



Annual Progress Report to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for Kenya

for the period 1 January – 31 December
2019

United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The Participants Committee (PC) at its ninth meeting in June 2011 approved UNDP to serve as Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund. The Transfer Agreement was signed between the World Bank, acting as the Trustee of the FCPF, and the UNDP on August 9, 2012.

To ensure a uniform set of safeguard standards, the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners was also approved at the ninth FCPF PC meeting. The Common Approach was designed to provide the World Bank and the Multiple Delivery Partners with a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process. The Common Approach is aligned to the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures on environmental and social safeguards, disclosure of information, and grievance and accountability mechanisms.

The report has been prepared by UNDP and solely reflects the perspectives of UNDP as a Delivery Partner.

Summary

Country:	Kenya
Project Title:	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grant
Project Number:	00099178
Implementing Partner:	Ministry of Environment and Forestry and UNDP Kenya
Responsible Parties:	Kenya Forestry Service (KFS), National Land Commission (NLC), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Council of Governors (CoG), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet
Implementation Modality:	Country Office support to NIM

Project Timeline			
FCPF PC Resolution Approving R-PP	Resolution PC/24/2017/10	Transfer of Funds to Country Office	USD 3,800,000 (Exclusive of GMS)
Preparatory Grant		Inception Phase	Launch: 6 September 2018 PMU Staffed: Yes First Board Meeting: 20 December 2018
Project Appraisal Committee	24 May 2018	Mid-term Review	To be undertaken in 2020
Project Signature	6 July 2018	No-Cost Extension:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Duration of Project	2 years	New End Date:	October 2021

Approved by:

Tim Clairs,

Principal Policy and Technical advisor
UNDP Climate and Forests

Date:



Walid Badawi,

UNDP Resident Representative
UNDP Office in Kenya

Date: 26-Jun-2020

1. Summary

This is the second annual progress report of the Kenya REDD+ Project. This report highlights the progress made in Kenya's REDD+ readiness process during the period January – December 2019. During this period, several key results were reported. These include recruitment and induction of the Project Management Unit (PMU); organization of the first National REDD+ Academy; the 1st phase of the gender and vulnerability assessment for REDD+; and community dialogues on land tenure and sustainable forest governance. The Ogiek Task Force¹ was also supported to undertake stakeholder consultations; and a National Multi-Stakeholder Forum to review progress and moot activities for 2020 held.

In the year 2019, the project recorded the following other achievements:

- More than 1200 community members (30% female) from Mau forest and areas inhabited by the Ogiek community engaged in human rights-based forest conservation and management through community consultative forums in various community stations. The consultations informed recommendations made by the Ogiek Taskforce for human rights-based conservation and management of forests. The taskforce report will be submitted to government in 2020.
- 41 members of community (10 female) from Cherangany and Elgeyo Marakwet County reached and a further sensitized 4,000 Sengwer (38% female) from Embobut and Kapoet sensitized on REDD+, land tenure systems, and sustainable conservation and management of forests. The community members were also sensitized on how to lodge claims of historical land injustices. This is expected to enhance harmony between communities, KFS, NLC and other government institutions working on forest conservation and management.
- 35 community mobilizers trained and capacitated to sensitize over 300 forest dependent households on REDD+ and forest conservation and management. These mobilizers will reach out to communities to enhance their participation in forest conservation and management, and in REDD+ processes.
- Public awareness of REDD+ and forest conservation initiatives enhanced through a national public forum targeting national stakeholders, civil society and opinion leaders on indigenous people's participation in forest conservation and management in Nairobi. This led to buy-in, active involvement and engagement in the REDD+ readiness process of the following stakeholders: Kenya Forestry Research Institute; Kenya Water Towers Agency; Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing; Ministry of Agriculture; Kenya Forestry Research Institute; Kenya Forestry Service; Climate Change Directorate; Wildlife Works; National Environment Management Authority; Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing; Commission on Administrative Justice; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and University of Nairobi – Wangari Maathai Institute for Environmental Studies.
- 1,650 community members (750 female) from Nakuru, Narok, Baringo, Bogoria, Mt Elgon, Bomet, Kericho, Mazi Mazuri, Sosio and Laikipia consulted to provide proposals for enhancing community-government partnership in forest conservation and management in forest areas inhabited by the Ogiek of Mau, Maasai, Lembus, Ogiek of Mt Elgon, Sengwer community, Yaaku community. Partnerships will be led by Community Forest Associations and will include joint tree seedling production, tree planting, conservation of community shrines, protection of endangered tree species and general protection of forested areas. REDD+ will facilitate the strengthening of these CFAs to meaningfully engage with local and national government institutions.
- Expert Forum for all the stakeholders including Forest Peoples Program, Amnesty International, Rights Resources Institute, Minority Rights Organizations among others organized in partnership

¹ [Ruling](#) on Application 006/2012 - African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights vs. the Republic of Kenya

with the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

- Phase 1 of the REDD+ Gender Vulnerability Assessment completed in 8 counties: Narok County (Loita Forest), Nakuru County (Ogiek of Mau – Kuresoi), Baringo County (Endorois), Laikipia County (Yaaku-Mukogondo Forest), Elgeyo Marakwet County (Sengwer), West Pokot County (Sengwer of Embobut Forest), Trans Nzoia County (Ogiek of Mt. Elgon), Bungoma County (Ogiek of Mt. Elgon and Chepkitale). The report of the assessment will inform finalization of the REDD+ Gender Action Plan and Indigenous Peoples Action Plan.
- One community dialogue on land tenure, historical land injustices and sustainable land forest governance held for 50 representatives (23 female) of the Yaaku Community in Mukogondo forest from Laikipia County. The dialogue sought to understand land tenure systems, sensitize the community on filing land-related claims and harvest ideas for sustainable management of forest and forest resources amongst forest dwelling communities. These will be used to resolve land tenure claims and historical land injustices.
- Kenya's Forest Reference Levels (FRL) finalized and submitted to United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for review. In the finalization of the FRL, the project worked closely with the CADEP Project funded by Japan International Development Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- Elgeyo Marakwet County supported to develop a County Forest Management and Conservation Policy, Bill and related regulations. The policy, bill and regulations will be presented to the County Assembly of Elgeyo Marakwet for enactment before being made into law. The policy, bill and regulations will be used as model county legislative framework for forest conservation and management.
- 63 participants (29 female and 34 male) from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KNCHR, NGEC, NLC, EACC, NACOF, Council of Governors, NETFUND, Academia, CSO, IPLCs, Private sector and the youth sensitized in REDD+ Readiness Process through a National REDD+ Academy. The Academy focused on i) REDD+ and the UNFCCC Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change; ii) Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation; iii) Devolved forestry functions (roles, challenges and opportunities); iv) REDD+ National Strategies or Action Plans; v) National Forest Monitoring Systems including Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL); vi) Safeguards and Safeguard Information systems; vii) Importance of Stakeholder Engagement; viii) REDD+ Finance, and ix) Good Governance in relation to Forestry sector and REDD+.
- 55 senior county government officials (11 female and 44 male), comprising 42 County Chief Officers, members of Council of Governors Tourism and Natural Resource Management Committee and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), sensitized on REDD+ and its linkage to forest governance, conservation and management at the County level. Specifically, the sensitization created awareness and understanding among the County Chief Officers on: i) REDD+ and the UNFCCC Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change; ii) Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation; iii) Devolved forestry functions (roles, challenges and opportunities); iv) REDD+ National Strategies or Action Plans; v) National Forest Monitoring Systems including Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL); vi) Safeguards and Safeguard Information systems; vii) Importance of Stakeholder Engagement; viii) REDD+ Finance, and ix) Good Governance in relation to Forestry sector and REDD+.

2. Background and Country Context

Kenya signalled its willingness to embark on REDD+ in 2009 and applied for a REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP)² grant of US\$ 200,000 from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The proposal was thereafter developed through an extensive consultation process and approved by the Participants Committee of the FCPF for implementation in 2010³. It intended to achieve four goals: (i) realization of Constitutional and *Vision 2030* objectives of increasing national total forest cover to a minimum of 10%; (ii) supporting government's efforts in designing policies and measures to protect and improve its remaining forest resources; (iii) realization of the *National Climate Change Response Strategy goals*, and (iv) contributing to global climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

As part of the readiness work, Kenya received support from the World Bank to develop detailed Terms of Reference for undertaking a Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) for REDD+ and a draft document on a proposed Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism. Studies of drivers of forest cover change, demand and supply of wood products and appropriate grazing management systems for dry land forest as REDD+ options were also undertaken.

In 2016, UNDP was approached by the World Bank and the Government of Kenya to discuss the possibility of UNDP becoming a Delivery Partner for the implementation of the FCPF Grant in Kenya. This became imperative because although the grant was issued in 2009, the FCPF support to Kenya's REDD+ activities had not yet commenced as most of the activities proposed in the RPP had not been initiated.

While appreciating the opportunity of being the development partner for the Kenya Government and the request to be a delivery partner of the FCPF REDD+ readiness for Kenya, UNDP undertook comprehensive due diligence processes. This included an assessment of potential risks, probability of their occurrence, possible impacts as well as possible measures that could be applied to mitigate the identified risks. As a result, the following key risks were identified:

- Exclusion of potentially affected stakeholders; marginalized groups and women in the design of policies and measures in the broader forestry sector.
- Coordination gaps amongst government agencies leading to ineffective cooperation in the identification of policies and measures outside the forest sector to adequately address drivers of deforestation and barriers to sustainably manage forest resources.
- High and unrealistic expectations of REDD+ benefits that was unlikely to be met in the short to medium terms as well as misinformation on the REDD+ readiness processes.
- Inadequate buy-in from sectoral ministries and other actors in development of strategic options bearing on their institutional mandates.
- Inadequate institutional capacities and governance at the County level.

While acknowledging, the risks and constraints listed above, a decision was taken to proceed with the REDD+ readiness process with the appropriate risk mitigation measures in place. Some of the mitigation measures to address these potential risks are outlined as follows:

- i. ***Focus on consultation and project activities with minorities and communities*** : Project design was to include a broad stakeholder's consultation and outreach aimed at integrating minorities

² Kenya National REDD Readiness Plan (2010) (link to document [here](#))

³ With approved funding for US\$ 3.6 million

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- rights (land, natural resources access and benefits) into the design and implementation of the REDD+ readiness process and identifying potential entry points for addressing the claims regarding historical injustices ;
- ii. **Political Support:** The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (ME&F) was selected as the Implementing Partner (IP) for the project to: a) enable high level ministerial coordination; and b) galvanize support and buy-in from all stakeholders including forest dependent communities who cite Kenya Forest Service's unwillingness to address their concerns. In addition, high-level engagement during project implementation between the UNDP Resident Representative's office and the Kenyan government's leadership was secured. This included engagement of the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Planning and Devolution, the National Museums, National Land Commission, the Gender and Equality Commission, and the Human Rights Commission. Participation of these institutions and community representatives in the REDD+ process was to help garner the political goodwill and support required for the REDD+ process both in the readiness phase and at implementation.
 - iii. **Partnership Building:** Involvement of the National Land Commission and the National Gender and Equity Commission to facilitate a dialogue platform with the minority and marginalized communities on historical injustices on land tenure and minorities and marginalized community issues.
 - iv. **Collaboration with other UN agencies:** UNDP leveraging the comparative advantage and core competencies of other United Nations agencies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Department of Social and Environmental Affairs (UN-DESA) and other key stakeholders and partners.
 - v. **Capacity building:** UNDP strengthening capacity building of key stakeholders as part of REDD+ readiness process through information sharing and knowledge management on REDD+.
 - vi. **Development of a stakeholder engagement plan:** The plan was to be developed with the guidance from the Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Guidelines, developed jointly between FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme⁴. The National Guidelines for REDD+ Stakeholders Engagement (2016) was also to be applied.

Following the above-outlined due diligence process, a recommendation to take up the Delivery Partner role was agreed and UNDP developed and submitted an [Assessment Note](#), in line with the FCPF requirement detailing; assessment of the country's REDD+ Preparedness Plan (R-PP), progress made towards implementation of the R-PP; and possible activities towards implementation of the delivery partner role.

The [Project Document](#) was developed through a very consultative process that included all stakeholders drawn from national and county governments, civil society, indigenous communities, forest dependent communities, private sector, independent commissions, and the academia. Twelve stakeholders' meetings were held, bringing together 367 participants 45% of these were indigenous communities' representatives. The local project appraisal committee that approved the project was held on 24th May 2018. The two-year consultative period provided a platform for stakeholder dialogue and integration of concerns and this was praised by indigenous communities who appreciated that the project development process had been very consultative, engaging and most inclusive in forest conservation landscape.

⁴ [FCPF UNREDD Stakeholder engagement guidelines](#)

3. Project Partners and Stakeholders

The implementing partner for the Project is the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Implementation of this project is undertaken in collaboration with the following responsible parties and other stakeholders among them the indigenous communities and forest dependent communities

- i) Kenya Forestry Service (KFS)
- ii) Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)
- iii) Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
- iv) National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)
- v) National Land Commission (NLC)
- vi) Council of Governors
- vii) County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet
- viii) National Alliance of Community Forest Associations (NACOFA)
- ix) The Private Sector – Kenya Private Sector Alliance and Kenya Association of Manufacturers
- x) Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples

4. Progress of implementation of the 2019 work plan

4.1. Summary Achievements during 2019

- More than 1200 community members (30% female) from Mau forest and areas inhabited by the Ogiek community engaged in human rights-based forest conservation and management through community consultative forums in various community stations. The consultations informed recommendations made by the Ogiek Taskforce for human rights-based conservation and management of forests. The taskforce report will be submitted to government in the first quarter of 2020.
- 41 members of community (10 female) from Cherangany and Elgeyo Marakwet County reached and a further sensitized 4,000 Sengwer (38% female) from Embobut and Kapolet sensitized on REDD+, land tenure systems, and sustainable conservation and management of forests. The community members were also sensitized on how to lodge claims of historical land injustices. This is expected to enhance harmony between communities, KFS, NLC and other government institutions working on forest conservation and management.
- 35 community mobilizers trained and capacitated to sensitize over 300 forest dependent households on REDD+ and forest conservation and management. These mobilizers will reach out to communities to enhance their participation in forest conservation and management, and in REDD+ processes.
- Public awareness of REDD+ and forest conservation initiatives enhanced through a national public forum targeting national stakeholders, civil society and opinion leaders on indigenous people's participation in forest conservation and management in Nairobi. This led to buy-in, active involvement and engagement in the REDD+ readiness process of the following stakeholders: Kenya Forestry Research Institute; Kenya Water Towers Agency; Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing; Ministry of Agriculture; Kenya Forestry Research Institute; Kenya Forestry Service; Climate Change Directorate; Wildlife Works; National Environment Management Authority; Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing; Commission on Administrative Justice; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and University of Nairobi – Wangari Maathai Institute for Environmental Studies.

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 - Expert Forum for all the stakeholders including Forest Peoples program, Amnesty International, Rights Resources Institute, Minority Rights Organizations among others organized in partnership with the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).
 - Phase 1 of the REDD+ Gender Vulnerability Assessment completed in 8 counties: Narok County (Loita Forest), Nakuru County (Ogiek of Mau – Kuresoi), Baringo County (Endorois), Laikipia County (Yaaku-Mukogondo Forest), Elgeyo Marakwet County (Sengwer), West Pokot County (Sengwer of Embobut Forest), Trans Nzoia County (Ogiek of Mt. Elgon), Bungoma County (Ogiek of Mt. Elgon and Chepkitale). The report of the assessment will inform finalization of the REDD+ Gender Action Plan and Indigenous Peoples Action Plan.
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Specifically, the sensitization created awareness and understanding among the County Chief Officers on: i) REDD+ and the UNFCCC Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change; ii) Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation; iii) Devolved forestry functions (roles, challenges and opportunities); iv) REDD+ National Strategies or Action Plans; v) National Forest Monitoring Systems including Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL); vi) Safeguards and Safeguard Information systems; vii) Importance of Stakeholder Engagement; viii) REDD+ Finance, and ix) Good Governance in relation to Forestry sector and REDD+.

4.2. Community participation in forest conservation and management and REDD+ enhanced

The project facilitated the establishment of a National Taskforce through the Kenya Gazette Notice Vol. CXX No 134, number 11215, dated 2nd November 2018 by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forestry. This was in response to a decision of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights issued against the Government of Kenya in respect of the rights of the Ogiek community of Mau Forest and enhancing the participation of indigenous communities in the sustainable management of forests. The Taskforce undertook stakeholder consultations with the indigenous communities living around Mau Forest Complex, Mt Elgon, Cherengany Hills, Mukogondo Forest and neighboring forests blocks. This included field visits and public hearings that attracted indigenous and local communities, religious and traditional leaders, local leadership as well as national and county government and independent commissions. The task force also held targeted stakeholders' consultations that brought different stakeholders separately and jointly to enable triangulation of information and submissions on claims and counterclaims received.

Through this support, the following activities were conducted:

- Public hearings and consultative forums were held, reaching 1200 community members.
- Community meetings in various community stations in Mau forest in areas inhabited by the Ogiek community as well as other communities
- Community meetings in Cherengany forest - targeting the Sengwer community and communities living in Elgeyo Marakwet County – (41 members of community reached). These community members further sensitized more than 4,000 Sengwer from Embobut and Kapolet.
- A public hearing with Sengwer community and other communities living in Embobut and Kapolet forests complex as well as other neighbouring forests - (35 members of the community, termed as community mobilizers, capacity built. With the help of these community mobilizers, the project reached 300 forest dependent households.).
- National public forum targeting national stakeholders, civil society, communities and opinion leaders on indigenous people's participation in forest conservation and management in Nairobi. This enhanced public awareness of REDD+ and forest conservation initiatives; leading to buy-in, active involvement and engagement in the REDD+ readiness process of the following stakeholders: Kenya Forestry Research Institute; Kenya Water Towers Agency; Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing; Ministry of Agriculture; Kenya Forestry Research Institute; Kenya Forestry Service; Climate Change Directorate; Wildlife Works; National Environment Management Authority; Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing; Commission on Administrative Justice; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and University of Nairobi – Wangari Maathai Institute for Environmental Studies.
- Community meetings in Nakuru, Narok, Baringo, Bogoria, Mt Elgon, Bomet, Kericho, Mazi Mazuri, Sosio and Laikipia. These hearings targeted the Ogiek of Mau, Maasai, Lembus, Ogiek of Mt Elgon,

Sengwer community, Yaaku community as the indigenous communities living in the areas mentioned. These hearings and meetings provided an opportunity for 1,650 community members to share their views and proposals for enhancing community-government partnership in forest conservation and management.

Further in partnership with the United Nation Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Taskforce held an Expert Forum that brought together key stakeholders including the international civil society organizations working on indigenous peoples rights, including Forest Peoples Program, Amnesty International, Rights Resources Institute, minority rights organizations among others.

The following two main deliverables from this Taskforce will contribute to the REDD+ Strategy as well as the safeguards information system. These are a) appropriate models for communities' participation in forest conservation and management and b) policy recommendations for sustainable management of community forests.

4.3. Recruitment and On-boarding of the Project Management Team

Recruitment of the Project Management Unit (PMU), comprising of the Project Manager, Technical Specialist, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, M&E Specialist, Communications Officer and Project Officer, was completed in September 2019. The officers were inducted in September 23 – 27, 2019 and assumed office in October 1, 2019. Recruitment of the Project Associate will be completed in March 2020 for the officer came on board on April 1, 2020. The fully constituted PMU is expected to fast track implementation of the delayed activities.

4.4. Gender and Vulnerability Assessment for REDD+ conducted

Key deliverables expected from the NGECE led work were agreed to be a gender and vulnerability assessment report, Gender Action plan and an indigenous people action plan. The gender vulnerability assessment commenced with training of NGECE Commissioners, senior management and technical team staff on REDD+ and the objectives of the assessment. A gender and vulnerability assessment exercise led by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGECE) and a task team constituting representatives of the Independent Commission, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, indigenous communities and other forest dependent communities was initiated. The training covered the Redd+ readiness with emphasis on the social inclusion requirements for REDD+. The trained team developed an assessment data collection tool in line with UNREDD gender and indigenous people's guidance.

The vulnerability assessment work is focused on the Indigenous Peoples and Forest Dependent Communities in forested areas in eight Counties in Kenya and the approaches and tools they have to meaningfully participate and engage stakeholders such as women and marginalized communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in forest governance. To cover the key areas in the country, the assessment was structured in two phases: phase one covering the North Rift and North Eastern region and the second phase covering the Central, Eastern and Coast region.

The training covered the REDD+ readiness with emphasis on the social inclusion requirements for REDD+. The trained team developed an assessment data collection tool in line with UN-REDD gender and

indigenous people's guidance, equality and inclusion in the REDD+ process and proposed alternative ways to increase community awareness on REDD+ processes in Kenya.

The 1st Phase of the assessment was undertaken by four teams comprising of technical experts from NGEF, National Alliance of Community Forest Associations (NACOPA), an Indigenous Peoples representative, a civil society organization representative – Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and National Land Commission (NLC):

- i) Team 1: Narok (Loita Forest) and Nakuru (Ogiek of Mau- Kuresoi) counties
- ii) Team 2: Baringo (Endorois) and Laikipia (Yaaku-Mokogondo forest) counties
- iii) Team 3: Elgeyo Marakwet (Sengwer) and West Pokot (Sengwer of Embobut) counties
- iv) Team 4: Trans Nzoia and Bungoma counties covering the Ogiek of Mt. Elgon and Chepkitala

The assessment employed a mixed method approach. Secondary data was collected from existing literature to inform and enrich the assessment. Qualitative data was collected through key informant interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), case narratives and observations. Separate Focus Group Discussions (Male and female) were held in all the sites, which allowed understanding of different gender roles and perceptions in forest conservation and management. The focus group discussions employed a Participatory Learning Approach (PLA) to understand the perception of both males and females regarding forest resource and the importance assigned to the resources. PLA was chosen on the understanding that the communities have a rich knowledge base of forest resources. Case narratives were collected from elderly men and women in all the sites who were believed to have the knowledge of history and able to locate periods when changes were experienced in the use, access, conservation and management of forest resources. Key informant interviews were conducted with government officers in administration and forest management. They included County Commissioners, chiefs/assistant chiefs, village elders, Kenya Forest Service officers, Community Forest Associations Members and Community Based Organizations. Observations included transect walks to identify natural resources; communities' structure, and the ecosystem including animals, birds, water points, fruits, agricultural and grazing fields.

The assessment established that:

1. Communities have a wealth of knowledge on forest resources and its management. The communities, men and women, youth and the elderly explicitly reported that the forest resources were the source of their livelihood. It was clear that the community is fully aware and knowledgeable of forest resources, benefits, conservation efforts given the important role that the forest played in their lives. In some areas, they argued that both the communities and the forests have symbiotic relationship. However, the knowledge varies depending on gender and age group. For example, elderly men and women had a clear picture and understanding of the role of the forest in their lives and traditional ways of forest conservation. Compared to women, men had a deeper understanding of the forest resources and both traditional and contemporary conservation efforts. This was attributed to their (men) attendance at public education/sensitization forums which they are likely to attend compared to the women. The team recommended that the gender action plan for implementation of the REDD+ strategy should have deliberate efforts to develop programmes and activities to enhance participation of women in forest management and conservation efforts.
2. Both men and women were involved in various forest conservation and management activities however due to the patriarchal nature of the communities' women were rarely involved in the forest conservation and management. This was attributed to the women's low education and

exposure levels. This is triangulated using other secondary literature on participation of women in natural resources that have shown that women are often excluded from decision making on access to and use of land and resources critical to their livelihoods.

3. Forests and tree resources are important sources of livelihoods for the local communities. All the respondents from eight sites ranked forests and forest resources as the most important resource to the community. The communities confirmed using the forest as their source of food (honey, mushrooms, wild fruits and wild meat), herbs, and firewood and construction materials. This is however changing due to policy changes and increased population in all sites visited. Some households have adapted to diverse portfolio of livelihood activities including farming, livestock keeping, small scale trading and growing of own farm trees, among others. The assessment revealed that women due to their household roles were more likely to diversify through farming, small scale trading and own farm trees compared to men. In all the sites, the communities agreed that the forests are also used for illegal logging, mainly by “non-indigenous communities”.
4. Communities experience various challenges regarding access of the forest and forest resources. The challenges were however experienced differently by women, men, youth, children, PWDs and older members of the society. Women for example complained that they are often harassed by the forest officers whenever they accessed the forest for firewood and gathering of wild fruits. Women further mentioned insecurity and violence by forest rangers as affecting their access and use of the resources. The communities attributed their lack of access to impediments created by the Forest Act, 2016 which they argued does not recognize communities living inside the public forests. Invasion by immigrant communities; livestock theft; insecurity; resource conflicts and political interference in forest conservation management activities were also given as challenges relating to use and access.
5. Both men and women were affected by the vagaries of climate change due to forest degradation. However, women and elderly were more vulnerable to the impacts of forest degradation. This was attributed to the fact that most of the women were dependent on the forests for their livelihoods. They are often the ones charged to secure food, water, fuelwood, among others. Women identified the changing quality and quantity of water as a result of forest degradation and scarcity of fuelwood as some of the immediate challenges facing them. In some areas, cases of gender-based violence, especially to women and girls, were reported.
6. With limited engagement of communities in forest management activities, there is likelihood that the local community and indigenous dwellers are rendered vulnerable by the various forest management activities. However, the extent of vulnerability varies between different genders, age and abilities. Women and girls are more vulnerable as compared to men and middle-aged men. Men and women roles and relations affect access to forest resources and livelihood security more differently. Consequently, gender intervention access and use to forest resources may lead to different food security outcomes for women, men and children.

The assessment deduced that, gender considerations in forest conservation and management are critical, both as a strategy and practice. Based on these preliminary findings, the following recommendations were identified for action by specific duty-bearers for inclusion in the REDD+ strategy and for consideration during policy review processes:

Duty Bearer	Recommendation
Ministry of Environment and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Include participation of women and marginalised communities in the proposed review of forest conservation and management policies and

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Duty Bearer	Recommendation
Forestry	<p>laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve all the stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities (forest dependent) in forest management and conservation.
Kenya Forestry Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and implement forest management plans and agreements to create a favourable working condition that facilitate participation of women in forest management and conservation. ▪ Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with local community organizations in forest management and conservation. ▪ Share benefits from forest conservation equitably among local communities and Indigenous People. Incentives should be tailor made to take into considerations the different gender groups. ▪ Strengthen Community Forest Associations (CFA) collaborative engagement and support the establishment of (CFA) in forests where they have not been established. They require support to develop forest management plans that incorporate forest assessments identification of grazing areas and numbers of animals permitted, woodlot and plantation of trees, enhancement areas for indigenous trees regeneration, and enhancement of benefit sharing arrangements for different stakeholder groups. ▪ Address issues that reduce opportunities for CFA's to benefit from forest management such as competition with private sector actors. ▪ Collaborate with law enforcement agencies to heighten surveillance and monitoring to curb illegal activities and operations that perpetuate forest degradation and deforestation. ▪ Enlist local communities and indigenous peoples to participate in forest-monitoring support to provide information and surveillance on illegal forest activities. ▪ Support the indigenous peoples and the local communities to establish ecotourism to enhance forest conservation.
Community Forest Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish partnerships for sustainable management of forest resources between local communities and County Government ▪ Ensure active participation of the local people in the management of the forest through elected representatives at village level. ▪ Increase awareness among men and women on the value of forests and sustainable forest management. ▪ Enhance women's leadership and participation in community groups on forest resource management committees.
County Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involve the communities in forest conservation and management ▪ Establish extension services to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. ▪ Issue seedlings to the local communities and encourage own farm tree planting. ▪ Develop incentive schemes to reward local communities and indigenous people involved in forest conservation and management. ▪ investment in alternative sources of energy and integration of these

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Duty Bearer	Recommendation
	<p>options in the county integrated development plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hold annual dialogues on forest conservation and management from the grassroots ▪ Train female forest extension agents to play active role in forest management
NGEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate review and mainstreaming of gender equality and inclusion in forest related policies and laws ▪ Monitor involvement of women and marginalised groups in forest management and conservation. ▪ Monitor implementation of forest programmes to ensure they adhere to the principles of equality and inclusion. ▪ Facilitate development of public education programmes related to forest conservation and management. ▪ Audit forest governance structures on compliance with the principles of equality and inclusion of SIGs including CFAs.

The 2nd phase of assessment will be undertaken in 2020 and a final assessment report as well as the gender action plan and the indigenous peoples action plan will be produced.

4.5. Community Dialogues on Land Tenure and Sustainable Forest Governance

The National Land Commission led community dialogues focused on land tenure, historical land injustices and sustainable land forest governance with forest dependent communities from Laikipia County focusing on the indigenous community of Yaaku in Mukogondo forest on December 16 – 18, 2019. The dialogues sought to understand their land tenure systems, identify their claims and recommend ideas for sustainable management of forest and forest resources amongst forest dwelling communities. The consultation forum, which was held in Nanyuki, brought together 50 representatives from the Yaaku Community (23 of whom were female).

During the dialogues, the stakeholders were sensitized on Historical Land Injustices (HLI): the process and admissibility criteria; forest conservation policies and laws: minority and marginalized communities and indigenous people; draft national forest policy; human rights-based approach (HRBA) to sustainable forest management; role of the National Coalition of Community Forest Association (NACOFAs); and Ethics in Forest Conservation and Management.

During the dialogues, it came out that corruption is the biggest driver of forest degradation and excision. Further, Transparency International and other civil society organizations were encouraged to work with communities, EACC and KFS to ensure that activities happening in forest ecosystems are conducted at the highest levels of integrity.

As a way forward, the stakeholders in the dialogues agreed to a raft of actions, to be spearheaded by the National Land Commission, namely:

1. Translate and sensitize local communities on the relevant policies and legislation in the local language – immediately

-
2. Constitute/establish a multi-agency team to lead the investigation into the present and historical land injustices and make appropriate recommendations to the various relevant organizations – By February 2020
 3. Analyze/conduct research on the existing reports, proposals and policies regarding the indigenous forest people land rights and sustainable forest management – start immediately
 4. Heighten dialogue and engagement between and among the various parties – continuous /ongoing
 5. Establish a small interagency technical team to address issues (past and emerging) crystallize issues, concerns, interests and separate the various issues/claims – immediately
 6. NLC to kick off the review of the HLI claims submitted previously including the establishment of a register for local communities and indigenous peoples – from April 2020

4.6. Forest Reference Level established

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry, in partnership with Kenya Forest Service finalized and submitted the Forest Reference Level (FRL) to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for review. The project worked closely with the CADEP Project funded by Japan International Development Cooperation Agency (JICA) which leads this work on the development of the FRL (and the NFMS?).

From this support and using a combination of local data and IPCC defaults, Kenya proposed a reference level of 52,204,059 tCO₂/year. This FRL is derived from average annual historical emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in the period 2002- 2018 monitored at 4 year intervals. The FRL for each of the REDD+ Activities has been calculated as 48,166,940 tCO₂/year for deforestation, 10,885,950 tCO₂/year for forest degradation, 2,681,433 tCO₂/year for sustainable management of forests and 9,530,264 tCO₂/year for enhancement of carbon stocks. The FRL data will be used as a baseline for identifying and implementing a number of improvements, including enhancing the land cover mapping process to improve accuracy of activity data, implementing an NFI to improve accuracy on Emission Factors and research to capture the variety of non-CO₂ emissions from REDD+ activities and involve more pools.

4.7. Development of Elgeyo Marakwet County (EMC) Forest Management and Conservation Bill, Policy and accompanying regulations

Elgeyo Marakwet has the second highest forest cover in the country. The and is one of the pilot counties where the project is focusing on this county to pilot devolved systems in forest governance, whilst enhancing sustainable forest conservation and protection. Work is being undertaken to develop a forest conservation and management policy, bill and regulations. and enhancing social inclusion. The county reflects the various facets of forest conservation and management, which are relevant to development of REDD+ in Kenya. These include the presence of forest indigenous communities and the need for the application of participatory approaches and social inclusion in the development of policies, laws and regulation on forest and land management.

The Project supported development of the Elgeyo Marakwet Forest Management Bill through the following:

-
- Training of the county executive leaders. This included the Governor and the Deputy Governor, County Commissioner, County Secretary, all county executive committee members and the Department of Environment, Water, Natural Resources and Climate Change. (23 male and 4 female participants attended the training). The training covered the national REDD+ process, roles of different stakeholders including the role of the county, and the role of indigenous communities and local communities in REDD+ processes. During this training the county undertook a process to identify all projects implemented by the county and highlighted opportunities to engage and target the marginalized communities in the county who include indigenous communities such as the Sengwer and the Kiptani community. This was a first for the County and was very well received by all stakeholders. In addition, the County Assembly Committee on environment and natural resources, and administration of justice was also were trained as to how to engage indigenous communities and local communities in county legislative processes.
 - Consultation meeting with the Sengwer community and the county leadership was held bringing together 10 leaders of the Sengwer community (7 males and 3 Females) and the county leadership. The main purpose of this meeting was to inform the community of the proposed policy process and seek consent and their participation in the policy process in line with the Free Prior and Informed Consent guidelines.
 - Community consultation meetings targeting 232 community members (187 males and 45 females) from the four Elgeyo Marakwet regions (Marakwet East, Marakwet West, Keiyo South, Keiyo North). These meetings brought together representatives of all communities living in this county including the Sengwer, Marakwet, Keiyo, Kiptani and Cherengany communities. National institutions- Kenya Forest Service, National Environment Management Authority and the Kenya Water Towers Agency were represented.
 - Engagement of a consultant to synthesize and incorporate feedback and proposals from the community consultations into the policy, bill and regulations.
 - Establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising representatives of the County Executive, County Assembly, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Kenya Forest Service and Ministry of Environment and Forestry to work with the consultant in refining the draft county forestry conservation and management policy and bill.
 - Joint consultative meetings between County Executive Committee on Environment, County Assembly Committee on Physical Planning and Administration of Justice, County Assembly Committee on Environment, forest sector stakeholders and representatives of Ogiek, Kaptani, Sengwer, Cherangany and other local and indigenous communities. The consultative meetings served as a forum for awareness creation on key issues around Embobut and Cherangany forests and alleged violation of the rights of communities living in, residing around or depending on them, and formulation of a lasting solution to these violations. The meetings also served as a platform for:
 - providing feedback on issues raised during other consultation meetings.
 - capacity building of stakeholders within and outside the county on human rights-based approach in forest management and conservation.
 - sharing legislative opportunities for the county on forest conservation and transitional implementation plan in the forest sector, existing opportunities, key challenges and lessons from other counties.
 - deliberation on proposed approach in enhancing community engagement in forest conservation.

The development of the Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Bill and Policy brought to the fore the following issues:

- There was an intensive encroachment to riparian areas, water catchment areas and fragile ecosystems because of increased population pressure in the county.
- The escarpments are undergoing serious deforestation process which has caused landslides, and floods in the county.
- There is increased risk of wild forest fires due to uncontrolled charcoal burning, overgrazing and invasive species.
- There is need for adoption of a Human Rights Based approach especially to ensure that all communities are engaged.
- There is unclear benefit sharing procedures between the community, county government and the national government.
- Lack of regulations facilitating the County Government to effectively manage forestry resources on community, private land and the hanging slopes.
- Awareness levels on conservation among communities across the county is too low especially among women, youths and persons living with disability.
- Unsustainable logging in plantation forests and overgrazing in public forests.
- Cultural practices and traditions that encourage forest conservation to be promoted.

As a result, several action points were reached at as a way-forward by the stakeholders present in the consultative meetings and dialogue forums:

- The County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet committed to holding multi-stakeholder meetings to guide the appointment of a technical working group that will provide technical inputs and guidance to the consultant during the policy, bill and regulation development processes to ensure all issues raised by the stakeholders are captured.
- Promotion of alternative sources of livelihoods to communities living in and outside the forest and depending on forests directly.
- A management plan will be developed to coordinate between community forest, private land and national forest and develop an inventory for the county's arid and semi-arid forests to help in coming up with conservation initiatives.
- Elgeyo Marakwet County devoted to operationalizing the (2017 charcoal bill) as an alternative law to back up the forest policy and bill being developed.
- Stakeholders present saw the need to promote forest extension services as well as environmental education in the county using youths and women as champions, to promote community engagement in conservation in partnership with development agencies and learning institutions.
- All fragile ecosystems will be mapped during the policy development process using a global advance and traditional information systems.
- The county government of Elgeyo Marakwet committed to reach out to all the neighboring counties during the implementation process of the policy, as they also benefit, directly and indirectly.
- Department of Environment in Elgeyo Marakwet County will work closely with the department of agriculture within the county to sensitize farmers to adopt zero grazing and embrace controlled grazing.

4.8. National REDD+ Academy Organized

The project conducted a REDD+ Academy using the UN-REDD manuals to induct key stakeholders on the REDD+ Readiness process providing an understanding on key concepts around forest conservation, management and enhancement of carbon stocks. The five-day academy was attended by 63 participants, of whom, 29 were female and 34 were male. Participation included participants from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KFS, KNCHR, NGEC, NLC, EACC, NACOPA, Council of Governors, NETFUND, Academia, CSO, IPLCs, Private sector, and the youth. The academy was delivered in collaboration with UN Environment.

The Academy participants were trained and agreed on the following way forward:

- Participants to develop workplans and be supported to extend the concepts to the various stakeholders with whom they work with at the ground level;
- Mount at least 4 subnational REDD+ Academies with target groups including the Youth and Academia/Researchers.
- National REDD+ Academy graduates to undertake a field visit to Kasigau and Chyulu Hills REDD+ projects.
- Finalize Knowledge & Communication Strategy to enhance access to information to be developed.
- Develop and disseminate short policy briefs coming out of analytical studies.
- Finalize and share report of the National REDD+ Academy with participants.
- Establish a Community of Practice (CoP) – a multi stakeholder platform for advancing and sharing local, national and international information, issues/policy agenda on REDD+ and related SDG information.
- Activate Integrity and Governance Committee for REDD+.

The REDD+ Academy Concept will be replicated in 4 subnational academies to build a critical mass of government and non-state actors with adequate appreciation of REDD+ Readiness Process in Kenya.

4.9. Training of County Executive Committees and Chief Officers on REDD+

The Council of Governors has been working with the National Government to support Counties to develop and implement Forest Transition Implementation Plans (FTIPs) for the forest-related functions devolved to County Governments by the 4th Schedule to the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The FTIPs require guidelines for implementation and adequate capacity to implement and the Council of Governors requested the support of the REDD+ Project in this regard. These functions were further elaborated in the Gazette Notice No 1 of 2014.

One of the capacity building activities for the CoG was the training of County Directors and Chief Officers responsible for natural resources management and other environment and climate change related functions on REDD+ process in the country. This was to enable them to appreciate their role in disseminating this as a delivery in their respective counties through mainstreaming of REDD+ in their departmental actions plans. This activity was carried out on November 20 – 22, 2019. The overall objective of this activity was to train County Chief Officers on REDD+ and its linkage to forest governance, conservation and management at the County level. Specifically, the activity sought to create awareness and understanding among the County Chief Officers on: i) REDD+ and the UNFCCC Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change; ii) Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation; iii) Devolved forestry

functions (roles, challenges and opportunities); iv) REDD+ National Strategies or Action Plans; v) National Forest Monitoring Systems including Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL); vi) Safeguards and Safeguard Information systems; vii) Importance of Stakeholder Engagement; viii) REDD+ Finance, and ix) Good Governance in relation to Forestry sector and REDD+.

A total of 55 participants, 11 of whom were female and 44 of whom were male, attended the training. The participants were drawn from COG Secretariat, COG Tourism and Natural Resources Management Committee, 42 County Governments and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The training was facilitated by representatives of Kenya Forest Service, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), University of Nairobi, Karatina University, and the REDD+ technical team. During the training, IPLCs representatives shared and contributed on community perspectives in forest governance; and the need for community's engagement during the management and conservation of the resource.

Following the successful training, the participants agreed on the following next steps, to be led by the Council of Governors:

- Mainstream REDD+ in County planning and budgeting frameworks.
- Organize cascaded trainings on REDD+ for Governors, County Directors for Environment and Forestry, and COG Secretariat
- Develop a model law on Forestry and REDD+, to serve as a guide for all Counties.
- Develop a REDD+ and forestry benefit sharing mechanism.
- Develop guidelines based on the Forest Act 2016, Forest Policy and National Charcoal Rules 2009.

4.10. Multi-Stakeholder Review of the REDD+ Project

A functional multi-stakeholder engagement is key for successful implementation of the project. During the reporting period, the project held a multi-stakeholder forum to review the project on December 4 – 5, 2019. The forum was attended by REDD+ stakeholders from National and County governments, including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), National Land Commission (NLC), Kenya Forestry Service (KFS), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Kenya Water Towers Agency (KWTa), Londiani School of Forestry, County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet, Academia, Civil Society Organization (CSOs) Youth groups representatives and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). During the forum, the stakeholders reviewed the implementation status of FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project implementation and provided feedback on proposed activities for implementation in the year 2020.

During this forum, the stakeholders:

- Identified the need to build the capacity of CSOs working on land, climate change and water and sensitize them on REDD+ and the readiness process in Kenya; and how they can have meaningful engagement in the strategy development.
- Identified the need to review the REDD+ corruption risk assessment which was undertaken in 2013.
- Reiterated that it was important to sensitize indigenous communities on REDD+ so that they can aptly participate in REDD+ readiness and implementation processes.
- Observed the need to work with academia as part of the stakeholders to enhance competitiveness

for REDD+.

- Identified the need to bring in young people (youth) through experiential learning, internship and mentorship to not only increase the demographic footprint of the project but to also infuse innovative, all-inclusive ways of forest conservation and management.
- Noted that the role of private sector is very critical and their visibility and engagement in the development and implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy and investment plan is paramount, and
- Observed that there are no activities to strengthen community forest associations, NACOFA or other partnerships in forest management in Kenya. Such partnerships help in safeguarding forest management in Kenya.

To support the development and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan, the stakeholders meeting established various technical working groups (TWGs) with representation from the institutions and constituencies as proposed in the project document. The technical working groups formed include: Strategy & Investment Technical Working Group, Knowledge Management, Capacity Building & Stakeholder Engagement Technical Working Group, Safeguards Information System Technical Working Group, Integrity and Governance Team as was in the project document and Gender Technical working group.

The Project Management Unit was tasked to use this guidance to develop and present for the review by the PSC the project 2020 AWP. As a way forward, the Project Management Unit (PMU) was tasked to finalize the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and present for approval by the Project Steering Committee for approval.

5. Kenya's Progress Towards REDD+ Readiness

During the year, Kenya made significant progress towards REDD+ Readiness. The progress made under each of the components is summarized below:

Sub-component	Status as at December 31, 2020
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation	
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	<u>Significant Progress made:</u> A National REDD+ Coordinator has been designated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The REDD+ Readiness Project Steering Committee has been operationalized. The REDD+ Readiness Project PMU has been established as per the Project Document through recruitment of the Project Manager, Technical Specialist, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, M&E Specialist, Communications and Knowledge Management Officer and Project Officer. A TWG with three subcommittees has been established to support the PMU in implementation of the project.
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	<u>Significant progress made:</u> Two (2) dialogues with communities on land rights, land tenure claims were held. Stakeholder engagement enhanced with the recruitment and onboarding of a stakeholder engagement and safeguards specialist for the project. REDD+ Readiness Project Steering Committee strengthened to

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Sub-component	Status as at December 31, 2020
	enhance project management and stakeholder engagement. A technical working group with 3 committees (strategy & investment plan, knowledge management, stakeholder engagement & capacity building, safeguards information system) established and operationalized. The TWG will provide technical support to the PMU in the implementation of the project. National Government Institutions, 4 National Government CSOs, 3 County CSOs, 2 County Governments and representatives of IPLCs engaged in the implementation of the project.
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation	
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan	
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	<u>Progressing well but further development is required:</u> A review of land and environmental governance related to REDD+ implementation in Kenya was completed in 2014. Further an assessment of all REDD+ related laws was conducted in 2015, this process identified opportunities and gaps in legislations under review to align with the Kenya Constitution of 2010. As a result, a review of the National Forest Policy (2016) and Forest Act of 2011) has been commissioned. Delivery of the revised Forest Policy for cabinet approval is expected by June 2020
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	<u>Progressing well but further development is required:</u> Review of the National Forest Policy and Forest Act 2011 has been initiated. Terms of Reference (ToR) for six (6) Analytical Studies on private sector engagement and nesting, REDD+ finance, benefits sharing, integration of land use planning in County integrated development plans, review of the drivers of deforestation, issues and options, and stakeholder engagement are under development are being developed. These studies will inform the development of the REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan. Draft strategy options are expected by December 2019.
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	<u>Progressing well but further development is required:</u> Review of the National Forest Policy and Forest Act 2011 has been initiated.
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	<u>Further development is required:</u> A Source of Information (Sol) and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will be conducted, accompanying the development of the REDD+ National REDD+ Strategy options and incorporated in the National REDD+ Strategy in the form of social and environmental considerations for the different measures. Terms of reference are under development.
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	<u>Significant progress made:</u> A technical annex to the FRL was finalized and submitted to UNFCCC in December 2019. The FRL was fully developed with support from JICA. This FRL was informed by extensive interaction with the Technical Assessment Teams,

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Sub-component	Status as at December 31, 2020
	which identified key issues to be included in the FRL. Based on these issues and continued engagement at national and subnational levels, a new version of the FREL was finalized and submitted to UNFCCC in January 2020.
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Further development required: Development of NFMS is ongoing through the support of Japan-funded CADEP. The project is collaborating with KFS in the development of the NFMS.
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Completed: Benefit Sharing Mechanism study was conducted in 2013 and this will contribute to the SIS which is currently being developed. The Terms of Reference for development of a REDD+ SIS is underway. The development of the SIS is expected to be completed in Q4 of 2020.

6. Risks, issues and responses

Issues/risks	Mitigation Measures	Proposed Date of action	Responsibility
Resistance of marginalized communities/ indigenous people to the project citing fear of evictions	Build ownership of recommendations by indigenous communities and their representatives through sustained dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and independent commissions	Project period	PMU, KNHRC
Plans to build new infrastructure that may threaten forest areas	The project will engage with the National Treasury, Ministry of Water, and county governments in discussing the planned projects, EIAs and alternatives. The project will maintain close liaison with the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Environment to raise this agenda with the Presidency and enable dialogue regarding the above.	January – December 2019	PMU, ME&F, Council of Governors
Corona Virus pandemic occasioned delay in project implementation	The pandemic may hamper physical engagement with stakeholders, thereby derailing key activities planned under the project. Government has restricted public gatherings, dawn to dusk curfew and cessation of movement from 5 main COVID-19 infected counties making program implementation difficult (Nairobi, Kwale, Kilifi, Mandera and Mombasa). The project will i) monitor development around the pandemic, ii) identify activities which can be undertaken through virtual channels, and iii) institute weekly meetings to review progress.	January – December 2020	PMU, ME&F
Poor quality data for National Forest Monitoring System, National Forest Reference Emission	Undertake robust data quality control through the PSC and stakeholder consultative meetings	September 2019 – December 2020	PMU, ME&F

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Levels and general monitoring of REDD+ activities			
Exclusion of potentially affected stakeholders, marginalized groups and women in the design of policies and measures on the broader forestry sector	Partnership building with National Land Commission and National Gender and Equality Commission	September 2019 – December 2020	PMU, ME&F
Coordination gaps among government agencies	High level engagement between the Resident Representative and leadership of KFS, KWS, MEF, NLC, NGEC, EACC and KNCHR. Harmonization of institutional concept notes and workplans through joint planning and consultation	September 2019 – December 2020	PMU, ME&F
Elite capture of forestry processes	Grievance and redress mechanisms developed and included in the TORs of the project steering committee. Regular rotation of representatives of local communities and marginalized groups through inclusive self-selection processes.	September 2019 – December 2020	PMU, ME&F
Insecurity around the forest areas may impede participation of some community members	Project spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry with participation of the County leadership	September 2019 – December 2020	PMU, ME&F

7. Progress in addressing key capacity issues of the Programme Management unit (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this project.

Recruitment of the Project Manager, Technical Specialist, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Communications Officer and Project Officer was completed in September 2019. These officials were inducted in September 2019 and took on their positions on October 1, 2019. Recruitment of the Project Associate was delayed (however, the PA position was filled in April 2020). The fully constituted PMU is expected to accelerate implementation of the project.

8. Progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the project. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach? Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

A safeguard and stakeholders' engagement specialist was recruited as part of the PMU to coordinate the application of the common approach in the implementation of the project. In line with the common approach, the stakeholder's engagement guidelines and the free prior and informed consent guidelines developed previously with support of the UN-REDD programme, have been applied in the development and implementation of the project. Relevant stakeholders' constituencies, including local communities and indigenous peoples, were involved in the implementation of the project and the project steering committee.

9. Progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, and disclosure of information and the FGRM, related to this project

All information generated within the Project have been uploaded into the [UNDP website](#). These documents are available for public scrutiny. The existence of these documents is reiterated to participants in all events and meetings related to the Project. Social networks are also used to disseminate the activities carried out within the Project, in coordination with the counterparts.

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10. Financial Delivery

The table below provides cumulative financial progress of the Project on planned, committed and disbursed funds, including all cumulative disbursements for the year 2019.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS				
OUTPUTS	Amount Transferred by UNDP	Cumulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2019		
		Commitments (B)	Disbursements (C)	Total Expenditures* (D) = B + C
Output 1 - National REDD + Strategy and investment plan	1,568,000	0	506,499	506,499
Output 2 - Capacity for effective efficient implementation of REDD+ Strategy	515,663	0	220,093	220,093
Output 3: An Operational SIS, SESA, ESMF	250,000	0	13,516	13,516
Output 4 - Technical Advisory support to consolidate and refine FREL/FRL and MRV +	140,000	0	73,986	73,986
Project implementation	1,042,838	0	497,099	497,099
Monitoring and Evaluation	83,500	0	0	0
Total	3,600,000	0	1,311,193	1,311,193

*Note: GMS not included

11. Project in Pictures



Women Participants at the National REDD+ Academy



Participants at the National REDD+ Academy in Mombasa



Indigenous Women participating in community dialogues with National Land Commission



High Level Dialogue Group Photo with the Ogiek (Indigenous Communities of Mt. Elgon)



FCPF REDD+ Project Steering Committee Meeting with Key Stakeholder and Permanent Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo



Courtesy Meeting between Cabinet Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Mr. Keriako Tobiko, Resident Representative Walid Badawi and Deputy Resident Representative – Programme Ms. Mandisa Mashologu

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Courtesy call to the Kisumu County Commissioner Office



National REDD+ Academy in Mombasa

Photo credits: REDD+ Team