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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Project Site (Forest Block)</th>
<th>Area (Ha)</th>
<th>Forest Station</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Catchment Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kariani, Njigari, Chinga, and Kina</td>
<td>134.7</td>
<td>Zuti</td>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Upper Kamweti</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>Castle</td>
<td>Kirinyaga</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kimbo and Mutuaru</td>
<td>48.9</td>
<td>Muchene</td>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Njukiini</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Njukiini</td>
<td>Embu</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kihuri</td>
<td>37.7</td>
<td>Zuti</td>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>2013-2015</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hombe</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>Hombe</td>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mbeu 1B</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Lower Imenti</td>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mbeu 1A</td>
<td>107.4</td>
<td>Lower Imenti</td>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Katakene and Kaunga</td>
<td>96.0</td>
<td>Lower Imenti</td>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>2013-2017</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Keiga</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>Nyambene</td>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>2015-2018</td>
<td>Upper Tana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kapchumbe</td>
<td>155.6</td>
<td>Chepalungu</td>
<td>Bomet</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
<td>Sondu Miriu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ndoinet</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>Ndoinet</td>
<td>Bomet</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
<td>Sondu Miriu</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Saino</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>Saino</td>
<td>Nakuru</td>
<td>2013-2016</td>
<td>Sondu Miriu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Koguta</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>Nyando Sub County</td>
<td>Kisumu</td>
<td>2013-2018</td>
<td>Sondu Miriu</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Enosupukia</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Narok County</td>
<td>Narok</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
<td>Sondu Miriu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>950.17 Ha</strong></td>
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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.
(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 56.5 Ha of degraded forest. The lower part of the site covering an area of 41.5 Ha boarders 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 Barbered 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 buildup. 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
(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