

Investing in Locally Controlled Forestry

The Forest Dialogue Kenya Background Paper

Dominic Walubengo and Mwangi Kinyanjui

1 December 2010, Mombasa, Kenya

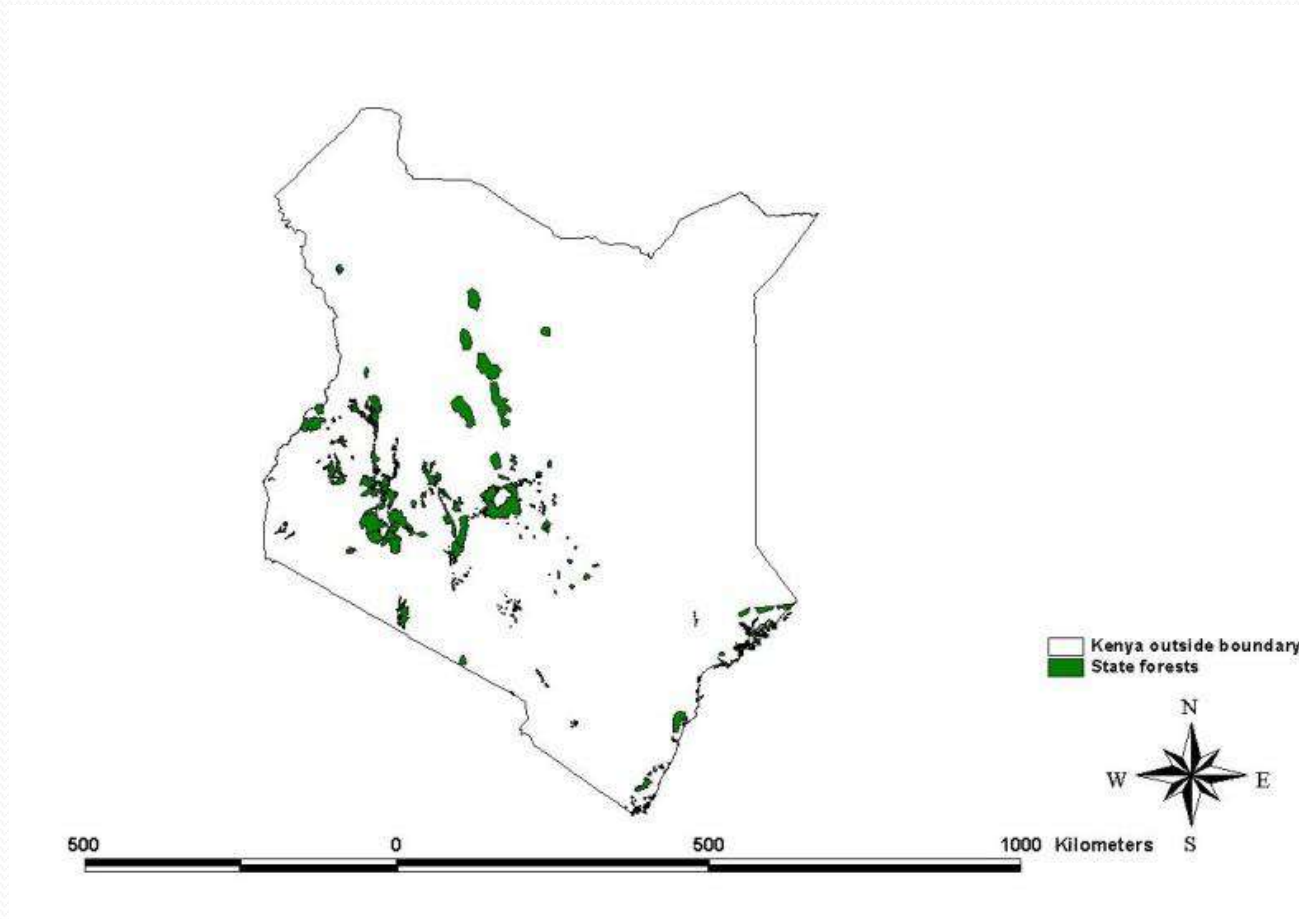
Introduction

- The dialogues in Panama, Nepal and Macedonia concluded that later dialogues should explore partnerships, markets and the role of government. This paper makes an attempt to bring these three themes to the fore, with a focus on indigenous people, community forest groups and forestland small holders.

Forests in Kenya

- Kenya has got four forest categories: coastal forests, dry forests, montane forests and western rain forests.
- Montane forests cover the largest area and include the Mau, Mount Kenya, Aberdares, Cherangany and Mt. Elgon forests.
- Kenya also has woodlands and plantation forests.

The distribution of forests in Kenya



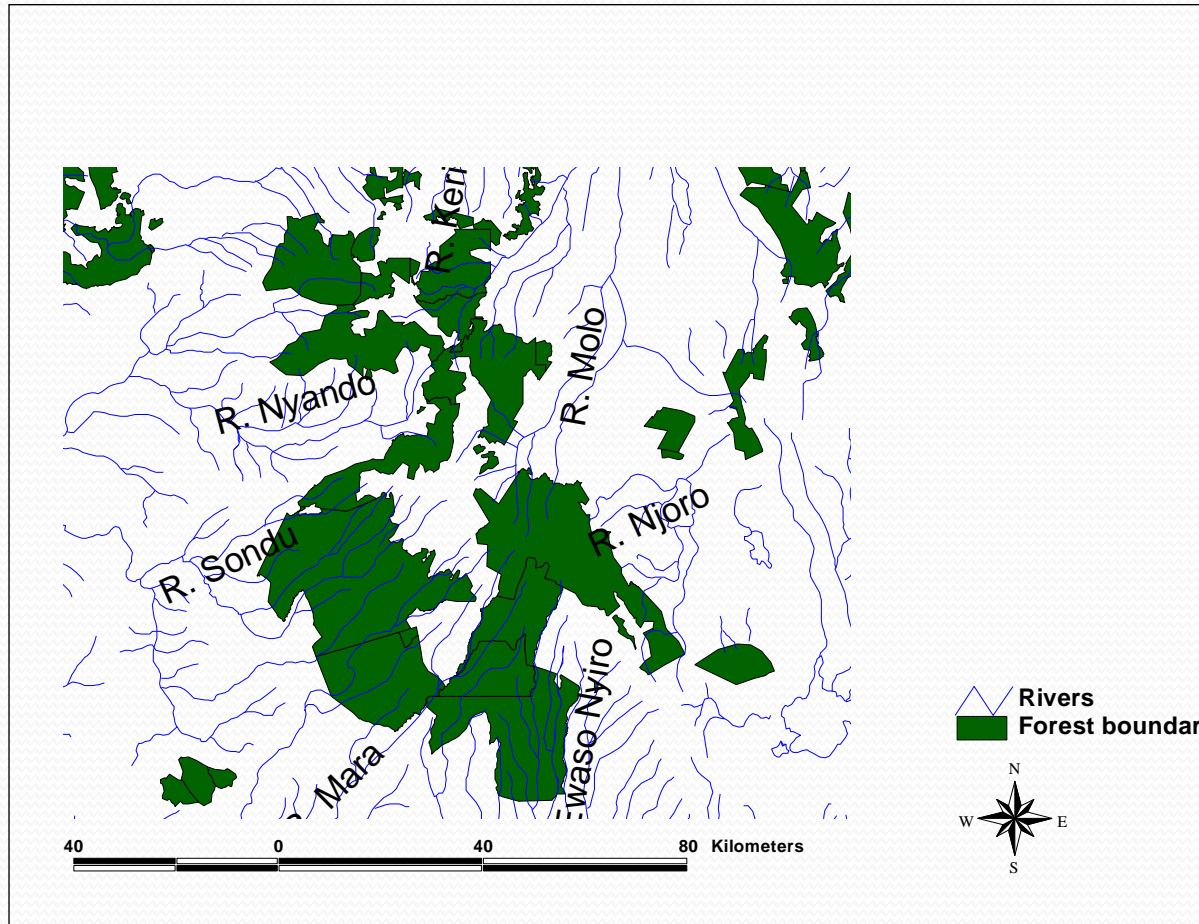
Forest ownership

- Forests in Kenya are classified as Public, Private or Community. These are the three categories of land ownership.
- **Public forests** are managed by the state agency, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS).
- **Private forests** are found on land owned by individuals or companies and the owners have full rights to manage them for their own purposes.
- **Community forests** are found on community land

Roles of forests in Kenya

- Catchment areas for the major drainage systems
- Habitats for wildlife
- Source of timber for large and small scale industries
- Provision a variety of goods to the forest adjacent communities e.g. medicinal herbs, firewood and honey

Mau – source of many rivers



Timber from forests



Pressure on forests

- Forests are threatened with conversion to agriculture and settlement. For example, the Mau forest complex which was originally over 400,000 ha had over 65,000 ha excised in 2001 for settlement and agriculture.
- Forests are degraded through other forms of utilisation like illegal logging, grazing, charcoal making and firewood harvesting. These factors of degradation are expected to increase with the rising human population.

Community forest associations

- Communities living adjacent to a state forest (including indigenous people) are recognised as active co-managers of the state forest resource. They have to form a Community Forest Association (CFA) which can sign a management agreement with KFS before they can be allowed to co-manage a state forest. CFAs do not have tenure rights to the forestland.

Indigenous People

- In the past, when these forest dwellers lived apart from agrarian communities, they lived in harmony with forests. Some of the livelihood activities that maintained the communities in the forest e.g. hunting are not allowed by law. This means that hunter-gatherer communities are legally obliged to live on fruits, berries, honey and roots. These are not enough to sustain a growing population. Some hunter-gatherer communities have taken up livestock keeping and practice a little agriculture.

Investments by local communities

- The KFS has been piloting the **P**lantation **E**stablishment and **L**ivelihood **I**mprovement **S**cheme (PELIS). A CFA is allocated a piece of forest land where plantation trees are intended to be raised. The CFA shares it out among its members with each paying a small royalty. The farmers grow annual crops for food and for sale. In the second year (season) the farmers plant preferred trees with the aid of KFS managers on the same pieces of land.
- In this way, farmers improve their food security, have some surplus for sale to get income and their livelihoods improve.

More investments

- There is a Snake Park at Kakamega forest managed by the Kakamega Environmental Education Programme (KEEP). The CFA captures snakes from the forest and keeps them in the snake park as a tourist attraction. The CFA provides accommodation for tourists who wish to spend a few nights in the forest.

Public private partnerships

- The Forests Act 2005 provides for public-private partnerships. A private company can obtain a lease to manage a state forest over a long period of time. Before such an agreement is reached, the forest service has to develop a forest management plan for the forest to be leased out. The management plan should state what activities are to be carried out in that forest, how the forest resources will be used or conserved and how the forest will be improved.
- Since the law came into effect in 2007, no such agreements have been signed. Instead, the forest service has licensed four major timber companies to log certain forests.

Investments by farmers

- In October, 2006, FAN working closely with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) the Forest Department (now KFS) supported tree farmers in Western Kenya to establish the Western Tree Planters Association (WETPA).
- By April 2010 there were 28 youth tree nurseries each selling at least 18,000 and at most 49,000 seedlings per year and some 8,000 farmers had planted trees as a result of the activities of WETPA.

Farmer's private forest



The market for WETPA

- The WETPA farmers have a huge market provided by four sugar factories and one tea processor. The industries are switching from oil as their source of energy to wood.
- The other major market is the small timber industries, who have been shut out of the government forests following a partial logging ban.