

**FACTORS INFLUENCING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FORESTRY  
CONSERVATION PROJECTS: A CASE OF KITHOKA-TWAJAI FOREST  
COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION, MERU COUNTY KENYA.**

**BY**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ARTS  
IN PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NAIROBI**

**2015**

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this research report is my original work and has not been presented for award of degree to any other University.

SIGNATURE ..... DATE.....

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This project report has been presented for examination with my approval as the supervisor.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my husband and friend Julius Maore, sons Max, Jeff and Kevin for all the love, encouragement and patience during my journey in pursuit of my Masters degree.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to acknowledge my Lord for keeping me healthy through this journey in pursuit of my Masters degree.

I would like to thank staff of the University of Nairobi and Meru Extra Mural Centre staff in particular for their assistance during the course of my studies.

My special appreciation to my supervisor, Prof. David Macharia for his patience, encouragement, wisdom and skillful guidance through the course of my study.

To my classmates and the various groups that we formed for various tasks for your friendship, warmth, humour and encouraging words will forever be etched in my memory. You are and will always be my friends.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

- CBO** – Community Based Organization
- PFM** – Participatory Forestry Management
- MDGS**- Millennium Development Goals
- IUCN** – International Union of Conservation and Protection
- GEF**- Global Environment Facility
- GoK**- Government of Kenya
- UNCED**- United Nations Commission on Environmental Development
- CFAs** – Community Forestry Associations
- KFS** – Kenya Forest Service
- MEFECAP** – Meru Forestry Environmental Conservation and Protection.
- USAID** – United States Aid in Development

## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this study was to assess the factors that influence community participation in forestry conservation among the members of Kithoka/Twajai Forest Community Based Organization in Meru County, Kenya. The study is expected to inform the government in coming up with policies that guide community participation in forestry conservation and in assisting the forestry administration in reversing forest loss that has been experienced in Kenya. The study was conducted under five broad themes and sought to establish the role of community awareness, development partners, economic factors and management of the CBO in influencing participation of the members. The role of government policies and procedures was also investigated. The study used descriptive research using survey method and the main instrument of data collection was questionnaires. The data was then analysed using SPSS version 17. The study concludes that the creation of awareness among the members of the organization has contributed to the effective participation of members of the organization in implementing forest conservation projects. On the influence of development partners on community participation in forestry conservation projects, the study concluded that the partners had no significant influence on the members' participation in conservation projects. On how economic factors influences participation of members in forestry conservation projects, the study concluded that economic factors had a significant influence on its project implementation activities. Members are satisfied that through income generating activities carried out by the CBO they are able to get an income which enables them to sustain their families. In regard to how management of the CBO influences the participation of members in forestry conservation projects, the study concluded that Management of the CBO has a significant influence on its member's participation in project activities. The study recommended that the government should carry out media campaigns and come up with training materials so as to create more awareness on the importance of forestry conservation. It should also encourage more youth to get involved in conservation based income generating activities so as to be able to eke out a decent living. The Forestry department should encourage people living near forests to form forestry conservation CBO so as to spearhead the campaign against deforestation and land degradation.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background to the study**

Forests and woodlands contribute significantly to a country's economy. They provide multiple environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits which can provide opportunities for poverty alleviation and economic development. They also play an invaluable role in meeting the cultural and spiritual needs of adjacent communities. Forests' indirect but important benefits include acting as carbon sinks, reservoirs of biodiversity and critical habitats for wildlife. In addition, they keep the land productive by conserving soil and water. They also serve as water catchments that recharge rivers and dams which supply water for domestic use and hydro-electric power.

The world's forests and woodlands are increasingly under pressure from the growing human population and many are shrinking as a result of human-induced deforestation (Guthiga et al 2006). Forests are designated as protected areas which host game parks and forest reserves and make contributions to the national economy by supplying renewable sources of energy in the form of wood fuel and charcoal. The majority of community based organizations are formed on the basis of a common interest to conserve the forests as well as to improve the livelihoods of their members. They aim to do this by averting desertification through reforestation and establishing new forest lots within the Forest Reserve and also on their lands. In Nepal, the emergence of Community forestry was a response to growing concerns of the environmental degradation of in the Hill regions of the Nepal. The program sought to bring patches of forest lands under the control of local communities with the goals of meeting local forest product needs and combating degradation (Bhattarai & Sindhu, 2005). In India, the participatory approach to management of forest resources as a means of providing a sustainable system of management to avoid further deforestation or degradation of forests in forests and communal lands (Hill, Ian 1998).

In Kenya, the enactment of the 2005 Forests Act has admittedly helped to revitalize the sector by giving local communities a stake in the management of state forests. (NEMA 2008). The goal of the Forest policy was to enhance the contribution of the forest sector in the provision of economic, social and environmental goods and services. It led to the introduction of

Participatory Forest Management which recognized the need of involving communities in forest management as co-workers alongside the government and other stakeholders (Osumba, 2011). Although the biological diversity of Kenya remains highly protected there are many unprotected areas and its status is declining fast due to a number of threats leading to numerous conservation challenges. The major threats to biological diversity in Kenya can be as: the high population pressure, escalating poverty situation, conflicts, poor land use practices, inadequate laws, policies and institutional framework, poor education and inadequate involvement of community participation. Other threats are invasive species, land degradation and pollution occasioned by poor land use practices.

The 2005 Forests Act provides for community participation in forest management. The best opportunity to engage forest-adjacent communities in forest management in partnership with KFS lies in the formation of Community Forest Associations (CFAs). This provides an avenue for local communities to actively participate in the protection, conservation and management of particular forest areas. In return, they are entitled to a range of user rights such as collecting firewood, timber, herbal medicine, grass for roof thatching and grazing animals, recreational activities, scientific and educational activities. In Zambia, the Forests Act of 1999 provided legal framework for joint forest management which allowed participation of local communities, traditional institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in sustainable forest management and the establishment of joint forest management areas.

More active involvement of local communities is currently hampered by lack of information on potential benefits as well as lack of awareness on the mechanisms for benefit sharing (FRA 2010). Benefit sharing was one of the strongest reasons for acceptance and success of JFM in India as communities tend to have high expectations of immediate benefits that could accrue from their participation (Phiri, 2009). Phiri (2009) also notes that cost-benefit sharing mechanisms should be clearly defined before deciding on the proportion of share of benefits by taking into account various costs and benefits to be incurred. Local community participation is the key strategy to current forestry conservation and management. If wildlife and all the protected areas are to survive, it is imperative that conservation activities and communities are in harmony so that it does not constrain community livelihoods. For conservation of natural resources of the forests to be realized effectively, there is the need for integrative management that considers local communities' stake in conservation. Community participation in conservation of forestry, therefore, needs to be promoted for its continued

preservation. This will be in line with the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the goal on environmental sustainability. Community participation is now globally recognized as an effective strategy in the management of forest resources. Community awareness of policies guiding natural resource use and recognition of its contribution is essential to their effective participation in integrated natural resource planning and management. The Kenya Forests Act recognizes the role of forest adjacent communities as legitimate stakeholders in conservation of forests. Towards this end, many forest adjacent communities in different parts of the country have formed Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to conserve and derive socio-economic benefits and services from forests in a more sustainable manner. Local efforts have received assistance from global conservation partners such as Global Environmental Facility, International Union of Nature (IUCN) and other organizations with similar visions. Objectives of the study have been formulated and revolve around the factors that influence community members to participate in forestry conservation projects. This study will be a descriptive research utilizing the survey method which was selected because it was considered suitable for primary data collection and it is effective and economical.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Loss of forests and woodland resources in Kenya is closely related to population dynamics and over-exploitation of wood products, conversion into agricultural land and other land uses. The greatest threat to our environment (forests and woodlands included) is however posed by poverty whereby people's basic needs for adequate food, shelter and health are not met. Efforts to obtain basic needs under such circumstances generally lead to destruction of forests and woodlands. Unsustainable land use is also driving land degradation which has negative impacts on the economy and livelihoods, exposing more than 23% of vulnerable rural communities to desertification in Kenya. Kenya's population is on the rise and stood at 398.6million in 2009 (GoK 2010d) and at the 2.9 percent growth rate, it is estimated to stand at 40.9 million in 2011. The resulting high demand for forest and woodland products by a rising population creates land use conflicts and environmental degradation as forests are cleared to make way for human settlements and agriculture. Loss of forests and woodland resources in Kenya is closely related to population dynamics and over-exploitation of wood products, conversion into agricultural land and other land uses. The greatest threat to our environment (forests and woodlands included) is however posed by poverty whereby people's basic needs for adequate food, shelter and health are not met. Efforts to obtain basic

needs under such circumstances generally lead to destruction of forests and woodlands. Unsustainable land use is also driving land degradation which has negative impacts on the economy and livelihoods, exposing more than 23 percent of vulnerable rural communities to desertification in Kenya. Environmental managers realized that any solutions that exclude consultations and involvement of the local people are unrealistic. Local communities therefore have to be allowed and encouraged to become responsible for the natural resources in their territory and have an important share in the benefits for their efforts. In light of this, this study sought to examine factors that influence communities to participate in forestry conservation.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to establish the factors that influence community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai Forest Community Based Organization in Meru County, Kenya.

### **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The study was guided by the following objectives:

To determine how community awareness influences community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya.

To examine the influence of development partners in community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya.

To assess the extent to which economic factors influence community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya.

To determine the influence of the management of the CBO in influencing community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya.

## **1.5 Research Questions**

The study sought to answer the following questions:

How does community awareness influence participation of community members in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya?

How do development partners influence community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya?

To what extent do economic factors influence community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya?

How does the management of the CBO influence community participation in forestry projects among the members of Kithoka/Twajai forest community based organization in Meru County, Kenya?

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study hopes to benefit the government in coming up with policies that support community participation in forestry conservation and ensure that communities the living adjacent to forests enjoy the resultant benefits for their efforts. The study can also assist forest administrators reverse the forest loss that Kenya has experienced in the past and combat land degradation and climate change and ensure that communities practice conservation methods that promote sustainability. Finally, the study will hopefully add new information that can aid researchers and scholars in this key area of forestry conservation in Kenya and elsewhere.

## **1.6 Assumptions of the Study**

The study was based on the assumptions that the respondents will voluntarily participate in the study and answer the questions correctly and truthfully. The respondents were very cooperative and the questionnaire return rate was almost 100 percent.



### **1.8 Delimitations of the Study**

The study will focus on Kithoka /Twajai forest a Community Based Organization involved in the conservation of Kuuru forest. It will cover both the management and individual members of the community based organization.

### **1.9 Limitations of the Study**

These constitute factors that may hinder or slow down the study and include:

**Time and financial constrains:** there is not much time available to do the study and limited resources will not permit a census of all members of the community based organization.

### **1.10 Definition of significant terms used in the study**

**Community Awareness** – this refers to the community’s awareness of forest conservation in terms of protection and sustainable use. This knowledge is influenced by an individual’s level of education, capacity building, attitudes and perceptions.

**Partnerships-** these are formed by stakeholders and consist of parties who have an interest in the forestry conservation. They are communities who have interests in the forests, conservationists who possess knowledge and skills and donors who are willing to invest their resources for the sake of conservation.

**Economic factors-**these include payments for environmental services which are shared to the communities by the government as compensation for services offered. Income generating activities are business operations aimed at making a profit from forest related activities e.g bee keeping.

**Management of CBOS-** transparency and good governance. The way an organisation carries out or organizes its economic, political and administrative authority. It creates an enabling environment for all stakeholders to be involved and have a voice in decision making. The management should be transparent meaning that procedures should be open and accountable to the public and stakeholders.

### **1.11 Organization of the study**

This study is organized in five chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction and offers the background of the study, statement of the problem and the objectives of the study among other preliminary topics. Chapter Two is on literature review and presents both a theoretical and a conceptual framework on which the study is based. Chapter Three offers the research methodology while Chapter Four is on data analysis, presentation and interpretation. Finally, Chapter Five presents a summary of the main findings of the study, discusses these against what appears in literature and also offers a conclusion and recommendation for further research.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter reviews literature related to community participation in conservation of biodiversity in general and forests in particular. The review looks at the current global picture of forests, causes of forest degradation, and institutional responses to conservation of the world's remaining forests. Specific cases especially those that integrate local community efforts in conservation will be highlighted to draw lessons and best practices.

#### **2.2 Community Participation in Forestry Conservation Projects**

The concept of participation originally grew out of criticism of the mainstream development projects of the 1960s and 1970s where critics asked why development projects often did not lead to the expected results and came to the conclusion that the problem was lack of people's participation. Too many projects, it was argued, were designed and implemented without debate and co-operation with people whose lives were to be changed by the projects.

The World Bank defines participation as 'a process through which stakeholder's influence and share control over development initiatives and the decision and resources which affect them' (World Bank). As indicated by Lise (2000) in Phiri (2009) participation consists of three components, namely contribution to, benefiting from and involvement in decision making and evaluation.

Participation means that a project is the direct outcome of people's own initiatives. Real participation is when people are involved in the planning, organization and decision making of a project from the very beginning in order that the project fits their needs and capabilities. Participation is not a guarantee for success but the outcome depends on additional factors such as the institutional and legal backing provided by the governments and their agencies which play significant roles in participatory processes by providing an enabling environment for these processes to fully develop.

The active involvement of local communities in forest management and use, popularly known as Community Forestry (CF), has become one of the popular approaches for sustainable forest management. In Nepal, the CF policy emerged in 1970 after a failure of the previous forest policy to halt deforestation and by a realization of the need for a forest management responsive to and built upon local needs and the indigenous systems. (Macnus Phil 2006)

Participatory processes help stakeholders to appreciate each other goals and perspectives thereby facilitating communication even if the concerned parties fail to resolve a particular problem (Scott, 2008). The process builds local capacities for managing natural resources and for negotiating locally relevant environmental development. It also facilitates better targeting of benefits to the voiceless and the poor through identification of key stakeholders.

Increased public participation could promote consensus building which is necessary at all levels in priority setting and decision making. Involving people in the design and implementation of policies and strategies for environmental management is crucial on both ethical and sustainability grounds. Ethically, people should be free to choose the direction of their development and to influence the means by which they subsist since they are the ones who bear the consequences of their decisions. Experience has revealed that environmental management initiatives that exclude affected parties from policy making have proven to be unsustainable.

In India, the concept of people participation in management of forests is known as Joint Forestry Management (JFM). The National Forest Policy of 1988 recommended involvement of people in forest conservation and management as a major means of putting off impending ecological crises and providing the benefits of these efforts directly to the people.

There is great need for interactive community participation in natural resource conservation to enhance the sense of ownership in local communities that inhabit the margins of forested landscapes (Scott, 2008). Inclusion of local people in forest management is premised on the realization that sustainable development involves increasing the potential of rural people to influence and control the means by which they earn their livelihoods on a long term basis.

The poor conservation outcomes that followed decades of intrusive resource management strategies and planned development have forced policy makers and scholars to reconsider the role of community in resource use and conservation.

If community participation is to be enhanced, greater emphasis should be placed on understanding the perspectives of the different stakeholders. Historically, the relationship between members of local communities and the institutions mandated with natural resource management has been characterized by suspicion, punitive measures and limited dialogue.

There is need for forums where government officials and community representatives can discuss their expectations of increased community participation.

Presently, a number of NGOs, CBOs and voluntary organisations are making good strides in enlightening the common citizen on laws and their rights.

The trend towards prioritizing greater local participation in conservation stems in part from the belief that local involvement could reduce hostility towards conservation efforts and that restricting local access without offering an alternative is morally irresponsible. (Stem et al 2002)

Wildlife and forest conservation approaches based on conservationist have denied local communities their entitlement to what they considered theirs. Conflicts between protected area management and local economic developments have intensified in many parts of the world. This demands conservation approaches that also protect the rights of the people who live in and around these protected areas. It is therefore imperative that the protected area contribute to meeting the needs of the local communities. (Njogu 2004).

Wildlife and forest conservation approaches based on protectionism which embraces preservation and protection have denied local communities their entitlement rights to what they considered theirs. The worldwide establishment and expansion of wildlife and forest conservation areas has the unintended consequence of displacing people and cutting them off from their principle source of social and economic livelihood. The state control of and the total exclusion of local communities and indigenous people from protected wildlife and forest areas not only disrupted the socio economic systems but also the old-age ant time tested practices that are known to be beneficial to natural ecosystems. Consequently, management approaches based on local participation have sprung up particularly in developing countries. These approaches have an interest in local-level solutions to resource problems and in changing local institutional arrangements. They do so by conferring specific rights as incentives in order to stimulate local participation in the conservation efforts.

The community based conservation approach to biodiversity conservation was entrenched following the UNCED consensus that the implementation of sustainable development should be based on local level solutions derived from community initiatives. Agenda 21 advocates a natural resource management approach that ensures community participation which is to be achieved through government decentralization and devolution to local communities of the responsibility of the natural resource held as commons (Njogu 2004)

### **2.3 Community Awareness**

If local people recognize how they benefit from products and services provided by forests, they will be motivated to modify their resources and land use practices and to invest time and effort in forest conservation activities. Given the right enabling environment and the right incentives, communities can and will manage forests and woodland resources for diversity. (Persha et al 2011).

In the pre-colonial period, local communities conserved natural resources such as water springs and dry season grazing. This they did through development of rules, regulations and community sanctions. Forests were also conserved for value other than the resources they contained; they provided refuge and often took a religious significance. The Miji Kenda community of the Kenyan coastal forests, for example protected Kaya Forests for religious reasons. (Persha et al, 2011)

While forest use practices are in part determined by the role of forest resources in local economy, they are also influenced by villager's beliefs, knowledge, and attitudes regarding the forest. Indigenous knowledge and management are often used to conserve and in some cases enhance bio-diversity since it uses readily available management science that is better adapted to serve the needs of ecological sustainability. Cultural knowledge and management systems also include regimes to sustainable harvesting and processing of materials from individual species (Kabuye 1999).

PFM demands change in attitudes of forest managers as well as communities. While the village communities have to come forward to adopt appropriate management systems for rational use of common property resources and accept the fact that the right to gains is linked with their duties towards nature, the forest managers have to switch over from control to involvement, Implementation to facilitation and from policing to participation.

Communities often need to strengthen their organizational capacity in order to re-claim responsibilities in management and conservation of forest resources through education and other forms of capacity building. Educational awareness and capacity building can enhance the participation process. The educational process should run parallel to the actual roll out of the project so that in the process of drawing up plans, developing participatory tools the stakeholders can learn from each other. Appropriate educational processes should be used to mobilize prior and new knowledge and build competence among the community members.

Forestry conservation refers to efforts and activities to maintain and sustain those attributes in natural forests which are essential both to human, physical and mental health and to the enjoyment of life. The attitude of people towards forest conservation on one hand and its utilization on the other hand depends mostly on their belief system, cultural disposition, level of awareness, age, sex, different religious affiliations among others.

Preservation and conservation of environmental resources suggests positive and friendly attitude while the careless utilization of these resources suggests negative attitudes. (Omoogun and Odok Anthony 2013).

The environmental policy of Ethiopia has recognized and identified environmental education and awareness as a key strategy to transform knowledge of environmental issues to the people. (Wuletao 2008)

## **2.4 Development Partners**

The importance of partnerships in all spheres of human development cannot be underscored as exemplified by 2002 World Summit on Sustainable development insistence that private-public partnerships are essential to achieve global goals of sustainable and equitable development.

Kenya's Forest Act of 2005 calls for participatory forest management to protect local livelihoods dependent on grazing, cultivation and non-timber forest products. In response, IUCN partnered with the Kenya Forest Service and the County Council of Koibatek to launch the Lembus Forest Integrated Conservation and Development Project. This initiative aims to strengthen community management of the Lembus forests to ensure they meet local, ecological, social and economic needs.

Strengthening forest management means listening to and supporting community members. A key local group involved in the project is the Lembus Council of Elders. Centuries of sound conservation knowledge are embedded in the minds of the elders aged 40-80 years. (Supporting the Wisdom of Age for Effective Community Forest Management, 2010)

NGOs and CBOs build capacity in local communities to enhance their ability to participate in forest management. They also provide funds for the advocacy of sound forestry and environmental management through the media and outreach campaigns, information sharing

and networking between local communities and other forestry actors. (Banana A. Y et al 2012)

Selman (2004) argues that key to successful participation is knowledge of local stakeholders in order to establish the institutional setting, local champions, social networks and power relations. Stakeholders have many different motives but a distinction is made between functional and interactive participants. Some may be motivated by graftsmanship and seek out available sources of funding while others may aim in to play a more active role in shaping decisions. Participants identified attributes for partnership success as a catalytic individual or organization, a shared vision, a common concern among participants, clear and defined goals, adequate funding and a climate of inclusivity and communication.

In order to obtain the resources to successfully gain right to existing resources, community groups must ally with other groups. Allies for community organizations include various agencies within the governments themselves, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations and the donor agencies of industrial countries. When an international agency such as World Bank or the US Agency for International Development (USAID) provides a loan or grant for forestry projects, the incentives for forestry agencies and other governmental units to embrace community forest projects in these projects are often tremendous.

Biendeweg (2012) states that local and international NGOs spearhead many capacity building activities for conservation and development due to national government's diminishing role in development and resource management. In both skill building and communal management, effective capacity building demands a high level of contact and trust between the agent and the community members. This means that organizations and individuals who have worked with community members over time and who have frequent interactions are more likely to be successful. It also means that capacity building professionals who are willing to interact on a horizontal level with community members, allowing their ideas to be heard and implemented are more likely to succeed at promoting sustainable land use behaviors. Participatory processes increase the likelihood of success as they provide opportunities for community members to participate, receive feedback and jointly develop new ideas over a period of time. Conserving forest resources requires stakeholders to trust one another and commit themselves to sustainable forest use. Legal or administrative procedures may have to be reformed or power redistributed to build relations of trust. Mutual trust often takes time to develop,



especially if stakeholders have no previous experience of sharing decision-making or management responsibilities.

## **2.5 Economic factors**

The economic rationale behind PFM is that communities will conserve forest resource if the benefits of the management actions outweigh the cost of conservation. Therefore, the issue is what benefit the community is gaining out of involving themselves in the process of forest management. In some cases, this benefit should not necessarily be only financial terms, but benefits in terms of qualitative cultural value, recognition and respect. (Wuletao T. 2008)

For forestry projects to become self-sustaining and fully independent, they need to be able to generate substantial income from their forest resources.

### **2.5.1 Benefits sharing**

Benefit sharing is where profits or products are distributed either among community members, between communities and the private sector or between communities and the state.

Benefit sharing is a potent tool for active community involvement in natural resource management. The distribution of benefits among the members of the community has to be fair and equitable. For distribution of benefits, interests of the weaker marginalized sections of the society have to be taken in to account predominantly. Interests of women should also be guarded as they are the ones who are a primarily associated with forest ecosystems and spend a great deal of time inside the forest areas.

According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 Report the government has acknowledged that poverty and environmental concerns are intertwined and need to be addressed simultaneously (Republic of Kenya, 1997-2001). However, there is need to address the implementation of government policies and greater communication and involvement of local communities, especially in out-lining the opportunities that exist for them. In the past, some communities have encroached on Forest areas arguing that the benefits from the forests accrue more to “outsiders” through the excision and licensing processes than to forest adjacent communities. There is also limited knowledge and consultation with communities about the rules and procedures of the Forest Department which limits their ability to take advantage of existing opportunities.

Individuals are unlikely to alter their behaviors without receiving some sort of direct benefit and protected area will not survive for long whenever local people remain impoverished and are denied access to needed resources inside.

Salafsky et al (2001) recognizes that stakeholders need some incentives to take action. Njogu (2004) however argues that incentives are a good way to help people to do something they want to do with what they have but not a good way to make them want to do it. Community based projects, being an incentive to conservation, are of three types (i) where communities obtain economic benefits directly from the project itself; (ii) where the project aims to assist communities to derive economic benefits from sustainable utilization of wildlife and forestry biodiversity such as ecotourism, forest biodiversity, such as ecotourism, forest products collection and controlled hunting etc .and (iii) a combination of (i) and (ii) above. In the context of conservationism most projects are designed with the aim of economically benefiting communities mainly from the utilization of respective wildlife and forest biodiversity resources.

A project supported by UNDP-GEF at three globally significant biodiversity rich forest sites of Kakamega, Arabuko-Sokoke and Mwingi provide evidence to demonstrate the value of economic incentives to participate in collaborative forest management. Gathering, cultivating and marketing of traditional commercial insect products such as silk and honey, and also through the introduction and development of innovative non-traditional activities such as butterfly farms or the gathering of royal jelly and stingless bee honey which has medicinal applications.

The project helps local communities generate sustainable and competitive income through sustainable use of forests. Its approach is based on a close integration of resources, human and institutional development in a way designed to reduce pressure on forests, their diversity and resources. (Forest Conservation through Commercial Forests in Kenya, 2008)

### **2.5.2 Income Generating Activities**

There are a number of interventions, in a collaborative manner, by CBOs towards the realization of sustainable income generating activities. Activities such as nurturing tree nurseries for afforestation of degraded areas and for sale can generate incomes to this group (Khanya, 2007)

.

For these initiatives to bear fruit however there is need for stakeholder cooperation, so that policy can match the realities on the ground and suit the objectives of biodiversity

conservation as well as a balance between economy and ecology. The initiatives need to be low cost, and funding for implementation readily available. There is also need for awareness creation and educating the community on the need for conservation of nature, and thus the need for these interventions (Khanya, 2007).

In Nepal, community forest has been a source of income and employment for rural communities especially through inter cropping of cash crops, cultivation of non-timber forest products, medicinal herbs, selling seedlings and organizing tours for tourists in community forests.(Bhandari,2010)

## **2.6 Management of Community Based Organizations**

Community based forest management is fundamentally a decentralized grassroots movement initiated by forest communities to protect natural resources from further degradation.

The community based conservation approach relies on the active participation of the local people in conservation interventions and entails not only giving local community's user rights, but also obligations, responsibilities and managerial know-how.

In Kenya there are many communities that have shown an interest in participating in forest management and have formed community based organizations but they lack proper organization and/or the true willingness to conserve the forest.

They can however benefit from capacity-building projects that are implemented by governments, cooperatives and non-governmental organizations in forest based communities to encourage sustainable management of community forests. They have the joint goal of improving living standards in poor communities and promoting forest conservation.

As the forests have to be managed by village communities, facilitated by forest departments, transparency in overall management activities is the most important aspect for successful implementation of PFM. Transparency not only ensures quality, but also helps to get rid of corruption in the regulatory management systems. In PFM, collective decision-making paves the way to create transparency in the implementation of various programmes. Participation is the heart of good governance. All men and women should have a voice, for instance, in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests (UNDP, 1997).

Increasing the capacity of communities to sustainably manage their forests is one of the most important development activities to ensure sustainable natural resource use in forests. Such interventions aim to improve technical skills to manage the resource, increase access to and participation in markets, strengthen relevant community level institutions and enhance economic administration to ensure retention of benefits from resource management. Biendeweg (2012)

CBO managers need capacity building projects that encourage the adoption of forest management activities and tend to support knowledge acquisition, skills development and governance structures.

## **2.7 Government Policies and Regulatory Guidelines**

Higher levels of community participation could lead to more effective forest protection but without government support in the forms of law enforcement and cooperation between different government agencies such improvements in local forest management are unlikely to be sustained.

Isager L et al (2002) points out that government can help provide an enabling environment for participatory forest conservation through decentralization of political, fiscal and administrative power, provision of land tenure security and user rights for involved interest holders, education and other forms of capacity building.

For many years, policies for managing common pool resources, including forests had marginalized local people, thereby denying them access to these resources. There was also the realization that policing approach for managing and protecting forest resources was not responding to the needs of nature or the rural communities (Rishi, 2007).

The interest in and support for policy and legislative frameworks that promote community participation in natural resources management have influenced most governments. Many countries, particularly in Asia and Africa have since undertaken review of policies and legislation on forestry to incorporate aspects of Participatory Forest Management to conserve and manage resources in a sustainable way. Involvement of local communities in natural resources management is now a significant feature of national policies and practices and of internationally supported programmes throughout the world. (Phiri M. 2009).

The National Forestry policy of 1988 is to treat forests as an ecological necessity, as a source of goods for use by local populations with particular emphasis on non-timber products, of wood and other products for industries and other non-local users. The policy envisages participation of communities in the management of forest resources as a means of achieving these objectives and providing a sustainable system of management to avoid further deforestation or degradation of forests on government and common lands. (Hill et al, 1998)

Tanzania has made participatory forest management a cornerstone of its forest policy and it has one of the most developed PFM systems in Africa. Currently about 2.8 million hectares are under some type of PFM as part of the concerted effort to end de facto access on public land. Following promulgation of the 1998 National Land Policy and the Forest Act 2002, community based approaches to forest management were widely introduced in Tanzania as a way to protect Tanzania's forests and reduce rural poverty.

In 2005 the Kenyan parliament enacted the Forest Act. This legislation provides for formation of local forest groups in forests managed by the Kenya Forest Service. With vision 2030 eventually aiming to eventually raise the country's forest cover to 10 percent, policies need to be put in place to encourage afforestation and reforestation and to also discourage deforestation by making trees more valuable when standing than felled.

## **2.8 Participation Theories**

Participation theory represents a move from the global, aspatial top-down strategies that dominated early development initiatives to more locally sensitive methodologies. Participation is heavily influenced by development theories. Acknowledgement of participation grew out of the realization that the world's poor have actually suffered as a result of development and that everyone needs to be involved in development decisions, implementation and benefits. Limitations of the state in top-down conservation practices were identified and popular participation emphasized as a remedy due to the observation of the uniqueness of an individual as an entity who is capable of making unique contributions to decision making. (Claridge, 2004)

Participation theories criticized the modernization theory on the ground that it promoted a top-down ethnocentric and paternalistic view of development. Current development efforts focus on 'bottom up' planning, 'people centered development' and the view that ordinary

people have the capacity to manage their own development. Participatory theory encourages the involvement of all stakeholders in the process of development. (Fitano, 2003)

This approach views development as a process which focuses on community's involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community and emphasizes concept such as capacity building, empowerment, sustainability and self-reliance.

In the context of natural resource management, devolved greater power to village communities is now widely accepted as an institutional imperative by governments, international agencies and NGOs.

### **Research gap**

The poor conservation outcomes that followed decades of intrusive resource management strategies and planned development have forced policy makers and scholars to reconsider the role of community in resource use and conservation.

According to Scott (2008), it was realized that there is great need for interactive community participation in natural resource conservation to enhance the sense of ownership in local communities that inhabit the margins of forested landscapes Inclusion of local people in forest management is premised on the realization that sustainable development involves increasing the potential of rural people to influence and control the means by which they earn their livelihoods on a long term basis. The study therefore sought to establish the factors influencing community participation in forestry conservation projects.

### **Summary**

This chapter discussed the variables in the study that is awareness creation, economic factors, development partners and management of CBOs highlighting the global perspectives on community participation in forestry conservation projects as well as the local approach.

## **2.9 The Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework that guided this study was built from the four independent variables; community awareness, development partners, economic factors and management of the Community Based Organization.

Fig. 1 presents the conceptual framework on which the study is based

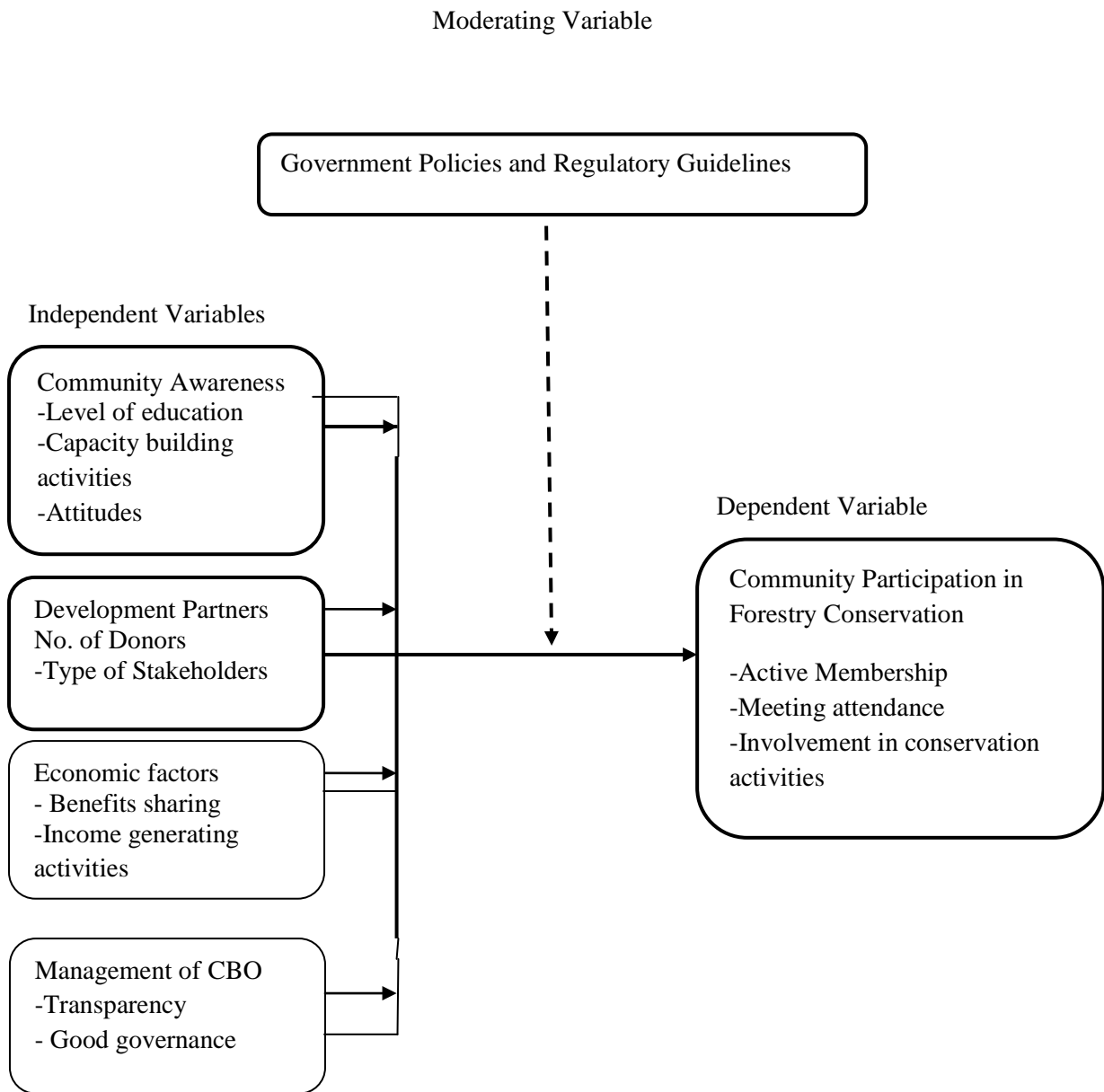


Fig.1 Conceptual Framework

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the procedure through which data was collected for the study. Specifically, the chapter focuses on the research design, the target population and the sampling design. It discusses the methods, instruments of data collection and procedures administered in the field and how validity and reliability was established. It also shows the validity test of a data collection instrument that enables us to ascertain that we are measuring the correct concept and presents the operational definition of variables as they are used in the project proposal. Finally the chapter discusses the methods of analyzing the data as it relates to the research question.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design is the plan, structure of investigation concerned so as to obtain answers to research questions and to control variance. It helps to control the experimental, extraneous and error variance of the particular research problem being investigated. Research designs are invented to enable answering the research questions as validly, objectively, accurately and economically as possible.

A research design can be thought of as the structure of research. It is the 'glue' that holds all the elements in a research project together (Tromp D.L.A, Kombo D.K, 2009). A design is used to structure the research, to show how all the major parts of the research project work together to try and address the central research questions. This is a qualitative research design, which includes design, techniques and measures that do not produce discrete numerical data. A research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blue print for the collection, measurement and analysis of data (Kothari 2004:31).

More often the data is in the form of words rather than numbers and these words are often grouped into categories (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003:155). This "research is carried out when we want to understand meanings, or look at, describe and understand intangibles such as experience, ideas, beliefs and values"(Wisker, 2001).



This is a descriptive research using survey method though it has an element of exploration study. Babbie (1992) suggests that ‘description is the precise measurement of the characteristics of some population or phenomenon under study’. In this regard, the phenomenon of interest is community participation in forest conservation.

In survey research design, the researcher describes people’s response to questions about phenomena or situation with the aim of understanding the respondent’s perception from which truism is constructed. This study not only focuses on documenting the phenomenon or precisely reporting on it, but also seeks in a way to develop a better understanding of community forestry conservation. In this regard the study is to some extent exploratory.

### **3.3 Target Population**

Following the enactment of the new Forest Act (2005), local forest adjacent communities formed a network of associations grouped into CBOs under the Meru Forest Environmental Conservation and Protection Association (MEFECAP) ring fencing the upper Imenti Forest located to the North East of Mt. Kenya.

Kithoka/Twajai, a community based organization based at Kaithe Market along Meru – Maua Road is one such CBO and its expressed mandate is environmental conservation for livelihood and poverty reduction. They are involved in activities such as banana husbandry, energy cooking stoves and bee keeping among other conservation activities like tree planting. The CBO has received external funding and capacity building support from GEF and CDTF respectively. According to the membership register the group has a membership of 200.

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling procedure**

This section discusses the sample size and sampling procedures that were used in the study.

#### **3.4.1 Sample size**

A sample is a small sub-group drawn from the larger population. According to Kothari (2004), the size of the sample should neither be excessively large nor too small. It should be optimum. An optimum sample is one which fulfils the requirements of efficiency, representation, reliability and flexibility. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) assert that a descriptive study should take ten percent (10%) of the accessible population and it should be enough for a specific study. The sample selected 20% respondents as a sample size for research based on the central tendency theory of 30 items or respondents’ to be adequate for

making inferences and the 40 respondents will be selected as respondents which is above the 10% by suggested by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003).

### **3.4.2 Sampling Procedure**

Sampling is taking any portion of a universe as representative of that population or universe. Sampling means selecting a given number of subjects from a defined population as representative of that population or taking any portion of the universe as representative of that population or universe. This study used the probability sampling technique to get the sample size for the respondents. The method provided a technique of drawing samples from the target population according to laws of chance: every attribute of the study has definite, reassigned chance of being selected in the sample. Here it is blind chance alone that determines whether one item or the other is selected (Kothari, 2004).

### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

Questionnaires and interviews are used extensively to collect data and are an efficient way of gathering data from samples representing large populations. These methods are useful and very versatile in collecting primary data. This is because it is possible to gather abstract information of all types in a qualitative research. Membership register of the CBOs was used as the sampling frame. In a study such as this, it is important to obtain a holistic study which will give a view of the total research situation.

#### **3.5.1 Data Collection Procedures**

The data was collected using questionnaires and interviews to the respondents which comprised both structures and unstructured questions. The questionnaires were divided into two sections. The first section dealt with the general information about the respondents while the second section dealt with the variables of the study.

#### **3.5.2 Validity of instruments**

‘Validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences, which are based on research results is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of the data actually represent the phenomenon under study’, Mugenda and Mugenda (2004). Put differently, validity is the degree to which a test measures what it purports to measure. It is concerned with whether the findings are really about what they appear to be about. To enhance validity of instruments in

this study, the questionnaire was reviewed by experts in the subject matter, particularly my supervisor.

### **3.5.3 Reliability of instruments**

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2004), reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results on data after repeated trials. A reliable instrument is one that produces consistent results when used more than once to collect the data from the sample randomly drawn from the sample population. To ensure reliability, the instruments were pre-tested by piloting the questionnaire on a smaller group of respondents. A reliability measure was achieved by estimating how well the items checking the same concept yielded the same results.

### **3.6 Data Analysis techniques**

When data has been collected, it is analyzed using specified and stated techniques that facilitate answering of the research questions and making interpretations that may lead to generalized findings.

Data was analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative methods. In qualitative data analysis, data was organized, clustered, interpreted and inferences made using SPSS. Data collected in the form of field notes was organized into manageable forms around themes and areas of concern for ease of interpretation. In quantitative analysis, data from structured questionnaires was edited, cleaned for completeness and consistence before processing. It was then coded to enable the responses to be grouped into categories. Descriptive statistics was used to determine frequencies, percentages and mean.

### **3.7 Ethical Issues**

Information collected was treated with confidentiality; the consent of the respondents was sought before revealing the information. Respondents were not forced to give information and they didn't write their names on the questionnaires.

Kitchin (2000), states that basic ethical issues to consider in any research include privacy, confidentiality, anonymity, sensitivity to cultural differences and gender. Permission to interview the respondents was obtained from the management of the CBO.

The operationalization of variables is shown in Table 1

Objective	Variable	Indicators	Measurement	Measurement scale	Tools of analysis	Type of data analysis
To determine how awareness influences participation among community members in forestry projects.	<b>Independent:</b> Education levels of the members Attitudes towards forestry conservation. Level of indigenous knowledge among the members.	Education levels of the members. Capacity building activities	Seminars attended Activities involved in Conservation initiatives Motivation levels to conserve	Nominal  Ordinal	Mean	Descriptive
To examine the influence of development partners in community participation in forestry projects.	Names and identities of partners. Nature of partnership. Duration of partnership.	No. of stakeholders Type of stakeholders	Number of stakeholders. Level of involvement in the project	Ordinal  Nominal	Mean	Descriptive
To assess the extent to which economic factors influence community participation in forestry projects.	Benefits accruing from the venture. Income generating activities among the members.	List of items members get from the forest. List of activities being carried out.	Ways that members benefit Income generating activities members are involved in	Ordinal  Ordinal	Mean	Descriptive

Objective	Variable	Indicators	Measurement	Measurement scale	Tools of analysis	Type of data analysis
To determine the contribution of the management of the CBO in influencing community participation in forestry projects	Number of members in the CBO. Means used by CBO to motivate members	-Transparency - Good governance	Involvement of members in decision making Nature of representation Organization of activities Financial management	Ordinal  Ordinal	Mean	Descriptive
	<b>Dependent:</b> Community participation in forestry conservation projects	-Active Membership -Meeting attendance -Involvement in conservation activities	Up to date contributions Consistency in workshop, meeting, field activities attendance	Ordinal  Interval	Mean  Percentage	Descriptive

## **SUMMARY**

This chapter discusses the research design which is a descriptive research by use of survey method. The instrument of research was the questionnaire. The study targeted the management and members of the CBO. The study used the probability and sampling technique where simple random sampling was used to obtain study sample. Localizing through pretesting of instruments was done for validity and reliability of data.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of data collected from the field items in the study questionnaire. The findings were analyzed and presented in the form of frequency tables, numerical values and percentages. The responses are presented followed by a brief interpretation guided by the research objectives.

#### 4.2 Respondents Background Information

This section presents the demographic Information and Crosstabs of Respondents Gender against age. Cross tabulation of Gender against Marital status and Cross tabulation of Gender against highest level of education.

#### 4.3 Demographic Information

This section presents the general characteristics of respondents and shows their gender, age, marital status and academic qualifications.

Table 4.1 presents the respondents gender and age.

**Table. 4.1: Gender and Age Cross tabulation**

		Age				Total	Percent
		21-30yrs	31-40yrs	41-50yrs	51-60yrs		
Gender	Male	4	1	4	4	13	42
	Female	2	4	6	6	18	58
Total		6	5	10	10	31	100

The table shows that the members are spread across all the age groups. 20 out of the 31 respondents are above the age of 40 who are mature adults.

Table 4.2: presents the respondents gender and marital status.

**Table 4.2: Gender and Marital Status Cross tabulation**

		Marital Status		
		Married	Total	Percent
Gender	Male	13	13	42
	Female	18	18	58
Total		31	31	100

The table shows that 42% were married male respondents with 58% being married female respondents.

Table 4.3 presents the respondents gender and highest level of formal education

**Table 4.3: Gender and highest level of formal Education Cross tabulation**

		Primary	secondary	Tertiary	other	Percent	
Gender	Male	5	5	3	0	13	42
	Female	10	5	1	2	18	58
Total		15	10	4	2	31	100

The Table shows that 50% of the members are primary school graduates. This shows that the lower the level of education a member has the more intimate relationship they have with nature which could also be probably due to lack of alternatives.

### 4.3. Community Awareness

This section presents results on the respondents training on forestry conservation prior to joining the forestry CBO and if they were involved in any conservation initiatives before the training.

Table 4.4: shows respondents responses on whether they had attended any training on forestry conservation.

**Table 4.4: Attended any Seminar/Workshop on Forestry Conservation**

	Frequency	Percent
YES	25	80.6
NO	6	19.4
Total	31	100.0



The table shows that 81% of the respondents had attended in forestry conservation which is in line with capacity building objectives of most CBOs. This shows the trainings had greatly enhanced their knowledge in areas such as the best trees to plant and how to utilize resources sustainably.

The respondents were asked whether they were involved in any conservation initiatives before they underwent training. Their responses appear on Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5: Conservation Initiatives before the Training**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	81
No	6	19
Total	31	100

Table 4.5 shows that the majority 81% were involved in conservation projects before the training. Majority of the members said they were members of Green Belt movement before joining the CBO where they were involved in tree planting.

The members were very conversant with the issues of conservation and were also spreading word in their communities and encouraging new members to join them. The members had been encouraged to plant trees in their farms where they had been promised compensation through carbon trading.

#### 4.4. Economic Factors

This section presents results for the extent the respondents are engaged in income generating activities for forest conservation activities as a CBO; and how the benefits are shared depending on member's participation. Their responses appear on Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Engaged In Income Generating Activities for Forest Conservation Activities as a CBO**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	27	87
No	4	13
Total	31	100

As Table 4.6 shows 87% were involved in income generating activities. This has greatly motivated members as they are able to earn a living and majority were involved in the CBOs activities full time.

Table 4.7 presents respondents responses on how benefits were shared among members in the CBO

**Table 4.7: Depending On Member's Participation**

	Frequency	Percent
Depending on members participation	31	100

The Table shows that the members agreed unanimously that the benefits were shared depending member's participation. This shows that the more time members invested in conservation projects the more money they reaped from the activities.

Some of the members have taken up the CBO activities as a full time job and therefore dedicate most of their time on the scheduled activities as well as the income generating activities while others work part time.

The proceeds arising from the activities such as selling of tree seedlings and honey is distributed among the members depending on their involvement in these activities.

The members are further issued with banana and cassava seedlings which they plant in their farms and sell the produce to the CBO for processing.

Under the income generating activities the CBO management had partnered with other institutions to source for market for tree seedlings which the members nurtured in nurseries.

#### 4.5. Management of CBOs

This section presents the results of respondents on how the management involves members in decision making and the extent to which they felt that management represents their interests and concerns in the CBO.

Table 4.8 presents respondents responses on involvement of members in decision making by the CBO management.

**Table 4.8: Management Involvement of Members in Decision Making**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	23	74
No	8	26
Total	31	100

The Table shows that 74% said they were involved by the CBO management in decision making. This has positively impacted well on members who feel valued and views are respected.

Table 4.9 presents respondents responses on the extent they felt the management represents their interests and concerns in the CBO.

**Table 4.9: The Extent Members Feel Management Represents their Interests and Concerns in The CBO**

	Frequency	Percent
Great extent	26	84
Moderate extent	5	16
Total	31	100

The Table shows that 84% felt that their interests and concerns were well represented. This has improved the morale of members as they feel that any issues affecting them are handled well and presented to relevant authorities.

The members have a lot of faith and trust in the management of the organization and felt they were in safe hands as they treated them with respect and their views were sought on various issues before decisions were made. They are also transparent in their dealings and all transactions are done openly.

#### 4.6. Development Partners

This section presents the results of respondents on the influence of development partners in influencing community participation in forestry conservation projects.

Table: 4.10 presents the descriptive statistics on development partners' influence on community member's participation.

**Table: 4.10: Descriptive Statistics development Partners**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Work with other partners in forest conservation	31	1.00	1.00	1.0000	.00000
Local partners partner's level of engagement with the CBO	31	1.00	3.00	2.3871	.84370
External partners partner's level of engagement with the	29	1.00	3.00	1.6897	.89056
Duration of engagement with Local partners in forest conservation	30	1.00	2.00	1.3333	.47946
Duration of engagement with Foreign partners in forest conservation	29	1.00	2.00	1.1034	.30993
Received any direct assistance from partners in forest conservation	30	1.00	1.00	1.0000	.00000
If yes, indicate the form of assistance from Local partners	31	1.00	4.00	2.1935	.90992

The form of assistance					
External partners	27	1.00	4.00	2.1111	.97402

---

On working with other partners in forest conservation the mean response rate was 1.00 with a standard deviation of .000, which indicates there was unanimous agreement that they work with other partners. The table also shows that local partner's level of engagement with the CBO the mean response rate was 2.3871 with a standard deviation of .84370, while the external partner's level of engagement mean response rate was 1.6897 with a standard deviation of .89056. On the duration of engagement with local partners in forest conservation the mean response rate was 1.3333 with a standard deviation of .47946 while the duration of engagement with foreign partners in forest conservation the mean response rate was 1.1034 with a standard deviation of .30993. On whether they received any direct assistance from partners in forest conservation the mean response rate was 1.00 with a standard deviation of .000.

The respondents were to respond and if their responses were yes, to indicate the form of assistance from local partners the mean response rate was 2.1935 with a standard deviation of .90992. The form of assistance external partner's conservation the mean response rate was 2.1111 with a standard deviation of .97402

Development partners have had a negative impact on the CBO because they came with a lot of funding of which the members could not agree on how the money was to be utilized. The management decided to use the money donated to grow the organization in terms of capacity building and hire of office space and employment of professionals to run the organization. They also invested some of the money in purchase of beehives, banana seedlings and equipment for value addition. Some of the members had quit the organization when the management refused to bow to pressure to divide the money among the members.

## 4.7. Test statistics: Chi Square

This section presents the inferential statistics on the influence of Community Awareness in Participation of Community Members, Economic Factors in community Participation and Management of the CBO in Community Participation. The influence of development partners was not analyzed inferentially as the expected and realized responses were nominally categorical and therefore not amenable to inferential analysis.

**Table 4.11: Test Statistics**

	Community Awareness In Participation Of Community Members	Economic Factors In Community Participation	Management Of The CBO in Community Participation
Chi-Square	20.161	30.200	14.226
Df	1	2	1
Asymp. Sig.	.000	.000	.000

### 4.7.1. Influence of community awareness in participation of community members in forestry projects

The Non parametric test Statistics results on Influence of community awareness in participation of community members in forestry projects shows that the p value = 0.000 ( $p > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the p-value is below 0.05. This indicates that Influence of community awareness has a significant influence in participation of community members in forestry projects

### 4.7.2 Influence of economic factors in community participation in forestry projects among the members

The Non parametric test Statistics results Influence of economic factors in community participation in forestry projects among the members in forestry projects shows that the p value = 0.000 ( $p > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the p-value is below 0.05. This indicates that Influence of economic factors has a significant influence in participation of community members in forestry projects

### **4.7.3. Influence of Management of the CBO Community Participation in Forestry Projects among the Members**

The Non parametric test Statistics results Influence of Management of the CBO Community Participation in Forestry Projects among the Members in forestry projects shows that the p value = 0.000 ( $p > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the p-value is below 0.05. This indicates that Influence of Management of the CBO has a significant influence in participation of community members in forestry projects

### **4.8 Summary**

The study had four variables which were analyzed after data collection and editing. One variable on partnership with development partners was descriptively analyzed, while influence of Community awareness, influence of economic factors and management of CBOs on community participation were inferentially analyzed and the inferences are that; community awareness in participation of community members in forestry projects shows that the p value = 0.000 ( $p > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the p-value is below 0.05. Results on Influence of economic factors in community participation in forestry projects among the members in forestry projects shows that the p value = 0.000 ( $p > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the p-value is below 0.05, and on Influence of Management of the CBO Community Participation in Forestry Projects among the Members in forestry projects shows that the p value = 0.000 ( $p > 0.05$ ), which indicates that the p-value is below 0.05

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1. Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary of the research findings on the factors influencing community participation in forestry conservation projects among members of Kithoka-Twajai CBO and the discussions and conclusions. It also presents the project title with a direct link between the variables and the findings to the empirical and theoretical literature review in the study. The chapter ends with recommendations for the research and suggestions for further research to fill gaps identified as important by the researcher

#### **5.2. Summary of Findings**

The following are the key findings of the study.

5.2.1. Influence of Development partners in influencing community participation of members in forestry conservation projects.

The study concluded that the partners had no significant influence on the members' participation in conservation projects. The issue of donors giving grants to the CBO divided members and some left the project altogether because they could not agree on how the money should be spent. While the CBO management felt the money should be used in capacity building and facilitating the project activities some members thought it should be shared out equally among them.

5.2.2 Influence of community awareness on community participation in forestry conservation projects.

It was clear from the study that majority of the respondents had attended various training seminars and workshops undertaken by the organization. The creation of awareness among the members of the organization through the training has contributed to the effective participation of members of the organization in implementing forest conservation projects.



### 5.2.3 Influence of economic factors on community participation of members in forestry conservation projects.

The study found out that the majority of the respondents were involved in income generating activities and the members agreed unanimously that the benefits were shared depending member's participation. Members are satisfied that through income generating activities carried out by the CBO they are able to get an income which enables them to sustain their families. Members are also satisfied with the sharing of benefits accruing from the project which has been decided that it is done as per individual member's contribution to the CBOs activities.

### 5.2.4 Influence of management of the CBO on community participation of members in forestry conservation projects.

The results of the study indicate that the majority of the members were involved in decision making and that they felt that the management represents their interests and concerns. This can be explained by the level of trust that members have of their leaders due to their transparency and accountability in terms of financial management. The influence of involvement of members in planning CBO activities has been very beneficial to the organization in participation and ownership of the projects by the members who are key stakeholders.

### **5.3. Discussion of findings**

This section discusses the study findings against relevant literature.

#### **5.3.1. Influence of community awareness on participation of community members in forestry conservation projects**

The study established that community awareness has a significant influence on participation of community members in forestry projects. These findings agree with those of Persha et al (2011) who concluded that if local people recognize how they benefit from products and services provided by forests, they will be motivated to modify their resources and land use practices and to invest time and effort in forest conservation activities. The findings are also consistent with Wuletao (2008), who found that environmental policy recognized and identified environmental education and awareness as a key strategy to transform knowledge of environmental issues to the people. The study also found out that majority of the respondents were involved in conservation activities before they underwent any training and these findings agree with Kabuye (1999) who found that indigenous knowledge and management are often used to conserve and in some cases enhance bio-diversity since it uses readily available management science that is better adapted to serve the needs of ecological sustainability. Cultural knowledge and management systems also include regimes to sustainable harvesting and processing of materials from individual species.

#### **5.3.2. Influence of development partners on participation of community members in forestry conservation projects**

The study concluded that the development partners have no influence on community participation in forestry conservation projects in Meru. In fact the cash provided to the CBOs either as grants or loans seemed only to sow seeds of discontent in the organization as some members believe that the cash should be shared out equally among them. This is in agreement with findings of Njogu (2004) who found out that conserving forest resources requires stakeholders to trust one another and commit themselves to sustainable forest use. It is in contrast to the findings of Biendeweg (2012) who found that when an international agency such as World Bank or the US Agency for International Development (USAID) provides a loan or grant for forestry projects, the incentives for forestry agencies and other governmental units to embrace community forest projects in these projects are often tremendous. Legal or administrative procedures may have to be reformed or power redistributed to build relations of trust. Mutual trust often takes time to develop, especially if stakeholders have no previous experience of sharing decision-making or management responsibilities.

### **5.3.3. Influence of economic factors on participation of community members in forestry conservation projects**

On Economic factors the study found out that the majority of the respondents were involved in income generating activities as and this is in line with Bhandari, (2010) who found out that in Nepal, community forest has been a source of income and employment for rural communities especially through inter cropping of cash crops, cultivation of non-timber forest products, medicinal herbs, selling seedlings and organizing tours for tourists in community forests. Khanya, (2007) also agrees that activities such as nurturing tree nurseries for afforestation of degraded areas and for sale can generate incomes to a group. These findings agree with those of Salafsky et al (2001) who found that stakeholders need some incentives in order to take action and are also in agreement with Wuletao T. 2008 who found out that the economic rationale behind Participatory Forest Management is that communities will conserve forest resource if the benefits of the management actions outweigh the cost of conservation. Therefore, the issue is what benefit the community is gaining out of involving themselves in the process of forest management. The study also found out that members were satisfied with benefit sharing among the members. These findings are supported by Salafsky et al (2001) who found out that benefit sharing is a potent tool for active community involvement in natural resource management. The distribution of benefits among the members of the community has to be fair and equitable. This is also in line with Njogu (2004) who found that incentives are a good way to help people to do something they want to do with what they have but not a good way to make them want to do it.

### **5.3.4. Influence of management of the CBO on participation of community members in forestry conservation projects**

The study found out that the majority of the members were involved in decision making by the management and this is as Biendeweg (2012) found out that in PFM, collective decision-making paves the way to create transparency in the implementation of various programmes. The study also found out that the majority of the members felt that the management represents their interests and concerns. These findings are in agreement with UNDP (1997) findings that participation is the heart of good governance. All men and women should have a voice, for instance, in decision-making, either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that represent their interests. These findings agree with Biendeweg (2012) who found out that since the CBOs are run by village committees transparency in overall

management activities is the most important aspect for successful implementation of PFM. Transparency not only ensures quality, but also helps to get rid of corruption in the regulatory management systems. In PFM, collective decision-making paves the way to create transparency in the implementation of various programmes. He adds that CBO managers need capacity building projects that encourage the adoption of forest management activities and tend to support knowledge acquisition, skills development and governance structures. This was also supported by findings of Kanter (1982) and Pavett and Lau (1983) who pointed out that an important component of successful management is the ability to influence others through participatory management.

#### **5.4. Conclusions**

The study concludes that the creation of awareness among the members of the organization has contributed to the effective participation of members of the organization in implementing forest conservation projects. On the influence of development partners on community participation in forestry conservation projects, the study concluded that the partners had no significant influence on the members' participation in conservation projects.

The issue of donors giving grants to the CBO divided members and some left the project altogether because they could not agree on how the money should be spent. While the CBO management felt the money should be used in capacity building and facilitating the project activities some members thought it should be shared out equally among them. On how economic factors influences participation of members in forestry conservation projects, the study concluded that economic factors has a significant influence on its project implementation activities. Members are satisfied that through income generating activities carried out by the CBO they are able to get an income which enables them to sustain their families.

Members are also satisfied with the sharing of benefits accruing from the project which has been decided that it is done as per individual member's contribution to the CBOs activities. In regard to how management of the CBO influences the participation of members in forestry conservation projects, the study concluded that Management of the CBO has a significant influence on its member's participation in project activities. This can be explained by the level of trust that members have of their leaders due to their transparency and accountability in terms of financial management. The influence of involvement of members in planning

CBO activities has been very beneficial to the organization in participation and ownership of the projects by the members who are key stakeholders.

### **5.5 Recommendations**

The study sought to determine the influence of community awareness, to assess the influence of development partners, to establish how economic factors influences participation, to examine how management of the CBO influences participation of members of the Kithoka-Twajai forestry CBO in forestry conservation projects in Meru County. This has been achieved though there is room for further investigation as to how development partners can come in to help in project activities without their involvement creating divisions among the members.

1. The Government should carry out intensive media campaigns and come up with training materials to enhance community awareness on forestry conservation projects. The study found out that the trainings organized by the CBO were important as members were more enlightened on the importance of conservation.
2. The Government should utilize conservation activities as a way of creating income generating activities for the youth in communities as the study found out that members are able to eke a living from the projects and their economic status had improved.
3. The Forestry department should encourage formation of more conservation CBOs as they were found to have a significant influence on community participation as the members were satisfied with the way their interests and concerns were being represented. These would help solve the problems of deforestation and degradation of the environment through use of indigenous knowledge and local labour.

### **5.6. Suggestions for Further Study**

1. Factors influencing the creation of mutual trust among all the stakeholders before the onset of the project to militate against divisions.
2. The influence of Development partners in enhancing community participation in forestry conservation projects.

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## **APPENDIX 1: LETTER OF TRASMITTAL**

**BETH W MACHARIA**  
**P.O BOX 972 60200**  
**MERU**  
**TEL: 0722 625 919**

**Dear respondent,**

### **RE: LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

I am a student at the University of Nairobi pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Project Planning and Management. As part of my final year, I am required to carry out academic work in the form of a research study.

My aim is to conduct a study on factors influencing community participation in forestry conservation projects. A case of Kithoka Twajai Forest CBO in Meru County, Kenya. The study will be guided by 5 sections which include; personal information, community awareness, development partners, economic factors and management of CBO. The information will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will not be used for other purposes except the study.

The findings of this study may be used by the Ministry of Environment and Forest administrators and other development partners to formulate policy on conservation and decision making in the region. This will lead to communities being more involved in forestry conservation resulting in better conserved forests and improved livelihoods.

Attached please find a questionnaire that requires you to provide information by answering questions honestly and accurately.

Your assistance will be highly appreciated

Thank you

**Beth W Macharia**

**University of Nairobi**

**Reg. No. L50/62486/2013**

## APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a student at the University of Nairobi studying for a Masters of Arts degree in Project Planning and Management. This research study is in partial fulfillment for the award of the Master of Arts degree. This is purely an academic research and all information will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

### Part 1: Demographic Information

Please indicate the current status by ticking the appropriate option:

1. Gender

a) Male ( )

b) Female ( )

2. Age

Under 20 ( )

21-30 ( )

31-40 ( )

41-50 ( )

51-60 ( )

Above 60 ( )

3. Marital Status

a) Single ( )

b) Married ( )

c) Other ( )

### Part 2: Community Awareness

1. What is your highest level of formal Education?

a) Primary ( )

b) Secondary ( )

c) Tertiary ( )

d) Other ( )

2. Have you attended any seminar/workshop on forestry conservation?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( )

3. What were you mostly trained on?

.....

4. Were you involved in any conservation initiatives before the training?

a) Yes ( ) b) No ( )

5. How would you rate the training in terms of what you learnt?

- a) Very useful ( )
- b) Useful ( )
- c) Average ( )
- d) Not very useful ( )

6. How would you rate your level of motivation to conserve forests?

- a) Very high ( )
- b) High ( )
- c) Moderate ( )
- d) Low ( )

8. What conservation activities are you involved in as a CBO?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Part 3: Economic Benefits**

1. For how long have you been involved in conservation activities?

- a) Less than 1 year ( )
- b) Between 2-5 years ( )
- c) More than 5 years ( )

2. What type of benefit do members get from your involvement in conservation activities?

- a) No benefit ( )
- b) Wages ( )
- c) Collecting firewood ( )
- d) Grazing in the forest ( )
- e) Other(specify) ( )

3. Are you engaged in income generating activities for forest conservation activities as a CBO?

- a) Yes ( ) b). No ( )

4. What two activities are you involved in?

Please list

.....

5. What amount of benefits do you got from these activities per month?

- a) None ( )
- b) Below Kshs 1,000 ( )

- c) Kshs 1000-Kshs 5000 ( )
  - d) Over Kshs 5000 ( )
6. How are the benefits shared among the members?
- a) Equally ( )
  - b) Depending on members' participation in the activities ( )
7. To what extent are you satisfied with sharing of benefits at Kithoka/Twajai CBO?
- a) Great extent ( )
  - b) Moderate extent ( )
  - c) Low extent ( )
  - d) No extent ( )

**PART 4: Development Partners in Forest Conservation**

1. Do you work with other partners in forest conservation?
- a) Yes ( )
  - b) No ( )
2. If yes, how many:
- a) Local partners between 1-2( ) 3-4 ( ) over 5( )
  - b) External partners 1-2 ( ) 3-4 ( ) over 5( )
3. What is the partner's level of engagement with the CBO? Please tick one
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>a) <b>Local partners</b></p> <p>Project initiation ( )</p> <p>Project planning ( )</p> <p>Implementation ( )</p> <p>Project evaluation ( )</p> | <p>b) <b>External partners</b></p> <p>Project initiation ( )</p> <p>Project planning ( )</p> <p>Implementation ( )</p> <p>Project evaluation ( )</p> |
|---|--|
4. What is the duration of engagement with partners in forest conservation?
- a) Local partners ( )
  - a) Less than 5 years ( )
  - b) Between 5-10 years ( )
  - c) More than 10 years ( )
  
  - b) External partners ( )
  - a) Less than 5 years ( )
  - b) Between 5-10 years ( )
  - c) More than 10 years ( )
2. Have you received any direct assistance from partners in forest conservation?
- a) Local partners      b) External partners
  - Yes ( )                  No ( )

3. If yes, indicate the form of assistance:

a) Local partners

i Funding ( )

ii Training ( )

iii Donation of items ( )

iv Motivation ( )

v Other ( )

b) External partners

i Funding ( )

ii Training ( )

iii Donation of items ( )

iv Motivation ( )

v Other ( )

**Part 5: Management of the CBO**

1. Do you hold any position in the organization?

Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes, indicate the position

a) Chairperson ( )

b) Secretary ( )

c) Treasurer ( )

d) Other (Specify) ( )

If yes have you undergone any training on leadership?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

If Yes which one and in what way did you benefit from the training?

.....  
.....

2. For how long have you been a member?

a) Below 5 years ( )

b) Between 5-10 years ( )

c) Above 10 years ( )

3. Does the management consider your views while organizing activities of the organization?
  - a) Yes ( )
  - b) No ( )
4. How do you select your management committee?
  - a) Election ( )
  - b) Acclamation ( )
  - c) Self-imposition ( )
  - d) Appointment by members( )
  - e) Others ( )
5. To what extent do you feel management represents your interests and concerns in the CBO?
  - a) To a great extent ( )
  - b) To a moderate extent ( )
  - c) To a low extent ( )<sup>2</sup>
  - d) To no extent ( )
6. Does management involve members in decision making?
  - a) Yes ( )
  - b) No ( )
7. Are you satisfied with the way management handles finances of the CBO?
  - a) Yes ( )
  - b) No ( )

Thank You For Participating and Cooperating

