



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION UPPER TANA NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT (UTaNRMP)

“Poverty Reduction Through Sustainable Natural Resources Management”

For further information, please contact:

The Project Coordinator

Embu-Meru road, opposite DEB Kangaru primary School
P. o. Box 996 - 60100 Embu
Tel. 068 22 31376
info@utanrmp.or.ke, utanrmp@gmail.com
www.utanrmp.go.ke

County Project Coordinator

Embu County
P.O. Box 542
Embu
068-331691
cpc.embu@utanrmp.or.ke
cpcembu@yahoo.com

County Project Coordinator

Tharaka Nithi County
P.O. Box 263 60400
Chuka
Tel. 064 630484/6
cpc.tharakanithi@utanrmp.or.ke
jgkamau2007@yahoo.com

County Project Coordinator

Meru County
P.O. Box 1152
Meru
cpc.meru@utanrmp.or.ke
samuelmururu@yahoo.com

County Project Coordinator

Nyeri County
P.O. Box 1343
Nyeri
cpc.nyeri@utanrmp.or.ke
mmuthunguh@yahoo.com

County Project Coordinator

Murang'a County
P.O. Box 460
Murang'a
cpc.muranga@utanrmp.or.ke
banonjeru@yahoo.com

County Project Coordinator

Kirinyaga County
P.O. Box 360
Kerugoya
cpc.kirnyaga@utanrmp.or.ke
nyagaitumu@yahoo.com



P.O. Box 996 - 60100 Embu , Tel. 068 22 31376

info@utanrmp.or.ke utanrmp@gmail.com www.utanrmp.or.ke

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Project Objectives: The Upper Tana Natural Resource Management Project (UTaNRMP) is an eight year project (2012-2020) funded by Government of Kenya, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Spanish Trust Fund and the Local community. UTaNRMP is a scaling-up of the IFAD-funded Mt. Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resources Management (MKEPP) which was completed in 2012. The project draws on MKEPP's lessons and places emphasis on: (i) integration of technical components with Natural Resource Management (NRM), and (ii) support to livelihood activities linked to stewardship of environmental resources on the basis of community participation.

The goal of the project is to “contribute to reduction of rural poverty in the Upper Tana river catchment”. This goal is pursued via two development objectives which reflect the connection between poverty and environmental degradation namely (i) increased sustainable food production and incomes for poor rural households living in the project area; and (ii) sustainable management of natural resources for provision of environmental services.

1.2 Project Coverage: The project area is the Upper Tana catchment which covers an area of 17,420 km². Project implementation is along 24 river basins and the tributaries of the four river basins formerly under MKEPP that drain into the Tana River. The rivers are : -Maragua, Murubara, Nairobi, Ragati, Rujiweru, Rupingazi, Saba Saba, Thanagatha, Thanantu, Thiba, Thika/Sasumua, Thingithu, Amboni/Muringato, Iraru, Kayahwe, Lower Chania, Mara, Mariara, Mathioya, Nyamindi, Ruguti, Rwamuthambi, Sagana, and Ura. MKEPP river basins whose tributaries are covered include Kathita, Kithinu/Mutonga, Rupingazi/Kapingazi, and Ena. The area covers six of Kenya's 47 counties namely; Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, Nyeri, Kirinyaga and Murang'a. The area includes the Mt. Kenya and Aberdares National Parks and surrounding Forest Reserves.

1.3 Project Target: The Upper Tana catchment is home to 5.2 million people and is under heavy and growing population pressure. The project aims at poverty reduction targeting about 205,000 poor households (1,025,000 people) whose livelihoods revolve around the use of the natural resources of Upper Tana catchment. These include smallholder crop and livestock farmers, fishfarmers, rural traders, and community groups involved in natural resources management (NRM) and income generating activities. Special focus is on women and youth as well as other vulnerable groups within the above categories. The project is also providing indirect benefits to the non-target groups in the Upper Tana catchment through services and enterprises linked with the project activities, as well as to populations outside the catchment who rely on water, hydro-electricity and other natural resources in the catchment.

1.4 Project Costs: The total cost of the project is USD 68.8 million, The project is financed by an IFAD loan of USD 33 million, Spanish Trust Fund loan of USD 17 Million, Government of Kenya USD 11.34 Million and the Communities contribute USD 7.5 Million.

The sub-component's targets are;

Activity	Project Target
School Greening Programme	3,500 schools to be reached
Forest Rehabilitation	1,300 Ha of forest to be rehabilitated
Wildlife Control Fence	60 Km of fence to be constructed
Matching Grants to Common Interest Groups	1,450 CIGs to be funded
Energy saving Jikos	165 Jikos for demonstration
Efficient charcoal Kilns	33 kilns for demonstrations

2.2.3.4 Project Management and Coordination:

The objective of the component is to enhance management implementation and coordination of project activities so as to assess project impacts and progress made towards achieving project objectives. The expected outputs for the component are: (i) Fully functional Governance, Management, Monitoring and reporting systems, and (ii) Knowledge about Natural Resources Management effectively managed and disseminated to stakeholders.



The project coordinator updates county and national leaders on project achievements during the opening of the Embu water laboratory which was constructed and equipped with funds from UTaNRMP



Flagging off of 32 double cabin pickups, 7 tractors and 73 motor bicycles provided to sub-county staff to support project implementation

The school greening programme is aimed at instilling the culture of tree planting and conservation to the young minds in schools. To save our trees, the component is supporting the installation of energy saving stoves especially to schools and polytechnics who are the largest consumers of fuel wood.



A rain water harvesting tank funded by UTaNRMP supporting school greenig program in Gakoigo Primary School, Murang'a County



An institution utilizing an energy saving jiko funded by UTaNRMP



60Kms of wildlife control fence in Tharaka Nithi and Meru counties funded by UTaNRMP



(Above) Giant bamboo nursery at the Meru Forest station established by the project to support riverine conservation.

(Right)Community members planting giant bamboo along river Rupingazi in Embu county



2.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 Project Implementation responsibility lies mainly with the beneficiary communities, participating government technical departments (National and County), while coordination and integration of the project components, backstopping and facilitation is undertaken by a central Project Coordination Unit (PCU)

2.2 Project Components: The project is implemented through four components namely: - Community Empowerment, Sustainable Rural Livelihoods, Sustainable Water and Natural Resource Management and Project Management and Coordination.

2.2.1 Community Empowerment Component:

The component aims at engaging communities to build their capacity to develop and implement plans aimed at improving NRM while also improving their livelihoods. The component supports capacity building at community level through mobilization and awareness raising, establishing and strengthening key community structures and institutions, development and implementation of Community Action Plans (CAPs). The outputs of this component include: (i) communities with increased awareness of sustainable NRM; (ii) key community organizations with increased capacity to manage natural resources sustainably; and (iii) Community Action Plans for livelihood improvement and sustainable NRM.

2.2.1.1 Implementation Approach

Community engagement is the entry point. The approach and procedures are based on those developed and tested during MKEPP, with some refinements based on the experiences of the Natural Resources Management Projects previously funded under the world bank. The design gives an opportunity to mainstream HIV/AIDS, gender, food security and nutritional issues into the participatory planning process.

ENTRY POINTS:

- 1. Water Resources Users Associations (WRUA):** At the river basin level, the WRUAs are established and/or assisted to develop their Sub-Catchment Management Plans (SCMPs) through a participatory process involving all communities dependent on the natural resources of the river basin.
WRUA SCMPs are funded through grants given by the project but channeled and supervised by the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF)
- 2. Focal Development Areas (FDA):** The FDAs are areas of 800-1,200 households living within a strip of about 5km on either side of a river. On average there are about ten (10) FDAs per river basin. These are the basic planning units of project operations. The

community within an Focal Development Area are supported by the project to develop a Community Action Plan (CAP). The CAPs are developed through a community participatory planning process known as the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). The process helps communities to bring out their felt needs and related opportunities in order of priority. The project supports priority income generating and Natural Resources Management activities through Common Interest Groups based on the CAPs.

3. Community Forest Associations (CFA): Communities living along the margins of the forest reserves are engaged through Community Forest Associations. The project empowers the CFAs through the development of Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) that among other issues include initiatives for forest protection, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and reduction of human-wildlife conflict.

The component has 3 sub-components namely:-

i. Communities with increased awareness of sustainable NRM. The first step in community empowerment is to stimulate interest and awareness about the importance of sustainable rural livelihoods and NRM. This is undertaken through a range of activities including, but not necessarily limited to the following:

- Training and sensitization of staff at county and sub-county level;
- Public meetings (*barazas*) to raise interest and awareness on the project to the communities to enhance participation and buy in of the project activities
- Mass media campaigns using printed material;
- Schools programmes (e.g. the school greening programme); and
- Competitions and awards for good environmental stewardship (The competitions and awards scheme for FDAs, CIGs, CFAs, WRUAs, and schools)

ii Establishment and strengthening of key community structures: The component is supporting formation and/or strengthening of community organizations. Support is focused on the, WRUAs, FDA Committees (FDACs) and the CFAs by developing the skills they need to actively engage in participatory planning and project implementation procedures.

iii Community Action Plans (CAPs) for livelihood improvement and sustainable Natural Resource Management:

This is undertaken at the Focal Development Area (FDA) and Community Forest Association (CFA) levels using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools used under MKEPP. The PRAs are conducted by a trained County Facilitation Team consisting of representatives of relevant line ministries and selected community representatives led by the Social Development officers

The CAPs reflect community felt needs and priorities and form the basis for preparation of the Annual Budgets for implementation of the identified priorities. Project activities are then implemented by the Common Interest Groups (CIGs) through their Project Management Committees. In order to receive project funding, a CIG must be registered, have a constitution and by-laws, a bank account and apply for grants through a prescribed proposal form. Extensive capacity building of the CIGs, FDACs, WRUAs and CFAs is done so as to build their management, governance and project sustainability skills. In addition the community



Community participation in improving access and quality of water for communities. Kiamaranga well Embu County, before and after UTaNRMP's intervention"



The Cabinet Secretary for Water and Irrigation, Hon. Eugene Wamalwa, is taken through water quality analysis during the opening of the Embu Water Laboratory in March 2016.



Project quality monitoring officers carrying out bacteriological water analysis"

2.2.3.2 Sustainable Management Of Forest And Agricultural Ecosystems

The sustainable management of forest and agricultural ecosystems sub-component focuses on; Supporting the development and implementation of Participatory Forest Management Plans, Rehabilitation of degraded forest reserves, efficient use of fuel wood, minimizing Human-wildlife conflicts, Soil and water conservation on farm lands and the School Greening Programme. To minimize human-wildlife conflict within communities neighbouring the forests, the project targeted to construct 60km of electric fence on a section of the eastern boundary of Mt. Kenya forest (between Thuci river in Tharaka Nithi county and Thingithu river in Meru county). So far this has already been accomplished.

2.2.3 Sustainable Water And Natural Resources Management

The component aims at improving sustainable utilisation of water and other natural resources. The County Environment Committees, the Water Resource Users Associations and the Community Forest Associations are the key actors in the design and implementation of sustainable NRM activities under UTaNRMP. Priority is given to activities that reward those who implement them and create benefits for the natural environment and the wider community, particularly downstream water users. The outputs of this component are: (i) Water Resources of the Upper Tana catchment sustainably managed; and (ii) Sustainably managed forest and agricultural ecosystems.

The component is implemented through two sub-components namely

- i) Sustainable management of water resources and
- ii) Sustainable management of forest and agricultural ecosystems

2.2.3.1 Sustainable management of water resources

The activities under sustainable management of Water Resources sub-component include: Support for implementation of Sub-Catchment Management Plans (SCMP), Community water development and management, Water-saving irrigation technologies, water quality monitoring & testing and remedial works at environmental hotspots.

To support water quality monitoring and testing in the project area, the component has constructed two water laboratories in Murang'a and Embu counties. All the necessary chemicals/reagents have been procured and the labs have been operational as from July 2015.

The funds for supporting the implementation of sub-catchment management plan (SCMP) and Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) are channelled through the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) while on-farm activities are implemented through matching grants to Common Interest Groups (CIGs) with the supported community projects expected to contribute 30% of the funding while UTaNRMP provides 70%.

The sub-component's targets are;

Activity	Target
Development / Rehabilitation of springs	100 springs
Rehabilitation of boreholes	65 boreholes
Rehabilitation of shallow wells	55 shallow wells
Construction of dams	12 dams
Improvement of intakes	12 intakes to be improved
Purchase of rain water harvesting tanks for demonstrations	110 Tanks to be procured for demonstration
Upgrading of small-scale irrigation schemes	2,000 HA
Construction of 2 water labs at Embu and Murang'a	2 Laboratories

groups are trained by relevant components on various technical skills like horticultural farming, bee keeping, tree nursery management, fish farming and others depending on the enterprise of the CIG.

Crosscutting issues like HIV and AIDS are be mainstreamed into all project activities . Gender mainstreaming is key so as to ensure participation and benefits to all. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities to ensure they are mainstreamed in the development efforts of the project. Youth participation in project activities is also highly supported by the project.



Community members participating in the development of Community Action Plans– SabaSaba River basin, Murangá county



A community sensitization and awareness meeting in Kirinyaga county

The community empowerment component targets are;

Activity	Target
Community awareness meetings on UTaNRMP	273
Development of Community Action Plans (CAPs)	273
Formation and training of Focal Development Area Committees (FDACs)	273
Delineation of Focal Development Areas (FDAs)	273
Capacity building of Community Forest Associations (CFAs)	33
Training of trainers on Participatory Rural Appraisal for implementing officers	450
Exchange visit for Focal Development Area Committees and Common Interest Groups (CIGs)	240

2.2.2 Sustainable Rural Livelihoods component

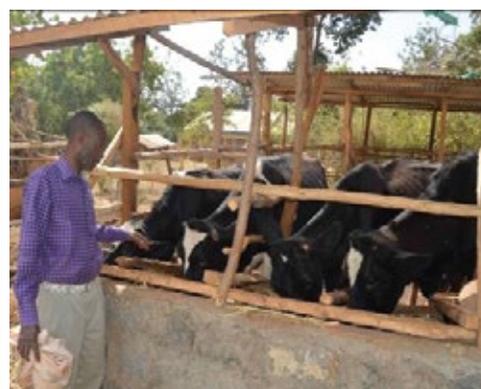
The component aims to improve the incomes and living standards of the target group using interventions that are beneficial to the management of the natural resource base. This component addresses all project development objectives and is expected to deliver two outputs: (i) Agricultural packages adapted to various agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts; and (ii) CIGs successfully adopt and/ or improve farm and/or off-farm income generating activities. The component has two sub components namely;

i) Adaptive research and demonstrations addresses some of the technical and knowledge constraints to improved livelihoods in the Upper Tana catchment. It aims to broaden the range of technical interventions available to beneficiaries and address key agricultural productivity issues covering low and declining crop and livestock yields and other emerging enterprises. The main activities include: carrying out On-farm trials and demonstrations, investigate and demonstrate soil fertility enhancement options to help farmers to address the nutrients constraints affecting crop yields and Seed multiplication and distribution for improved crop varieties.

ii) Adoption of Income Generating Activities: The main objective of the sub-component is to encourage farmers to participate effectively and in a sustainable manner on protection and conservation of the environment while they implement Income Generating Activities (IGAs). The Common Interest Groups (CIGs) are required to write proposals which are funded through Matching Grants to address community felt needs as identified in the community Action Plans (CAPs). The IGAs identified as priorities in the CAPs are implemented by Common Interest Groups (CIGs) comprising of about 20-30 members where the groups contribute up to 30% of the cost of the proposal and 70% is covered by the grant from UTaNRMP. The day today administration of the matching grants to CIGs is managed by an Independent Oversight Firm recruited by the project. Community projects funded under the matching grants are meant to, among others things, increase members' incomes, improve nutrition and food security as well as environmental conservation with the ultimate goal of reducing poverty.



Multiplication of bush beans at KALRO Embu (L) and a community group receiving dairy goats bought by the project in Tharaka Nithi County



Project beneficiaries : Uplands Arrow Roots in Murang'a county (Left) and Dairy farmer in Kirinyaga county (Right)

The Sustainable Rural Livelihoods component targets are;

Activity	Target
Multi-treatment trials	63
On-farm trials and demonstrations	1,230
Establishment and support to Farmer Field Schools (FFS)	888
Matching grants to Common Interest Groups (CIGs)	3,210
Financial literacy training for Common Interest Groups CIGs	1,059
Quality Seed bulking (various)	720