

**Title: Economic Valuation of the Benefits of Conserving Kakamega Forest**

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As part of an organized attempt by BIOTA East Africa to estimate the Total Economic Value (TEV) of Kakamega forest, this study aims to measure the monetary magnitude of the indirect and non-use benefits, as they are perceived by local people, associated with the conservation of the forest.

In order to estimate the relevant values, the use of stated preference (SP) techniques was deemed appropriate. The chosen methods for measuring the values that the local population attaches to the services of the forest are Contingent Valuation (CV) and the Choice Modelling technique (CM). The reason for choosing to employ CM on top of CV is the additional information that will be obtained with regard to the values of specific attributes/services of the forest.

Following the pretesting of the questionnaire, the survey was administered to 320 respondents in face-to-face interviews. Due to the big size of the sampling population, the respondents were picked using a stratified random sample.

At this stage, only the data collection phase of the study has been completed, which means that the data analysis is underway and, therefore, preliminary results will be available shortly. However, it is expected that the concurrent use of CM and CV will help to test for convergence between the values obtained from each of them, and potentially shed light on the existence or non-existence of systematic differences between these two closely related methods.

Considering that this is the first time the simultaneous use of these two methods has been employed in valuing forest benefits in a developing country context, its success will determine the applicability of such an approach to similar settings.