REPORT

Of the

MEDIUM-TERM REVIEW

Of the

ELDORET-ITEN WATER FUND FOR TROPICAL WATER TOWERS CONSERVATION, KENYA

REF: 2025EIWF_MTR

Submitted to:

The Nature Conservancy
Watermark Business Park, Ndege Road, Karen
P.O. Box 19738-00100 GPO
Nairobi, Kenya

By:

Bancy M. Mati

Revised October 28, 2025

Consultant
Prof. Bancy Mbura Mati
Mombasa Road, Nextgen Mall, 5th Floor, Suite No. 15
P.O. Box 59890 – 00200, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel. 254736353389
E-mail: bancym@gmail.com

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms

AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
BD	Biodiversity
BL	Baseline
BoM	Board of Management
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CFA	Community Forestry Association
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
EF	Endowment Fund
EIWF	Eldoret-Iten Water Fund
ELDOWAS	Eldoret Water and Sewerage Company
ESMP	Environment and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental & Social Safeguards
FSAP	Farm Specific Action Plan
FCC	Field Conservation Coordinator
FLLoCA	Financing Locally-Led Climate Action
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FMM	Financial Management Manual
FY	Financial Year
GALs	Gender Action Learning System
GEB	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GoK	Government of Kenya
GRM	Grievances Redress Mechanism
Ha	Hectare
HH	Household
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INRM	Integrated Natural Resources Management
IPAP	Indigenous Peoples Action Plan
ITEWASCO	Iten Tambach Water and Sewerage Company
KAM	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
KeLCoP	Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project (of IFAD)
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KFS	Kenya Forestry Services
KM	Knowledge management
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Society
KWTA	Kenya Water Towers Agency
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MECCF	Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Forestry
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MIS	Management Information System
MTR	Mid-Term Review (of the EIWF project)
MWI	Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services

PFMP	Participatory Forest Management Plans
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RGS	River Gauging Station
RIMS	Results and Impact Management System
SDECC	State Department for Environment and Climate Change (of MECCF)
SECAP	Social, Environment and Climate Procedures
SESIA	Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SoE	Statement of Expenditure
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USD	United States Dollars
WASREB	Water Services Regulatory Board
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WF	Water Fund
WRA	Water Resources Authority
WRUA	Water Resources Users Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Eldoret–Iten Water Fund (EIWF) finds that the project has made good progress across most of its technical, institutional, and environmental targets, while also identifying several critical gaps that must be addressed to ensure long-term sustainability, especially the establishment of a legally registered and financially viable Water Fund. While EIWF has performed strongly across restoration, capacity development, knowledge management, Indigenous Peoples engagement, and stakeholder coordination, the complex institutional requirements of a Water Fund have constrained progress on establishment of governance structures that are central to the Fund's long-term vision and sustainability of the project.

Key achievements

For the establishment of a public-private partnership platform and enabling policies for sustainable management of the targeted water towers (Component 1), two-thirds of activities are ongoing. The primary constituents required to establish the Water Fund are in place. ELDOWAS is hosting the fund and has established administrative systems, with most procedures ready to take effect after on-going capacity development. The project's successful engagement with relevant policy bodies (KWTA, WRA, NEMA, MoEF, MoW, MoA) facilitated the integration of the WF concept into water tower management strategies. WF activities were directly embedded in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs). Engagement with the public and private sector, including Kenya Association of Manufacturers members and the Coca-Cola Foundation, has driven contributions to EIWF activities, setting the stage for future fundraising after establishing the WF under its legal framework. Component 2, focusing on ecosystem restoration and climate-smart production systems, represents the project's strongest area of performance. The EIWF significantly exceeded its restoration targets, restoring 6,654 hectares through agroforestry and water conservation measures, 13,293 hectares under sustainable land management, and 425.8 hectares of wetlands and springs, far surpassing mid-term expectations. The project onboarded 5,730 households implementing at least 75% of their farm plans and a total of 37,588 beneficiaries across all categories uptake. Indigenous Peoples are meaningfully engaged through tree nurseries capable of producing one million seedlings annually, wetland restoration, and livelihood activities such as beekeeping. Climate-smart value chain interventions (fruit trees, super napier grass, and water pans) have reached more than 8,000 households. Capacity development and knowledge management (Component 3) under EIWF shows one of the most comprehensive knowledge management and monitoring systems among comparable watershed conservation initiatives in Kenya. The project has operationalised 13 automated river gauging stations, deployed drone monitoring for restoration tracking, and implemented multiple M&E tools including METT, BCG, digital Farm-Specific Action Plans, and an SMS-based advisory system now used by 24,000 farmers. Youth engagement has been particularly strong, with 15 trained drone pilots actively supporting monitoring activities across the landscape. Training programmes for WRUAs, CFAs, women, youth, and extension officers have been implemented as planned.

Key challenges and underlying reasons

Despite these achievements, several challenges remain. The core objective of establishing a fully functional Water Fund governance structure, supported by a credible financing mechanism, remains incomplete. Only USD 140,000 has been raised towards the Endowment Fund, against a mid-term target of USD 300,000, and the legal registration and constitution of the Water Fund governing body have not yet been finalised. These delays stem primarily from the project's short timeline, the time-intensive process of stakeholder consultations, and frequent changes in county-level political leadership, each of which slowed policy processes and institutional negotiations. The three-year project duration is insufficient for the establishment of an independent Water Fund, given the time required to secure high-level buy-in, align policies, negotiate institutional arrangements, and mobilise private sector financing. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, though ultimately successful, required substantial time due to historical sensitivities and the need to follow robust FPIC processes.

Despite the strong technical achievements, several shortcomings were also identified at mid-term. Some water pans were found to be poorly designed or inappropriately located, largely due to compressed implementation timelines, extremely high community demand, and limited hydro-technical oversight during early rollout, compounded by unpredictable rainfall patterns. Similarly, while distribution of fruit trees, super napier and other inputs was successful, no measurable improvements in farm production or value chain visibility could yet be assessed because these interventions require more time to mature and were introduced in the early biological stages of establishment. In addition, the steep declines reported in river turbidity and sediment loads raised concerns about the credibility of some hydrological data, reflecting the early-stage use of newly installed monitoring systems, methodological inconsistencies, and the absence of sufficient longitudinal datasets to support robust trend analysis. These shortcomings do not detract from overall progress but highlight areas requiring methodological strengthening and technical recalibration.

Recommendations

To strengthen implementation during the remaining period and ensure long-term sustainability, the MTR proposes several time-bound recommendations.

- Legally register the Water Fund, finalise charter & governance structure. **Sept 2025**
- Develop and operationalise WF financing strategy, including private sector outreach and tariff-based contribution model. **Dec 2025**
- Increase outreach and engagement to mobilise new finance for the Endowenement Fund. **Ongoing.**
- Increase cooperation with KeLCOP and other technical partners involved in extension services to reinforce technical oversight of interventions supporting production and value chain development. **Ongoing.**
- Monitor changes in farm production brought by improved access to water and anti-erosion measures, not only production improvements from fruit trees. **June 2026.**
- Reassess hydrological and sediment monitoring methods, validate data, revise methodologies if needed. **June 2026.**
- Audit water pan design and issue engineering guidelines; redesign or rehabilitate non-functional pans. **Nov 2025.**

Overall, the MTR concludes that the EIWF is performing strongly and remains well aligned to GEF and IFAD objectives. The environmental and institutional foundations have been successfully laid, and the project has generated widespread community support and strong county alignment. However, the central strategic objective of creating a sustainable and financially viable Water Fund requires additional time.

A minimum of a one-year no-cost extension is considered necessary to complete governance structures, mobilise funding, and ensure that the substantial gains made to date translate into a durable, long-term Water Fund model for the Cherangany and North Mau water towers. Budget reallocation across expenditure categories is also considered necessary to accelerate progress in concluding beneficiaries' farm action plans and provide the technical inputs and support required. This was reviewed and approved by the Project Steering Committee and does not constitute a change to the project structure and objectives.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Mission and Independent Assessment

The Mission was implemented as an independent, participatory and evidence-based Medium-Term Review (MTR) in concurrence with the IFAD Mission of the EIWF project. The purpose was to assess the project's progress, effectiveness, and alignment with its intended outcomes, specifically focused on:

1. Assess progress toward achieving project objectives and outcomes.
2. Evaluate the project's effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, coherence, impact, and sustainability based on the OECD evaluation criteria.
3. Identify project strengths, weaknesses, lessons learnt, and areas for improvement.
4. Provide actionable recommendations for the remainder of the implementation period.
5. Assess the project's impact achievement towards the empowerment of various categories of communities, including: (i) indigenous peoples, (ii) Women and girls, (iii) Youth, and (iv) marginalized members of society, and to make recommendations necessary for the remaining part of the project.

1.2 Methodology Used

The Methodology used in this MTR entailed some nine (9) main activities each having several sub-activities as follows:

1.2.1 Working with the IFAD team to identify and develop key evaluation questions

The Mid Term Review Mission (MTR) of the EIWF was conducted from 21st to 31st July 2025, at which I participated in all the activities and joint meetings with the IFAD MTR team and TNC staff, as well as meetings (courtesy calls) to the Governors of both Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet counties. These meeting discussed the background and activities of the EIWF, as well as the MTR mission itself. The meeting had discussions, identifying important areas of focus for the mission, key questions and observations, itineraries, participatory field visits and interviews with project partners and beneficiaries. This brought about group synergies for implementing the MTR and modalities for assessment of project activities and deliverables, so as to produce a balanced EIWF MTR report.

1.2.2 Collating Relevant Documentation on the EIWF

Documents detailing project formulation, implementation and outputs were collated from the EIWF project management and reviewed. These included:

(i) Project formulation documents,
(ii) Baseline Reports and data, Work plans
(iii) Legal, regulatory and project governance and instruments
(iv) Policy documents at national and County levels
(v) Project implementation reports (PIR) and other progress reports
(vi) MoUs, agreements and consent documents for working with various interest groups including indigenous peoples
(vii) Documents on environmental safeguards and progress

(viii) Documents on inclusivity, i.e. gender, youth and PLWD
(ix) Minutes of PSC meetings, and other meetings and events
(x) Workshop proceedings and reports on stakeholder engagement
(xi) Progress reports, milestones, both technical and financial
(xii) Any other relevant documents from the PMU and project partners
(xiii) Documents and information gathered from the internet and other sources which is of relevance to the MTR, water funds, environment, livelihoods, governance and relevant project issues.

1.2.3 Reviewing Project Documents

The documents listed above and others obtained during the mission were reviewed and used to identify salient issues**,** assess progress in reaching planned outputs and outcomes and for tracking core indicators. The review was extended to policy documents, M&E reports, project records, water flow measurements and models, socio-economic issues and profiles of the beneficiaries and stakeholders. The assessment sought successes or otherwise in project implementation, looking for specific evidence to qualify data and information captured as part of the review.

1.2.4 Conducting independent stakeholder consultations

A stakeholders Consultation meeting for the EIWF was conducted at Eka Hotel in Eldoret on 23rd July 2025. It involved the project partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries. Other stakeholders were met during field visits and also during the Mission de-briefing meeting on 30th July 2025. More specifically, stakeholder consultations were conducted as follows:

(i) Identifying key stakeholders from project documents and records
(ii) Meetings with relevant stakeholders during workshops.
(iii) Field visits and interviews with project implementers, partners and beneficiaries
(iv) Meetings with policy makers, especially the Governors of the two Counties Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet, staff from Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, ELDOWAS staff, researchers and private sector partners.
(v) Discussions with project implementers, local leaders, technology promoters, beneficiaries, farmers and other land users with special attention paid to indigenous peoples (IPs), Women and Girls, Youth, and marginalized members of the society.

1.2.5 Develop tools for the assessment

Using the findings of desk reviews of documents and stakeholder mapping, tools for conducting the assessment of different cadres of actors were developed. These comprised well-defined, close ended questions differentially targeted at policy makers, project partners, management, land users and other beneficiaries. In addition, **the following tools** used in the EIWF monitoring and evaluation l (M&E) were assessed to include:

(i) **Baseline surveys and data** – used to identify values recorded during baseline surveys including milestones and indicators for tracking progress;
(ii) **Water Quality and Quantity Surveys:** Installation of automatic river flow data loggers (Hobo) in critical rivers to monitor the impact of conservation efforts on water quality and quantity. These loggers record data as a basis for tracking the effects of climate change on river flows and the watershed response to such shocks. These data were collected by the project team and held by ELDOWAS.

(iii) **Biodiversity Monitoring:** Applications of the Biological Condition Gradient (BCG) tool developed in partnership with the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) to monitor biodiversity—both aquatic and terrestrial—within the watershed. This tool assesses the composition and abundance of species across various taxonomic groups, reflecting the condition of their habitats;

(iv) **SMS Communication Tool:** Extent to which an SMS-based communication platform disseminates extension messages to rural farmers, promoting alternative farming methods and diversified cropping patterns. Also, to what extent it had been rolled out to beneficiaries:

(v) **Farm-Specific Action Plan Tool:** To what extent this tool was developed and/or adapted for mobile phones to facilitate the routine monitoring of beneficiary farmers. What key data was captured, including location, gender, age, contact information, and household decision-making dynamics. Additionally, whether it records baseline farm conditions and recommends interventions for optimal soil and water conservation. Whether the tool is used to track and grade farmers based on the extent to which they implement these recommended measures:

(vi) **Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT):** The extent to which the METT is being applied in project areas to monitor progress in the restoration and management of protected areas and with which partners.

1.2.6 Conducting the assessment in the two watersheds.

The assessment started with a background review of baselines as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data and records provided by the project management team. This helped track the key indicators as espoused in the project formulation documents. Then physical assessments were implemented (see attached programme) in project areas in the two counties. This assessment involved field visits of selected project sites to view activities implemented so far, interview stakeholders and beneficiaries, conduct visual observations and assess the technical, environmental, productivity and socio-economic adequacy or otherwise of the interventions. Case studies of specific interventions e.g. agroforestry, water harvesting, energy saving stoves and SWC were also assessed. Success stories, challenges faced and how they were overcome, as well as lessons learnt were assessed.

1.2.7 Evaluating relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability

This involved evaluating the project's effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, , and sustainability based on the OECD evaluation criteria[1], which entailed assessing:

(i) Relevance: Are the project's objectives still valid and aligned with national priorities, donor strategies, and beneficiaries' needs?;

(ii) Coherence: How well does the intervention fit with other interventions in the same context (e.g., government, donor, NGO programmes)?;

(iii) Effectiveness: To what extent are the objectives likely to be achieved by mid-term?

(iv) Efficiency: Are resources (funds, expertise, time, etc.) being used in the best possible way to achieve results?

(v) Sustainability: Whether the interventions are likely to, post project.

[1] https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/development-co-operation-evaluation-and-effectiveness/evaluation-criteria.html

1.2.8 Evaluate project contribution to GEF's focal areas and global environmental benefits

This involved assessing project activities and deliverables alignment with GEF focal areas, specifically:

a) **Biodiversity** - In line with GEF 7 biodiversity objective 1, assess if the project promotes:
   (i) Mainstreaming of biodiversity in production landscapes (including forest areas, critical water catchments, wetlands and riparian areas, and sustainably managed farmlands) and in the smallholder agricultural sector by supporting:
   (ii) Improved agricultural production practices that are more biodiversity-positive through technical capacity-development of smallholder farmers and county government officials and implementation of financial mechanisms that incentivize actors to change practices by establishing the WF;
   (iii) Spatial and land use planning in freshwater wetlands, including biodiversity mapping; and
   (iv) Development of policy and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives for biodiversity-positive land and resource use.

b) **Land degradation** - In supporting the GEF 7 objectives assess if the project promotes reduction of land degradation in landscapes by supporting:
   (i) Restoration of degraded agricultural land, forests and grasslands through integrated management with rehabilitated or restored ecosystem services;
   (ii) On-the-ground implementation of sustainable land management, soil erosion control measures, diversification of crop and livestock systems across farm holdings, incl. the promotion of CSA and agroforestry approaches;
   (iii) Forest restoration in the catchments' forest reserves and thus high conservation value forest (HCVF) loss avoided; and
   (iv) An enabling environment for better land use management and practices, fostering inclusion of SLM and LDN into sectoral policies and scaling up of sustainable catchment management.

1.2.9 Identify lessons learned and best practices.

Based on evidence from all the assessments listed above, lessons learnt to advice on:

i. Whether the project is on course (or otherwise) and responding to set Objectives;
ii. Progress made in the achievement of each project component, unpacking lessons on what worked well, challenges faced, how they were resolved, emerging issues for:
   - Component 1: Establishment of a public-private partnership platform and enabling policies for sustainable management of the targeted water towers
   - Component 2: Restoration of degraded catchment and wetland ecosystems and improved production practices and food value chains with the WF areas;
   - Component 3: Capacity development and knowledge management support a paradigm shift toward INRM in important water towers
iii. Externalities and innovations emerging at the various levels (technical, agronomic, income generating, ecosystems restoration, water quantities and quality, gender mainstreaming, targeting, e.g. IPs etc.)

1.3 Structure of the report

The Report is structured in four (4) Chapters containing sections and sub-sections as per GEF MTR template, as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

1) Purpose of the mission and independent assessment
2) Methodology used
3) Structure of the report

Chapter 2: Progress Review

1) Objective level progress
2) Progress in reaching core indicators
3) Component-by-component assessment of progress, and an assessment of the quality of implementation
4) Progress in reaching results indicator results, and an assessment of the quality of implementation
5) Exhaustive overview of challenges faced and how/if they were mitigated or remaining challenges.

Chapter 3: Implementation mechanism review

1) Progress on stakeholder engagement and assessment of quality or implementation
    - Review based on Stakeholder engagement plan

2) Progress on gender action plan implementation and assessment of quality or implementation
    - Include progress on gender-responsive measures and any intermediate gender result areas as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval including gender-sensitive indicators contained in the project results framework or gender action plan or equivalent

3) Progress on safeguards implementation (ESS) and GRM, including an assessment of quality or implementation
    - Review ESS risks document
    - Provide updates on any revisions to identified types of risk classifications/ratings and describe progress made in the implementation of the management measures as outlined in the CEO Endorsement/Approval.

4) Update on the planned and actual amounts, sources and types of co-financing and investment mobilized

5) Overview of knowledge management
    - knowledge and learning deliverables. Includes website/platform development
    - knowledge products/events
    - communication strategy

Chapter 4: Lessons Learned and Good Practices

1) Implementation lessons
2) Innovations or scalable practices
3) Recommendations.

2. PROGRESS REVIEW

2.1 Progress towards achieving project objectives and outcomes

2.1.1 About the Eldoret-Iten Water Fund

1) The Eldoret-Iten Water Fund (EIWF) is a three (3) year (2023-2025) project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through IFAD and implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
2) **The Development Objective for the EIWF project:** Conserve globally significant biodiversity and protect the integrity and resilience of critical ecosystems and their services in the targeted water towers by promoting sustainable natural resources management, strengthening the enabling environment for transformational change in the smallholder production sector, and adopting water funds as a tool for stakeholder engagement and sustainable financing.
3) **The goal of the Project** is a well-conserved Eldoret-Iten catchment area and improved stakeholder coordination for integrated natural resource management in the targeted catchments, including the Moiben, Sabor, Kipkaren, Two Rivers and Kesses catchments. it follows the model of a previously successful project, the Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund (UTNWF).
    - EIWF supports counties in integrating priorities to safeguard and maintain ecosystem services into investments improving smallholder agriculture and food value chains:
    - The project aims to enhance water quality and quantity, improve people's livelihoods, and build climate resilience through nature-based solutions and sustainable watershed management.
4) **Water fund model:** EIWF is meant to initiate and functionalize a WF to cover five catchment areas of the Moiben and Sosiani river systems (at the top), in the Cherangany Hills (the northern project area) and Mau Forest Complex (the southern project area). These are the main water sources holding upstream protected forests and small-scale farming activities, for downstream Eldoret and Iten cities (at the tap).
5) **Implementation:** The project is executed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), working with several partners, including the Eldoret Water and Sanitation Company (ELDOWAS), the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Moi and Eldoret Universities, communities and civil society organizations and other stakeholders (see Annex 1).
6) **Counties:** The EIWF operates in Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo-Marakwet counties.
7) **Extent:** The project interventions covers about 120,000 ha, which have 10 protected forest areas within the North Mau, Elgeyo Hills and Cherangany water towers (Figure 1).
8) **Target Beneficiaries:** At least 5,000 Smallholder farming households with improved food-security, farm benefits and resilience capabilities (gender- and age-disaggregated

2.1.2 Objective level progress

Evidence on the ground and data provided shows that the EIWF is on course towards meeting its set development objectives in the areas of biodiversity conservation and protection, reviving the integrity and resilience of critical ecosystems and their services in the Cherangany Hills and Mau Forest Complex by promoting sustainable natural resources management, as well as improvements in the smallholder production sector,

targeting of IPs, women, girls and marginalized people in society. However, structures for the water fund model as a tool for stakeholder engagement and sustainable financing are yet to be put in place. This could be associated with the fact that the project spent much time setting up the physical infrastructure as well as engagement with IPs. Thus, the remaining project period of six months is too short for putting together the robust governance systems and fund raising necessary for a self-sustaining WF. The PMU requested for extension of the project at no-cost basis, for another one and a half years, especially for this activity.

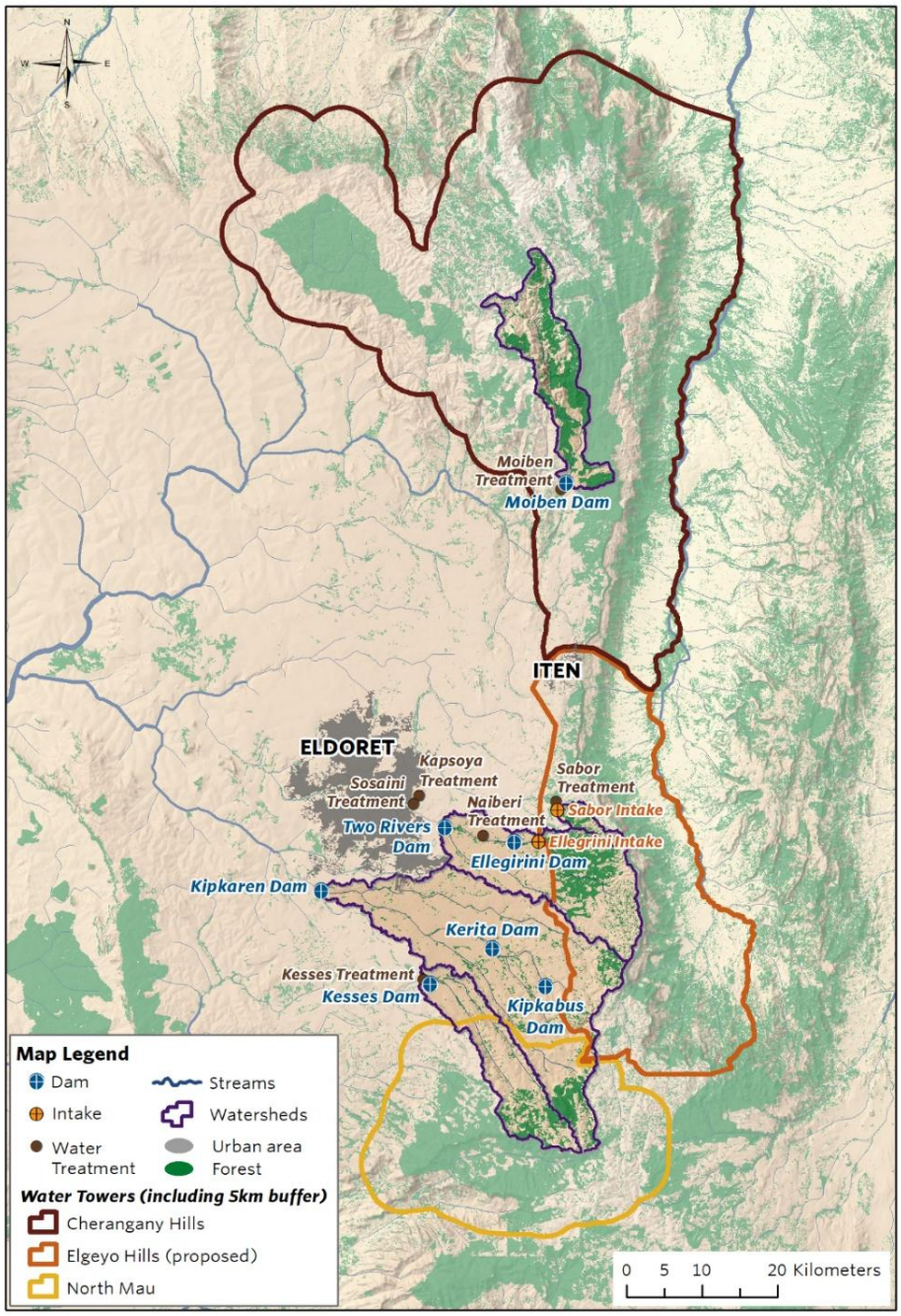


Figure 1: Location and extent of the EIWF Project area

2.2 Progress in Reaching Core Indicators

2.2.1 Project Goal

A well-conserved Eldoret-Iten catchment area and improved stakeholder coordination for integrated natural resource management in the targeted catchments.

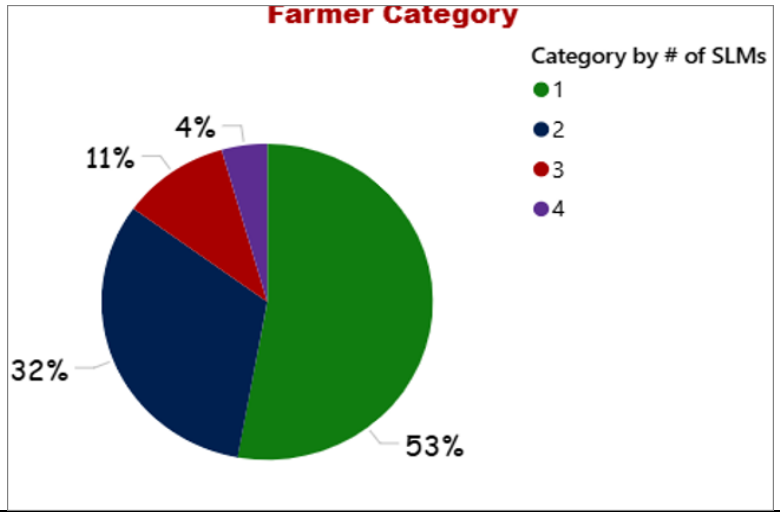
- The project **is making very good progress** towards achieving this goal.

(i) **Smallholder farmer households attain improved food-security, farm benefits** and resilience capabilities (gender- and age-disaggregated). The MTR target was 1,500 beneficiaries. The program had on-boarded 5,730, which is 382% of the target, and was supporting them to carry out conservation activities as identified in respective Farm Specific Action Plans (FSAPs).

- The MTR target was **over-achieved**.
  - This was explained as in Box 1 below.

Box 1: Explanation for the over-achievement on Outcome 2.2

The program identified and onboarded 37,588 beneficiaries, supporting them to carry out conservation activities as identified in respective FSAPs. These were clustered as; 5,730 (1,996-F, 3,734-M, 1,557-youth, 183 IPs & 34-PWDs). Another 31,855 of beneficiaries (category 1 (at least one intervention implemented) were 21,707 beneficiaries [9.037-F,12,670-M, 6,916-Y, 855-IPs], while Category 2 (at least two interventions implemented) were 10,151 beneficiaries [3,810-F, 6,341-M, 2,373-youth, 184-PWDs and 387-IPs]) at preliminary stages of implementation of activities identified in their FSAPs.



(ii) **Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management** for conservation and sustainable use.

- This indicator **was on course to being achieved** as at the time of the mission.
  - The project achieved 85% (55 ha) of MTR target of 65 ha (endline target 100 ha), of terrestrial protected areas created with improved management for conservation and sustainable use.

- Further, the METT[2] score rose from 50 in 2023 to 55 in 2024, reflecting improved management of Forest resources in the project areas. Also, the project conducted a review and implementation support to 10 PFMPs, did institutional capacity building support to CFAs, WRUAs, KWS, KFS and facilitated the involvement of Indigenous People (IPs) with implementation of IPAPs.

2.2.2 Development Objective

Conserve globally significant biodiversity and protect the integrity and resilience of critical ecosystems and their services in the targeted water towers.

- The Development Objective is **on course to being achieved**.
  - The MTR target of 1,500 for smallholder farmer households adopt climate-smart SLM practices (gender- and age-disaggregated) some 1,400 farmers had been reached
  - The quality of the work and structural measures was very good.
  - This was the early stages of adoption as the project was still evolving.

2.2.3 Project Outcomes

- The project has made **very good progress** towards achievement of expected Outcomes based on the indicators compared to MTR targets, as follows:

Outcome 1.1: A Water Fund (WF) platform provides resources for sustainable and financially viable integrated catchment management.

(i) **EIWF provides incentives to smallholder farmers**: The MTR Target for this activity was 300,000 USD for farmers incentives. EIWF managed to mobilize a total of 140,000 USD (47%), of which 40,000 USD was from EIWF beneficiaries and 100,000 USD from ELDOWAS. The funds were deposited into an endowment fund.

- Generally, the mid-term target was under-achieved.
  - Reasons provided included much time was spent in setting up the project and community mobilization. Then getting the project implementation running as the project timelines were very short.
  - In lieu of this, the EIWF PMU requested for extension of project timelines to enable putting the WF infrastructure in place and resource mobilization.
  - In future, setting up a water fund should be allocated at least five years of the project preparatory phase.
  - In addition, the EIWF should seek other partners in the sector to support incentives to farmers

(ii) **Relevant policies and strategies refer to the WF as an incentive model.**

- The mid-term target for this component was achieved.
  - The EIWF supported the review of 3 Policies, 2 Acts, 1 Bill and 2 Action Plans (total 8 documents, of which two were new and six existing) to align with water fund activities. They include:

[2] *The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) is a scoring framework developed by WWF and the World Bank to assess how well protected areas are being managed. It works on a questionnaire (covering context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes), with each question scored on a scale. The total score is usually expressed as a number out of 100.*

a) Policies

(i) Climate Change Policy (2020)
(ii) Sustainable Forestry and Tree Growing Policy (2020)
(iii) County Waste Management Policy (*currently in draft*).

b) Laws

(iv) County Charcoal Act (2017)
(v) Climate Change Fund Act (2021)

c) Bills

(vi) Sustainable Forestry and Tree Growing Bill (2021)

d) Action Plans

(vii) County Climate Change Action Plans (2023–2027) for Uasin Gishu County
(viii) County Climate Change Action Plans (2023–2027) for Elgeyo Marakwet County

Outcome 1.2: Policy development and enhanced institutional collaboration. This was largely achieved as evidenced by the number of policies providing coordination for watershed management county level

- This Outcome was adequately achieved.
  - The MTR target was 1 policy document, but three (3) policy documents were developed, i.e. the ELDOWAS Strategic Plan 2023/27 and Two (2) county level climate change action plans.

Outcome 2.1: Community-based land use planning and implementation results in healthier and more resilient ecosystems.

(i) Agroforestry and water conservation measures implemented:

- The Outcome was **over-achieved.**
  - Some 6,654.2 hectares were restored (555% achievement) through agroforestry and water conservation against MTR target of 1,200 ha. This included 5,730 smallholder households which were trained and adopted SLM practices.
  - This was attributed to strong community uptake and scalable implementation across priority landscapes.

(ii) Wetlands restored through implementation of green infrastructure: Some 425.8 hectares were restored (170% of the 250 ha MTR target) through green infrastructure, with strong community involvement and uptake of nature-based solutions. Some of these initiatives were seen as at Kesses and Moiben catchments

- This component **is on course** and completion of remaining hectares anticipated in 2025.

(iii) Sustainable forest management measures implemented on degraded forest lands

Sustainable forest management measures were implemented on 5,625 ha of degraded land against MTR target of 7,000 ha (80% achievement). Further, the EIWF supported review and Implementation of Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs) for Cheptongei and Cherangany. The plans were implemented to manage the forests

blocks sustainably, i.e. Sabor-4,047 ha, Kaptagat-3,863 ha, Cheptongei-23,352 ha and Cherangany-20, 363 ha).

- This component was over-achieved.

(iv) Implementation of SLM in farmlands for soil, water conservation in cultivated areas: The MTR target was 5,000 ha but some 13,293 ha (266%) of landscapes had been conserved under sustainable land management (terraces, grass strips) of which 6,469 ha of this was riparian lands, collectively engaging 10,842 beneficiaries.

- This component was over-achieved.

Outcome 2.2: Improved smallholder agricultural and forestry management practices, and food value chains.

(i) **Climate smart food value chains benefit 5,000 households:** Some 8,151 beneficiaries received fruit tree seedlings (macadamia and Hass avocado) and super napier grass for improving milk production. The MTR target was 2,500 households. In addition, the project was promoting climate smart water pans for small holder irrigation to cushion farmers from erratic weather.

- However, the food value chains were not yet developed to the point of visibility in the chain. This disconnect was attributed to the time lag being too short for value chains emanating from materials distributed to yield and fully develop.

(ii) **Farm production increases (by 10% as at MTR)**

- This had not been assessed at the time of the MTR as changes in production such as fruit trees take time before they mature.
- Outcome assessment is expected to be undertaken during FY2025/26 and will be based on beneficiaries in categories 3 and 4 (75% implementation of Farm Specific Action Plans (FSAPs).

Outcome 3.1: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools and approaches enable tracking.

(i) **GEB monitoring tools and protocols integrated with partner institutions**:

- This sub-component was over-achieved.

- The project purchased and installed five (5) River gauging stations (RGS) against MTR target of 3 units (167% achievement). Some 13 RGS units were installed for water quality and quantity monitoring across the watershed and were working with Data collected by ELDOWAS and shared with Water Resources Authority. These are used to track water quantities and quality, necessary in assessment of watershed conservation.
- Some 4 high resolution drones were procured for spatial and biodiversity monitoring using BCG. This was followed by the training of 18 local youths, 15 of whom are now certified drone pilots. The drones are useful for monitoring large areas such as tracking afforestation and soil and water conservation structures. The youths are also actively engaged in monitoring restoration efforts by providing high-resolution imagery to support the development of farm-specific action plans. The project also uses the METT for monitoring effective forest management and an SMS Platform for assessing demand for conservation inputs as well as farmer readiness.

(ii) **Socio-economic survey data inform project targeting and gender, youth, indigenous peoples' inclusion:** This was implemented as follows:

Two distinct baseline surveys inform project targeting: a socio-economic survey conducted during PFMP development, guiding forest-adjacent community action plans. A socio-economic survey was done. It involved a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey, which provides baseline data for inclusive implementation across targeted landscapes. Also, gender targeting was implemented achieving 39% women, 61% men and 33% youth.

- This sub-component was partially achieved.

The survey was useful in providing baselines to help target interventions to reach more women, youth and the marginalized. It was done early thus it was timely and useful.

2.3 Progress Made for Each Component and Quality of Implementation

Component 1: Establishment of a Public- Private Partnership Platform

The establishment of a public- private partnership platform and enabling policies for sustainable management of the targeted water tower (catchments)

- This component was partially achieved but demands setting up the WF governance structure, identifying activities and putting in place sustainable fund mechanisms. This requires time to achieve the overall goal of a functional, self-supporting EIWF, as was found during the MTR.

***Outcome 1.1*: A Water Fund (WF) platform** provides resources for sustainable and financially viable integrated catchment management that conserves biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

- This sub-component was partly been achieved.

  The project has put in place a stakeholder base and PSC which is working well for project implementation. However, the governance mechanism necessary for institutionalizing and functionalizing an independent WF has not been constituted.
  - The Project has raised only 140,000 USD against an MTR target of 300,000 USD, indicating poor funding mobilization, due to the fact that strong partners are yet to be identified and on-boarded.
  - The activities for this component had initially planned for Year 1 but shifted to Years 2 and 3 to better integrate Indigenous Peoples' interests.
  - TNC therefore requests for no-cost extension of the project by 1.5 years as additional time to complete stakeholder-driven processes such as:
    (i) Institutional development
    (ii) Fund registration
    (iii) Governance framework setup
    (iv) Creation of an endowment fund

***Outcome 1.2*: Policy development and enhanced institutional collaboration** create an enabling environment for upscaling integrated natural resource management (INRM).

- Three (3) policy documents were developed, i.e. the ELDOWAS Strategic Plan 2023/27 and Two (2) county level climate change action plans. In addition, some five (5) existing policies were revised to align with water fund activities.
- Policy development and review was achieved, but the institutional collaboration which exists is for project implementation and has not been constituted for taking forward a sustainable WF model.

Component 2: Restoration of Degraded Catchments & Wetland Ecosystems

The restoration of degraded catchments and wetland ecosystems and improved production practices and food value chains within the WF areas.

- This was over-achieved, across most indicators. However, impacts take time to show

***Outcome 2.1*: Community-based land use planning** and implementation results in healthier and more resilient ecosystems that support improved food production and downstream water flows.

- The **land use planning was achieved** and evidence of healthier, more resilient ecosystems are emerging with some wildlife returning to wetlands and other conservation areas.
  - There was evidence of agroforestry trees , mostly Grevillea Robusta, Hass avocado and macadamia, as well as plantings and establishment of grass strips, especially super napier grass for which farmers showed much enthusiasm. Water conservation measures, particularly lined water pans were also constructed.
  - The protection of riparian lands through buffers and planting of indigenous trees in wetlands for restoration through green infrastructure was achieved with good quality of results. This achieved 10 wetlands and 3 springs were protected – covering 425.8 Ha. Field visits revealed that the work had been done well. As a result, some wildlife, especially antelopes returned to wetlands.
  - Sustainable forest management measures were implemented through new plantings of indigenous trees on degraded forest lands

***Outcome 2.2*: Improved smallholder agricultural and forestry management practices**, and food value chains that incentivize sustainable management principles, improve food security and conserve biodiversity and ecosystem health.

- This was partially achieved.
  - The climate-smart food value chains, through water pans for smallholder irrigation and high value fruit trees (macadamia and Hass avocado)-was implemented-by 8,151 beneficiaries. However, the design and location of some of the water pans were misplaced such that they would serve as storage for piped scheme water flows, but could not harvest rainwater adequately.
  - Farm production increase was not recorded as it is still too early to see project impacts, especially of tree crops such as avocado.

Component 3: Capacity Development and Knowledge Management for INRM

Capacity development and knowledge management support a paradigm shift toward INRM in important water towers was successfully implemented.

- This component was mostly achieved but requires more time for impacts of conservation works to show at catchment scales.
  - Some of the data provided, especially on reductions in sediment flows in the rivers were too high, to have been achieved within a year. For instance, the average turbidity load in rivers reduced from 26.09 mg/l in 2023 to 20.107 mg/l in 2024, which is too high a change that requires explanation This also requires further assessment of the methodologies and data used.

***Outcome 3.1*: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools and approaches** enable tracking of local and global environmental benefits and support adaptive management and scaling up of the WF model.

- This sub-component was mostly achieved.
  - GEB monitoring tools (Hobo, multiparameter RGS, drones) and protocols integrated with partner institutions, included the BCG modeling tool used by National Museums of Kenya (NMK) to track biodiversity. The data from these tools showed both baseline situation and progress made especially increases in endangered species.
  - Biodiversity and land degradation baselines had been done and completed. Maps of these were presented and available in reports
  - Some 13 hydrologic monitoring stations were upgraded and an operational database for hydrological monitoring established at ELDOWAS, which were functioning well, including relay of data.

b) Socio-economic survey data to inform project targeting gender, youth and indigenous peoples inclusion.

- This Sub-component was achieved.
  - **Socio- economic baselines were done** and capacity assessment for WRUA and CFA completed
  - The project was successful in bringing on board indigenous peoples, in particular the Ogiek (Kesses Catchment), Sengwer (Moiben catchment) and the Cherangany (Cherengany Hills), by signing Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) agreements with the three communities. The IPs have tree nurseries and planting indigenous trees in degraded forest areas and farms.

2.4 Progress in Reaching Results Indicators and Quality of Implementation

The project was successful in achieving most of the MTR Results indicators and several were exceeded. The respective indicators for each MTR Output are tabulated below.

2.4.1 A PPP platform for the establishment of EIWF is set up

MTR Outcome	Output	Output Indicators	Progress as at MTR
1.1: A PPP platform is established for a Water Fund (WF)	1.1.1 Assessment of enabling conditions for scaling up WF	Assessment avails recommendations for establishment of a WF	➢ Partially achieved. • Baseline assessments support the case for a WF. • Establishment of WF structures is lagging
	1.1.2 Tools to scale up the WF model developed	Different tools developed, disseminated and scale-up support activated	➢ Partially achieved. • METT tool for collective PA management used to track 85,138 ha in EIWF • BCG tool used to identify: - 33 sites sampled for BCG - 174 bird species from 53 families in 29 sites - 13 forest specialist species identified - 73 diatom species – indicators on water quality and quantity - 5,015 macroinvertebrates from 58 families (baseline 20 families)

	1.1.3 Sustainable finance secured from water-reliant entities in the public and private sectors	WF endowment fund gets at least 300,000 USD	➢ Partially achieved. ➢ EIWF project mobilized 140,000 USD from ELDOWAS and beneficiaries
	1.1.4 One WF facility established	WF operational	➢ Not achieved • PMU is seeking for no-cost project extension by at least 1.5 years to facilitate this.
1.2: Policy development and institutional collaboration for upscaling of INRM) in the water towers	1.2.1 Enabling by-laws/ regulations enacted in 2 target counties (Uasin Gishu & Elgeyo-Marakwet)	At least one (1) by-law/regulations incorporate IRNM	➢ This was over-achieved. • 7 key policies related to water and environmental management enacted
	1.2.2 Guidelines for linking and harmonizing WF with CSA and gazetted forest reserves and PA management drafted and adopted	At least 2 guidelines adopted	➢ This was achieved • EIWF activities were aligned with CIDPs (2022–2027)

2.4.2 Catchment and wetland ecosystems restoration & improved practices for food value chains

MTR Outcome	**Output**	**Output Indicators**	**Progress as at MTR**
Outcome 2.1: Community-based land use planning results in healthier and more resilient ecosystem	2.1.1 Enhanced awareness and skills of local communities to engage in participatory land-use planning	At least 10 CFAs and/or WRUAs have gained necessary planning skills to enhance their management plans	➢ This was achieved • 3 FPICs developed with IPs • 3 IPAPs developed with IPs • 2 PFMPS developed with CFAs • Capacity built for WRUAs
	2.1.2 A participatory catchment management plan for EIWF established and adopted for implementation at catchment and sub-catchment levels	At least 1 participatory catchment management plan	➢ This was achieved • PFMPs and restoration plans for Cheptongei & Cherangany forests developed • Supported SCMPs for Kipkaren catchment, riparian and wetland restoration • Promoted community-led restoration and use of enclosures
Outcome 2.2: Improved smallholder agricultural and forestry management practices	Output 2.2.1 Agroforestry and SWC implemented on degraded land	At least 7000 ha of degraded lands benefit from agroforestry and SWC	➢ This was over-achieved • 1.4 M Agroforestry trees grown and 200 tons of Super Napier Grass distributed, restoring 41,706 ha • 7.5% increase in average agroforestry seedlings (40 baseline–43 MTR) • 1.487 km grass strips planted, and 401 km terraces

			excavated
	2.2.2 Sustainable forest management implemented on degraded forest land	At least 5,000 ha of degraded forest lands rehabilitated	➢ This was over-achieved • Some 13,293 ha of landscapes were conserved
	2.2.3 Wetlands restored through green infrastructure	At least 250 ha of wetlands restored	➢ This was over-achieved • Restoration of 10 wetlands and 3 springs– 425.8 Ha
	2.2.4 Pro-poor and climate-smart food value-chains benefit with 10% rise in farm production	At least 2,500 households benefit from climate-smart food value chains	➢ This was over-achieved • 8151 Smallholders supported to adopt SLM and INRM • 898 water pans installed harvesting 102 million liters of water annually • 132 farmer groups trained on SLM • 1 Beekeeping enterprise, • 16 tree nurseries with IPs

2.4.3 Capacity development and knowledge management support INRM

MTR Outcome	Output	Output Indicators	Progress as at MTR
Outcome 3.1: M&E tools and approaches enable tracking of local and GEB and support scaling up of the WF model	3.1.1 M&E system for and with local stakeholders and county decision makers developed and adopted in 2 counties	Number of M&E tools established	➢ This was over-achieved • 13 RGSs automated • TSS load 111.9 mg/l (2023), reduced to 22.25 mg/l (2024)* • Digital FSAPs designed • 24,000 enrolled in project SMS platform • Youth Drone Program developed • 1 Digital platform established for knowledge sharing
	3.1.2 Assessment tools developed and adopted that facilitate the incorporation of INRM approaches into policy making to enable scaling beyond the targeted water towers	Number of policy relevant knowledge management product completed	➢ Adequately achieved • 15 trainings for WRUAs (10) and CFAs (5) –Target was 10 • 2 PFMPs: Cherangany & Cheptongei developed • 5-workshops and 20 extension officers trained on SLM • 504 cook stoves installed – Target 500 • 37,588 farm plans developed (14,843 F; 22,746 M; 10,846 Youth; 798 PLWD) • Dissemination of project information, website developed • Athletic event with 40 schools participating in 2025

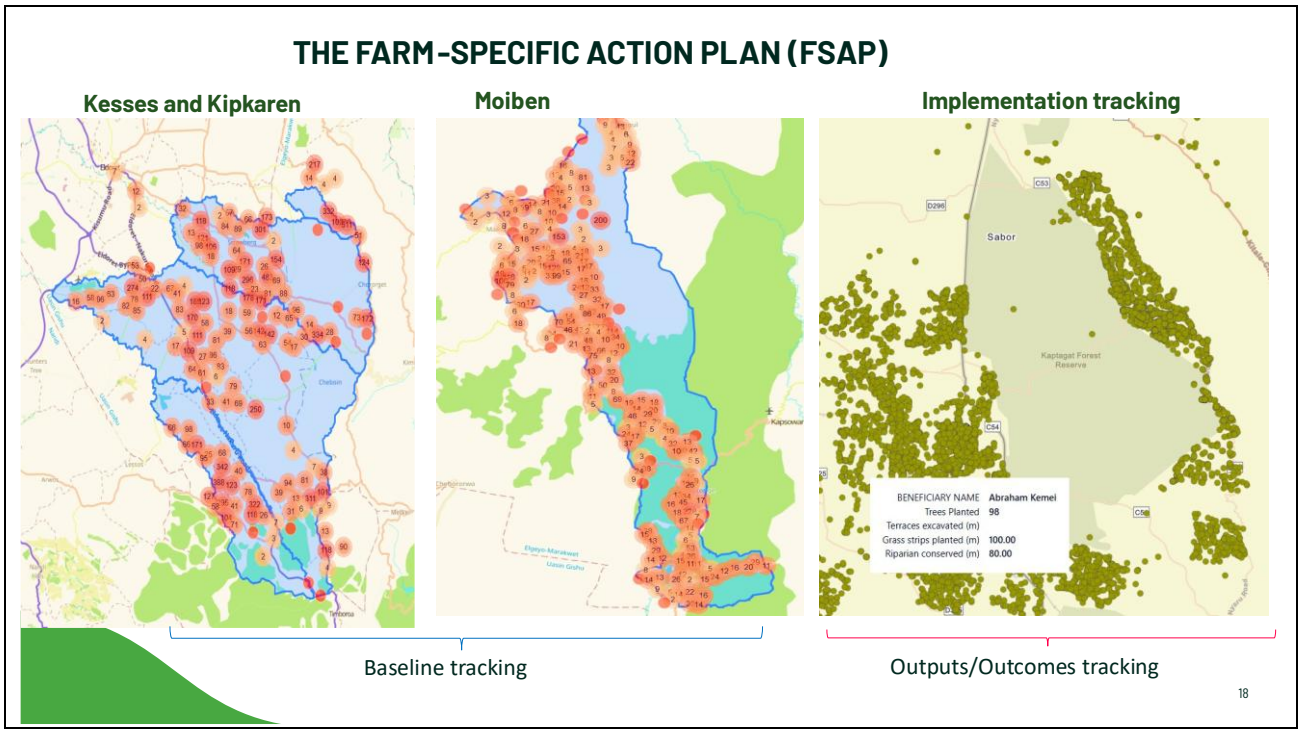


Figure 2: Example of EIWF beneficiary tracking from baselines

2.5 Overview of Challenges Faced and their Mitigation or Resolution

1) Frequent changes in governance at County levels

The leadership in the two counties kept changing, thereby derailing inroads into policy engagement. For instance, in Uasin Gishu, leadership changed three times.

- This was resolved through fresh policy engagement and briefings each time.

2) Mainstreaming IPs into Project Activities

The project initially faced challenges in ensuring culturally appropriate engagement with the Cherangany, Sengwer and Ogiek communities. This was due to historical sensitivities surrounding projects targeted at forested areas considered traditional homelands for IPs.

- This was mitigated and resolved through participatory engagement with local leaders, as well as bringing on board project activities in tune with conservation of natural ecosystems and community benefits.
- The engagement with the Cherangany, Ogiek and Sengwer communities was successfully addressed through the development of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols and the Indigenous Peoples Action Plans (IPAP). This enabled fostering inclusive participation and respect for traditional knowledge systems, thus facilitating IPs to actively participate in project implementation.
- Indigenous Peoples (IP) nurseries with a combined capacity to raise one million seedlings were established. Additionally, the Ogiek community set up a beehive workshop, producing 300 beehives and training 43 youth in beehive construction.

3) Climate Change and Unpredictable Weather

Unpredictable weather conditions, irregular rainfall patterns and prolonged dry spells in certain zones led to low survival rates for tree seedlings, particularly during the early establishment phase.

- This was addressed by adjusting planting schedules, enhancing farmer guidance on post-planting care, and integrating adaptive strategies to improve resilience under changing climatic conditions.
- The integration of climate-smart agricultural practices and socio-economic coping mechanisms, including rainwater harvesting (water pans), grass strips, terraces, protection of riparian lands and agroforestry, were also interventions for coping with climate change. These measures address the risk of increased surface erosion due to unreliable weather and intensified agriculture.

4) Achieving the financing targets for the endowment fund for the EIWF

The funds mobilized for the endowment fund so far amount to 140,000 USD, against a medium term target of 300,000 USD.

- ✓ The proposal for remedy is a request by the PMU for project extension to enable signing of the WF charter and enable resource mobilization.
- ✓ Another proposal is for TNC partnership with IFAD Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project (KELCOP) project to accelerate and account for KELCOP progress in the EIWF geographies

5) Project Timelines for Formulation of a long-term Sustainable WF

Developing a well-grounded, sustainable WF model requires more time than the three years allocated to the EIWF and thus, its institutionalization was slow. The PMU was much engaged in the formative activities of project implementation and meeting the set targets for the first three years, so as to gain stakeholder buy-in, especially the long-term financiers of the WF. Raising future financing for the EIWF endowment fund was a challenge with slow buy-in from private sector and other stakeholders.

- Fast-track the development of a governance and legal framework for the project to establish sustainable funding mechanisms for implementing conservation activities in the EIWF project areas. This process should ensure the appropriate inclusion of Indigenous Peoples.
- The PMU requests for increasing the project timelines through a no-cost extension for at least one year, to set up the institutional structures, their registration and to raise capital for the endowment fund that requires to be in place to create a sustainable, long-term EIWF.

3. IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM REVIEW

3.1 Progress on Stakeholder Engagement for Project Implementation

During the project development phase, at least some 35 institutional stakeholders (see Annex 1) were engaged to represent the wide spectrum of relevant issues across water, environment, food production, policy and governance, finance, social, economic, research, private sector and community interests. The project engaged 16 stakeholders who form part of the EIWF Stakeholders' Steering Committee (see table below). Through this committee, the WF was able to conserve critical water towers, with lessons learned being integrated into both the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) and Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMPs). The progress on stakeholder engagement and implementation is summarized below:

Output		**Implementation Partners**	**Collaborating partners**	**Progress as at MTR**
1.1.1	Assessment of enabling conditions for scaling up WF		KWTA, KFS, County Governments	➢ Not fully done. Stakeholders to constitute the WF have not been identified
1.1.2	Tools to scale up the WF model developed		KWTA, WRA, KFS, NEMA, MECCF, MWI, MoA, County Govts.	➢ Not fully done. The mode of operations for EIWF not determined
1.1.3	Sustainable finance secured from water-reliant entities in the public and private sectors	ELDOWAS, ITEWASCO, Private Sector Partners	WASREB	➢ Not fully done. Sustainable financing for the WF not yet achieved
1.1.4	One WF facility established	County Govts, WASREB	MECCF, NEMA, MWI, MoA, KFS, KWTA	➢ Not yet done. Discussions underway as to which institution to host the WF
1.2.1	Enabling by-laws/ regulations enacted in 2 target counties	County Govts	KFS, KWTA, NEMA, RWA	These were done
1.2.2	Guidelines for linking and harmonizing WF management with CSA production, gazetted forest reserves and PA management drafted and adopted	County Govts	KWTA, KFS, KERRA	These were done

Outputs from the Stakeholder Engagement

The stakeholder engagement has resulted in the following:

- Two Participatory Forest Management plans were developed.
- 16 community tree nurseries supported; 4 led by indigenous groups.
- 4 Community Forest Associations with active forest management plans supported to implement.
- Agroforestry carbon project pin developed.
- Continuous capacity building in Tree nurseries and other Nature-based enterprises development

3.2 Progress on Gender Action Plan Implementation

1) Gender Assessment

The first year of the project, a socio-economic survey was done. It involved a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey, which provides baseline data for inclusive implementation across targeted landscapes. Socio-economic monitoring tools were integrated into the Project's M&E framework and implementation were developed and partners trained to assess and monitor rural livelihoods and resilience in the targeted area.

2) Gender Mainstreaming

The project implemented its gender mainstreaming and pro-poor targeting strategy, using the WEAI baseline survey continues to guide the implementation of project activities. In terms of gender distribution, 39.49% of participants are female and 60.51% male. Age disaggregation is as follows: 56.26% adults (36–60 years), 33.36% youth (18–35 years), and 10.38% elderly (over 60 years), as indicated in the Figure 3 below.

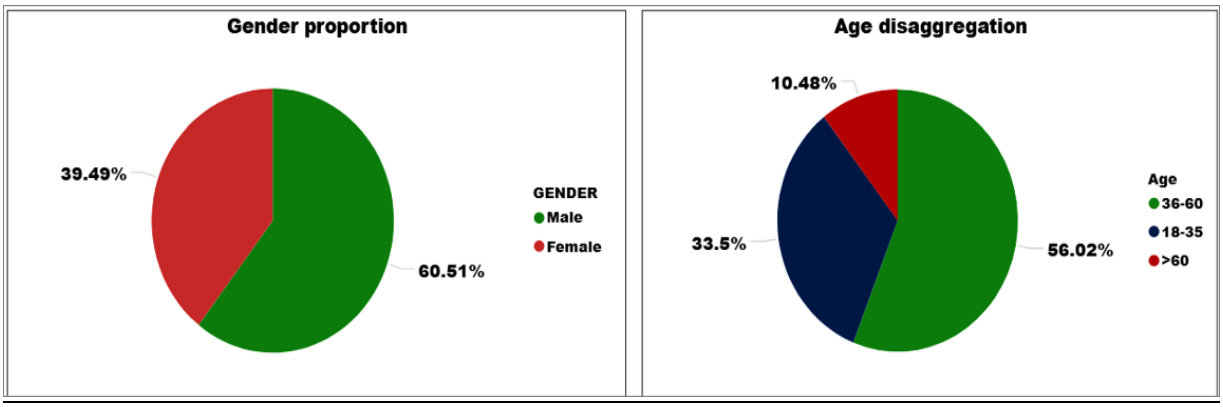


Figure 3: Proportions of gender and youth engagement amongst project beneficiaries

To ensure that women-led households benefit from the project, the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) framework—adopted from the IFAD/KeLCoP program was implemented. Vulnerable households, particularly those headed by women, were prioritized in the provision of conservation materials and received a 50% subsidy on drip irrigation kits, water pan liners, as well as pedigree dairy goats and improved chicken.

3) Women and Youth Empowerment

The project continued to focus on capacity building for youth and women in group dynamics, livelihood improvement initiatives, and various soil and water conservation technologies.

It also empowered 51 technical assistants to promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices, 20 of whom are women—representing 39% of the total. In engaging Indigenous communities, representation was ensured in the Steering Committee, where one of the four Indigenous Peoples' representatives is a woman.

In addition, 18 youths were trained and licensed in drone technology and are actively engaged in collecting high-resolution imagery to support farm planning and identify

priority areas for restoration. These youth now contribute to monitoring restoration activities within the project area. Their work was featured in mainstream media for using innovative technology to conserve water towers and inform communities about necessary corrective actions

3.3 Progress on Safeguards Implementation ESS and GRM

During the design of the EIWF, the project undertook several risk assessments to accommodate the Environmental & Social Safeguards (ESS) and the Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM). Various thematic plans to mitigate risk were developed as per the Project Implementation Manual (PIM). They include

- Procurement Plan for first 18 months of the project;
- Conducting and implementing Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (SESIA);
- Developing the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), which also encompasses the GRM for the EIWF project;
- Developing and implementing Annual Work Plan and Budgets (AWP&B); and
- Conducting regular public participation meetings with stakeholders where grievances are aired and resolutions arrived at in participatory forums.

3.4 Planned and Actual Co-Financing, and Investment Mobilized

a) Core Funding

The EIWF is a 3-year grant (2023-2025) project which is GEF funded through Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, executed by TNC. The total grant budget is USD 2.63 million to achieve biodiversity conservation and land degradation prevention.

b) Co-Financing

During the planning of the EIWF project, the PMU used a bottom-up and gender sensitive approach starting at sub-catchment and electoral ward levels[3]. The activities were consolidated by the PMU into a project Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), while ensuring collaborating institutions and partners had their work plans and budgets also captured in, or aligned to the project AWPB. The co-financing of $24.77m was expected from IFAD Financed projects, GoK, TNC, Private Sector, Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties as well as beneficiaries. The Table below summarizes co-financing by the project partners.

Contributor	Type of Co-financing	Contribution (USD)	Target (USD)	Achievement (%)
IFAD Financed Projects	Grant funding: Direct financial support to TNC for project implementation	400,662	1,600,000	24.95
The Nature Conservancy	In-kind: Staff time, facilities, technical support, office running costs	800,000	380,000	210.53
Uasin Gishu County	In-kind: Seconded extension staff, aligned activity funding, technical assistance, office space, support services	8,300,000	7,500,000	110.67

[3] Wards are the smallest electoral units in Kenya, currently having 1450 wards; lists of Kenyan wards are available online, e.g. at https://data.humdata.org/dataset/administrative-wards-in-kenya-1450

Elgeyo Marakwet County	In-kind: Seconded extension staff, aligned activity funding, technical assistance, office space, support services	8,500,000	7,100,000	119.72
Government of Kenya	In-kind: Salaries of ministerial staff, tax exemptions, foregone duties	5,500,000	6,320,000	87.03
Private Sector	Cash and in-kind: Contributions to endowment fund, tagged activity support	1,500,000	1,610,000	93.17
Community/ Beneficiaries	In-kind and cash: Labor, local materials, cost sharing cash for water pan liners, stoves, drip irrigation	200,000	323,000	61.92
Total		**25,200,662**	**24,833,000**	**101.48**

c) Budgeted and Actual Funds Received and Expenditures

A comparison of the budgeted and actual funds received from the project partners is presented in the Table below.

TNC STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

TNC EIWF of Expenditure in USD

Category of Expenditures	Budgeted	Received	Expenditure Jan–Dec 2023	Expenditure Jan–Jun 2024	Expenditure Jul-Dec 2024	Expenditure Jan-Jun 2025	Total Expenditure	Budget Balance	% Expenditur
Training, Workshop & Meetings	128,950.00	100,000	77,215	3,175	2,756	14,736	**97,882.10**	31,067.90	**76%**
Local Consultancies	117,000.00	50,000	46,865	11,076	11,244	11,975	**81,159.87**	35,840.13	**69%**
Goods, Services & Inputs	987,000.00	500,500	606,146	16,889	-	368,374	**991,408.11**	-4,408.11	**100%**
Grants & Subsidies	1,047,596.00	197,000	30,613	121,356	212,662	242,623	**607,253.37**	440,342.63	**58%**
Salaries & Allowances	170,454.00	100,000	62,869	6,291	20,464	31,329	**120,952.05**	49,501.95	**71%**
Operating Costs	179,139.00	100,000	62,075	16,727	8,218	59,877	**146,895.90**	32,243.10	**82%**
Grand Total	**2,630,139.00**	**1,047,500.00**	**888,781.68**	**175,513.17**	**255,344.13**	**728,912.43**	**2,045,551.41**	**584,587.59**	**78%**

It was observed that:

- Some of the activities were delivered in collaboration with the IFAD funded KELCOP project to support the achievement of this project's objectives were not yet accounted towards EIWF
- The project has good funds absorption capacity having spent 78% of the funds received as at the time of the MTR.
- Capturing of beneficiary contributions in monetary terms was not easy as there is no standardized format for it.

c) Recommendation for a No-cost Extension

TNC has requested for a 1.5 year no-cost project extension to support Component 1: Governance & Legal Structure, and the setting up of a long-term sustainable EIWF. Approving authorities including Kenya government and IFAD are reviewing the request and are expected to grant no more than a 1-year no cost extension with budget reallocation.

Sources of funds to support the No-Cost Project Extension

1) Co-financing from:
   - Active efforts to account for IFAD KeLCoP programme's results in the EIWF area
   - Contributions from the two county governments.
   - Contributions from ELDOWAS water tariff collections.

2) Reallocation of Cost Savings achieved through:
   - Bulk procurement of materials
   - Office cost donations by ELDOWAS
   - Increased co-financing from partners including TNC.

3.5. Overview of Knowledge Management

The project ensured strong emphasis on M&E frameworks to a) support WF decision making and allowing for an adaptive management approach for targeted PES and incentive schemes, and b) to allow for upscaling and replication of lessons learned as quickly as feasible. This was chieved through

a) Knowledge Management and Learning Deliverables

The project has put in place the instrumentation, tools and human resource for knowledge management. This included hiring a Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Management Officer, Mr. Allan Tuwei. A number of tools were adopted for tracking the GEB and local level progress for the project. The following M & E tools were adopted or developed to support monitoring and evaluation of the project.

(i) Biological Condition Gradient (BCG),

(ii) SMS System (Short Messaging System) was developed to provide agricultural extension services. As of June 30, 2025, a total of 24,000 beneficiary farmers had been registered in the system and continue to receive farm advisory services via SMS.

(iii) Farm-specific action plan,

(iv) METT, Mobile-based Kobo Toolbox, and

(v) Drone monitoring technologies.

b) Knowledge products

The project engaged ELDOWAS, the Water Resources Authority (WRA), and Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs) in conducting seven field-based water quality and quantity monitoring exercises across 21 sites. The following monitoring tools and products were set up, data analysed and archived by the project's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer:

(i) Some 13 telemetric stations have been installed to monitor river flows. Water quality data collected includes Total Suspended Solids (TSS), turbidity, salinity, conductivity, nitrates, phosphorus, and temperature

(ii) Water quantity monitoring focuses on water levels and flow.

(iii) Digital Farm-Specific Action Plan designed and deployed – capacity built to over 50 staff;

(iv) A total of 24,000 beneficiaries were enrolled in the project's SMS platform – receiving technical agronomic support;

(v) The Youth Drone Program developed to support the monitoring of restored landscapes – Forests and farms flight paths developed. Digital baseline images processed; and

(vi) One (1) Digital platform established for knowledge sharing.

c) Knowledge Events and Activities

The project has promoted good agricultural practices and environmental conservation through various events implemented as part of knowledge sharing and capacity building. These included:

(i) 15 trainings undertaken for WRUAs (10) and CFAs (5) –Target was 10.

(ii) 2 PFMPs – Cherangany and Cheptongei PFMPs developed with respective Action Plans.

(iii) 5-workshop and trained 20 extension officers across the two counties on SLM

(iv) 504 cook stoves installed – Target 500

(v) 37,588 farm plans developed (14,843 F; 22,746 M; 10,846 Youth; 798 PLWD).

(vi) Dissemination of project information –success stories, website developed, social media and conferences

(vii) In 2025, athletic event was held with 40 schools participating (3 Editions). This aligns with project objective of targeting gender, youth and inclusion of indigenous peoples.

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

4.1 Implementation Lessons

The EIWF project goal simply aspires for "*A well-conserved Eldoret-Iten catchment area and improved stakeholder coordination for integrated natural resource management in the targeted catchments".* Steps to actualize this goal have already been made in the first one and a half years, from which lessons learnt include:

1) Achieving a long-term, sustainable, self-financing WF model that works seamlessly to suit local circumstances is not easy. It requires a longer preparatory time-line, more than the three years allocated to the project so as to develop the requisite institutional structures, governance and financing mechanisms, thus in line with IFAD recommendations, at least one year should be allowed on a no-cost basis to enable the current project to deliver a functional WF.

2) Stakeholder engagement is crucial: bringing together public and private sector actors, with key governance structures established. This requires good planning and inter-linked actions, all properly organized and implemented to deliver a sustainable, long-term mechanism in the form of a Water Fund, but several handles have been overcome along the way.

3) Ensuring conducive policies at local and national levels guide the project, and where necessary, formulating them or revising existing ones so that all activities are guided by policies that support INRM in the project area.

4) Mainstreaming local communities into project especially farmers, indigenous peoples, women and youth is necessary by first identifying entry point for each category of stakeholders/beneficiaries. In particular, getting three IP communities of Ogiek, Sengwer and Cherengany support the project through signing IPAPs and taking part in forest restoration.

5) Getting the buy-in of County Governments and local institutions into the project to the extent of the two counties (Uasin Gishu and Keiyo Marakwet) making financial contributions to the EIWF was an important pillar of success

6) Multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships are necessary: This ensures shared ownership and pooled resources for upstream conservation that benefits downstream users. The EIWF brought various institutional collaborating partners to include; public and private sector actors, scientific experts (NKM, KMD, WRA, Academic Institutions), researchers and NGOs.

7) An M & E system that utilizes modern tools and technologies. The EIWF used drones and youth-led monitoring teams to track forest restoration and tree growth. This helped provide real-time data and youth engagement in the project.

8) Policy Alignment Strengthens Sustainability: The EIWF aligned its goals with national policies, such as Kenya's 15 billion tree initiative, and worked closely with agencies like the Kenya Forest Service. This policy is among another 7 that have been developed or are in the process of implementation. This ensured long-term support and integration into broader environmental strategies.

4.2 Innovations or Scalable Practices

1) Implementing activities that respond to community needs: Part of the success of the EIWF is hinged on partnering with over 37,588 farmers and Indigenous communities to adopt sustainable practices. Key strategies included:
   - Training farmers in soil and water conservation, water harvesting, conservation through indigenous tree species
   - Developing FPICs and IPAP early to ensure incorporation of indigenous knowledge is incorporated.
   - Promoting improvements to conservation that supports food value chains (e.g. fruit trees, super napier grass, cook stoves)
   - Involving local champions such as athletes and political leaders to promote INRM activities.
2) The importance of understanding local context, and thus baseline studies, before implementing INRM technologies and practices with beneficiaries. One example is water pans which became very popular, for collecting runoff water and its storage to bridge dry spells for agriculture was growing.
3) As a spin-off, the introduction of super napier grass, became a multi-purpose intervention for use as grass strips, stabilizing SWC structures and as livestock feed was taken up by farmers with enthusiasm mostly due to its positive impact as livestock feed, and substantially improving milk production.
4) Nature-based solutions are cost-effective: The EIWF demonstrated that restoring ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and riparian zones can achieve results within a short time, e.g. the replanting indigenous trees in degraded forests, restoring wetlands for adequate clean water and biodiversity
5) Many of SLM and INRM practices being promoted will take time to translate into reduced sediment loads in rivers and visible benefits.
6) There is a need to find ways of sustaining and improving long-term investments for the EIWF. This can be through partnerships with other programmes e.g. FLLoCA, KeLCOP or carbon finance integration.

4.3 Conclusions

a) The EIWF was successful in meeting the following targets:

(i) Setting up the project PMU, constituting the PSC, staffing and administrative structures for the EIWF project had been done and were functioning well.

(ii) The project objectives remained valid and were aligned with national priorities, donor strategies, and beneficiaries' needs as the interventions implemented were in sync with both national and county government programmers and those of partners, e.g. ELDOWAS.

(iii) Review of policies relevant to the WF, which included 3 Policies, 2 Acts, 1 Bill and 2 Action Plans (total 8 documents, of which two were new and six existing) aligned with water fund activities.

(iv) The requisite numbers of beneficiaries were reached by project activities as at mid-term review (MTR) targets.

(v) The M&E tools and approaches had been developed to enable tracking of global environmental benefits (GEB) monitoring tools and protocols integrated with partner institutions.

(vi) Socio-economic survey data to inform project targeting and gender, youth, indigenous peoples' inclusion was done including a Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) survey.

(vii) The EIWF successfully on-boarded three IP communities; the Ogiek, Sengwer and Cherengany which signed IPAPs. They were participating in forest restoration and operating indigenous tree nurseries. Additionally, the Ogiek community set up a beehive workshop, and training of local youth in beehive construction was done.

(viii) Stakeholder engagement has resulted in two (2) Participatory Forest Management plans were developed, 16 community tree nurseries supported, four led by indigenous groups, and four led by community forest associations (CFAs) with active forest management plans supported by EIWF.

(ix) The project implemented its gender mainstreaming and pro-poor targeting strategy, and used the WEAI baseline survey to guide the implementation of project activities.

(x) The project undertook several risk assessments to accommodate the Environmental & Social Safeguards (ESS) and the Grievances Redress Mechanism (GRM). Various thematic plans to mitigate risk were developed as per the Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

(xi) The EIWF used a bottom-up and gender sensitive approach starting at sub-catchment and ward levels for developing the project Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), while ensuring collaborating institutions and partners had their work plans and budgets captured in, or aligned to the project AWPB.

(xii) The project was efficient in the use of available resources including funds, personnel and time.

b) The EIWF was on track towards meeting the following targets

(i) Development objective in the areas of biodiversity conservation and protection, reviving the integrity and resilience of critical ecosystems in the Cherangany Hills and Mau Forest Complex by promoting sustainable natural resources management.

(ii) The project was on course towards achieving MTR targets for the project's effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, coherence, impact, and sustainability based on the OECD evaluation criteria.

(iii) Capacity development and knowledge management for INRM in important water towers was successfully implemented, but requires more time for impacts of conservation works to show at catchment scales.

(iv) The time invested in engaging and on-boarding indigenous peoples (IPs) into the project was a worthwhile intervention which opened up goodwill for working with IPS in the re-afforestation programmes and other livelihood activities e.g. bee hive factory for the Ogiek Community in Kesses, Uasin Gishu county, and this is a continuous activity.

(v) Community-based land use planning was achieved and evidence of healthier, more resilient ecosystems are emerging with some wildlife returning to wetlands and other conservation areas.

(vi) Conservation of globally significant biodiversity and protection of the integrity and resilience of critical ecosystems and their services in the targeted water towers. The project is on course to offer sustainable NbS as the interventions are expected to continue post project.

(vii) Agroforestry and water conservation measures through plantings of fruit trees and super napier grass were on course to being achieved.

(viii) Sustainable forest management measures implemented on degraded forest lands were on course to being achieved.

(ix) Wetlands restoration through implementation of green infrastructure: with strong community involvement as seen at Kesses and Moiben catchments.

(x) Implementation of SLM in farmlands for soil, water conservation in cultivated areas were on course to being achieved.

(xi) The project was on course towards meeting targets for women and youth empowerment, having conducted capacity building for youth and women in group dynamics, livelihood improvement initiatives, and various soil and water conservation technologies.

(xii) On knowledge management and learning the project had put in place the instrumentation, tools and human resource for knowledge management. This included hiring a Monitoring, Evaluation & Knowledge Management Officer. Tools for tracking the GEB adopted include Biological Condition Gradient (BCG), SMS System, Farm-specific action plans (FSAP), METT, Mobile-based Kobo toolbox, and drone monitoring.

(xiii) On knowledge events and activities, the project has promoted good agricultural practices and environmental conservation through various events implemented as part of knowledge sharing and capacity building, including WRUA trainings, Workshops for extension workers, capacity building of women on improved cookstoves, and dissemination of information.

c) The EIWF was lagging in meeting the following targets

(i) Institutionalization of a long-term, sustainable, self-financing Water Fund (WF) platform for the EIWF was lagging. This was associated with the fact that a WF requires a longer preparatory time-line, more than the three years allocated to the project so as to develop the requisite institutional structures, governance and financing mechanisms and to set up EIWF as an independent Trust.

(ii) Establishment of a public-private partnership platform was lagging in terms of commitments and signing of a charter for the WF future functions.

(iii) Enhancing water quality and quantity, improve people's livelihoods, and build climate resilience through nature-based solutions and sustainable watershed management is a slow process as it requires time to show.

(iv) Farm production increases were lagging and had not been assessed before MTR, but outcome assessment was planned before the project end time.

(v) Some of the data provided, especially on reductions in sediment flows into rivers that drain the project catchment areas were inadequate and require further improvements.

(vi) Climate smart food value chains were not yet developed to the point of visibility. This was attributed to the time lag being too short for value chains emanating from materials distributed to yield measurable results.

(vii) Achieving the financing targets for the endowment fund for the EIWF through resource mobilization from local institutions and partners for functionalizing a sustainable WF was slow.

4.4 Recommendations

1) The project timelines were short compared to the demand for formulating a long-term sustainable WF, for which the PMU requested for increasing the project timelines through a no-cost extension. In concurrence with IFAD, at least one year no-cost project extension period is recommended to allow the PMU set up the partnerships, financing and governance structures, their registration and to raise capital for the endowment fund that requires to be in place to create a sustainable, long-term EIWF.

2) There is need to find ways of sustaining and improving long-term investments for the EIWF. This can be through partnerships with other programmes e.g. FLLoCA, IFAD's KeLCOP or carbon finance integration.

3) EIWF should take forward the important lessons learnt from the participatory engagement with of IPS and local leaders for activities in and around forests and catchment areas. These led to the signing of FPIC protocols and IPAPs to pave way for inclusive participation and respect for traditional knowledge systems, thus facilitating IPs to participate in the project activities. This engagement should continue to be strengthened in the long term WF project, and forms important lessons learning for other WFs being planned or implemented by TNC.

4) The introduction of super napier grass, became a multi-purpose intervention for use as grass strips, stabilizing SWC structures and as livestock feed was taken up by farmers with enthusiasm mostly due to its positive impact as livestock feed, and substantially improving milk production. In line with local demands, this initiative should be expended and upscaled.

5) As noted by the Governor of Elgeyo Marakwet, the introduction of water pans by the EIWF had revolutionized acceptance of small storages as the simpler technology to provide irrigation water at farm levels and the demand was high. There is need to upscale the water pans to reach more farmers, by working in partnerships with county governments and other partners

6) Aware that many of the SLM and INRM practices being promoted will take time to translate into reduced sediment loads in rivers and get visible results, the project needs to provide realistic data of the current situation and provide modalities for long term and post-project monitoring systems.

7) The component on promoting improvements to conservation that supports food value chains had focused on fruit trees and super napier grass, but the food value chains were not visible. These require attention in the remaining project period.

8) A robust M& E system supported by science and metrology is in place as well as community participation in tracking project progress. The M & E system requires to be handed over from the EIWF project to a functional WF which is yet to be set up. It is necessary for the PMU to make use of the additional time to ensure that all the systems are in place for the hand-over, within the remaining time frame.

5. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Stakeholders for the EIWF

Sno.	Institutional Stakeholder
1.	AEZ
2.	Almasi Beverages
3.	BETCO CBO
4.	CHEMUDEP NGO
5.	Cheracon
6.	Coca cola Almasi Bottlers - Rift Valley Bottlers Ltd
7.	Community Forest Association Kaptagat
8.	Community Forest Association, Kabyengo
9.	ELDOWAS
10.	Elgeyo Maraket County Government
11.	Farmers
12.	Indigenous peoples (Ogiek, Sengwer, Cherangany)
13.	ITEWASCO
14.	Kenya Association of Manufacturers
15.	Kenya Forest Service (KFS)
16.	Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA)
17.	Kenya Water Towers Agency (KWTA)
18.	Kenya National Climate Change Institute (KNCCI)
19.	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry
20.	Ministry of Finance - The Treasury
21.	Ministry Water and Environment Uasin Gishu
22.	Moi University
23.	National Environment Management Authority(NEMA)
24.	New KCC
25.	North Rift Herbalist Association
26.	Penon Community Forest Association
27.	Rural Focus Ltd
28.	Sergoit Water Resources Users Association (WRUA)
29.	SNV - Kenya
30.	Sosiani Water Resources Users Association (WRUA)
31.	The Nature Conservancy
32.	Uasin Gishu County Government
33.	University of Eldoret
34.	Water Resources Regulatory Board (WASREB)
35.	Water Resources Authority (WRA)

Annex 2: Field Visit Itinerary and Schedule

Eldoret Iten Water Fund – Mid Term Review Mission
Date: 21st to 31st July 2025
Places to Visit: Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet County

21st July 2025 – Monday

Venue: Entry meeting in Nairobi and travel to Eldoret

Time	Activity	Responsible
0930	Teams assemble at their respective offices for week plan development	All
1000-1130	Teams hold entry meetings, debrief, tools familiarization, roles sharing.	**Ronald** Ajengo- IFAD **Vicky Betty** Chepkorir- SDE& CC. GEF Desk Officer **Fred** Kihara- TNC
1200- 1800	Travelling to Eldoret	All make independent travel and stay arrangement

22nd July 2025 – Tuesday

Venue: EKA Hotel, Eldoret City

Time	**Activity**	**Responsible**
0830 - 0900	Registration	EIWF- Gladys Kipyego
0900 - 0930	Introductions and Opening remarks Mission members. Partner teams. Field staff	PSC Chair Rep moderating. TNC. IFAD. Ministry of Env.
0930 - 1000	Welcome remarks by the Board Chair and MD ELDOWAS	ELDOWAS
1000 – 1030	Tea break. Welcome stakeholders arriving. Group photo	All Faith Esika organizing.
1030 - 1300	Presentation of EIWF Progress report • Progress towards targets • M&E, Tracking responses to earlier missions • Financials • Any substantial proposals for mission	EIWF/TNC /PSC
1300 – 1400	Lunch break	EIWF
1400 - 1600	Engagement with the stakeholder steering committee, IPs and County Advisory Committee, private sector. Receive briefs from representatives	EIWF Project Management Unit (ELDOWAS). • Akshi moderating presenters
1600 - 1700	Tea break, closure and departure	

23rd July 2025 - Wednesday

Venue: Elgeyo Marakwet County

Time	Activity	Responsible
0830 – 1030	Meeting with Elgeyo Marakwet County leadership Meeting with County Commissioner – Elgeyo Marakwet County	CEC
1030 – 1300	Travel to Moiben catchment; Chogoo area- Meet Cook Stoves project team, women and household implementers	EIWF PMU
1300 – 1400	Lunch break	All
1400 – 1600	Field visit to a sample of two farmers implementing SLM, soil and water conservation measures	EIWF PMU
1630 - 1800	Travel back to Eldoret	

24th July 2025 - Thursday

Venue: Uasin Gishu County & Two Rivers Catchment

Time	Activity	Responsible
0830 – 1130	Meeting with Uasin Gishu County leadership Meeting with County Commissioner – Uasin Gishu County	IFAD and ELDOWAS
1130 – 1200	Travel to Two Rivers Catchment	
1200 – 1330	Visit 1 farmer practicing SLM practices – Soil and water conservation	EIWF PMU, WRUA
1330 – 1400	Lunch break enroute	All
1400 - 1600	Visit a sample farmer practicing SLM practices – Soil and water conservation	EIWF PMU
1630 - 1730	Travel back to Eldoret	

25th July 2025 – Friday

Venue: Elgeyo Marakwet County – Moiben Catchment – Tangul village

Time	Activity	Responsible
0800 – 1030	Travel to Tangul, Kapyego in Moiben catchment [depart early for a long drive and bring some warm clothing]	EIWF PMU, All
1045 - 1300	Visit Sengwer Tree nursery established with the support from EIWF project	Sengwer IP
1300 – 1400	Lunch break (Lunch arrangement with Sengwer Chair Mr Kiptuga)	All
1400 – 1600	Sengwer IPAP implementation, opportunities and successes (Riparian and wetland restoration)	Sengwer IP
1600 – 1800	Travel back to Eldoret Make plan for weekend consultative working session for report writing teams	IFAD team leader TNC MTR consultant

28th July 2025 - Monday

Venue: Kesses Catchment

Time	Activity	Responsible
0830 - 1000	Teams assemble after weekend break Travel to Kesses catchment	All
1015 - 1200	Visit Kapsoen wetland restoration activity by Ogiek community in collaboration with North Rift Valley Water Works Development Agency and EIWF	EIWF PMU Ogiek IP leadership
1200 - 1400	Travel Back to Eldoret	All
1400 - 1700	Working session for reporting teams	Own arrangement
1730 - 1830	Close for the day	

29th July 2025 - Tuesday

Venue: Sabor River Catchment (Itewasco Key Water Source)

Time	Activity	Responsible
0830 - 0930	Travel to Sabor	IFAD
0930 – 1130	Forest restoration with KFS – Kiebor site	KFS
1130 - 1300	Visit farmer practicing SLM	EIWF
1300 - 1400	Travel back to Eldoret	
1430 - 1730	Working session for reporting teams	Own arrangement
1800	Break for the day	

30th July 2025 – Wednesday. Feedback meetings

Venue: Eka Hotel

Time	Activity	Responsible
0800 - 0900	Registration	EIWF
0900 - 1015	Agenda setting for feedback and final consultation • IFAD • Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry TNC to host an Interns Experience session- MoECC&F, TNC, ELDOWAS. 5 speed-dial presentations (6 mins each)	TNC Fred Hosting. Akshi helping with projecting
1015 - 1035	Coffee break	
1040 - 1300	Stakeholders and partners engagement round II with Mission	
1300 - 1400	Lunch break	
1400 - 1600	Debrief - TNC, IFAD and Ministry of Environment	IFAD Mission lead TNC Mid-Term Evaluation Lead
1600 - 1630	Coffee break	
1630 -	Closure, Departure	PSC/ CAC rep

31st July 2025 - Thursday

Venue: Travel date

Time	Activity	Responsible
0830- 1030	Gap filling, data sharing, final fact-checking	
1100 onwards	Travel back to Nairobi	Own Plans

1st August 2025 - Friday

Venue: Nairobi

Time	Activity	Responsible
0900- 1200 (TBC)	Final wrap up with PS SDECC	IFAD TNC GEF Desk Officer

Mission Participants:
IFAD
1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6
GoK
1, 2,3, 4, 5, 6

TNC

1. Fred Kihara- Africa Water Funds Director
2. John Gathagu- MEL Specialist
3. Stephen Kibet- EIWF Project Manager
4. Nassir Rajab – Kenya M&E Manager
5. Nathaniel Mtunji – Government Relations and Policy Manager, Africa region
6. Patrick Bernard- Agroforestry Carbon Data Analyst
7. Precius Zimba- Public Funding Specialist (joining online)

MTR Consultant

1. Prof Eng. Dr. Bancy Mati- MTR Consultant (nominée)

PMU and Eldowas Water Utility
Staff as needed
Stakeholders Steering Committee, PSC and CAC
Representatives as needed

Annex 3: Field Visits, Site Description and Farmer Profiles

Eldoret Iten Water Fund – Mid Term Review Mission
Date: 21st to 31st July 2025
Places Visited: Uasin Gishu and Elgeyo Marakwet County

23rd July 2025 - Wednesday

Venue: Elgeyo Marakwet County

Time	Activity	Responsible	Site Description/Farmer profiles
0830 – 1030	Meeting with the Elgeyo Marakwet County leadership and the County Commissioner	CEC – Environment EMC	1. The County Government seconded two staff members (County Extension Assistants – Allan and Clare). 2. Partnered in the promotion of water pans and supported 500 farmers. 3. Collaborated in the distribution of avocado fruit tree seedlings. 4. Working with the Department of Agriculture to provide extension services and support farmer groups. 5. Supporting community outreach efforts to promote the adoption of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. 6. Co-financing initiatives include water projects, environmental conservation (e.g., tree planting, wetland restoration), value chain development, and infrastructure. 7. Engaged in policy development and the formulation of enabling legislation.
1030 – 1300	Travel to Moiben Catchment for Community Engagement in Chogoo **Intervention:** Distribution of cookstoves to women-led households.	EIWF	**Improved Cookstoves (ICS) Initiative** The Improved Cookstove Initiative is promoted by the EIWF to advance clean energy, reduce pressure on forest resources, and build the capacity of women **Florence Chemori** 1. Florence Chemori is an EIWF champion in the Chogoo area. 2. She also serves as a village elder. 3. She has developed a farm plan and adopted soil conservation practices, including terracing. 4. Florence successfully mobilized 30 other community members, and the journey continues.
1300 – 1400	**Lunch break - enroute**	**All**	
1400 – 1600	Field visit to two farmers implementing Sustainable Land Management (SLM), soil, and water conservation measures.	EIWF	**Judith Toroitich – 0722 587 961** **Interventions** 1. Farm-Specific Action Plan (2024) 2. Water pan – 50,000 liters 3. Agroforestry – Grevillea trees 4. Orchard – Half an acre
1600 - 1800	**Travel back to Eldoret**		

24th July 2025 - Thursday

Venue: Uasin Gishu County & Two Rivers Catchment

Time	Activity	Responsible	Site Description/Farmer profiles
0830 – 1130	Meeting with Uasin Gishu County leadership and the County Commissioner – Uasin Gishu County	IFAD	1. The County Government seconded two staff members (County Extension Assistants – Agnes and Hillary). 2. EIWF with the County in distribution of avocado and macadamia fruit tree seedlings 3. The project collaborated with the Department of Agriculture to provide extension services and support farmer groups. 4. The county supported community outreach in promotion and adoption of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. 5. Co-financing initiatives, including water projects, environmental conservation (e.g., tree planting, wetland restoration), value chain development, and infrastructure. 6. Engaged in policy development and the formulation of enabling legislation.
1130 – 1200	Travel to Two Rivers Catchment		
1200 – 1330	Visit 1 farmer practicing SLM practices – Soil and water conservation	EIWF	**Benjamin Cheburet – 0725 343 326** **Interventions:** 1. Farm-Specific Action Plan developed 2. Water pan established 3. Embraced agroforestry 4. Protected the riparian section of his land
1330 – 1400	Lunch break enroute	All	
1400 - 1600	Visit a farmer practicing SLM practices – Soil and water conservation	EIWF	**Nelly Kiptoo – 0722 868 501** **Interventions:** 1. Farm-Specific Action Plan developed 2. Embraced agroforestry 3. Protected the riparian section of her land
1600 - 1700	Travel back to Eldoret		

25th July 2025 – Friday

Venue: Elgeyo Marakwet County – Moiben Catchment – Tangul

Time	Activity	Responsible	Site Description/Farmer profiles
0800 – 1000	Travel to Tangul, Kapyego in Moiben catchment [depart early for a long drive and bring some warm clothing]	EIWF	
1000 - 1300	Visit Sengwer Tree nursery established with the support from EIWF project	Sengwer IP	**Sengwer Kapkok Tree Nursery** 1. One of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan Activity 2. Produced 300,000 indigenous tree seedlings 3. Engaged 18 youth in tree seedlings production

1300 – 1400	Lunch break	All	
1400 – 1600	Sengwer IPAP implementation, opportunities and successes (Riparian and wetland restoration)	Sengwer IP	1. Free Prior and Informed Consent developed and signed 2. IPAP developed at implementation phase (2 Tree Nurseries, Tirich wetland restored, Moiben river riparian areas restored)
1600 – 1800	Travel back to Eldoret		

28th July 2025 - Monday

Venue: Kesses Catchment

Time	**Activity**	**Responsible**	**Site Description/Farmer profiles**
0830 - 1000	Travel to Kesses catchment	All	
1000 - 1200	Visit Kapsoen wetland restoration by Ogiek community in collaboration with North Rift Valley Water Works Development Agency and EIWF	Ogiek IP	**Kapsoen wetland restoration** 1. The wetland recharges the Lenguse River, which flows into Kesses Dam — building on the success of the Lenguse Wetland initiative. 2. A total of 205 hectares of the wetland currently under restoration. 3. Restoration efforts are being carried out in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and North Rift Water Works. 4. Community engagement is ongoing through the Community Forest Association (CFA), including barazas (public meetings), fencing, and tree planting activities.
1200 - 1400	Travel back to Eldoret		

29th July 2025 - Tuesday

Venue: Sabor River Catchment (ITEWASCO Key Water Source)

Time	**Activity**	**Responsible**	**Site Description and farmer profiles**
0830 - 0930	Travel to Sabor	IFAD	
0930– 1130	Forest restoration with KFS – Kiebor site	KFS	1. Restored over 300 hectares of degraded forest land (Kipsalen and Kapkoi blocks) 2. Trained the Community Forest Association (CFA) 3. Supported the CFA tree nursery (50,000 seedlings) 4. Established a fruit garden in partnership with Kiebor Primary School
1130 - 1300	Visit farmer practicing SLM	EIWF	**Jackline Koech** 1. The farmer has a farm-specific action plan 2. Practicing water harvesting through a water pan 3. Engaged in agroforestry practices
1300 - 1400	**Travel back to Eldoret**		