



Mount Kenya Ewaso Water Partnership

PROGRESS REPORT



PREFACE

Mt. Kenya-Ewaso Water Partnership (MKEWP) was established as a public-private consortium in December 2015 by a group of water actors within the Upper Ewaso Ng'iro North Catchment Area (UENNCA) to engage constructively in water resource use, conservation and management.

Water users within the basin have been experiencing increased water insecurity over the last 10-15 years due to small-holder and commercial irrigation activities occurring upstream of the Ewaso Ng'iro North River Basin. Although commercial growers have diversified their water use from rivers to rainwater storage and groundwater, the dry season river flows continue to trend downwards despite concerted efforts by Water Resources Authority (WRA), Water Resources User Associations (WRUAs) and the commercial growers. Failure to manage the shared water resources puts existing businesses, livelihoods and the environment at risk.

The MKEWP brings together water actors to solve water problems shared by its citizens. Flower farmers, horticultural growers, WRUAs, County governments, national government agencies, researchers, civil society groups and other water actors collectively identify, discuss and take action on common water problems in this area. The Goal of this partnership is to ensure that water resources in UENNCA are managed for sustainable, equitable, social and economic development in harmony with natural water systems and environmental cycles.

Membership to the Partnership is drawn from water actors and stakeholders within the UENNCA. It is governed through a Council that is comprised of representatives elected from different membership categories. To ensure smooth operation of the Partnership, the Council invited the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) to serve as a secretariat, as well as an information clearing house, assisting the Membership with access to information and resources that help inform the goal and purpose of the Partnership. The secretariat also provides the Partnership with networking services, convenes Partnership meetings, supports the partnership with fundraising, and handles donor relations, undertaking monitoring, auditing and evaluation, as required.

Laikipia Wildlife Forum is a non-profit, membership organization based in Nanyuki town, Laikipia County. It is registered as a company limited by guarantee. LWF has been operating continuously since 1992 in service to Laikipia County and the greater Laikipia landscape. It works with members to address natural resource conservation challenges and to support improvement in livelihoods based on these natural resources. It has continuously implemented its work using grants and contracts since 1999. Its thematic areas consist of water, wildlife, and rangelands, as well as conservation education/training, tourism, and land use.

BACKGROUND

MKEWP is implementing 5 Contractual agreements with 5 different donor partners namely: World Bank, CORDAID, FFI, SNV and Wetlands International, in support to implementation of its strategic plan 2018-2022. The contracts are majorly in three lines of deliverables namely:

- Strengthening Water Resources Users Association (WRUA) institutional and financial capacity, participation in, and coordination of IWRM in a sustainable manner;
- Enhancing access to affordable financing for water investments at household level supporting water conservation and efficient use;
- Enhancing the capacity of the MKEWP secretariat and Council to manage and support the multitude of partners engaged in MKEWP in service to IWRM.

This Report provides a progressive update for the 5 donor contractual agreements up to date.

MKEWP APPROACH

APPROACH

MKEWP goal and focus is to improve water security and governance within the basin. This goal reflects the third strategic objective of the MKEWP Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The goal implies that water security is improved with use of technological innovation and institutional solutions. This goal is supported by the following three Project strategic objectives:

- Strategic Objective (SO) 1: Strengthen Water Resources Users Association (WRUA) institutional and financial capacity, participation in, and coordination of IWRM in a sustainable manner.
- Strategic Objective (SO) 2: Enhance access to affordable financing for water investments at household level supporting water conservation and efficient use.
- Strategic objective (SO) 3: Enhance the capacity of the MKEWP secretariat and Council to manage and support the multitude of partners engaged in MKEWP in service to IWRM

WORLD BANK



WRUA Members endorse the WRUA Agency Model by show of hands in one of the awareness meetings in Laikipia County

The contract runs from Jan 2019-June 2030

THE ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS CONTRACT

1. Secure WRA HQ approval to pilot and implement WRUA agency model.

The Partnership will hold up to three meetings with relevant officials from Ministry of Water and Irrigation and WRA Headquarters to flesh-out the WRUA agency model concept and seek approval to pilot and implement the model under the MKEWP.

2. Secure the support of the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) to endorse the WRUA agency model and agree to use WRUA performance reporting from WRA to inform WRUA Sub Catchment Management Plan (SCMP) funding from this source.

The Partnership will hold two meetings with relevant officials from ministry of Water and Irrigation and WSTF Headquarters to present the WRUA agency model concept and seek support to pilot and implement the model under the MKEWP.

3. Create local awareness on the agency model and solicit local support for pilot and implementation of the model.

The Partnership will conduct a major workshop with Basin stakeholder groups including; County governments of Laikipia, Meru, Nyeri, Nyandarua and Isiolo, private sector players, WRUAs and Community Forests associations to solicit local buy in for piloting and implementation of the agency model.

4. Develop the Terms and Tools for Performance-based contracting.

The Partnership will form a task force comprised of up to 5 key resource persons to formulate the necessary guidelines and policies to operationalize the WRUA agency model. This task force will be supported to carry out this mandate through workshop, meetings and travel.

5. Identify 5 WRUAs to pilot and implement the Agency Model.

The Partnership will carry out capacity need assessment of 10 WRUAs and select 5 most promising WRUAs. This will be done through a consultant.

6. Fill the capacity gaps for 5 select WRUAs to allow for piloting and implementation of the agency model.

The Partnership will support review of WRUA SCMPs, WRUA constitution, and by-laws. The Partnership will also train the 5 WRUAs on the agency model and factors affecting WRUA performance.

7. Pilot and implement the Agency Model in five WRUAs.

The Partnership will provide professional and technical support to the 5 WRUAs for six months to support service delivery and build momentum for resource mobilization and collection. Each WRUA will be subsequently supported for six months with staff that include a management official and three scouts. After six months, each WRUA will support their WRUA management personnel through funds generated from the WRA and WRUA membership and contract agreement.

8. Design an innovative financing mechanism to crowd in private sector capital to provide access to finance for farmers to invest in household water storage.

The Partnership will secure up to \$300,000 funding of private capital to establish a revolving loan fund within the SACCO. The loan fund will be accessible to water users who have joined the EMU-SACCO and are willing to engage with the SACCO's terms and condition.

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9. Increase adoption of water conservation technologies at farm levels.

The Partnership will incentivize members of EMU SACCO to install water storage structures at their farm levels through a 50% co-financing arrangement. This is aimed at increasing adoption of water conservation technologies.

10. Conduct 6 Council meetings.

The Council shall meet tri-annually during the months of April, July, October in 2019 and January, April and June in 2020. The Council is the forum for MKEWP planning, decision making and coordination.

11. Conduct 2 AGMs for its membership.

The Partnership will conduct two an annual meeting for all its members during the contract period. These meetings offer the members opportunity for information, progress reports, and financial accountability. The meetings will bring together all subscribed members of the Partnership and invited guests.

12. Conduct special committee and task force meetings.

The Partnership will support at least one meeting every month for special committees appointed by Council to work on various mandates and tasks. These committees are:

- The Executive committee established by the Council to exercise powers delegated by the Council.
- A technical committee is in place and will have the mandate to formulate necessary policies and oversee the piloting and implementation of the WRUA agency model.
- The EMU-SACCO oversight committee that will be established to oversee the establishment of the SACCO, support the secretariat in fundraising for revolving loan fund and development of water product loan.

13. Communication and Outreach.

In order to enhance MKEWPs visibility and highlight the partnerships work in the region the Communications department will focus on developing the following IEC materials;

- Development two of MKEWPs Annual Report for the period 2019 and 2020
- Develop Factsheets on EMU- SACCO and the WRUA Agency Model for dissemination to partners. 500 copies of each will be produced and disseminated.
- Develop a feature/documentary on the success story of the partnership

/PROGRESS /RESULTS BY END SEPTEMBER

- Secure WRA HQ approval to pilot and implement WRUA agency model- On going
- Secure the support of the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) to endorse the WRUA agency model and agree to use WRUA performance reporting from WRA to inform WRUA Sub Catchment Management Plan (SCMP) funding from this source. On going
- Create local awareness on the agency model and solicit local support for pilot and implementation of the model. Done
- Identify 5 WRUAs to pilot and implement the Agency Model. Done
- Design an innovative financing mechanism to crowd in private sector capital to provide access to finance for farmers to invest in household water storage. Ongoing.

SNV SMART WATER FOR AGRICULTURE



Farmers training on smart water for agriculture technologies at Kahenya's model farm, Naromoru on January 2019.

MKEWP secured a contractual agreement with SNV to support the operationalization of Irrigation Acceleration Platform in Laikipia County, within the Basin, as a deliverable of Smart Water for Agriculture (SWA). SWA program aims to save water and energy, and to ensure sustainable resource use by promoting farmer-led and market-based smart water products and services.

The program aims to contribute to increased water productivity in agriculture, and increased income and food security through the development of a dynamic and sustainable 'Smart Water Solutions' (SWS) in Kenya that adequately meet the needs of small and medium-sized entrepreneurial (SME) farmers. MKEWP plays a coordination role within County and the upper basin by bringing stakeholders together in Irrigation Acceleration Platform that facilitates smart water innovation across Laikipia County. MKEWP role runs from the period 2017- October 2019.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Farmers database increased from 3000 to 4500 farmers
- Established youth forum to promote youth participation in agri business
- Creating synergies between the IAP and the EMU SACCO in promoting adoption of smart water technologies

FFI WATER, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK



Mr. John Waigumi a member of Kiangoru Water Project and a resident of Mutara challenges WRA Regional Director Mr. Peter Ngubu over the issue of illegal abstractions in Mutara River

The Fauna & Flora International entered into a contract agreement with the MKEWP, legally represented by the LWF, on June 19, 2018 for implementing components of the Project entitled, Cattle, Water and Wildlife: Enhancing Socio-Ecological Resilience in Laikipia. The contract period runs from July 1, 2017 to March 31, 2021. MKEWP had an earlier contractual agreement with FFI for the period July 2017 to March 2018 to support implementation of the project.

The Project objectives include:

- To establish a healthy rangeland to support grazing needs of community livestock and wildlife.
- To improve water availability for domestic use, livestock and wildlife.
- To enable community cattle to market system, support pastoralists' lifestyles and reduce stocking densities.
- To support community based fodder production system and diversification of small scale farmer livelihoods.
- To ensure vulnerable and endangered species are under effective protection.

MKEWP activities in the project contribute to objective 2: Improve water availability for domestic use, livestock and wildlife in the Mutara Conservation Area (MCA).

Achievements for 2019

- Communications support- MKEWP produces Quarterly Web and Media Updates on Water Management Activities to Broader Laikipia Audience
- Social Cohesion and Awareness – MKEWP conducts Bi-Annual Upstream-Downstream
- Water User Meeting for Mutara and Sugori Rivers. Further support is provided to implement WRUA water rationing plans.

CORDAID PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE



Mr Peter Murithi, chair of Ngusishi WRUA, shares with members of Nyahururu WRUA on some of the successful models of farming that they have adopted during an exchange visit to their farm in Ngusishi

MKEWP has entered into agreement with the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) to support and oversight implementation of CORDAID's Partners for Resilience (PfR) program within the Basin. PfR program is an alliance of five Netherlands-based humanitarian, development and environmental organizations: the Netherlands Red Cross (lead agency), CARE Nederland, CORDAID, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, and Wetlands International.

The Alliance uses an integrated approach to mitigate disaster risk and enhance livelihoods, particularly by addressing climate change and ecosystem management and restoration. This agreement will leverage monies to support piloting and implementation of WRUA agency model and further support the development of EMU SACCO.

The Contract and budget to CORDAID is amounting to KSH 6.9M for 2019 to support supplementary activities to the implementation of WRUA Agency Model in two more WRUAs and support to establishment of the EMU SACCO.

The funding has facilitated MKEWP to carry out a baseline survey on 20 WRUAs to determine the benchmark for starting the WRUA agency model. This funding is augmenting the World Bank Project funding, leveraging additional activity, support, and operating costs for 2019. Another phase of funding is expected for 2020.

Activities under the CORDAID Budget:

Lobbying at national level for adoption of WRUA agency model- Meeting with Ministry of Water and Irrigation, WRA, CORDAID, WI, KEWASNET, KWA, KWAHO, 2030 WRG for presentation and adoption on WRUA agency model

- Meeting individual institutions prior to stakeholder meeting
- Stakeholder meeting in Nairobi
- Secure documentation for evidence of adoption and approval from the WRA

Carry out awareness meetings with 10 WRUAs, private sectors members, county government on the WRUA agency model

- Awareness meetings for 10 WRUAs on agency model
- Carry out capacity need assessment for 10 WRUAs and select 2 promising WRUAs for piloting on WRUA agency model.

Foster PPPs at 2 WRUAs and pilot WRUA agency model for sustainability of the WRUA

- Training WRUAs on WRUA Agency Model
- Establishment of accountability system for the 2 WRUAs (1 system per WRUA)
- Support filling of the priority capacity gaps (2 WRUAs receiving support to fill in capacity gaps)

Support establishment of Water Sacco as innovative financing model for water conservation and efficient water use within the basin. (Support in form of membership drive and recruitment, and registration)

- Engage a professional to provide technical support during the SACCO establishment
- Executive committee meeting (2 meetings per months for 1 year for 4 members)
- SACCO membership recruitment drive through agents
- Conduct SACCO AGM
- Production of a documentary for best practices and lessons learnt (Consultancy to develop and produce the script)
- Print media appearances promoting adoption of best practices

Mapping of water resources and abstraction points for 2 WRUAs implementing WRUA Agency Model

Baseline survey

Achievements/Deliverables to date:

- Carried out awareness meetings to 33 WRUAs, private sectors members, county government on the WRUA agency model
- Lobbied 2030 WRG governing council for endorsement of WRUA agency model and further follow ups with Ministry of Water and Sanitation for adoption
- Established EMU SACCO, provided platform for its awareness and membership drive

EWASO MAJI USERS SACCO

THE BEGINNING.

Ewaso Maji Users SACCO was established and formerly registered in November 2018 by like-minded community members with guidance and technical support from Mount Kenya Ewaso Water Partnership under the Laikipia Forum Secretariat.

In the past ten months we have been able to transverse all the WRUA clusters in the Ewaso North basin the furthest being Lekiuundu WRUA in Meru County to Nyahururu WRUA in Nyandarua County.

This great fit has been with the support of CORDAID and WORLD BANK, who are our committed partners for 2019/2020.



EMU-SACCO Board and MKEWP partner engagement with Vatan Plastics Africa Ltd

WHERE WE ARE:

MEMBERSHIP:

Our interactions with the communities in the region has seen our membership grow to 65 members, 64 of these members are Individual members and 1 is a community water project. Membership recruitment efforts are under way for the months of September and October and we have a target of bringing on board at least 300 members.

FINANCIAL GROWTH:

We have our Credit policy in place and once we build our financial to at least

KSH: 2, 000,000 we shall be in a position to lend to our members.

Our fundraising efforts are on and we expect to bring on board a revolving fund of

KSH: 30, 000,000 for our members to put up water infrastructure.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- We have support from World Bank and CORDAID who have been instrumental in operationalization of EMU-SACCO.
- As part of our linkage of members to supplier, we are in partnership with *Vatan Plastics Africa Ltd*, a leading company in water use infrastructure installation from water pan lining to green-house installation.
- Vatan is a strategic partner in provision of these technology to our members at more affordable prices .This puts the SACCO at a vantage point as one stop shop for all the agricultural technologies required by our members.
- We continue to grow our partnerships in all sectors to ensure we delivers wholesome products to our members and bring them closer to the realization of the benefits of water conservation in their households and communities.

CHALLENGE.

- Growing our membership base in the basin has been a challenge as most still do not realize the advantages of irrigated agriculture which is our main focus.
They need to come to realization that embracing these technologies is the way to go in ensuring sustainability of their livelihoods.
- Our financial growth is heavily pegged on members' regular contribution.

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

WATERSHED PROGRAMME

MKEWP entered into a 2019 contract with Wetlands International to support the implementation of the watershed program within the basin. The contract amounting to KES 2,000,000 will be to support the following;

- Capacity building- Training WRUAs on L&A in Meru, Laikipia Nyeri Counties. The Programme will also will facilitate dialogue between WRUAs, CFAS and Counties on WRM/WASH integration.
- Knowledge and Research- WRUA to access data for sub catchment management from CETRAD and WRA
- MKEWP will develop it's lobbying and advocacy strategy with its Council.

MKEWP MEMBERSHIP

MKEWP 2019 membership drive commenced in March 2019. During a Mount Kenya Growers Group meeting held on the same month. The Partnership presented a progressive report on its development and implementation of its strategic plan during this meeting. The Members of MKGG unanimously agreed to support MKEWP through 2019 membership subscription. So far, 11 commercial growers have paid their membership fees amounting to KES 1,208,500. MKEWP has also extended its membership to 33 WRUAs. 11 WRUAs have already paid their membership fees amounting KES 70,000 and 13 community water projects amounting to KES 39,000.

MKEWP will seek to recruit more members with the support of the Council before the end of the year.



Our offices are located at the
Laikipia Forum premises in Nanyuki.

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