



FOREST FRIENDS - KENYA (FF-K) STRATEGIC PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

1.0 Afforestation by way of Tree Food Crops

Forest Friends Kenya following consultative meetings with stakeholders at the grassroots level has deliberated to undertake reforestation through planting and growing of tree food crops. This action follows the need to provide sustainable income to vulnerable community members. These group includes People living with Aids, women and children. Currently, FFK has been able to grow Food tree varieties such as Mangoes, Oranges, Avocados and Macadamia to 11 self-groups in Meru, Embu and Makueni Counties in Kenya reaching out to 2,438 beneficiaries. This initiative is being undertaken meticulously with emphasis on Ecosystem Based Forest Restoration with a clear intention to avoid biological invasion.

2.0 Conservation of Forest Tree Herbal Banks

Forest Friends Kenya (FFK) acting together with stakeholders at the grassroots level deliberated to undertake preservation of Tree Herbal Banks in Indigenous Forest Canopies in Kenya. This follows the need to preserve herbal tree varieties that are facing the threat of extinction while as well providing herbs from tree backs, roots and leaves that are traditionally used as cure for a myriad of infections across Africa more so along the tropics. At the moment Forest Tree Herbal Banks have been preserved in indigenous Forest regions that include the Maasai - Mau Forest in Narok County Kenya and Mukogodo Forest in Laikipia County. The result has been improved health care for the Maasai and Yaku Indigenous Peoples who predominantly live in these regions. 581 sq meters and 242 sq meters of Tree herbal Banks have been preserved in the Maasai Mau Forest and Mukogodo Forest respectively.

3.0 Community woodlot Biomass Energy

Forest Friends Kenya (FFK) following the realization that Forests in Kenya get depleted mainly by way of collection of wood-fuel and logging deliberated to reduce wood fuel collection in Mau Forest. This resulted to the establishment of Community woodlots in Olkirkirai and Ololulung'a locations in Narok County. FFK is as well undertaking this initiative collectively with primary and secondary schools to endure that wood-fuel energy consumed by these institutions is produced by them thereby reducing. The aggregate carbon footprint. This initiative has significantly reduced deforestation and Forest degradation and increased carbon capture and Carbon stocks by way of Avoided Deforestation. The initiative has resulted to reliable domestic energy for grassroots communities as communities have grown their own Woodlot for wood fuel while simultaneously increasing Carbon stocks and replenishing habitat for wildlife.



4.0 Investment in Nature Based Enterprises

Forest Friends Kenya is undertaking Bee - keeping activities in Narok and Laikipia Counties in Kenya. The Bee Keeping initiative has employed 1,255 community members in the latter County. FFK has resolved to provide all necessary support to nature based enterprises despite challenges in raising funds. FFK is as well providing capacity building for communities in making fire briquettes. The Sotua Women group in Laikipia County has benefited from this initiative and now provide fire briquettes to Lentile Girls Academy who have been relying on Mukogodo Forest for cooking wood fuel.

5.0 Capacity building training workshops for stakeholders

In order to ensure that stakeholders sustain the intended expected results in the strategic program areas Forest Friends Kenya has deliberated to undertake capacity building workshops to strengthen capability more so of community groups. Importantly FFK is undertaking training workshops for the internalization of Forest Stewardship Standards and Ecosystem Based Forest Restoration. We are as well at the forefront of training communities in the development of Community REDD+ Protocols as Kenya prepares for takeoff on REDD+ implementation. Significantly FFK endeavors to ensure the integration of the principle of Free, Prior and informed Consent (FPIC) in the development of Environmental and Social Safeguards hence internalization of Participatory Forest Management and the strengthening of Forest management Functions. The integration of an effective Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism has lately become a core priority in our planning. FFK is in the process of developing an illustrative training curriculum and handbook for communities in regard to the above.

6.0 Capacity building of Community Forest Associations

At the National level, Forest Friends Kenya is working closely with the National Community Forest Associations (NACOFA) to provide Community Forest Associations across Kenya the requisite capacity to adequately engage in the roll out of the National REDD+ Process. Notably, Community Forest Associations have not effectively taken part in the development of Kenya's R-PLAN. I.e. The Readiness Plan for REDD+.

In this regard, FFK will continue to sensitize and guide community Forest Associations in the roll out of the R-PLAN and ensure that Community rights for local and indigenous communities are adequately protected and the safeguards guarantee socioeconomic benefits for vulnerable and Forest Dependent Communities.

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