

ELGEYO MARAKWET FOREST POLICY, BILL AND REGULATIONS DEVELOPMENT AND DIALOGUE ON FOREST CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT KICK OFF MEETING

Introduction

Elgeyo Marakwet County Assembly Joint Committees on Environment, Physical planning and Administration of Justice, in collaboration with the Department of Environment is tasked to investigate comprehensively on the issue surrounding the Embobut forest and alleged human right violations and find a lasting solution. Issues surrounding the Embobut forest conservation will require community consultations involving the Sengwer and Marakwet Communities and leaders in the area.

The County Government with support from UNDP- FCPF REDD+ project, will facilitate the dialogue process and further support the county in developing legislations on forest management towards enabling the county to implement national policies on forests and Climate Change Act 2016-that obligates counties to develop county specific policies and legislations on adaptation and mitigation which will incorporate the participation of communities in the county including the indigenous communities in the management of the forest resources.

Outcome

This participatory process will ensure that all stakeholders in the forestry sector within the county including the indigenous people are consulted. Meaningful participation increases the acceptability of public decision-making, improves citizens' knowledge and awareness of complex policy challenges, helps decision-makers to make better decisions that in turn improves the quality of public services being provided by the government and enhance public integrity. The specific outcome of this workshop to understand the process that will be involved in coming up with the Forest Management bill, regulations and policy and agree on the roadmap of achieving the same and also understand the REDD+ readiness process.

Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop's objectives were to;

- Enable the county executive understand the national REDD+ Process,
- Enhance the understanding on human rights-based approach and indigenous people's rights and
- Receive feedback on proposed approach towards forest policy, bill and regulations drafting process.

Structure of the Workshop

This workshop was held in Kisumu between 4th and 7th June 2019. It was composed of the Governor, Deputy Governor and the County Executive committee members. A team of technical members was also part of the team to offer secretariat services. The forum was being facilitated by a representative from UNDP and moderated by the county Executive Committee member responsible for environment.

- REDD+ and accompanying safeguards
- Forestry in Elgeyo Marakwet county
- CECs views and proposed approach
- Draft terms of reference
- Recommendations and way forward

Presentations highlights and key discussions

During the workshop, the County Executive Committee members were taken through the following areas;

- Kenya REDD+ Readiness Project.** This entailed the background of the project from the time UNDP received request to be the delivery partner by the Government of Kenya to the project inception, the due diligence process and approach applied by UNDP as well as the project goals and deliverables.
- Social and environmental standards:** the team was taken through a brief overview of UNDP's Social and Environmental standards which are geared towards strengthening the quality of UNDP's programmes and projects and ability to deliver sustainable results, avoiding adverse impacts to people and the environment, minimizing, mitigating, and

managing adverse impacts, strengthening capacities for managing stakeholder engagement risks and disputes and ensuring full and effective stakeholder engagement

- iii. **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC):** This presentation elaborated on;
 - a. The legal basis for FPIC in REDD+ in Kenya;
 - b. The scope of application of the National FPIC Guidelines;
 - c. When FPIC is required when implementing REDD+ in Kenya;
 - d. To whom should FPIC guidelines be applied
 - e. How should FPIC be operationalized and outcomes of the FPIC process be recorded, used, evaluated and monitored.

Recommendations and way forward