

ABSTRACT Stabilizing Kenya through Resolving Forest Related Conflicts (STAKE)

STEERING COMMITTEE BRIEF 2013

Project period: 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2015
Fellowship

Funded by: Danish

Partnership

The project is a partnership between:

University of Nairobi (Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies) and

University of Copenhagen (Faculty of Law, Faculty of Forest and Landscape)

Associated partners

Green Belt Movement (GBM), Nairobi

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

Strategic project management as well as external advocacy for the project (in policy and practice) is handled by a joint Project Steering Committee (PSC) with influential members with an interest in the project and the development of the WMI: Distinguished Chair, Wangari Maathai Institute, Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. A. Mwangøombe; Director of KeFRI, Dr. B. Chikamai; Vice Dean - Faculty of Law, UC, Prof. J. Vestergaard; Project Coordinator UoN, Dr. T. Thenya; Principal Project Coordinator UC, Prof. V. Vindeløv and; Director of WMI, Prof. S.G. Kiama who serves as ex officio member (secretary) to the PSC. The PSC oversees project progress and make adjustments if needed. The team will hold annual meetings.

Project Management Committee (PMC).

Day-to-day practical project management is carried out by the Project Management Committee (PMC). WMI-UoN provides the project coordinator Dr. T. Thenya, supported by STRAPA coordinator Prof. R. Wahome. KeFRI is represented by Mr. J. Kagombe and GBM by the Executive Director. The PMC co-ordinates closely with the UC partners and, in particular, the Principal Coordinator, Prof Vibeke Vindelov.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Research capacity – PhD, MSc students, and research assistants

Provide scholarships to four (4) PhD students. The four PhD graduates represent potential future key researchers at WMI. Senior partners will also strengthen their research and supervision skills through involvement in the research, interaction with Danish partners, and exposure to the PhD/research environments at UC. In addition the project will provide 15 Masters of Science Research Scholarships and employ two BSc graduates as research assistants who represent potential future assets to the WMI.

Education capacity

The project aims to strengthen the partners' approach to education and training activities. Specific outputs are the development of an MSc programme on peace and environmental studies a priority area of the WMI .

Capacity strengthening

The overall strategy is to support the research capacity of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) and to strengthen capacity and ties between WMI and GBM and KeFRI through the development of joint training and outreach tools and activities. Both KEFRI and GBM will play critical role starting 2014 in results dissemination when results from field research are ready.

Outreach capacity

A major ambition of the project, is to further strengthen the capacity of partners to deliver research-based outreach activities, i.e. dissemination and training. Accordingly, it is hoped that the strong record of outreach activities in relation to conflict management by Danish partners and Kenyan partner GBM will ensure that research results are communicated back to rural communities and other actors involved in the Mau Forest Complex.

EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

The project will help to alleviate forest related conflicts in Kenya through research-based development and implementation of context-specific conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, and through research-based recommendations for inclusive governance