

MID-TERM REVIEW

Project ID:	9526
Project Name:	Enhancing Integrated Natural Resource Management to Arrest and Reverse Current Trends in Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation for Increased Ecosystem Services in the Tana Delta, Kenya
Countr(ies):	Kenya
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW3

A. Description3

B. Key Dates3

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES3

A. Main MTR Findings3

B. Stakeholder Engagement5

C. Gender Equality6

D. Knowledge Management6

III. CORE INDICATORS6

IV: CO FINANCING8

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS9

VI. ANNEX9

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Enhancing Integrated Natural Resource Management to Arrest and Reverse Current Trends in Biodiversity Loss and Land Degradation for Increased Ecosystem Services in the Tana Delta, Kenya

Country

Kenya

GEF ID
9526

Implementing Agency
UNEP

Executing Entity

Nature Kenya

Trust Fund
GET

Project Type
FSP

Objective

To strengthen integrated natural resource management and restoration of degraded landscapes in the Tana Delta, and systemically scale up best practices and lessons learned to other priority landscapes in Kenya

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval
8/7/2018

Agency Approval
8/7/2018

Implementation Start
6/12/2019

First Disbursement
9/24/2019

Expected MTR
7/31/2023

MTR Submission
8/14/2025

Actual MTR
7/31/2023

Expected Completion
4/30/2025

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

1. The MTR Team found the project continues to align with GEF and UNEP's priorities and goals, and represents an important contribution to national and sub-national commitments to introduce important environmental legislation such as the Forest and Landscape Restoration Plan 2023-2027 to address the degradation of the country's forest and rangeland landscapes. Similarly, the project's commitment to establish the Green Heart Initiative in the TRD was found to a highly forward-thinking initiative. Not only does it support GoK's commitment to establish Special Economic Zones (SEZ), but more importantly establish a Green SEZ in

TRD. This would be a first in Kenya and could pave the way to expanding the greening of GoK's industrialisation policies. These findings confirm that the project's overall design responds to current needs and aspirations in Kenya. Nonetheless, the Theory of Change was found to include outcomes that focus on actions and outputs, rather than results, which encourages stakeholders to think primarily on reforestation targets as opposed to wider ecosystem restoration targets that recognise the value of restoring biodiversity (such as pollinators and seed distributors) that are crucial to maintaining/upscaling the restoration process.

2. The overall capacity of the project to deliver planned outputs was found to be satisfactory under components 1, 2 and 4 where significant progress is evident in developing the enabling environment for SLM/FLR at the national and sub-national levels. The development of the governance structure for SLM/FLR in the TRD, which includes the establishment/strengthening of the Tana FLR Working Group (TFLRWG), 55 Village Natural Resources and Land Use Committees (VNRLUC), five Community Forestry Associations (CFAs), five Water Resources User Associations (WRUAs) and five Beach Management Units (BMUs), was found to be a major factor behind this achievement. In addition, it has encouraged the County Governments in the TRD to increase the environmental budget allocated in their new County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027, which in Lamu County has just been officially launched at the time of writing this final report (July 2023). A second factor that has encouraged a major uptake of SLM/FLR activities under component 2 has been the on-going development of county-based extension services through valuable training provided by specialised national institutions responsible for, among others, forestry (KEFRI/KFS), agriculture (KALRO), fisheries (KEMFRI), water resources management (WRA), wildlife management (KWS). This has not only facilitated the restoration of an impressive 6,480 ha to 31/03/2023, but also galvanised rural communities to embark on income generating activities such as apiculture, chilli, sunflower and fruit production that will directly support the development of the restoration economy in the TRD. Having said this, capacity to deliver outputs and positive outcomes under component 3 was found to be less evident. Overall, the MTR Team found the project lacks the business know-how and support of specialised agencies in business development to establish green industrial parks, operate incubator services to stimulate private-public partnerships and identify transformative financing mechanisms that will be needed to support the upscaling of the restoration economy in the TRD.
3. The project's capacity to manage and report on financial resources received from GEF and co-funding partners was found to be satisfactory and in conformity with UNEP's financial regulations and procedures. Similarly, the project is achieving satisfactory levels of efficiency. The project has achieved an overall physical advance of 60 percent compared to total expenditure of USD 1,431,501 from the GEF budget to 31/03/2023. Moreover, it is leveraging on average USD 19.28 in co-funding for every US Dollar spent from the GEF budget and currently spending less than USD 79/person on each direct beneficiary recorded to 31/03/2023.
4. The quality of monitoring and reporting was found to be compliant with the needs and requirements of the Global Child Project of TRI, the GEF Secretariat and UNEP. Nonetheless, the MTR team found inadequate attention is given to the monitoring of qualitative indicators, that it considers are important to support learning and enhance reporting on how far stakeholders and local communities are engaging in transformational changes that the MTR team believes are crucial to underpinning the long-term sustainability and upscaling of the SLM/FLR process. Thus, although the project enjoys high levels of support from stakeholders and is successfully engaging women and other vulnerable groups to actively participate in the SLM/FLR process issues such as insufficient integration of risk management into project planning and implementation, together with inadequate buy-in from institutions responsible for business development, are likely to affect the project's performance.

Conclusions

5. The MTR team concludes the project's **strategic relevance is high in Kenya** thanks to the GoK's decision in 2022 to increase the country's tree cover target from 10 to 30 percent by 2032. However, its planned outcomes need fine tuning to clarify what it intends to achieve, especially under component 3 where some key stakeholders are missing.
6. The project's **effectiveness is satisfactory**. It is demonstrating it can deliver its outputs to a high standard using participatory and inclusive approaches that are starting to deliver positive outcomes that include political support to adopt the FOLAREP, which is crucial to upscaling the restoration process and supporting adaptation to climate variability and change throughout Kenya. The governance established so far in the TRD is also demonstrating it can deliver high levels of landscape restoration (6,480 ha) and galvanise support from the County Governments to introduce new legislation in support of the SLM/FLR process, which indicates the project is successfully fulfilling its transformational potential, in particular a change in the way local communities perceive and value their natural resources. However, the establishment of the Green Heart industrial zones and the development of business and extension services are unlikely to be achieved unless there is greater leadership and support from specialised institutions who have business development and finance skills to promote the restoration economy in the TRD and elsewhere in Kenya.

7. The MTR team concludes the project's **financial management and efficiency levels are satisfactory** and there is no evidence to indicate it is experiencing major difficulties in converting its resources into results, except under component 3. As a result, it is evident the project will need more time in order to deliver all its planned outputs and outcomes and that adequate monitoring of qualitative indicators should be in place to ensure reporting is not only reporting on targets, but also supporting learning.
8. The **sustainability of the project's results and main activities is moderately likely**. Question marks remain on how far the project is adequately addressing risk management in its planning, implementation and monitoring, especially concerning land tenure conflicts and the growing effects of climate variability, which is causing a major influx of transhumance pastoralists into the TRD in the dry season. Moreover, there are no mechanisms in place to control flow rates in the Tana River to ensure it does not drop below 60 m³/second when entering the TRD at Garsen, or conserve the ecological connectivity that exists between the TRD and neighbouring fragile ecosystems. In addition, the sustainability of the green industrial zones and business incubator services remains uncertain without sound business and financial advice and guidance from MITED.
9. Finally, the MTR concludes that **there are no major external factors affecting the project's performance**, but did find the ESS Checklist should be reassessed more diligently in the PIRs given SS-4 and SS-9 have been triggered. Similarly, the project's communication strategy is not informing the development of an effective advocacy campaign on the strategic importance of establishing a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy in Kenya.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

Effective stakeholder engagement was ensured at all levels. Mobilization was undertaken to ensure adequate representation and participation by stakeholders during planning, and implementation of activities. At Project Steering Committee Level, diverse representation was maintained as envisioned at CEO endorsement. Fifth Project Steering Committee Meeting was held on 24th Oct 2023, attended by 21 (15M,6F) members. Status on project implementation was presented and guidance provided for improved project delivery. Project Implementation Review (PIR) for 2023, together with Year 5 Budget, and Year 4 work plan were presented and endorsed. A field visit to the project sites in Tana was organized for PSC members, who familiarized and monitored implementation progress and provided invaluable guidance for enhanced delivery of project targets. PSC documents including minutes, agenda, power point presentations, work plan and budget can be accessed via this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Pbn6DKPpDTpuk8t4CaldeGiPF0OPj8FW?usp=sharing>. During implementation of interventions deliberate effort was made to ensure broad stakeholder participation. Special arrangements were made for senior national and county governments officer to officiate project workshops. This allowed them to articulate government policy and contribute as well as learn about the project. While undertaking Mid Term Review, broad stakeholders' engagement was facilitated, from inception meeting, briefing meeting at the PS (Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, stakeholder's interviews, field data collection and during meetings to present preliminary findings at Nature Kenya, UNEP and FAO.

Occasions such as marking international days provided great opportunity to bring together different stakeholders including private sector, civil society organizations, local community, schools, media and faith-based organizations among others. Support to counties to consultatively develop policies, implementation of Tana Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM), support to county administration to mainstream restoration, community support to initiate conservancies, capacity building initiatives, Annual Site Support Group Forum, Site and rolling out the Green Heart Project are among project activities that presented opportunities for broad stakeholder engagement.

Tana Delta Conservation Network (TDCN) serves a critical role of bringing together diverse grassroots conservation groups for joint action. Tana Planning and Advisory Committee (TPAC) also provided space for wide stakeholder participation. It has a broad membership, involving County Governments and local community user groups and CBOs and national state officers working at the county level and other national and international NGOs. Research Organizations including Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute, together with lead government agencies such as Water Resource Authority, Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service and National Environment Authority were facilitated and actively engaged in building the capacity of local communities, as well as guiding the

development of participatory Forest Management Plans, Village Restoration Action Plans and Subcatchment management plans

C. Gender Equality

The no more than two-thirds constitutional gender rule for Kenya was applied resulting in active participation of women in project implementation, taking up elective positions in the group's leadership. Overall women make up 53% of direct beneficiaries in livelihoods support activities. Over the reporting period following sensitization on the need for women to take up positions of leadership, the number of women holding leadership positions in Tana Delta increased. The newly created Green Development Committee/ Joint Committee that governs the Green Heart Initiative has a female Chairperson, while Tana Planning Advisory Committee has a female cochair. Over 60 Community based organizations in Tana now have women occupying positions of leadership. A key challenge is reluctance of men to allow women fully participate in project activities. Drought witnessed during this reporting period caused a shortage of food and water and diminished household incomes affected women participation in project activities as women had to spend more time in search for food for their families, and water both for household use and for livestock.

D. Knowledge Management

The Review will assess the effectiveness of: a) communication of learning and experience sharing between project partners and interested groups arising from the project during its life and b) public awareness activities that were undertaken during the implementation of the project to influence attitudes or shape behaviour among wider communities and civil society at large. The Review should consider whether existing communication channels and networks were used effectively, including meeting the differentiated needs of gender or marginalised groups, and whether any feedback channels were established. Where knowledge sharing platforms have been established under a project the Review will comment on the sustainability of the communication channel under either socio-political, institutional or financial sustainability, as appropriate.

The progress, challenges and outcomes regarding the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management Approach, including: Knowledge and Learning Deliverables (e.g. website/platform development); Knowledge Products/Events; Communication Strategy; Lessons Learned and Good Practice; Adaptive Management Actions should be reviewed. This should be based on the documentation approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	17000	50252	

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	15,000.00	48,752.00	

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	2,000.00	1,500.00	

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	130000	130000	

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	130,000.00	130,000.00	

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female			2,589	
Male			2,618	
Total	0	0	5,207	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Tana River County Government	Grant		16,116,667.00	14,947,748.00
Recipient Country Government	Tana River County Government	In-kind		770,000.00	1,938,919.00
Recipient Country Government	Lamu County Government	Grant		3,495,000.00	3,402,900.00
Recipient Country Government	Lamu County Government	In-kind		700,000.00	792,150.00
Recipient Country Government	State Department of Natural Resources	In-kind		1,595,000.00	2,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Department of Environment	In-kind		500,000.00	2,095,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	Grant		200,000.00	657,100.00
Recipient Country Government	National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)	In-kind		650,000.00	192,900.00
Recipient Country Government	Kenya Wildlife Service	In-kind		5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00

Recipient Country Government	Kenya Forest Service	Grant		5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Nature Kenya	Grant		2,000,000.00	
Other	World Resources Institute (WRI)	Grant		500,000.00	
Total Co-financing				36,526,667.00	36,026,717.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Low	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Undertake evidence based monitoring to track restoration progress in view of climate change impacts. Promote diversified livelihood options to strengthen resilience Enhance access to weather forecast information Adopt drought tolerant crop varieties.

Include peace building and capacity building on communication. closely collaborate with security agencies

Closely work with the InterMinisterial Technical Committee on Sustainable Management of Deltas (IMTC) in Kenya (key member of the PSC) and sensitize high level national government and county government leadership on potential impacts of proposed mega dam projects and the need to incorporate mitigation measures for maintained water flow regime downstream

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
MTR Final Report_TRI-Tana_Kenya_31Jul2023

