

ISLA Kenya Annual Report

2017 - 2018



Stawisha Mazingira, Boresha Jamii

Nurture the Environment, Improve Livelihoods





Program Director's foreword



IDH's engagement in Kenya dates to 2010, the year I made my first visit to the tea farms in Nandi County, west Rift Valley. After that, we partnered with the tea sector to support tea farmers in on-farm good agricultural practices through farmer field schools and helping them to obtain certification.

Together with our partners, we soon realized that on-farm certification without holistic landscape-level interventions could not stop deforestation in critical ecosystems like the Mau Forests Complex - a key water tower in Kenya. In 2015, we formed the Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) Kenya to address the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the South West Mau.

ISLA created a vision to jointly restore and conserve 60,000 hectares of the South West Mau Forest by 2030 "through innovative and sustainable solutions to deforestation and forest degradation by addressing livelihoods, water, sustainable energy and ultimately holistic landscape management".

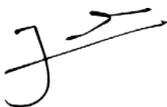
Together, over the last three years, we achieved several milestones. We brought together a unique partnership of private-sector companies, from tea and other sectors, government institutions, civil society partners, donors and local community representatives. We piloted our livestock intensification work, aiming to reduce cattle grazing in the forest while securing community livelihoods, and plan to upscale this along the northeast boundary of the forest. We rehabilitated more than 200 hectares of forest through the ongoing "adopt-a-forest" scheme and plan to do much more. And, with support from our private-sector partners, our water projects started bringing clean water to households across the landscape. Meanwhile, we started engaging local schoolchildren in a conservation education program.

In early 2018, to ensure long-term sustainability of the program beyond donor support, ISLA launched the Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust to govern and develop a financial plan for the program.

Towards 2020, our priorities will include: livestock intensification and other projects to reduce pressure on the forest and improve livelihoods; joint interventions to continue the rehabilitation of degraded areas, and to buffer, protect and conserve the forest; and conservation education for local schools and communities. We'll continue to engage the county governments of Nakuru, Bomet and Kericho. The role of government agencies such as the Kenya Forest Service and the Kenya Wildlife Service will remain critical in addressing illegal activities in the forest and promoting conservation.

IDH will continue fundraising efforts from both existing and new partners and donors, to deepen and upscale ongoing ISLA Kenya work. We also aim to make the Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust fully operational and financially sustainable.

Our partnerships are what make us truly strong. We say a huge *asante sana* (thank you) to our partners for their commitment to our common vision: *stawisha mazingira, boresha jamii* - nurture the environment, improve livelihoods.



Jordy van Honk,
Program Director IDH



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



About IDH

IDH, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, is an international organization whose mission is to accelerate and upscale sustainable trade. IDH convenes companies, civil society organizations (CSOs), governments and others in public-private partnerships. Together with our partners, we drive the joint design, co-funding and prototyping of new economically viable approaches to realize green and inclusive growth at scale in commodity sectors and sourcing areas.

IDH focuses on creating impact in five key areas: deforestation mitigation, improved working conditions (including living wages), gender equality, smallholder inclusion and agrochemical management, which all directly relate to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IDH is supported by multiple European governments, including our institutional donors: BUZA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Netherlands), SECO (Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs) and DANIDA (The Danish International Development Agency). We work together with over 500 companies, CSOs, financial institutions, producer organizations and governments in 12 sectors and 12 landscapes in over 50 countries worldwide.

About ISLA Kenya

The Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) Kenya is a partnership set up by IDH in 2015 in response to deforestation and forest degradation in the South West Mau Forest block in western Kenya.

We aim to conserve 60,000 hectares of the forest by 2030. We build on the interest of tea and other companies to conserve the forest for its microclimate and of the Kenyan government to improve livelihoods of communities.

The South West Mau is the largest of 22 blocks of the Mau Forests Complex (MFC). The MFC covers over 400,000 hectares and is critical for Kenya and parts of East Africa. More than 10 million people depend on its rivers. The forest also influences the region's microclimate such as rainfall patterns, creating ideal conditions to produce crops such as tea. Furthermore, the area is one of Kenya's main water towers and much of its hydroelectric power is generated here.

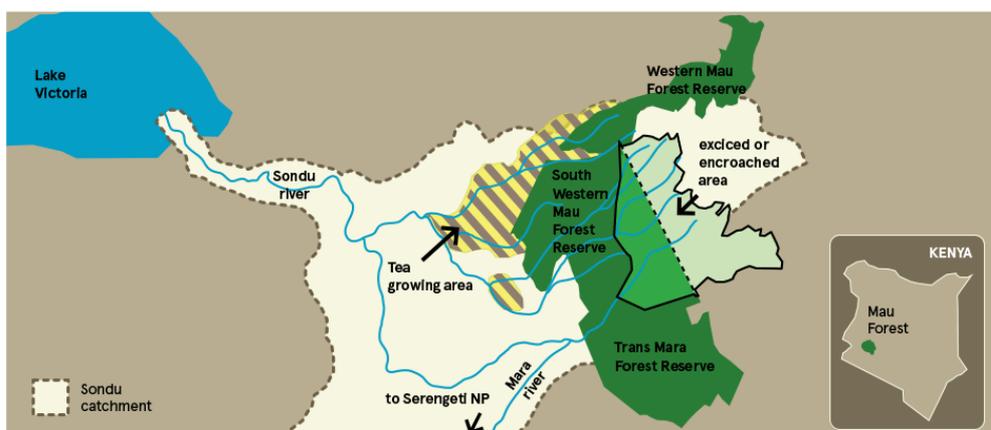
In recent decades, more than 25% of the forest has either been cut down or degraded, putting tea production, other sectors and community livelihoods at risk. This is caused by growing populations, unsustainable livestock grazing, charcoal burning and timber extraction from the forest.

In response, IDH created a strong coalition of the Nakuru, Kericho and Bomet national government agencies; tea, energy, telecommunications and timber companies; and civil society made up of NGOs and community groups, implementing partners and knowledge institutions to work together across the landscape.

Together, we developed an integrated action plan for holistic landscape management in the South West Mau Forest across four key themes: forest conservation, water conservation, sustainable energy with livelihoods as an important cross-cutting theme.

The focus of ISLA Kenya is on the northeast boundary of the forest, where threats are highest.

Beyond 2020, the program will be governed by Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust.



Map of the South West Mau landscape

Through ISLA Kenya, private-sector partners can now consolidate their efforts to create a wide-reaching impact in the South West Mau landscape. The ISLA partners, who in the past worked independently on activities in various areas, now have a direct link to the wider landscape. They can draw on expertise from implementing partners engaged by IDH, including GIZ for improvement of water flows and access, SNV for livestock intensification aimed at reducing pressure on the forest, Rhino Ark for forest conservation and community engagement, and IF Technology for exploring sustainable energy options. In addition, private-sector partners are collaborating directly with public-sector agencies in Kenya, such as KFS and KWS.

About Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust



The Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust is a public-private partnership established by ISLA Kenya, comprising more than 16 stakeholders from the private sector, county governments, national government agencies, community groups and NGOs. The focus has been on operationalizing the trust, in order to facilitate its role in coordinating conservation and livelihood improvement activities, and in aligning high-level policy dialogues with practical sustainability solutions on the ground. The trust plans to set up a financially viable mechanism to sustain the program into the medium and long terms.

The program's focus on conserving and restoring the degraded forest relies on active collaboration with communities to achieve long-term protection of the forest and its resources.

The trust will help to streamline ISLA's activities to ensure that the conservation of the forest goes hand-in-hand with better livelihoods for the local communities.

"This trust is a legal entity created by the members of the ISLA Kenya partnership, and it is our firm belief that this body will help us rehabilitate, protect and conserve the forest. This is in the interest of all tea growers, big and small. The forest influences the region's micro-climate, such as rainfall patterns, creating ideal conditions for the production of tea and other crops. It will require our full support and goodwill from all stakeholders to ensure that we achieve this."

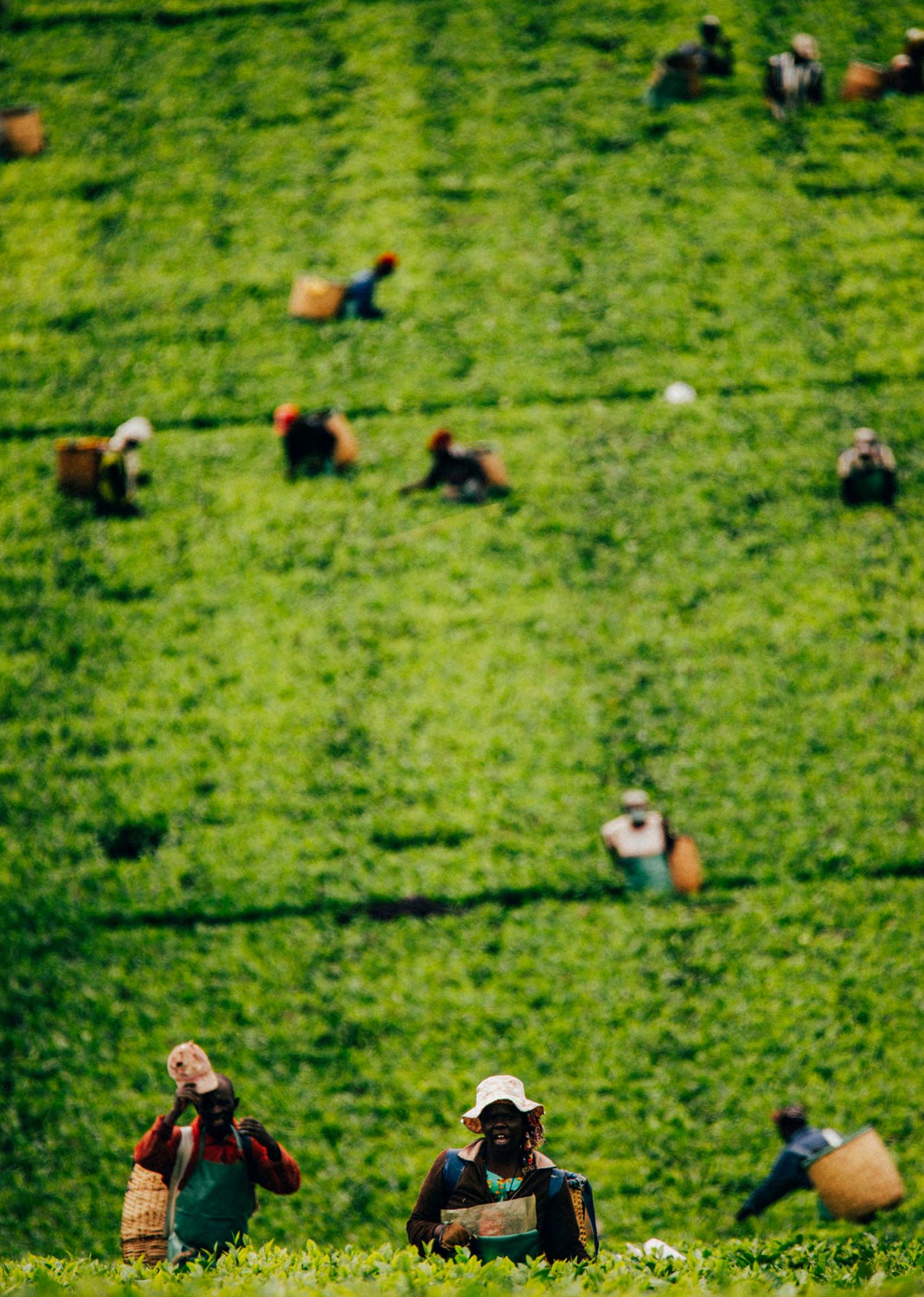
Lerionka Tiampati, trustee and CEO of KTDA

"We cannot achieve any of our goals without actively involving and partnering with the communities that live around the forest. This will both allow forest restoration, and offer viable alternatives for the community and others that depend on the forest's resources for their livelihood. I thank all stakeholders for their continued support to the trust."

Jordy van Honk, IDH's Program Director for African Landscapes.

"KFS is part of the ISLA partnership, and we work closely together to find the best solutions for conserving the South West Mau and improving the livelihoods of surrounding communities. The launch of the trust sends a very positive signal that our collective work will continue into the future."

Mr Emilio Mugo, Former KFS Chief Conservator of Forests



ISLA Kenya partners

PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTNERS:

Unilever Tea Kenya
James Finlays Kenya
Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings (KTDA)
Safaricom Foundation
Kenya Electricity Generating Company Limited (Kengen)
Timber Manufacturers Association

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Kenya Forest Service (KFS)
Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
Water Resources Authority (WRA)
Nyayo Tea Zones Development (NTZDC)
Kenya Water Towers Agency (KWTA)

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS:

Kericho County
Bomet County
Nakuru County

MINISTRIES:

Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Ministry of Water and Sanitation

CIVIL SOCIETY:

Community Forest Associations
Water Resource Users Associations
Ogiek Council of Elders

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative
German Agency for International Cooperation/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)
Rhino Ark
Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Partnerships for Forests (P4F)
SNV

Key thematic areas

The focus of ISLA Kenya covers four key intervention areas: forest conservation; improvement of water flow and access; sustainable/ green energy; and providing alternative livelihoods for local communities, which includes livestock intensification. ISLA has partnered with SNV, Rhino Ark and GIZ, who are leading the livestock intensification work, forest conservation and the improvement of water flows and access respectively. Separately, IDH, Unilever Tea Kenya and JFK are exploring sustainable energy options for tea drying supported by IF Technology. The activities under these interventions are being upscaled towards 2020. ISLA involves men, women and young people in its activities.



Forest conservation



Improvement of water flows & access



Livestock intensification



Sustainable/ green energy



Holistic landscape management

The South West Mau Forest Reserve is a critical water catchment area and biodiversity habitat that faces major conservation challenges. Currently, implementation is ongoing under a Memorandum of Understanding between IDH and Rhino Ark to collaborate on the conservation of the Forest Reserve and adjacent forest areas for the period 2017–2020. A 2017/2018 funding agreement between IDH, Rhino Ark and Safaricom Foundation supports this.

FOREST CONSERVATION

Forest conservation activities are focused on rehabilitating forest-degraded areas, under the “adopt a forest” program. James Finlays Kenya, Unilever Tea Kenya, KTDA, Safaricom Foundation and Nyayo Tea Zones Development Corporation are among the partners who have contributed to the rehabilitation, enrichment and replanting of over 200 hectares to date. Thirty-two degraded plots have been surveyed and demarcated in units of 10 hectares. Partners are welcome to adopt and rehabilitate one or more plots.



Conservation education survey: Interacting with students of Kipkoris Girls High School

Conservation education

To encourage a pro-conservation shift in culture among forest-adjacent communities over time, the project is implementing a voluntary conservation education program in local schools in the South West Mau landscape. A survey of 41 schools within the forest buffer zone was undertaken to assess the schools’ capacities, willingness and need for the program, and to establish a working relationship with them. Among the environmental best practice indicators observed were: in-school environmental clubs; rainwater harvesting; waste sorting; use of fuel-wood alternatives; efficient wood-fuel consumption; and establishment of

in-school tree nurseries. The survey found a definite gap in environmental awareness in many of the schools. Data on school population and current infrastructure were also captured, together with GIS data on the schools, to enhance understanding of the location of the schools relative to the forest and to each other. This data is now being used to plan the detailed implementation of the conservation education program, which will also incorporate alternative energy.

The conservation education and alternative energy interventions are designed to generate a critical mass of people within the community whose practices are in harmony with the environment.

COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

The implementation of alternative community livelihood activities in bio-enterprise is underway. This engagement specifically focuses on honey production and encourages the use of alternative energy solutions. The alternative livelihood activities are being designed to support and encourage development of skills and capacity within the community. Meanwhile, a socio-economic survey of the forest-adjacent communities is under way to gain a better understanding of the specific issues impacting those communities.





LIVESTOCK INTENSIFICATION

Community members trained: at least 200

SMALLHOLDER DAIRY INTENSIFICATION PILOT PROJECT (IDH/ISLA WEST MAU)

Project interventions



Farm level: dairy production

Demo farms/study groups

- Farm investments
- On-farm training/demos
- Peer learning
- Practical Dairy Training Centre (PDTC) training
- Exposure/exchange visits
- Inputs and services/Services Provider Enterprises (SPEN)

Supply chain: marketing & services

Demo farms/study groups

- Business Development Services (BDS) governance/management
- Milk collection and marketing
- Training and extension units
- Input supply and services
- Lobbying

DEMO FARM



Integrate with new activities on:

- Gender and youth inclusion
- Micro-finance and link markets
- An accountability system for partners, defining roles and responsibilities
- Farmers being encouraged to cull excess animals

The livestock intensification pilot, led by SNV, is a two-year project co-funded by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) through P4F, IDH, JFK and Unilever Tea Kenya. It aims to support the development and testing of an innovative model to work with forest-dependent communities along the northeast boundary of the South West Mau, to increase their income levels while reducing deforestation. The model aims to demonstrate the business case for livestock intensification for forest dependent community members.

This pilot is based on 10 demonstration farms, each with 20 community registered household members who are being continuously trained, mentored, coached and monitored to adopt best livestock farming practices. In total, at least 200 members are participating in the pilot phase.

The demo farms are distributed in three administrative wards that cover the community area along the northeast boundary of the South West Mau Forest: two in Chepseon (Kiletein and Kwenet), four in Kiptororo (Korabariet, Chematich, Kipkoris and Githima) and four in Tinet (Kapno, Kapkembu, Tirigoi and Kapogoi).

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

We started implementing the project in the last quarter of 2017. A project team comprising a senior livestock advisor and three project assistants was recruited to the ISLA program and introduced to stakeholders.

ESTABLISHING DEMONSTRATION FARMS

In a consultative workshop held in October 2017 with stakeholders (Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Community Forest Associations (CFA), Livestock Officers (Kericho and Nakuru counties) and local administration), the livestock intensification pilot was discussed. Selection criteria for demonstration farms and participating farmers were defined and agreed. Based on these criteria, the stakeholders completed a selection of 10 demonstration farms and 200 farmers (20 per farm) to participate in the pilot project. At least an acre of maize for silage was established at each demonstration farm.



Livestock intensification project area

FARMER TRAINING

Based on the commercialization level of the (mostly small-scale) farmers in the project area and following a training needs assessment, a curriculum was developed to guide subsequent training courses. Training on dairy intensification was carried out for study group members around all 10 demonstration farms twice per month. The topics covered included feeds and feeding, record keeping, calf rearing, fodder establishment, and improved pastures.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOTS)

Selection criteria were developed for youth TOTS from the participating farmer groups. Having selected the TOTS, a ten-day residential training/ induction session was held. The aim was to empower the groups to take an entrepreneurial approach to providing training in their communities.

INPUT ACCESS

In collaboration with the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) - Lanet and the county government of Nakuru- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, two fodder seed bulking sites of an acre each were established in the project area: one in Kiptororo and one in Tinet. The study group members will be able to access fodder planting material at a subsidized fee payable to the hosts of these two bulking sites, for maintenance of the sites. This will solve one of the main challenges community members face: inaccessibility of fodder/pasture

seeds, especially due to the limited number of institutions providing fodder seeds and the long distance to the nearest such institution.

In addition, there was a lack of services and input providers for efficient, optimal livestock farming. The project created links with input providers to enable the farmers to easily access inputs for increased production and improved farming practices – including artificial insemination, agro-input supplies and training, and service providers specifically targeted at young people in the project area.

DEVELOPMENT OF MILK COLLECTION, BULKING AND MARKETING MODEL

It has been recognized that the farmers operating in the project area are not organized into groups or units that allow them to access formal, reliable markets. A study was therefore commissioned to understand the current milk collection patterns and opportunities for reliable markets within the project area. The study will inform a proposal for an organized milk marketing system, which empowers farmers to negotiate better terms with milk buyers.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

IDH and SNV agreed on a monitoring and evaluation framework for the project based on a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). A baseline survey and capacity needs assessment for the selected farmers was also completed.

MICROFINANCE INTEGRATION WITHIN THE LIVESTOCK INTENSIFICATION MODEL

To enable farmers to access credit, the project team trained community members to establish table banking among the members of the group. Since the inception of the table-banking group, at every training session, members raise an agreed amount that is banked in a kitty, which is then made available as a credit facility to buy services such as artificial insemination.

Improved water flow and access

The International Water Stewardship Programme (IWaSP) Kenya is implemented and co-funded by GIZ. GIZ is the lead implementing partner for the improved water flow and access component within the ISLA South West Mau partnership. IWaSP aims to improve water security in the Sondu River Basin by improving water availability for domestic use, economic activities and ecosystems through catalyzing partnerships between the private sector, public sector and civil society that address shared water risks. So far, James Finlays Kenya, Unilever Tea Kenya, the county government of Kericho, KTDA, WRA and Water Resource Users Associations (WRUA) are contributing in cash and in kind to address water risks.

IMPROVING WATER RESOURCES MONITORING AND REGULATION

- 12 regular gauging stations were funded and rehabilitated by IWaSP while three others were supported by the WRA (Water Resource Authority).
- Continuous water quality and quantity monitoring was conducted by WRA and WRUAs (Water Resource User Associations) in Sondu River Basin.
- The team has surveyed water resources and prepared an abstraction and pollution survey for Timbilil and Yurith sub-catchments.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF WRA, KERICHO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND WRUAS

- Quarterly meetings have been established and held for all basin WRUAs as a forum for information sharing.
- IWaSP and WRA conducted institutional capacity assessments of 10 WRUAs to identify training gaps. The feedback has been used to prepare training material for capacity building purposes.
- WRA supported Itare Chemosit WRUA to develop a sub-catchment management plan.
- Financial management training module for WRUAs has been developed and will be piloted in two WRUAs.

CATCHMENT CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES AND WATER AVAILABILITY PROJECTS (GREEN AND GRAY INFRASTRUCTURE)

- Pre-feasibility study for a second James Finlays Kenya-supported community water project (Sinei spring) conducted; design and budget prepared.
- Unilever Tea Kenya is leading the construction of two water springs in Susumwet and Kipyeita.
- Construction of the Kipchobos spring completed and project handed over to the beneficiaries.
- Kipchobos spring's project management committee trained on operation and maintenance of the spring.
- The Cheybei Spring Water Project in Rorok Factory commissioned and various other KTDA-financed community water projects designed; construction started and management committees established in three projects.
- For a fourth KTDA-financed project, an environmental impact assessment for carwash project was carried out; license by the National Environment Management Authority issued.

SUPPORT OF SONDU MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WATER FORUM

- Sondu basin partners (WRUAs, WRA and private companies) participated in exchange visit to Naivasha to learn from multi-stakeholder water resources management approach used in Lake Naivasha basin.
- With support from IWaSP and Lake Naivasha basin, an umbrella WRUA governance structure for Sondu basin was proposed. Since the proposal, WRUA officials have drafted a constitution and elected officials. Such a governance structure would enable WRUA participation as a major stakeholder in the Sondu basin water forum.

Since the IWaSP/GIZ Partnership with IDH/ISLA will end in December 2018, a sustainability strategy is being designed.



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

In 2017, a feasibility study was commissioned to explore the potential of geothermal energy for Unilever Tea Kenya and James Finlays Kenya. Results showed that geothermal energy concepts can technically be constructed, but are not financially feasible. Unilever Tea Kenya and James Finlays Kenya are exploring next steps with IF Technology, with support from IDH.



GENDER

As required by the constitution of Kenya, the ISLA program included at least 30% women in CFA (Community Forest Associations), Water Resource User Association (WRUA) meetings and livestock intensification trainings. The ISLA board also included a female trustee in the Stawisha Mau Charitable Trust. There is an opportunity to further integrate gender into key ISLA projects by looking at interventions through a gender lens.





Success stories from the field

SUCCESS STORY 1:

KWENET DEMONSTRATION FARM

It was during a meeting with his CFA group and Kenya Forest Service officials that Mr Bernard Limo, whose farm was selected as a demonstration site, learned about the ISLA program. What began as a discussion about illegal logging and grazing in the forest resulted in him leading community members to address the issues they were facing.



Mr Limo explains the importance of water troughs within his fertilized paddock system.

The greatest challenges with livestock included feeding, issues arising from the death toll of livestock, pests attacking the livestock, declining milk output from the cows feeding in the forest, and difficulties noticing cows' fertility signs. Mr Limo says farmers received training on cattle rearing, including caring for fodder crops, setting up a cow barn, monitoring pests and diseases, and adding a feeding trough. The result? He has doubled the amount of milk produced on his farm:

Forest protection is necessary to change rainfall patterns in the area. In the long run, by keeping my animals in the homestead, there's less risk of losing them to the forest. I'm planning to increase fodder and silage, which will help secure food supply and give me more time in the day to work on other activities.

We've found that the other farmers have varying financial capabilities. As a group, we're working towards supporting those who have financial difficulties via a monthly savings plan.

By being part of the ISLA program, I've learned more about planting various fodder crops on the farm, including sorghum, sweet potato vines, desmodium and maize for silage. These fodder crops are good sources of protein that support more and healthier cows. I can also share my seeds with other farmers when they are ready to set up their own farms.

As for the milk, it's better to sell it to the cooperative – I'll receive a lump sum amount after a given period instead of dealing with money on a daily basis like I was when I sold my milk to local shops. This will help me save money, and put it to better use as well.

Previously, I didn't have a plan of action for inseminating my animals. But with my newfound knowledge and access to artificial insemination services in Kericho, coupled with feeding the animals in the homestead, I'm able to intentionally inseminate them at the right moment. This has the dual benefits of improving the breed and increasing profits.

The program has really made a difference to my life. In the future, I'll be able to produce enough food for my cattle, which means the cows will be able to produce more milk. My livestock will be at the homestead – not in the forest. Overall, I'll be a better farmer.

SUCCESS STORY 2:

SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS

Illegal activities, such as overgrazing in the forest, illegal logging, charcoal burning and poaching, pose a threat to the South West Mau forest block. Joint quarterly surveillance flights with law enforcement agencies have served as a useful forum to observe and understand issues, discuss challenges and agree on solutions, including a post-surveillance action plan. This has led to a reduction in illegal activities through active collaboration of partners. In October 2018, we carried out the 11th joint surveillance flight, with notable participation from the County Security Team, including the County Commissioner and County Police Commandant.



Post-surveillance flight team and larger group photos: senior security officers and other county government officials participated.

SUCCESS STORY 3:

BIO-ENTERPRISE ON HONEY PRODUCTION

Rhino Ark has engaged a consultant to support capacity building on sustainable honey production, a traditional product of the Ogiek community found here. A baseline assessment was done on 60 community groups in Kiptororo and Tinet locations with a total of 828 members participating in the training and baseline survey. Sustainable honey production can provide an alternative income opportunity for communities, to improve their livelihoods and reduce over-reliance on unsustainable and illegal forest activities.



Meetings with community members on honey production

SUCCESS STORY 4:

KIPCHOBOS SPRING REHABILITATION

The Kipchobos Spring Rehabilitation Project is one of the joint initiatives aimed at protection, conservation and rehabilitation of springs to provide domestic water to neighboring communities and their livestock. The project includes a component on raising awareness and capacity building of the community members regarding water resources as well as project management. We initially expected the project to benefit approximately 200 households, around 600 pupils from Chemalal academy, and around 600 pupils from Mugenyi primary school, but in practice the water project has benefited many more people.



Through technical support from GIZ, we reconstructed the spring collection chamber and channelled water through an outlet connected to a piped water system. This involved clearing vegetation, demolishing a previous construction above the head of the spring, building a cut-off drain to divert surface water, and temporarily channeling water through a pipe, to allow community members to access water during construction. This was followed by placing large stones above the head of the spring, constructing the new collection chamber and protecting the spring head using layers of impervious material and grass cover.

Mr David Ronoh, chairman of Kipchobos Spring water users in Kimulot division, lauded the effort of partners James Finlays Kenya, ISLA/IDH, GIZ/ IWaSP and other stakeholders involved in supporting the rehabilitation of Kipchobos Spring:

Before the spring rehabilitation project, close to 5,000 people used to collect water from the spring. Since then, that number has increased to 12,000, with people travelling as far as 10 km to collect water. For the community, the project has meant increased water flow, reduced contamination of water, reduced water-borne diseases, and protection of the spring by removing exotic trees and replacing them with indigenous trees.

Because of the partnership, Bomet County has committed to complement the project's efforts by providing a water tank, which will collect gravity-fed water from the spring. There are also plans to rehabilitate four other spring/wetlands in the division.

James Finlays Kenya noted the benefit of its outgrower population having access to clean water:

Through engagement with ISLA, and other stakeholders' efforts in implementing water access and flow projects in South West Mau Forest ecosystem, we expect direct improvements in the livelihoods of communities living near the forest.

Judging by the increased number of people, motorcycles and vehicular traffic in the area around the spring, the Kipchobos Spring Rehabilitation Project will have significant impact on the community around the area.

SUCCESS STORY 5:

SPRING REHABILITATION

Based on collaboration between GIZ/IWaSP, several KTDA factories in Region 5 and ISLA/IDH, several community water springs and wetlands are being rehabilitated. These include: Cheybei in Rorok, Aonet in Kapkoros, Chepsoi in Kapset, Chemot in Tirgaga and a wetland called Daraja Sita in Kapkatet.



Cheybei water spring in Rorok, constructed with co-funding from Kenya Tea Development Agency

SUCCESS STORY 6:

KIPYEITA AND SUSUMWET SPRING PROTECTION PROJECTS

Unilever Tea Kenya has been actively engaging their out-grower community in the Kapsuser area on the rehabilitation of two key water springs that will serve as a source of water for community members and their livestock.



SUCCESS STORY 7:

KABONGOI STUDY GROUP

Under the livestock intensification program, a group of farmers formed the Kabongoi Study Group to support each other on labor and finance issues. The group started with 20 members, has since grown to 25, and plans to increase to 40.

During the setup of a demonstration farm, members of the group got hands-on experience in planting napier grass and managing this feed, which they source from their designated farm. They learned about the importance of preparing the land and boosting the potential of the grass to grow using animal manure and synthetic fertilizers. They also took the initiative to work on a member's space, supporting each member to plant their fodder crop.

Through ISLA, the group has learned to fertilize the grass, which has enabled them to improve their feed quantity and quality. The cows now have access to a fertilized paddock where they feed for a week on a rotational basis.

Chairman of the Kabongoi Group Mr. Daniel Lang'at said:

We don't let the cows depend on the paddocked space alone, but also cut grass from a different space and give the food to the cows. We've seen a difference in the rate of grass that grows in the paddock where the cows live – it's noticeable when the cows are moved to a different paddock.

The group has become aware of the harmful effects of taking the animals to the forest, and that the milk production from animals who reside in the forest is often very low, in addition to the many pests and diseases that could attack them.

To prevent this, we agree on the need to feed the animals in the homestead. It hasn't increased the workload – and the increase in milk production makes it even better.

Members of the group intend to sell their milk to a cooperative.

Marketing direct to the cooperative has several benefits: the sales system is more transparent; we can organize a reliable transport service; and we can prevent any changes to the milk quality.

The farmers also intend to improve their breeds, but the artificial insemination services are located in Keringet, which is some distance from their farms. The challenge is exacerbated by the poor road network, which also stops the farmers getting to market. Their country representative has since promised to look into the matter.

Two members of the group have participated in a Training of Trainers session, and subsequently visited each member farm to pass on what they learned about livestock management.

The newly trained trainers have been a great resource – and we’re working out the best way to compensate them for their services to the group.



