

REHABILITATION OF DEGRADED SAINO FOREST SITE WITHIN MAU FOREST COMPLEX.

Introduction:

The Ministry of Energy (MOE) under the auspices of Kenya Energy and Environment and Social Responsibility Program (KEEP) in conjunction with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) have been undertaking afforestation of upper catchment areas of rivers Tana and Sondu Miriu which serve the 7 forks, and Sondu Miriu power stations.

The afforestation in degraded catchment areas is implemented through awarding of contracts to the private contractors who engage the community forest association (CFA) members. KFS is involved in supervision of rehabilitation works and also in monitoring and evaluation in conjunction with Ministry of Energy(MoE)



The project achievement is as follows:

NO	PROJECT SITE (FOREST BLOCK)	AREA (HA)	FOREST STATION	COUNTY	DURATION	CATCHMENT AREA
1	Kariani,Njigari, Chinga, and Kina	134.7	Zuti	Nyeri	2011-2013	Upper Tana
2	Upper Kamweti	31.5	Castle	Kirinyaga	2011-2013	Upper Tana
3	Kimbo and Mutuaru	48.9	Mucheene	Meru	2011-2013	Upper Tana
4	Njukiini	4.2	Njukiini	Embu	2013-2015	Upper Tana
5	Kihuri	37.7	Zuti	Nyeri	2013-2015	Upper Tana
6	Hombe	26.4	Hombe	Nyeri	2013-2017	Upper Tana
7	Mbeu 1B	40	Lower Imenti	Meru	2011-2013	Upper Tana
8	Mbeu 1A	107.4	Lower Imenti	Meru	2013-2017	Upper Tana
9	Katakene and Kaunga	96.0	Lower Imenti	Meru	2013-2017	Upper Tana
10	Keiga	41.9	Nyambene	Meru	2015-2018	Upper Tana
11	Kapchumbe	155.6	Chepalung u	Bomet	2013-2018	Sondu Miriu
12	Ndoinet	85.4	Ndoinet	Bomet	2013-2016	Sondu Miriu
13	Saino	56.5	Saino	Nakuru	2013-2016	Sondu Miriu
14	Koguta	19.9	Nyando Sub County	Kisumu	2013-2018	Sondu Miriu
15	Enosupukia	150	Narok County	Narok	2016-2020	Sondu Miriu
TOTAL		950.17 Ha				

Rehabilitation of Saino forest degraded site

Saino forest block is located within Mau Forest Complex which is one of the country's critical ecosystems that sustain many rivers key among them River Sondu on which the Sondu Miriu hydroelectric power station is located. Saino forest block is on the Upper catchments of River Sondu.

The rehabilitation project was carried out under the auspices of the Kenya Energy and Environment and Social Responsibility Program (KEEP) of the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum. The contract was for a period of thirty six (36) months from June 2013 to June 2016 during which Integrated Forestry Consultancy and Management Services (IFCMS) firm was contracted by Ministry of Energy(MOE) to undertake the project and work closely with the local CFAs and Youth groups.

Goal of the project

The projects overall goal was to restore 56.5 Ha of degraded Saino forest with mixed indigenous trees and bamboo

Brief of Activities successfully carried out in the project

(a) Site Hand over:

The Ministry of Energy and Kenya Forest Service handed over the project site to the contractor Integrated Forestry Consultancy and Management Services (IFCMS) in the month of September 2013. The handover ceremonies involved holding brief meetings at the County Governor's offices, Head of Mau Conservancy office, The Ecosystem Conservator office and the Forest Station Manager's office. During the meeting the objectives and model of implementing the project were discussed and agreed upon.

The office meetings were then followed by the physical visits to the project sites, where staff from IFCMS were shown the actual boundaries of the project sites and also introduced to the Local CFAs and youth group representatives.



Condition of site at time of Handover (August 2013)

(b) Mobilization:

After the site hand over, the contractor held meetings in the month of September 2013, with KSF field officers to agree on the model of the project, methodology and specific details of implementing certain activities of the project. During the meeting the project model and methodology as indicated here below were discussed and agreed upon.

Two meetings were held to sensitize the community on the upcoming River Sondu Miriu catchment rehabilitation project within Saino Forest Station. The exercise was jointly conducted by the MOE, KFS and IFCMS.

The key agenda for the meetings were;

- ❖ Introduction of the project and its objectives
- ❖ Discussion of the benefits that the project will bring to the community living adjacent to forest
- ❖ Discussion of roles the adjacent community would play in the project implementation and its sustainability
- ❖ The roles of the implementing partners

- ❖ Introduction to Forests act, EMCA,PFM, SFM, CBNRM,PFM guidelines, Formation of CFA, User groups and the need to have a Forest management Plan.
- ❖ Proposed methodology of implementing the afforestation / rehabilitation project at Saino Forest Station



Mobilization meeting in the open degraded forest land of the Saino Forest (Sept. 2013)

(c) Site Preparation

Saino rehabilitation project covers an area of **56.5Ha** of degraded forest. The lower part of the site covering an area of **41.5 Ha** borders the river and is very steep while the relatively flat open overgrazed grassland areas covers an area of **15.0 Ha**. The flat site area was opened up for shambas under tree establishment for livelihood support (TELIS), while in the steep sections no tilling was done. Site preparation involved the following activities

- ❖ Marking the boundary of the planting site
- ❖ Erection of a three strand Barbed wire fence with dropper
- ❖ Clearing of bushes
- ❖ Removal of all snags (Mopping)
- ❖ marking of planting spots (Staking out/ pegging)at 2.5*2.5Metres
- ❖ Pitting { digging of holes 1.5*1.5*1.5 feet}

- ❖ Sourcing for specified types of indigenous seedlings and bamboo
- ❖ Transport the seedlings to planting sites and or temporary holding site



Portion prepared for Telis (Jan-April 2014)



Pitting at the site with no TELIS (Feb. 2014)

(d) Planting:

Planting was done during the rainy season when the soils have enough moisture build up. This activity was completed in the first year of the project.



Planting in June 2014

(e) Beating up or replacing dead or damaged trees.

This activity was done in the first year of the project (six months after planting)

(f) Nurturing and Policing:

Forest adjacent community was engaged in nurturing and protection of the planted tree seedlings from stray domestic animals and people . Two community scout were employed and deployed at the site for protection. A five strand barbed wire fence was constructed to keep off Livestock and other physical interference to the planted trees



Site under PELIS June 2015



Site without PELIS June 2015

(g) Monitoring and Supervision of activities in the site:

Rehabilitation activities were closely supervised by IFCMS assisted by KFS staff at the station level and the two community scouts.

Monitoring was done by the a team from the KFS Headquarters and the Ministry of Energy.

(h) Site Hand over

The site was handed over to KFS by Cabinet Secretary , Ministry of Energy on February, 2017. The condition of the site was as shown here below:



site under PELIS



Site without PELIS