regreening App can be obtained through the link below. Link to information about Regreening App: <https://regreeningafrica.org/in-the-news/the-regreening-africa-app/>



Figure 16: Muhammad Ahmad's Regreening App. presentation.

VII. Group Activity 2

A. Stakeholder and Project Mapping in the Counties

This group activity was led by Dr. Mary Crossland. In this activity, participants were supposed to identify who is working on land restoration in Taita Taveta & Makueni and what activities are they doing. Restoration activities could be Monitoring, Policy, Implementing or Engagement.



Figure 17. Table group discussions and feedback on stakeholder mapping.

Table 6 Table Group 1 feedback on stakeholder mapping

GROUP WORK – Table One
Stakeholders implementing restoration activities – Makueni County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) • Tsavo Trust • Kenya Forest Services (KFS) - tree nursery establishment, field farmer schools, enrichment planting. • Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) restoration programs, grazing plans, agroforestry/afforestation, establishing conservancies. • World Wide Fund- (WWF) Water harvesting, rangelands management, soil management, and resource allocation. • Davis Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. • Save The Elephants- tree nursery establishment around Sagalla. • National Alliance of Community Forest Associations (NACOFA). • Nature Kenya. • KDT -Tree planting along degraded and charcoal affected areas. • Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) • Forest and Landscape Restoration FLR • Green Belt. • Anglican Development Services (ADSE) • Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) • Kenya Wildlife Service -Protection of various species both flora and fauna.
Stakeholders contributing to Policy on restoration

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNV Netherlands Development Organization - Hay programs and grazing programs. • African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) - Support in policy formulation in Taita Taveta and climate change bill. • Food and Agriculture Organization Kenya (FAO-Kenya) • Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) • Kenya Forest Service (KFS) • Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) • Nature Kenya • County Government • Forest and Landscape Restoration FLR
Stakeholders engaging in the monitoring of restoration activities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taita Taveta County Assembly (TTCA) • Anglican Development Services (ADSE) • Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) • World Resources Institute (WRI) • Community Forest Association (CFA) • Universities-Taita Taveta University, University of Nairobi, South East Kenya University and Lukenya University in Makueni and University of Helsinki in Taita Taveta.
Stakeholders engaged in restoration activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Wildlife Foundation - Strengthening Sagalla CFA, reviewing management plan, supporting groups on nursery establishment, reforestation and supporting a user group in Bura forest. • Nature Kenya • Kibwezi Well Wishers • International Center For Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) • Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme (KCEP) • Farmer Field School (FFS) • Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) • World Vision Kenya • Biovision Africa

Table 7. Table Group 3 feedback on stakeholder mapping

GROUP WORK – Table Two
Stakeholders implementing restoration activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County -Department of Environment • Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)ADSE • Tanathi Water Works Development Agency (TAWWDA) • World Vision

- Africa Sand Dam Foundation (ASDF)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- CARITAS Kitui
- Nature Kenya
- Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA)
- Kenya Forest Service (KFS)
- National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)
- Community Based Organizations (CBO)

Stakeholders enforcing or contributing to policy on restoration

- County Governments
- National Governments
- Development Partners
- Communities
- County Assembly

Stakeholders engaging in the monitoring of restoration activities.

- International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
- Kenya Forest Service (KFS)
- County Government
- Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
- Nature Kenya
- Community Forest Associations (CFA)
- Wildlife Works
- Dawida Biodiversity Conservation Community-based Organization (DABICO)

Stakeholders engaged in restoration activities

- Community Forest Associations (CFA)
- County Assembly
- County Governments
- Nature Kenya
- Wildlife Works
- Community Members
- Business Community

Table 8. Table Group 3 feedback on stakeholder mapping

GROUP ACTIVITY – Table Three

Stakeholders implementing restoration activities

- Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA)
- DAVIS AND SHELDRIFF-Makueni

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Kenya -Tree planting in Taita forest • Chyulu Development Foundation • Tsavo Trust • Kenya Forest Service (KFS) • Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) • Wildlife Works • International Center For Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
<p>Stakeholders engaging in the monitoring of restoration activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya Forest Service (KFS) • Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) • Kenya Wildlife Service • International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) • County Government
<p>Stakeholders engaged in restoration activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Wildlife Foundation -Taita • Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) • Davis and Shedrick • Nature Kenya - Working with CFAs • Chyulu Development Foundation • Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) • Kenya Wildlife Service • International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)
<p>Stakeholders enforcing or contributing to policy on restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya Forest Service (KFS) • County Government • African Wildlife Foundation • International Center For Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)

VIII. Alignment of the activities and work plan

A. Updating the Workplan

Robin Chacha, (Research Associate, CIFOR-ICRAF) gave a background of the work plan activities and the associated project Work Packages and an indication of the reporting quarters. It was noted that in the drafted work plan, there were linkages between the activities hence warranting further reorganizing. The partners and stakeholders discussed and reorganized the activities of the work plan across the defined calendar reporting quarters.

In the discussion about policy, identification of policy gaps, amendments, or implementation strategies, the County partners felt the County Assembly (Legislature) should be involved in

the various small engagement meeting. This would be helpful when policy briefs reach County-level meetings.

The linkages and proposals on the review on workplan activities were:

WP1 – Cuts across all WPs and Data collection should happen at all levels

Capacity development for communities to feed information into the platform being developed; Data collection and management.

WP3 - CFAs will utilize the reporting platform in training

Apply the TOTs model on the Regreening APP from the field level borrowing from WP5.

WP3 - Undertake CECs and COGs meetings on FOLAREP while identifying gaps hindering implementation/uptake of FOLAREP. To be done in collaboration with other WP leads a continuation of UK-PACT 1 linked to UK PACT 1

Interlink projects within the same geographical location undertaking the same activity

Concurrently hold community Sensitization through chief Barazas on both FOLAREP and CFA establishment

WP4 - Directly relates to WP2 on developing and implementing a monitoring platform and Nbs reporting under WP1

WP5 (GESI) – The implementation of activities of this work package should precede or run concurrently with other activities in the different groups to institutionalize and encourage gender inequity and social, inclusion. This has aspects of behavioral change and therefore cuts across all activities.

There was a proposal that FAO-Kenya to consider adopting the TOTs model during on domestication FOLAREP at the local level.

WP3 – In this Work Package, the role of the county Assemblies is critical and should be defined. The identification of policy gaps should precede the FOLAREP (WP2) development. There was a proposal to include relevant members of the County Environment Committee members to engage from the onset level of the workshops in assessing of policy and institutional gaps and opportunities before engaging the entire County Assembly.

It was also noted that it would be beneficial to have FOLAREP-WP2 incorporated by FAO-Kenya during CFA sensitization forums.

WP3 Activity 1.6 of reactivation of CFAs should be implemented before Activity 4.1.1 of the same WP as it will now form the basis for the establishment of CFA County-level umbrella bodies in the two Counties to provide

WP4 – Though targeting the National level, I there was a proposal to create synergy from County to the National level as just like the WP2 and WP5). Activity 1.2 details will be edited.

WP5 – It was felt that the GESI activities of this WP should be aligned with those of WP3 during the strengthening of CFAs. Registration of CFAs requires inclusivity and representation thus WP3 should either be implemented earlier or concurrently with WP5

WP6 – The activities of this work package will be jointly carried out with all others to harness learning milestones, monitor progress, evaluate outputs and to build information for RMP.

It was agreed that after the discussions, the realigned work plan will be shared with the Work Package leads.



Figure 18: Contribution to workplan alignment and agreed work plan amendments.

IX. Field Visit and Capacity Development - Day Two

A. Chawia Forest

The field visit was organized to develop a clearer understanding of forest landscape restoration and management by CFAs with a focus on the Chawia forest (3.4821° S, 38.3432° E). Chawia forest is part of the Taita Hills Forests that form the Northern part of the Eastern Arc Mountains (EAM). The forest covers 86 hectares within the Mwatate Sub-county of Taita Taveta County. The local community has set aside community woodlots (known as “*mitengo*”) adjacent to the Fragment (*Chawia PFMP*). The forest fragments trap, store and release rainwater; protect the fragile soil from erosion; moderate the local climate; sequester carbon; shelter globally endangered and endemic flora and fauna; and provide water, medicine, food, and fiber to the local community (*Chawia PFMP*). Chawia forest forms an important “*source-and-sink*” for birds moving to and from neighboring forest fragments such as Susu, Iyale and Ndiwenyi or those moving from larger fragments such as Ngangao forest which hosts sub-populations of globally-threatened tree species including the endangered endemic Taita Apalis and Taita Thrush.



Figure 19: Collage of the field trip with Community Forest Associations (CFAs).

Taita Hills forest (where Chawia belongs) has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by Bird Life International and is part of the biodiversity-rich *Eastern Arc Mountains* and the *Eastern Afromontane* Global Biodiversity Hotspot.

Key threats to the survival of this IBA include cattle grazing, grass cutting for fodder, forest fires, tree cutting for poles, timber and fuelwood and conversion of indigenous forest to exotic plantations, agricultural land and other uses (*Chawia PFMP*).



Figure 20: Presentation by Youth forest users chairperson

The forest has a live forest management plan (2021-2025) with a Community Forest Association (CFA) that needs reactivation for it to implement the plan. Several conservation activities have been undertaken by the community which include tree nurseries, beekeeping, butterfly farming/ecotourism, restoration, biodiversity monitoring, forest patrols, water projects and forest fire prevention and management.

Chawia Forest will be one of the beneficiaries of the program supported by the UK PACT Kenya through the reactivation of the CFA. Among the activities to be undertaken include community sensitization, strengthening the user groups and leaders and capacity development of the CFA for good governance and leadership, resource use and mobilization.

B. Community Forest Association- Chawia

Chawia forest is devolved to the County Government of Taita Taveta as provided for in the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 (FCMA 2016). The FCMA 2016 requires that all public forests be managed jointly by the government and the local community under a duly registered Community Forest Association (CFA). Chawia CFA was first formed in 2007 under the Forest Act, 2015 (which has since been repealed to FCMA 2016) which for the first time required community participation in forest management. However, it was duly registered with the Registrar of Societies in 2015 after meeting all stipulated requirements of the law.



Figure 21a). Seated, Chawia CFA chairperson, b) participants listen to presentations

The CFA consists of 10 forest user groups. The composition of each user group in terms of gender, age, distribution, and other parameters naturally depend on the forest use in question vis a vis the traditional role of different gender, age groups, and the need of individuals. The Bee-keepers user group, for example, is mainly composed of older men, as is the African tradition. The fuelwood collectors are mostly women because they are the ones who cook in the home setting. The tree nurseries are mostly operated by either youth or women groups mostly to attract funding for organized groups from the government and other donors. The seedlings are used for rehabilitation of the forest, for planting on their farms to ease pressure on the forest and for commercial purposes. This groups includes the Furaha Women Group, whose nursery had seedlings of 10 tree species (namely *Psychotria Petiti*, *Xymalos monospora*, *Tabernamontana stafiana*, *Milletia oblata*, *Syzygium guineense*,

Craba ovata), including 2 species that are endemic to the area; and the Mwaroko Youth group whose nursery produces fruit tree and exotic fast-growing tree species seedlings for planting on farms.

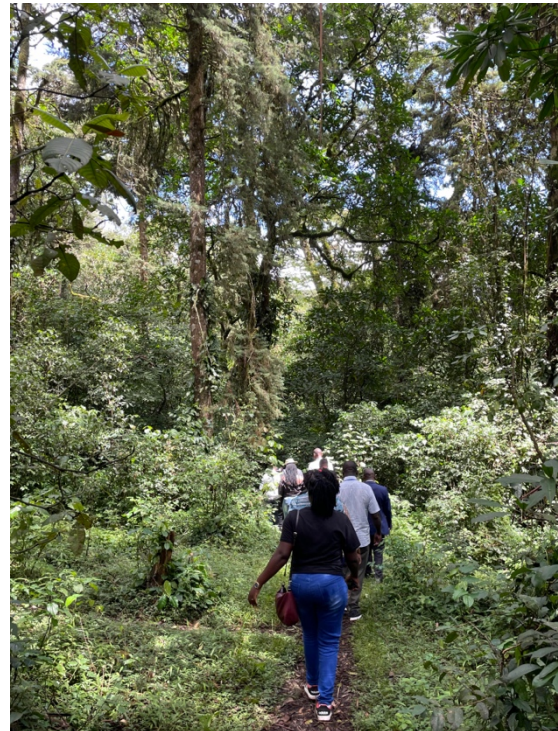


Figure 22a) Presentation by Beekeepers chairperson, b) and by Furaha Women Group Nursery chairperson

The user groups elected the management committee of the CFA to ensure representation. The CFA has a constitution and by-laws as a necessity for registration as stipulated in FMCA, 2016.

Some of the challenges encountered by the CFA include inadequate water supply to the tree nurseries and shade nets to reduce evapotranspiration to save water. The beekeepers require more training in bee management to make sure bees do not migrate from their forest apiaries and protection of the apiaries from destruction by honey badgers. Some illegal removal of building poles from the forest by some errant members of the community, encroachment of forest boundary by some community members neighboring the forest are forest fires during the dry seasons, are major challenges too. More engagement is required to assess the performance of each user group and flag their challenges.

Over the years, KFS has supported the CFA including guiding its formation and registration process, technical support including the provision of seeds, potting material for the nurseries, the market for commercial seedlings, and technical advice. There has also been the presence of NGOs such as ICIPE, Nature Kenya, AWF, and government institutions like KEFRI which have supported the forest user groups' and largely, the CFA's sustainability by providing training,

resources, and material like beehives to beekeepers, water tanks to tree nursery establishments, indigenous and fruit tree seeds and seedlings, etc.

The workshop participants also visited the Mwaroko Youth Group, a commercial tree nursery. The group is a registered association of youth from the locality of Chawia Sub-location and is supported by Nature Kenya, AWF, Kenya Forest Service, and Chawia Ward amongst others. The objectives of the forest user group include environmental conservation, youth empowerment, sustainable forest resource exploitation, and other income-generating activities. The group members have Green Economy Youth Activation Program training and have seen opportunities in forest conservation that are a better alternative to migration to urban centers for employment.

They advocate for and engage in Farm Forestry where they have plenty of fruit trees (grafted Avocado & Macadamia). As of May 2023, they distributed 1200 seedlings to 120 households in partnership with Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association in Chawia Sub-location. In the nursery, indigenous tree species being germinated include Xymalos, Albizia Gummifera, Newtonia Buchannani, Tabanamontana, and Sygizium

They also encourage fruit tree planting on the river catchment as a value-added venture while restoring the river catchment. And this would eventually address the SDGs' goals of poverty eradication and much more.

The group has identified patches in the Chawia forest that require planting of more indigenous trees because the exotic species present (various Eucalyptus species) do not allow forest undergrowth and loss of other forest biodiversity, a situation that contributes loss of water volumes and decrease wildlife habitat. More indigenous trees would reduce human-wildlife conflict. The reduction of bird species, wild animals, and plants is the result of the exotic tree species. The participants also visited the Chawia Paradise Ecotourism group. This is another youth forest user group taking advantage of the forest's aesthetic value and the rich flora and fauna biodiversity. The capacity to sustain their operations needs to be enhanced.

C. Practical training on the Regreening App: Uploading Tree Nurseries

Tor Vagen, Muhammad Ahmad (Spatial Platforms Technical Lead, CIFOR-ICRAF), and Bernard Onwkare (Geospatial Programmer and Mobile App Developer, CIFOR-ICRAF) demonstrated the use of the Regreening App. The Regreening App has four modules for tracking restoration activities, including: 1) Tree Planting; 2) Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR); Capacity Development; and 4) Nurseries. The idea is to map the tree nurseries as a resource that can be accessed by restoration implementers. While at the Furaha Women Group Tree Nursery and the Mwaroko Youth Group Tree Nursery, the workshop participants were trained on how to use the Regreening App. This is a free mobile-based designed tool and developed by World Agroforestry (ICRAF), to streamline restoration tracking. All participants downloaded the app onto their phones and logged the tree species growing in each nursery. Here is a link to information on the Regreening App: <https://regreeningafrica.org/in-the-news/the-regreening-africa-app/>



Figure 23 Mwaroko Youth Group and Furaha Women Group Nurseries upload into the Regreening App

D. Presentation from Nature Kenya- Gilbay Obunga

Gilbay Obunga from Nature Kenya presented the case of the loss of tree species leading to others being endangered. He explained that Nature Kenya is helping in supporting the forest communities to reverse the loss of fauna and deterioration of flora. Endemic tree species like the Taita thrush are rapidly disappearing due to forest deterioration and the disappearance of their microhabitat. Transplanting the endemic tree species and also trying to reinstate endemic bird species and reptiles helps in connecting nature with the people. Strategies for restoration include seedlings propagation and the 'adopt a forest approach' e.g. being done by Mwaroko Youth Group, Furaha Women Group, and KEFRI. Other activities include the restoration of habitats suitable for critically vanishing species. Nature Kenya has also tried to help in the registration of Participatory Forest Management with the National Government for Conservation. It is also important that the County government gets involved to enhance the realization of this so that they can cover the whole landscape.

E. Key recommendations and follow-up actions on a field trip

- There is a need for the formation of an umbrella body that can improve the bargaining power of the many CFAs in policy development discussions.
- Urge CFAs in Mt. Kulal and Mukogodo to encourage Ecotourists to grow and adopt a tree as practiced in the Chawia forest.
- Promote the use of the Regreening app to collect relevant data.
- There is a need to enhance governance structures in the CFAs and the youth groups.
- Involvement of Faith based groups in restoration is critical.
- Involvement of County Assembly members in restoration meetings is critical.
- Need for coordination and synergies at the county level for impact.
- Support bee-keeping groups to acquire more hives for higher honey output.

X. Reflections on the workshop

The workshop participants were tasked to reflect on the activities of the first day and the field day. They were to indicate what pleased and surprised them.

A. Reflections on workshop Day one.

Table 9. Feedback on what pleased the participants

<p>What pleased the participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gained a better understanding of the project. • Simple explanation of science brought science and social aspects together. • Huge stakeholder potential available in landscape and forest restoration. • Partnerships across organizations towards a common goal. • Extreme opportunities for NBEs that are forest-related. • Integration of indigenous knowledge with modern science (locals are very knowledgeable). • Recognizing the synergies and opportunities for collaboration between WPs. • The interest in GESI and integrating with CFA revitalization. • Support from government/county. • Collaborative approach to the project. • Great attendance and interest by county staff • I was pleased by the fact that ICRAF could be involved in so much restoration work.
<p>What surprised the participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surprised that we are interested in a similar agenda. • Methodologies, technology and capacity in assessment and support of nature-based solutions to forest restoration. • That there is no clear sustainability plan for grants to be given beyond the project. • How the work comes together and to know one another. • A lot of agencies in valued in these counties. • The landscape was amazing. • Surprised there are several stakeholders in FLR in the two landscapes. • Many stakeholders working in the counties towards restoration. • Excited by the plan for the execution of the project. • Very committed user groups in Chawia.

B. Reflections on the field visit and capacity development

Robin Chacha led the participants in the session to reflect on their experiences of the engagements and activities of the first and second days of the workshop. The feedback from the participants was consolidated into categories in the below tables.



Figure 24: Robin Chacha provides reflections from the field trip and gathering perspectives on the capacity development aspects.

Table 10. Feedback on the workshop engagement

Engagement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to work together with important stakeholders. • Simple & engaging facilitation methodologies. • I was pleased to see collaboration between Makueni and Taita Taveta county officials in the field with communities. • I was pleased to see engagement and enthusiasm for the project. • Gender and social inclusion for Chawia CFA is already working for them. • Inclusion of the CFA user groups. • Regreening app- teamwork, people total engagement. • How joint efforts go a long way in restoration. • How partnerships are a tool for successful project implementation. • How the work plan under the program is connected. • The team organization. • The level of engagement with other partners in the landscape.

Table 11. Feedback on what surprised the participants

Surprised
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different user groups in the same ecosystem • Youth involvement. • High number of CFAs & their contribution to restoration. • It was interesting to see that the youth are involved in Natural Resource Management (Chawia) forest. • Various groups are participating in restoration. • The restoration knowledge & passion by community groups.

- The action by women to carry out restoration work. They were more women in the CFA than men.
- Surprised by the level of knowledge of the land by the community.
- The restoration knowledge & passion by community groups.
- Surprised by the level of knowledge of the land by the community.
- Surprised the many forest user groups in one ecosystem. Unified approach.
- Nursery with many indigenous tree species
- Endemic species in the nurseries are a surprise.
- Surprised at how beekeeping can be a very good business with high financial returns.
- Many forest patches in the area with different resources.
- Surprised at how the community members are very knowledgeable.
- Surprised by the work of the beekeepers, Furaha women's group tree nursery, and youth ecotourism (Mwaroko Youth Group).
- Surprised how soil has been lost along the Taveta road especially after Mwatate.
- Surprised that Chawia CFA was gazette so late and that given its importance, there was no plan for the forest already.

Table 12. Feedback from the participants on what excited them

What excited the participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regreening Africa Android application was interesting • Amazed by the regreening app and how it is able to integrate the data. • The CFA butterfly farming (I have never known that butterfly farming could be that lucrative. 1 pupa=1/2 kg of pixies). • Butterfly practices

Table 13. Feedback from the participants on what pleased them.

What pleased the workshop participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleased by the youths who are taking it hands-on & soiling their hands. • Most trees were indigenous. • Regreening application. • Restoration of the forest is done well and quite impressive but as you move down the forest there is lots of erosion. • Was amazed by the butterfly group making income out of it. • Importance & beauty of Chawia forest. • So much pressure on these forest fragments. • Highlights of the importance and challenges. • Linkage between the App and what is on the ground. • Challenges on the ground were real. This project will come in handy to solve them. • Bio-enterprise for conservation efforts will assist a lot. • Development of the value chain in forwarding can assist a lot. • Excited about the many user groups working in the Chawia ecosystem. • Surprised by the contrast in conservation between the forest and farmland.

- The climbing of the hill.
- Pleased by the CFA user groups-butterfly farming.
- The Regreening Africa app.
- Pleased by the forest and the group's activities.
- The rich soil on the hill.
- Exciting engagement with community groups hear
- It was pleasing to see youth taking responsibility and doing it voluntarily.
- The regreening app is such a powerful tool and great innovation.
- Pleased that the youth and women taking the lead in conservation and their ambitions for the forest and restoration.
- Pleased by the level of knowledge the participants have. The passion and excitement.

C. Communications strategy

Ann Wavinya led the session in developing a communication strategy for both internal and external project communication for the project stakeholders to develop our overall project goal. A communication strategy is important for clarity of focus, effective messaging, and setting clear expectations on responsibilities. A good communication strategy will also enhance communication with stakeholders (donors, implementing organizations, county governments, and the external masses) and hence increase project visibility. This will eventually make the project goals a reality.

During this session also, the workshop participants engaged in developing a concrete overall project goal and vision. In addition, the expected channels of communication, both internally and externally, were highlighted.

Expected External Communication Products include:

Project website: <https://www.cifor-icraf.org/nature-based-solution-for-forest-and-landscape-restoration/>

Project news piece: <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/83314/taking-root-in-kenya-nature-based-climate-solutions-project-kicks-off-kenya-uk-pact-programme-ignites-collaboration-for-forest-landscape-restoration?fnl=>

Project brochure: <https://www.cifor-icraf.org/knowledge/publication/34681/>

Gender Transformative Approaches Training Manual

Domestication of FOLAREP and integration of NbS and NFTP Training materials – WP 2

Policy Brief on NbS for reduced emissions

Photo Story on Gender Transformative NbS Contribution to Climate change-WP 6

Internal Communication is also critically important. The method of internal communication for the project stakeholders will include meetings, workshops, emails, Whatsapp groups, workshop reports and surveys. The project will also have a shared google drive where all

documents will be readily accessible. The channels for external communication will be Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc), blogs and policy briefs.



Figure 25: Ann Wavinya, CIFOR-ICRAF presenting the Communication strategy.

Branding guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Photography/videos – use original imagery and footage
- Photography and Video Consent Form – A must use
- Correct logo
- Correct brand name

Branding guidelines are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iCs4xKS9RdUXSINAmZPa73nMRwDSUSb9?usp=drive_link

D. Feedback from Participants on the Goals and Vision of the Project to the Counties – Group Activity

Anne engaged the participants in the discussions on the road map to the realization of the project objectives in the two Counties. The participants were then tasked to write the goals and vision of the project.

Table 14. Feedback from group work on Project vision

Visions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build capacity on implementing to monitor forest and landscape restoration. • Strong collaboration that leads to increased capacity at local level monitoring to preparing on NBS – greater – impactful work on the • Communities conserve their forests sustainably for the benefit of the county • To create a sustainable and prosperous future for Makueni and Taita Taveta through an increased forest and landscape restoration • To be a model in NBS implementation in Taita Taveta and Makueni counties • Improved livelihoods of communities around forests in ToT and Makueni • A vibrant Kenya with restored landscapes and healthy people in good lines (livelihoods) • To be the leading implementation in sustainable forests and landscape restoration through nature-based solutions in Kenya. • Build a strong evidence base to support NBS practices at scale • Create better living conditions • To be a leader in doing NBS practices on climate change mitigation and ecosystem restoration • It is possible to restore • Domesticate policy in forest and landscape restoration management and capacity development of stakeholders • Monitor KPIs area under restoration using ICT tools. • Distribute information to the stakeholders. • A healing and functioning landscape for ecosystem wellbeing

Table 15. Feedback on group work on goals of the project.

Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase (enhance) the capacity of the national government, counties, and communities for NBS in reducing the impacts of CC. • See a restored environment • To restore the whole landscape in Taita Taveta and Makueni counties for climate change mitigation and adaptation. • Create an inclusive environment where local communities participate in forest conservation and management. • To enhance FLR in Makueni and Taita Taveta counties. To improve the livelihoods of communities living around the forests and Taita Taveta and Makueni. • To strengthen forest and landscape restoration policy capacity in Kenya. • See an empowered society in conservation on the restoration. • Restore to sustain functional forest ecosystems that support community livelihoods. • To create a conducive environment for the community to gain socio-economic benefits. • To restore Taita Taveta and Makueni county forests through sustainable utilization for the benefit of nature and the community. • Include the policy in the restoration agenda

- To strengthen the capacity for transformative change towards restored + just inclusive landscapes from the local level to the county + even national level. Through monitoring, policy, and communities.
- Increase forest and landscape restoration in Makueni and TT through improved policy implementation institution capacity.
- To improve livelihoods through restoration and gender transformative actions in partnership with stakeholders in Makueni and Taita Taveta.

XI. Next steps and closing remarks

Joyce Kasyoki, Senior manager for the Africa Directorate, facilitated the closing session. She highlighted the next steps and gave the opportunity to the Deputy Governor from Taita Taveta to provide closing remarks.

The next steps after the workshop would be to

- 1) Re-submit the reviewed workplan and the budget to the Grant Managers, submission date was on 19th May 2023.
- 2) Revise the Result Monitoring Programme (RMP) and submit to the Grant Managers, submission was on 12th June 2023.
- 3) Attend training workshop with the Grant Managers
 - a. Training workshop with the UK PACT communications team on branding took place on 24th May 2023
- 4) Attend training with Grant Managers on the quarterly reporting template, financial reporting template and Touchstone/Metrics Led user instructions and carbon tracker, this took place on the 22nd June 2023
- 5) Hire of Community Facilitators for Taita Taveta County
- 6) Finalization of the Grant agreement with AWF
- 7) Scheduled meeting with FAO-Kenya on grant agreement



Figure 26: Joyce Kasyoki, CIFOR-ICRAF wrapping up the workshop.

XII. Closing Remarks by Deputy Governor, Taita Taveta – H.E. Christine Kilalo

H.E. Deputy Governor Christine Kilalo graced the close of the inception workshop and expressed her appreciation for the newly launched UK-PACK-NbS Project that aimed at restoring Taita Taveta and Makueni forest landscapes through nature-based solutions and strengthened policy implementation. She commended the participatory approach of the initiative, which heavily involves community members and the continued unity between Taita Taveta and Makueni counties in landscape conservation efforts. The Deputy Governor also highlighted the importance of supporting communities that live along forests as they possess invaluable knowledge in planting indigenous tree varieties that are resilient to forest fires.



Figure 27: Closing remarks by Deputy Governor of Taita Taveta H.E. Christine Kilalo.

She called for more partnerships to benefit community members through carbon credits and urged relevant stakeholders to align National Parks laws to devolution for optimal environmental conservation results and fair revenue sharing with community members.



XIII. Annex 1: Inception Workshop Evaluation

A. Were your expectations met on the communication and definition of project goals, objectives and deliverables?

Feedback on the definition of project goals, objectives, and deliverables was that the expectations were met overwhelmingly. Some sampled points were:-

1. Yes, and very satisfying
2. Yes. Exceeded. Lots of useful discussions
3. Yes, especially on objectives and deliverables
4. Yes, fully
5. Yes, I can see how the different packages are linking to each other and what roles the different partners play in the project
6. Yes, and much more

B. What were your Key takeaway messages?

1. User groups for CFAs
2. It is a wonderful project which will help the county of Makueni and Taita Taveta with h restoration of the landscape
3. Importance of communication and coordination for successful implementation of such a complex project
4. Need for synergies at the work package and county levels. The involvement of key stakeholders is critical for the success of the project. Bio enterprises are critical low-lying fruits for restoration
5. Interlinkages between the WP which is key. There is a need for creativity to allow budget saves which will ensure we have expanded slope
6. We need to work for the government now. Data collection and analysis are key in the monitoring of project outcomes
7. Everyone is important in conservation, let's come together and reclaim our land /planet.
8. It is possible to restore degraded land when we(stakeholders) work together
9. Our approach needs a whole system approach. The whole community is participating and benefiting. Scientific knowledge is being applied. Leadership has participated. Partners collaborated and not competing. Resources available.
10. We are ready for the project
11. Good to work with people directly affected by changes in landscapes
12. It is a good project
13. We can restore our forest land. The old, young, and women have a role to play in the conservation
14. Restoration begins with me. The partnership is key in the implementation of sustainability
15. Community involvement and participation are key in FLR

16. Sustainable utilization of forest resources through policy and community involvement. Using data to inform restoration activities/monitoring and evaluate learning.
17. NBS. GESI. Regreening App. Business mind in Forest and Landscape restoration.
18. There is great interest in the project from both counties. Participation from county officials was excellent.
19. Collaboration is needed across WPs. Counties are engaged.
20. Restoration of landscapes to establish livelihoods. Use of various methods. Means of communicating i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn Twitter.

C. What were your most notable observations and aspects of the Chawia Forest Field Trip?

1. Butterfly farming
2. The women and youth groups are well organized. The CFA is doing a good job. They all need support.
3. Shared to Robin Via Email (These have been incorporated within the report)
4. Governance and leadership need implementation. The user groups are passionate about their projects. More work is needed to conserve the forest
5. Chawia Forest had degraded patches. The forest boundary is not clear. Adjacent communities likely to cause forest fires and poaching
6. The organized groups are doing great in the conservation of Chawia Forest seeing both young and old the passion was great.
7. Youth and women's involvement in restoration. Many indigenous species are planted in the area. Restore the neighboring village as well
8. The youth and women are at the forefront of forest conservation. They have intrinsic motivation
9. The management of CFA is still shaky
10. Eye-opening on the role of participatory forest management
11. Many committed user groups
12. The county's efforts to protect this important role of their livelihoods. They are ready to protect the forest.
13. Youths are involved voluntarily and willingly in restoration aspects. Clear goals and visions with all user groups in the forest keeping them together.
14. The work package is very amazing. If well implemented I am sure we will have achieved the road toward restored landscapes
15. Leveraging indigenous knowledge for sustainable forests. Role of partnership and identifying synergies for larger impacts.
16. Community legal structures are important in forest/land restoration. Livelihood empowerment is crucial in conservation. Continued sensitization is necessary
17. Impressive nurseries, particularly the fact that they had species endemic to the Taita Hills. Lots of local community engagement.
18. Very important fragments in need of strong management considering the threats
19. Using regreening App to trace indigenous varieties

D. How would you rate the workshop facilitation in terms of engagement level?
The feedback on the workshop facilitation approach which included speeches, presentations, table activities, and reports to the plenary, capacity building field trip was rated as from good to excellent.

E. Please rate the organization and logistics (e.g Communication, registration, and reimbursements)
The feedback from the participants on the workshop organization and logistics were overwhelmingly rated as good to excellent

XIV. ANNEX TWO: Workshop Material

1. Link to UK PACT 2023 workshop presentations:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tVlq3tqDq1lto_09LhWmctsSROJEkeZ?usp=drive_link
2. Link to information about Regreening App: <https://regreeningafrica.org/in-the-news/the-regreening-africa-app/>
3. Link to LDSF: <http://landscapeportal.org/blog/2015/03/25/the-land-degradation-surveillance-framework-ldsf/>