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[31 12 2023]

Dear Mr Espejo,

Subject: Project "FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project" Final Report

Reference is made to the contribution agreement between Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and UNDP for the project "FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project" effective 6 July 2018.

I am pleased to submit herewith the Final Report for the abovementioned project.

The report summarizes the progress of the project between the implementation period of 6 July 2018 to 31 December 2022 and provides an overview of the *achievements*, *challenges*, *lessons learned*, *interim financial status* and *way forward*.

I thank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for its contributions to UNDP and look forward to strengthening our partnership in support of development in Kenya.

DocuSigned by:

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Mandisa Mashologu
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Kenya

Attached:
FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project Final Report

Andres Espejo
Fund Manager for Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
The World Bank
Washington D.C., United States

FINAL REPORT

**United Nations Development Programme
Kenya
FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
December 2022**

Reporting Period	July 2018 – December 2021
Donor	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
Country	Kenya
Project Title	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
ATLAS Project ID ATLAS Output ID	00099178 00102487
CPD Outcome 4	By 2022, people in Kenya benefit from sustainable natural resource management; and a progressive and resilient green economy
CPD Output 4.2	Government, private sector, and communities have increased capacities for pro-poor, sustainable, effective, and efficient natural resource management.
Implementing Partner(s)	Ministry of Environment and Forestry-Kenya
Project Start Date	Jane 2018
Project End Date	December 2021
Total resources required	USD 3,887,998.35
Revenue received	USD 3,887,998.35
Unfunded budget	USD 0.00
Expenditure	USD: 3,858,022
Balance	USD: 29,975.94
UNDP Contact Person	Name: Tony Ngororano Title: Resident Representative UNDP- Kenya Email: tony.ngororano@undp.org

Tab*le of Content*

I.   Introduction

Background

Kenya implemented the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness Project with support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serving as the Delivery Partner and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) serving as the Implementing Partner. The project was also being carried out in coordination with other relevant entities such as the Independent Constitutional Commissions, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Indigenous Communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). It aimed to support the Government of Kenya (GoK) in the completion of the readiness phase of REDD+, so that the country can implement and access results-based payments from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or other globally accessible schemes.

National Context for REDD+ Activities in Kenya

In terms of context for REDD+ in Kenya, the REDD+ Readiness Project has been the main project supporting the advisory for resourcing the National Strategy for the Attainment and Maintenance of 10% Forest Cover[1]. The goal of this national strategy is to accelerate actions towards the achievement of Kenya's Constitutional and the Vision 2030 objective to achieve a national forest cover of 10%. As a result of the increased technical advisory support to Government, a new and more ambitious National Strategy for Achieving and Maintaining over 30% Tree Cover by the Year 2032 was officially launched by H.E. President William Ruto in December 2022[2], after receiving cabinet approval[3] The new strategy seeks to achieve environmental integrity and social economic development and to restore around 10.6 million hectares of deforested and degraded forests and other landscapes by 2032, by growing an estimated 15 billion trees within the next 10 years. This is in response to the high levels of deforestation in the country, estimated at 103,368 ha per year (0.17% of the national area) that outstrips conservation efforts that only manage to achieve about 90,477 ha of reforestation annually (0.15% of national area)[4].

Although some pockets of REDD+ readiness work had been on-going in the country since 2009, funding from FCPF was made available from 2018 through 2021 to continue and build on the efforts to advance on a REDD+ National Strategy and other readiness outcomes[5]. The resources were thereafter applied by UNDP to enhance the overall climate for REDD+ readiness through national consultations and targeted technical advisory services. Co-financing was availed from

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[1] *Government of Kenya 2020., National Strategy for Achieving and Maintaining over 10% Tree Cover by 2022., Available at https://watertowers.go.ke/download/national-strategy-for-achieving-and-maintaining-over-10-percent-tree-cover-by-2022/;*

[2] https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2022/12/cabinet-approves-national-tree-planting-campaign-targeting-planting-of-15bn-trees-by-2030/;

[3] http://www.environment.go.ke/his-excellency-the-president-to-launch-15billion-tree-growing-campaign/

[4] Ibid

[5] *See Annex 1 for a chronology of events during that period which eventually led to the signing of the project document for the FCPF Grant in late 2018.*

Japan's JICA and UN-REDD to develop key ingredients of REDD+ readiness, such as the Forest Reference Level (FRL) and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) which were developed through JICA's Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management CADEP-SFM programme. The Project indirectly contributed to the submission of Kenya's FRL in December 2019 by supporting stakeholders' discussions on both these processes, including approving the submission of the FRL to the UNFCCC.

Key REDD+ project outputs that were directly developed through the REDD+ project include the REDD+ National Strategy and a Safeguards Information Systems (SIS), including the Summary of Information (SOI). These will allow Kenya to manage and reduce environmental and social risks, while ensuring that long term benefits, and safeguards are embedded in the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy. Further, the project contributed to the National Forest Programme (NFP) and the National Forest Policy, 2020 by infusing the relevant REDD+ provisions into these important national documents. The REDD+ Investment Plan is being developed through other counter-part funding, although the Government and UNDP have established a Sustainable Tree Growing Fund and programme as a mechanism to mobilize resources required to implement the ambitious 15 Billion Tree Growing Programme. In addition, the NDC provides for actions to be taken in the Forest Sector.

II.   REDD+ Contribution to Climate Action in Kenya

In terms of linkage between the REDD+ process and Kenya's climate change developments, Kenya submitted its first NDC in December 2016 with the ambitious plan to reduce GHG emissions by 30% relative to the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario expectation of 143 MtCO2eq by 2030. In December 2020, Kenya further submitted its updated NDC increased its abatement target to 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project supported the process of upwards revision of Kenya's NDC aligning the REDD+ work to the country's NDC Implementation Framework by providing information on national targets to increase forest cover and reduce GHG emissions from the forest and land use sector. It is instrumental to note that forest conservation in Kenya plays a key role in the success of the previous Government's 4 pillars (food security and nutrition, universal healthcare, affordable housing, and manufacturing) in the agenda. The sector has equally been identified as a critical driver to the new Kenya Kwanza's plan, as amplified in it's manifesto and the strategic pronouncements by President William Ruto, In the new structure of government communicated in Executive Order 1 of 2022, a new State Department of Forestry has been established within the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

In this regard, Kenya's REDD+ National Strategy is aligned with Kenya's economic development blueprint, as it seeks to foster green driven economic development by providing solutions to various socio-economic problems in Kenya.

Following is a summary of key milestones for the Project

Summary of REDD+ Activities in Kenya
1. A work schedule was defined for the preparation of the FCPF project document (PRODOC), a process that was shared with stakeholders involved in the R-PP preparation process.
2. Designation of the National Focal Point / Project Coordinator based at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in March 2012
3. In July 2018, the PRODOC was signed. This document was based on information from the R-PP process compiled from the different actors consulted during this process.
4. The REDD+ Readiness project was finally launched at the Great Rift Valley Lodge on 6th and 7th September 2018. Key decisions at this meeting included: a) Inception of the Project: 16th of September 2018; b) Letter of Agreement: Signed between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) and UNDP, which allowed UNDP to procure activities in the annual workplan on behalf of the MoEF and further engage with Responsible Parties outlined in the Project Document for delivery of the various components in line with their mandate and establishments.
5. Commencement of Project Activities with the first Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting
6. Completion of Project Activities in December 2022
7. Terminal Evaluation of the Project that assessed the REDD+ project and found it Highly Satisfactory in terms of relevance, effectiveness, Impact, Sustainability and Satisfactory in terms of Efficiency.
8. Operational Closure of the Project in December 2022
9. Signing of the REDD+ Strategy and the Safeguards Documents by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon Keriako Tobiko, Principal Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo and UNDP's Resident Representative Mr. Walid Badawi
10. Official launch of the REDD+ Strategy on the side lines of the Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in February 2022
11. **Printing of the REDD+ Strategy, the Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) and commencement of public dissemination and awareness creation at county and national levels in 2022.**

REDD+ Governance and Implementation Mechanisms in Kenya

In terms of the governance mechanisms that supported successful realization of the project objectives, the National REDD+ Project Steering Committee comprising of key stakeholders from a broad spectrum of cross-sectoral agencies and partners was instrumental in guiding successful project implementation. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) was co-chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and UNDP, drawing membership from the Kenya Forest Service,

National Land Commission, National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya Forest Service, Council of Governors, and Governments of Elgeyo Marakwet and Nyeri Counties. Key sectors such as the academia, the National Treasury, Transparency International Kenya, representatives of the marginalized communities, a representative of the private sector and a representative of National Alliance of Community Forest Associations (NACOFA), and National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) were also part of the PSC.

The REDD+ Readiness Project supported the establishment of a National Coordination Office for REDD+ with the designation of a National REDD+ Coordinator by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The REDD+ Readiness Project PMU was established as per the Project Document through recruitment of the Project Manager, Technical Specialist, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, M&E Specialist, Communications and Knowledge Management Officer and Project Officer. Additionally, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was established with three sub-committees bringing together representatives from all the relevant constituencies to support the PMU in implementation of the project. This was made possible due to the success of the project in strengthening the capacity of relevant institutions and providing them with the technical support to set-up structures and systems in readiness for the effective implementation of REDD+ in Kenya. The final project evaluation assessed the project's overall performance as **'' Highly Satisfactory',** singling out the successful delivery of the REDD+ Strategy.

1. **In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related <u>activities</u> delivered during the project period?**

During the project period (2018-2021), the national REDD+ process in Kenya focused on the following activities:

1.1 Analytical studies to inform the development of the National REDD+ Strategy issues and options

The development of the National **REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan (NRS)** for guiding REDD+ implementation in the country was initiated. Building on the work already conducted in the various analytical studies and the Readiness Plan.

The following analytical studies were undertaken to fill in the knowledge to inform the development of the strategy:

a. Study on natural resource management and policy.
b. Study on private sector engagement in REDD+ Implementation.
c. Assessment of financing, incentives, and benefit sharing opportunities and options for REDD+ implementation at national and county levels in Kenya.
d. Study on enhancing participation of the marginalized and forest dependent communities in the development and implementation of REDD+ in Kenya.

The four analytical studies informed the development of the National Strategy and Investment plan that will guide the implementation of the REDD+ project in Kenya.

1.2 Institutional and policy framework for REDD+ implementation

The project facilitated a national process to review the National Forestry Policy 2016. National Forest Policy was developed, finalized and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

- Development of County model forest policy and bill on forest conservation and management by the 47 County Governments through the Council of Governors.
- Development of Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy. Development of Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy.

1.3 Identification of County investment sources to support implementation of REDD+ strategy objectives, focusing on cross-sectoral issues in priority watersheds and landscapes

Engagement of Youth on REDD+ Readiness and Nature Based Entrepreneurship: The FCPF REDD+ Readiness project supported a meeting for 70 youth (47 males and 23 females) aimed at strengthening their capacity on nature-based entrepreneurship. The participants were

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exposed to experiential learning to the REDD+ nesting in Kasigau. Participation was from youth across the whole country.

1.4 Integration of multi-stakeholder consultations and engagement including forest dependent and local communities in all REDD+ processes and outcomes

Development of County Ethics and Integrity guidelines in forest governance completed: In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and implementing partners, the Project facilitated and provided technical support for the development of REDD+ Ethics and Integrity (anti-corruption) guidelines in forest governance through in-depth consultations with various stakeholders including Community Based Organization (CBO), private sector, and indigenous people through consultative meetings.

Gender Inclusion and Vulnerability Assessment for Forest Dependent Communities in Kenya was conducted. The assessment provided fundamental information in ensuring gender equality and inclusion of forest dependent communities in the REDD+ readiness processes that informed the development and finalisation of the National REDD+ Strategy and Investment plan.

The REDD+ Readiness project supported the development of the training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of *Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in Forest Conservation, Protection, and Management* to the Kenya Forest Service. The training manual aims to enhance institutionalisation of human rights based approach and other related safeguards in forest conservation and management. The course is available for county government and private sector institutions who often approach the Kenya Forest Collage for training of staff on forestry and related courses.

1.5 Establishment and strengthening of the National REDD+ governance system

The institutional arrangements for REDD+ were set up since 2012. However, the structures were reinvigorated to include the Project Steering Committee and three Technical Working Groups (TWG)s (*Consultation and Participation; Methodology and the Policy and Institutions group*). With an ongoing engagement capacity building and awareness raising, there has been growing of interest and increasing of participations at both national and subnational level. These components of the institutional arrangements provide the strong leadership and provide multiple platforms of engagement to support the transition to REDD+ implementation phase in Kenya. The composition of these groups further allowed scrutiny operating in an open and transparent manner through meetings which are documented, and minutes shared.

1.6 Development of Knowledge Management (KM) and Communication Strategy around selected and strategic initiatives to support strategy implementation

The National REDD+ Communications Strategy was developed to guide engagement with various

stakeholders through various platforms. The communication strategy was endorsed by the project TWG and further validated in a national stakeholder engagement forum before it was forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry for adoption. Other knowledge management documents that were developed through the FCPF REDD+ Readiness project include; *1) Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy, 2020 developed and assented by the Governor; 2) Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy finalized assented by the Governor and printed; 3) Human Rights Based Approach to forest protection and conservation; 4) County Ethics and Integrity guidelines in forest governance; 5) Gender Action Plan; 6) Indigenous People's Action Plan.*

1.7 Development of National Safeguards Framework and Safeguards Information System (SIS)

The FCPF REDD+ engaged consultants and key stakeholders in the development of the *Safeguards Information Systems (SIS)*, including the *Summary of Information (SOI),* which will allow Kenya to manage and reduce environmental and social risks, while ensuring that long term benefits, and safeguards are embedded in the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy. Further, the project contributes to the National Forest Programme (NFP) and the National Forest Policy, 2020 by drawing the relevant provisions into the REDD+ work.

1.8 Technical advisory support to consolidate and refine the National Forest Monitoring System

National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) development has been initiated with support from the Japan-funded CADEP, under the leadership of Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Kenya Forest Service. The NFMS underwent first technical review. The project is partnering with the CADEP team to provide both technical inputs as well financial support towards stakeholder's consultations in line with the stakeholder's engagement guidelines for REDD+.

1.9 A reference level for Kenya and reporting requirements

Kenya submitted the forest reference level to UNFCCC in 2019, FRL has since been published on UNFCCC website. The project provided technical inputs to the FRL. The FRL identifies historical emissions associated with each of the REDD+ activities and this is projected into the future based on a BAU scenario (See table 31) - Deforestation (48,166,940 Mt CO2), Forest degradation (10,885,950 Mt CO2), Sustainable management of Forests (2,681,433 Mt CO2) Enhancement of Carbon Stocks (-9,530,264 Mt CO2). In addition to the emissions, the FRL has provided statistics of forest cover change by each forest strata which illustrates where each of the problem is manifested (Deforestation, Forest degradation, Sustainable management of forests and Enhancement of carbon Stocks.

1.10 Updating of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Kenya submitted its first NDC in December 2016 with the ambitious plan to reduce GHG emissions by 30% relative to the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario expectation of 143 MtCO2eq

by 2030. In December 2020, [Kenya submitted its updated NDC](#) that commits to abate GHG emissions by 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario.   As part of the National Climate Change Action Plan, forests were included in the mitigation technical analysis.

2. Main REDD+ readiness-related achievements for the project period?

2.1 An operational National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan (NRS) was developed

The FCPF REDD+ Readiness process successfully delivered the [National REDD+ Strategy](#) that will guide REDD+ implementation in Kenya. The National REDD+ Strategy is a product of the following four analytical studies which were undertaken to inform the development of the strategy:

I)   Study on natural resource management and policy.
II)   Study on private sector engagement in REDD+ Implementation.
III) Assessment of financing, incentives, and benefit sharing opportunities and options for REDD+ implementation at national and county levels in Kenya.
IV) Study on enhancing participation of the marginalized and forest dependent communities in the development and implementation of REDD+ in Kenya.

The process was highly participatory, consultative, and inclusive with national, county, community and indigenous people represented and participating. The finalization of the strategy options was done during a national workshop held between 07-12 June 2021 in Machakos town. A team of 31 participants (9 women, 22 men) that formed the stakeholders' committee were drawn from 18 national institutions, communities, and indigenous people.

Each of these studies identified priority options and made key recommendations for implementation. The studies identified policy reforms, strategy options, investment priorities, and related REDD+ implementation framework, monitoring and safeguard systems, as called for under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The recommendations informed the strategy that has been finalized and validated in November 2021. The development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan gave birth to five (5) strategic options which were identified and validated in a multi-stakeholder engagement process.

The following strategy options were identified:

1)   ***Scaling up afforestation, reforestation, and landscape restoration programmes for livelihood improvement***
- Incentivize tree growing investments on private land.
- Create mechanisms for afforestation in community lands to enhance cultural, environmental and biodiversity benefits.
- Increase afforestation and reforestation activities through landscape restoration in drylands.
- Promote PES systems including carbon by the private sector.
- Improve productivity of agricultural value chains.
- Enhance protection of existing forest resources.

*2) **Enhance governance and policy implementation to prevent conversion of forests to other land uses***

- Support implementation of the national values and principles of good governance
- Enhance capacity of County Governments, private sector and Communities to implement the devolved forestry functions
- Review and harmonize policies, laws and institutions relating to forest management
- Support implementation of management plans for all forests

*3) **Increase productivity of public plantation forests***

- Efficient and effective management of public forest plantations.
- Support participation of non-state actors in public plantation programmes.
- Enhance transparency in management including information sharing

*4) **Enhance efficiency, effectiveness and skills throughout forest related value chains***

- Promote cost-effective technologies to achieve high emission reductions at large scale.
- Improve the forest resource value chain

*5) **Mobilise Finance for implementation of REDD+ in Kenya.***

- Strengthen national capacity for mobilization of local and international funds
- Establish a multi partner trust fund for forestry development.
- Build capacity of local experts to certify and monitor REDD+ projects

2.2 Private sector assessment conducted and their engagement in REDD+ strengthened

This analysis assessed the role of private sector in the implementation of REDD+ in Kenya. It identified ongoing, new strategic opportunities and entry points for private sector engagement. The study report highlighted mechanisms and opportunities for engaging and sensitizing private sector in REDD+ investment opportunities in Kenya. The findings have been used to demonstrate how the private sector can contribute to REDD+ initiatives through use of its range of expertise in addressing key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation across key sectors and in REDD+ value chains. The study identified potential entry points for the private sector on the REDD+ initiatives that can be supported by the private sector, including the form and nature of their support through corporate social responsibility.

2.3 Institutional and policy framework for REDD+ implementation

- The National Forest Policy was developed through leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The project facilitated a national process to review of the National Forestry Policy 2016. The review was necessitated by new developments and emerging issues in the forest sector that require further articulation including, among others, institutional alignment and reforms, forest governance, land and forest tenure, sustainable forest management, climate change, green economy policy requirements, devolution of key aspects of forest management

in Kenya, entrenching public participation in forest management, and enhancing private sector investment in the forest sector.

- The National Forest Policy provides a framework for improved forest governance, resource allocation, partnerships and collaboration between the National and County governments, the private sector and non-state actors. It also provides for monitoring and evaluation to enable the sector to contribute to the achievement of the country's growth and poverty alleviation goals within a sustainable environment. It is a national instrument for mainstreaming forest conservation and management into national land use systems. It enhances the establishment of a Forest Sector Regulatory Authority to regulate and coordinate the sector and is a framework for national standards for forest management and utilization, and the development of codes of conduct for professional forestry associations. It's an instrument for deepened community participation in forest management through devolution of community forest conservation and management, elaborating strategies and financing and providing for benefit-sharing and power sharing arrangements. It enhances the establishment of national programmes to support community forest management and afforestation/reforestation on community and private land. The National Forest Policy is a national strategy to increase and maintain forest and tree cover to at least 10% of the total land area and for the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, and the establishment of a national forest resource monitoring system. It facilitates the competitiveness of Kenya's commercial forestry sector with the aim of securing increased investment in forest plantations, wood processing and value addition. It strengthens the adoption of an ecosystem-based approach in the management of forests, and recognition of customary rights, rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and user rights that support sustainable forest management and conservation.

- **County model forest policy and model bill on forest conservation and management developed with counties domesticating them:** This follows in the backdrop of devolved functions on environment and forestry management as espoused in the Constitution of Kenya Schedule 4, Part 2 and further entrenched in *Section 3 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016 and* Section 30 of the *Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) CAP 387.* The County Model Policy and Model Bill on Forest Conservation and Management will guide the devolved forestry functions which are very fundamental in forest conservation in community land, public forests on land managed by county governments. These aim to among others facilitate counties to implement the national policies on forestry and climate change.

- **Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill and Policy, 2020 developed and assented by the Governor:** REDD+ Readiness project supported the development of [Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Policy, 2020](). The purpose of the policy is to contribute to the implementation of the national and county legislation on forest management, protection, and conservation within Nyeri County. It further aims at promoting and facilitating good governance in the protection, restoration, conservation, development, and management of forest resources; equitable, sustainable forest management. The policy was assented to by the Nyeri County Governor in April 2021.

- **Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy finalized assented by the Governor and printed:** The project supported the development of [Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy]() finalization and its

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printing. The Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Management policy seeks to provide legal and institutional framework for the sustainable management of forest resources and trees outside forest land. It aims to ensure respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights in all forestry and tree growing actions; implement provisions of the Constitution and national laws on environment, forest conservation and land use planning.

2.4 Investments to support implementation of REDD+ strategy objectives, focusing on cross-sectoral issues in priority watersheds/ landscapes /Counties identified

- **Identification of Nature Based Entrepreneurship for Youth engagement on REDD+ Readiness**
  The UNDP FCPF REDD+ Readiness project supported a meeting for 70 youth (47 males and 23 females) aimed at exposing participants with experiential learning to the REDD+ nesting in Kasigau. The Kasigau Corridor REDD project was awarded the Gold level status by the Community and Biodiversity Standard for exceptional biodiversity and climate benefits. The landmark project was the first REDD+ project to be validated and verified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) in Kenya. During the meeting, the youth identified nature-based solutions for youth participation in the implementation of REDD+ implementation. They discussed their role in contributing to Nature Based Solutions, REDD+ readiness process, the national 10% tree cover and opportunities available for youth engagement and participation. The youth shared knowledge and experiences on youth participation in environmental conservation and nature-based solutions and entrepreneurship. The youth shared lessons on potential climate change projects and identified opportunities for youth engagement, investments, and livelihood improvement. The youth made different innovative climate change related presentations to showcase the youth's involvement in the REDD+ process in Kenya.

  These presentations include:

1. The role of the youth in forest protection, conservation and management, and the constitutional target of 10% tree cover by 2022. The youth were encouraged to take part in the implementation of the presidential directive of the constitutional target of 10% tree cover by 2022. The youth were further urged to take advantage of their position as agents of change by leading in the transformation, conservation, and education on matters forests.
2. Vulnerability of youth in forest resource management and conservation and forest value chain. The youth learned about value chain analysis as a valuable tool for assessing and comparing the degree of participation of various actors. The youth learned how actor's relationships with each other affect their roles in the value chains. Value chain in gender analyses of forest livelihood strategies helps illuminate key gender considerations for development and policy initiatives.
3. Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) highlighting the Human Rights Based Approach principles and how they are applied in forest conservation, protection, and management. Case studies from across the globe highlighting youth involvement in forest conservation matters were cited.
4. Youth and environmental entrepreneurship building on youth involvement in research, and Green Innovation awards to support the development of innovation and green businesses for environmental management in Kenya.

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5. Youth and Environmental Entrepreneurship, a youth Enterprise Fund perspective. The presentation highlighted the role of the youth in Economic development through innovations and their strong desire for independence. Youth were capacitated on the establishment of the youth enterprise development fund as a strategy to address youth unemployment challenges in the country.

6. Garissa million trees. The biggest youth led environmental protection organization in Garissa County. The organization aims to inspire community action to plant 10 million trees. The project also aims to contribute to addressing people's livelihood needs for income generation, fuelwood, fruit, and fodder and other non-timber forest products while mitigating forest degradation and deforestation in Garissa County through promoting tree growing and agroforestry systems.

7. The youth discussed the effects of climate change on youth and youth unemployment and their views in creating employment, noting that farming presents one of the best options for creating and enhancing youth employment.

Capacity building on climate change and REDD+ National academy in Kenya.

- In 2019 UNDP, and key stakeholders held a [National REDD+ Academy training](#) event. The National Academy was attended by 63 participants (54% men and 46% women) including representatives from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), indigenous peoples representatives, and forest dependent communities, the Kenya Government ministries (national and county levels), Constitutional Commissions, research and academic institutions. In partnership with UNEP and FAO, the TOT-Training of Trainers and capacity building intervention aimed to increase and reinforce stakeholders' capacities in REDD+ readiness process. The capacity building also strengthened their oversight in sustainable forest conservation, and management mandates. The intervention also aimed at complimenting the traditional knowledge of key stakeholders such as the indigenous people and dependent communities to enhance their contribution to the REDD+ readiness process and in particular the conservation of forests and biodiversity.

2.5 Multi-stakeholder consultations including forest dependent and local communities, engagement integrated in all REDD+ processes and outcomes

Development of [County Ethics and Integrity guidelines](#) in forest governance completed: In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and implementing partners, the Project facilitated and provided technical support for the development of REDD+ Ethics and Integrity (anti-corruption) guidelines. These guidelines for anti-corruption in forest governance were developed through in-depth consultations with various stakeholders such as Community Based Organization (CBO), private sector, and indigenous people through consultative meetings. The development of the guidelines was informed by international best practices in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The REDD+ anti-corruption guidelines outline principles and strategies for REDD+ implementing partners towards eradication of corruption throughout the REDD+ program cycle. They also

provide relevant measures for prevention, detection, eradication of corrupt practices and subsequent mechanisms for reporting, monitoring, and accounting for and fair determination of identified cases.

Gender Inclusion and Vulnerability Assessment for Forest Dependent Communities report in Kenya was produced: The readiness project facilitated and provided technical support to the gender inclusion and vulnerability assessment to assess gender inclusion of forest dependent communities in forest conservation, protection, and management processes in Kenya. The assessment provided fundamental information in ensuring gender equality and inclusion of forest dependent communities in the REDD+ readiness processes that will contribute to REDD+ objective of climate change mitigation through sustainable forest conservation and management. Specifically, the assessment documented gender issues; analyses of the perceptions of communities on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; examination of vulnerability of communities in terms of access and use, protection, conservation, and management of forestry related resources; and making appropriate recommendations to inform the key actors and the REDD+ readiness processes. The findings of the gender inclusion and vulnerability assessment informed the development and finalization of the National Strategy and investment plan as well as Gender Action.

Training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in forest conservation, protection, and management developed: The REDD+ Readiness project supported the development of the training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in forest conservation, protection, and management to the Kenya Forest Service.These were developed through a highly consultative process led by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) in close collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service. The training manual aims to enhance institutionalise human rights based approach and other related safeguards in forest conservation and management. This curriculum and manual have been adopted by the Board of directors and has been included as one of training subjects of all foresters on refresher course, certificate and Diploma programmes offered by the Kenya Forest Collage training package. The course is available for county government and private sector institutions who often approach the Kenya Forest Collage for training of staffs on forestry and related courses.

2.6 National REDD+ governance system established and strengthened

The institutional arrangements for REDD+ that were set up since 2012 were revived leading to the establishment of the National REDD+ Project Steering Committee and three Technical Working Groups (TWG)s (*Consultation and Participation; Methodology and the Policy and Institutions group*). With an ongoing engagement capacity building and awareness raising, there has been growing of interest and increasing of participations at both national and subnational level. These components of the institutional arrangements provide the strong leadership and provide multiple platforms of engagement to support the transition to REDD+ implementation phase in Kenya. The composition of these groups further allowed scrutiny operating in an open

and transparent manner through meetings which are documented, and minutes shared. The TWGs and the National REDD+ Steering Committee were platforms for open and transparent management arrangements. In addition, the Project worked with six Responsible Parties which enabled a very high degree of multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross sectoral engagement.

The overall project governance, including management decisions and approval of annual work plans and revisions was exercised by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by MEF and UNDP. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) members are drawn from: The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya Forest Services, National Land Commission, Academia, the National Treasury, Climate Change Directorate, Transparency International Kenya, representatives of the marginalized communities, a representative of the private sector and a representative of National Alliance of Community Forest Associations (NACOFA), National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), National Environment Complaints Committee. The National REDD+ Coordination Officer (NRCO) - based at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) was appointed in March 2012 and serves as the project focal person in the MoEF.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) was established in September 2018 and comprised of the Project Manager, Technical Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Officer, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Project Analyst, and Communication Specialist. The Project Management Unit (PMU) exercised day-to-day management of the project and worked closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the PSC, the responsible parties and stakeholders. The planning and execution of project's activities was consultative and inclusive. The PMU regularly and continuously consulted the Implementing Partner and each of the relevant responsible parties in the design phase and the execution level of project activities.

2.7 Knowledge management (KM) and communication strategy developed and implemented around selected and strategic initiatives

The National REDD+ Communications Strategy was developed to guide engagement with various stakeholders through various platforms. The communication strategy was endorsed by the project TWGs and further validated in a national stakeholder engagement forum before it was cleared and adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Engagements with the media and public were conducted with visibility and awareness created on REDD+ readiness process in Kenya. Additionally, a media campaign with media houses was conducted focusing on the 10% national tree cover initiatives being spearheaded by the National Government of Kenya in partnership with development partners. The project has continued to engage through social media platforms like twitter and Facebook. It has an active page with an average of 17.9K impressions per month and over 600 followers. Additionally, several articles and stories have been posted on UNDP's websites (Country Office, UNDP Climate and Forests and Media). As part of media engagement, the Resident Representative has continued to showcase UNDP's support to the government towards the 10% tree cover target achievement through media breakfast, television interviews and panels at the national level. On the other hand the Mid-Term Review (MTR) was conducted

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and posted on the FCPF website. The MTR highlights the progress made in the REDD+ readiness process for the implementation of the REDD+ project.

Other knowledge management documents that were developed through the FCPF REDD+ readiness project include
- Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill and Policy, 2020 developed and assented by the Governor.
- Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy finalized assented by the Governor and printed.
- Human Rights Based Approach to forest protection and conservation
- County Ethics and Integrity guidelines in forest governance.
- Gender Action Plan.
- Indigenous People's Action Plan.

2.8 National Safeguards Framework developed, including design of a Safeguards Information System (SIS)

The FCPF REDD+ engaged consultants and key stakeholders in the development of the Safeguards Information Systems (SIS), including the Summary of Information (SOI), which will allow Kenya to manage and reduce environmental and social risks, while ensuring that long term benefits, and safeguards are embedded in the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy. Further, the project contributes to the National Forest Programme (NFP) and the National Forest Policy, 2020 by drawing the relevant provisions into the REDD+ work.

2.9 FCPF REDD+ Midterm Evaluation conducted according to UNDP evaluation criteria:

The midterm evaluation was commissioned by the REDD+ project Management Unit (PMU). The MTE served as an important accountability, compliance and learning functions, providing UNDP, donors, national stakeholders, and partners with an impartial assessment of the project progress, including gender equality and human rights as well as serving as a means of quality assurance. The overall purpose of the midterm evaluation was to assess the progress made in the implementation of the FCPF UNDP REDD+ Readiness project. Specifically, the evaluation aimed at assessing the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, gender, and human rights during its implementation.

According to the MTE findings, the project was **relevant** to the national and community needs of the people of Kenya. It provided opportunity for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet the previous national target of 10% tree cover of the land area in Kenya - as set out in the Vision 2030, the National Climate Change Response Strategy and the Nationally Determined Contribution. The project was found to be **aligned** with the following key national and international instruments seeking the address climate change mitigation and greenhouse gas emission: National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS); National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP); Kenya Vision 2030; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC); Nationally Determined Contribution; UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) 2018-2022; UN Cooperation Framework 2018-2022.

The project design and implementation process were found to be **appropriate**. The project was found to be **effective**, with the desired outputs, relevant to the local and national country contexts, and containing aspects that were sustainable beyond the project's lifetime. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project's effectiveness in contributing to understanding of issues relevant to addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya has been a catalytic instrument in driving current development in this important sector. It has also resulted in creating learning and knowledge sharing between government, indigenous peoples, local communities, private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya. The project has played a key role in policy and legislative guidelines for forest resources management. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness project management structure has been effective in enhancing delivery of project outcomes. It has successfully built and strengthened an enabling environment for systems, policies, and stakeholder's engagement.

The findings revealed that the project **sustainability** was drawn from its relevance to, and alignment with the national forest policy and other key instruments, giving it a leverage to supporting the delivery of the national forest policy and legislative provisions. The involvement of the indigenous people was a key achievement in the project which assured its sustainability beyond the funding period. However, there was need for innovative ways of resources mobilisation to guarantee financial sustainability towards the REDD+ implementation. Cost sharing modalities with the national government were to be explored and adequate budgetary allocations for the FCPF REDD+ Readiness project provided for by the national government.

Some key recommendations were made from the midterm evaluation.
i) Focus on community livelihood programs that address climate change and conservations while targeting household incomes, food security and social welfare. There should be innovative alternatives to accessing energy and food to help minimise the destruction and forest degradation.
ii) Strengthen gendered approaches with a focus on women and girls' participation in REDD+ processes and its implementation.
iii) Ensure active community involvement in all decision-making processes, capacity building of indigenous people, incentive schemes and awareness creation to enhance project sustainability.
iv) Take advantage of the virtual platforms and create opportunities for linkages for networking and funding for youth lead conservation efforts for young people.
v) Provide capacity building to the youth on the technology associated with carbon trading to take advantage of the opportunities around carbon trading.
vi) Allocate resources and support the formulation of Incentives and Benefit Sharing legal policies in the environment and forest sector by the FCPF REDD+ Readiness project.
vii) Strengthen and provide more resources to the communication department to increase project visibility at the grassroots, county and national level.

viii) Escalate cost sharing modalities and ensure that there is documented commitment by the national government for the budgetary allocations for the FCPF REDD+ process.

ix) Scale up the understanding of the value of nature-based solutions among the youth.

x) Conduct more sensitization among local farmers for more tree planting and introduce incentives for good agro-forestry practices.

2.10 Training of media personnel on their role in forest conservation and management

As part of the National REDD+ Process, the UNDP FCPF REDD+ Readiness project, facilitated sensitization of the media on creation of public awareness on forestry conservation, protection, and management in Kenya. Media plays a fundamental role in public education, awareness and sensitization in matters relating to forest conservation and management. Their involvement in the REDD+ process was to help in the coverage of government efforts both at national and county level towards the implementation of national policies on forests conservation, management, and Climate Change Act 2016. A team of 51 participants (38 males, 13 female) drawn from different media houses (Standard Media Group, Nation Media Group, Royal Media Group, Kenya Broadcast Commission, Media Max Limited, Editors Guild, Reutters and Xinhua Chinese News Channel) in Kenya to deepen their understanding on the importance of raising awareness of tree planting and growing in Kenya that will eventually contribute to the attainment of 10% tree cover by 2022.

2.11 Fostering stronger partnerships and sustainability

Fostering improved relationships between government institutions and forest depended communities regarding forest management through the engagement of more 1200 community members (30% female) from Mau forest and areas inhabited by the Ogiek community, in discussions on human rights-based forest conservation and management. The consultations informed recommendations made by the National Taskforce for human rights-based conservation and management of forests. Two main deliverables from this Taskforce will contribute to the National REDD+ Strategy as well as the safeguards information system. These are *a) appropriate models for communities' participation in forest conservation and management and b) policy recommendations for sustainable management of community forests.* The Taskforce incorporated these recommendations, completed its mandate, and submitted the report to the government in January 2020[6]. UNDP provided technical support to a multi-stakeholder engagement forum lead by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, during which the stakeholders identified the need to build the capacity of CSOs working on land, climate change and water and sensitize them on REDD+. The forum also identified the need to strengthen community forest associations as platforms for safeguarding forest management in Kenya.

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[6] *Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Kenya Progress Report July 2019-June 2020;*
https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Readiness+Fund+REDD%2B+Country+Kenya+Progress+Report+July+2019+%E2%80%93+June+2020

UNDP was instrumental in building working and harmonious relationship between forest dependent communities, Kenya Forestry (KFS), National Land Commission (NLC) and other government institutions working on forest conservation and management. This was done by community members sensitization on how to lodge claims of historical land injustices through the justice system. It was further achieved through sensitization of 410 members of communities (39% females, 61% males) from Elgeyo Marakwet County, with additional 4,000 members (28% females, 72% males) from Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Baringo and Nakuru on REDD+, land tenure systems and sustainable conservation and management of forests.

2.12 Greening Kenya Initiative

To achieve this, UNDP engaged the public through a media campaign as a mean to sensitize the general public on the importance of increasing the national 10% tree cover to curb deforestation[7]. In addition, UNDP facilitated a media forum with key media personnel reporting on environmental issues to create awareness to the public and indigenous communities to address issues of forest conservation, protection and management and to leverage government efforts towards the 10% target tree cover by 2022[8].

UNDP provided technical support to the national government to plan and execute a national stakeholder's forum targeting both national and regional stakeholders including marginalised and forest dependent communities with capacity building on REDD+ and forest conservation initiatives. This led to buy-in, active involvement and engagement of all stakeholders at all levels including academia[9]

2.13 Technical advisory support to consolidate and refine the National Forest Monitoring System.

Development of the National Forest Monitoring System: National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) development was initiated with support from the Japan-funded CADEP, under the leadership of Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Kenya Forest Service. The REDD+ project partnered with the CADEP team to provide both technical inputs as well financial support towards stakeholder's consultations in line with the stakeholder's engagement guidelines for REDD+.

The development of National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) document used information that had previously been compiled by the System for Land based Emission Estimation for Kenya (SLEEK) at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry which had supported the development of a monitoring methodology to provide land cover and land cover change. The NFMS document

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[7] https://nation.africa/kenya/brand-book/kenya-national-10-percent-tree-coer-strategy-2463812#
[8] https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/money-careers/article/2001394377/kenya-requires-sh48-billion-to-achieve-10-per-cent-forest-cover

[9] Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Kenya Progress Report July 2019-June 2020;
https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Readiness+Fund+REDD%2B+Country+Kenya+Progress+Report+July+2019+%E2%80%93+June+2020

describes the details and methodology of each monitoring item and data management to ensure transparency, consistency, and accuracy of NFMS.

The Kenya NFMS was developed in accordance with *paragraph 1, decision 4/CP.15,* which requires that NFMS should provide information such as forest cover area and its change area for activity data (AD), forest carbon stocks from inventory measurements for each land cover type for emission factor (EF) and anthropogenic forest related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks (calculated from AD and EF). The Land Cover/Land Use Map was created using Landsat Imagery. The best available Landsat images for each year were selected from the USGS archive which provides a complete cloud-free (threshold 20% cloud cover) coverage of Kenya. Dry season images were preferred for classification purposes as these allow for better discrimination between trees and grasses or crops. This was achieved through: **cloud and shadow cover masking, terrain illumination correction, agro-ecological zoning, random forest classification with training data (ground truth survey and Google Earth); mosaic process and fill up to cloud area by CPN, filtering and forest strata zoning.**

Forest cover change area based on Land cover/Land use change maps was done by comparing two subsequent Land Cover/Land Use maps, to create a land cover/land use change map. Calculations of change area were based on the forest strata (Montane and western rain forests and bamboo areas, Mangroves and coastal forests areas, Dryland forests areas and Plantation Forest land zones) and their specific canopy closure (for Montane and western rain forests and bamboo, Mangroves and coastal forests and Dryland forests).

Forest Carbon Stock for Emission Factor (EF) in the LULUCF were calculated using IPCC Guidelines used for units of carbon (CO_2eq) to express EF for deforestation, forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks and sustainable management of forests for REDD+ reporting. This allowed the estimation of the amount of biomass and carbon stock in the forest. This was achieved through [System for Land-Based Emission Estimation in Kenya](#) (SLEEK) methodology which develops activity data (AD) based on the time series land cover/land use maps.

Kenya's NFMS document is a product of several multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder efforts. Since 2014, Kenya through a team of local and international experts under the Improving Capacity for Forest Resource Assessment (IC-FRA) programme developed manuals and protocols on National Forestry Resources Assessments (National Forest Inventory), including sampling design simulations, tree volume and biomass modelling, soil organic carbon analysis, Biophysical Forest Resources Assessment. In each of these cases, pilot studies were done to refine the methodologies depending on national circumstances. Data from these sources has been used in Kenya's Reference Level for REDD+ which has been submitted to the UNFCCC and the 3rd GHG inventory for Kenya's National Communication. The data collection processes of the national monitoring systems have been designed to be transparent to enhance ownership, consistent over time, and suitable for Measuring, Reporting and Verifying, considering national capabilities and capacities. To achieve this, the NFMS uses a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes.

The National Forest Monitoring systems has been designed to be flexible, so it can allow for improvement and build upon existing systems, as appropriate. They system reflects the phased approach of REDD+ implementation and enables the assessment of different types of forest in the country according to national definitions, including natural forest. The NFMS also provides relevant information to the safeguards information systems.

2.14 A reference level for Kenya and reporting requirements.

Kenya submitted the forest reference level to UNFCCC in 2019, FRL has since been published on UNFCCC website. The project provided technical inputs to the FRL. The FRL identifies historical emissions associated with each of the REDD+ activities and this is projected into the future based on a BAU scenario (See table 31) - Deforestation (48,166,940 Mt CO2), Forest degradation (10,885,950 Mt CO2), Sustainable management of Forests (2,681,433 Mt CO2) Enhancement of Carbon Stocks (9,530,264 Mt CO2). In addition to the emissions, the FRL has provided statistics of forest cover change by each forest strata which illustrates where each of the problem is manifested (Deforestation, Forest degradation, Sustainable management of forests and Enhancement of carbon Stocks).

2.15. Updating of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Kenya submitted its first NDC in December 2016 with the ambitious plan to reduce GHG emissions by 30% relative to the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario expectation of 143 MtCO2eq by 2030. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project has supported the submission of Kenya's revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC and ensured that the REDD+ work is aligned with the NDC Implementation Framework. The FCPF readiness project provided information on national targets to increase forest cover and reduce GHG emissions from the forest and land use sector. In December 2020, Kenya submitted its updated NDC that commits to abate GHG emissions by 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario.

3. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the project period?

I) The delay in establishing the Project Management Unit (PMU) by nearly one year meant the project was always behind schedule in terms of resources utilization, activity implementation and planned results achievements. Consequently the recruitment and onboarding of the Project Manager, Technical Specialist, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Communications Officer and Project Officer were completed in September 2019 (one year after the project began in June 2018). The delay in part necessitated the request for a one year No-Cost Extension.

II) On the 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new novel corona virus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Travel to and from Kenya was restricted from 6 April 2020 with full lockdowns and curfews imposed between 7 pm to 5 am. This presented an unprecedented challenge to FCPF

REDD+ project implementation, slowing down the project delivery and achievement of planned results. Meetings that required face to face participation were suspended and the PMU had to adopt new project implementation modalities through virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams where possible.

III) With the national government and its multilateral and bilateral development partners facing challenges of revenue flow due to COVID-19, donors diverted their funds negatively impacting on resource mobilization efforts for REDD+ Implementation. This has the potential to negatively affect the project sustainability by rolling back the gains made during the implementation of the REDD+ project.

The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic has witnessed the FCPF REDD+ embrace new technology to conduct project implementation, monitoring and evaluation through virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams. The technological applications for data collections and lessons learning became the new norm to FCPF REDD+ project. However, the challenge lies in areas without internet connectivity, whereby marginalised groups without telephone handsets and those without skills to operate android phone or computers were left out entirely. This left out a critical mass of key respondents who did not have access to internet connectivity. However, the PMU made efforts to include as many partners as possible to ensure a wide range of stakeholders were involved in the meetings.

4. **To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses, and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:**

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a **central influence** on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has **improved the quality** of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has **improved national capacities** to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X

The FCPF's support has **helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders** (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:
FCPF support has been instrumental in allowing the country to achieve REDD+ readiness

5. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (publications, seminars, learning events, web resources), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We **regularly access** FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information					X
FCPF knowledge products are **relevant** to our REDD+ related information requirements					X
FCPF knowledge products are **sufficient** to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements					X
The FCPF **website** is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					X
Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:					
N/A					

III.   Progress Review

1. Assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components:

Table 1- Readiness assessment

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress
N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation			
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Complete	X	The Project Management Unit has been supporting the project since 2018 and comprises of a Project Manager, A technical Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Project Officer, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, Project Analyst, and Communication Specialist. These positions have been hired through project funding. IT equipment and enhanced communication equipment has been set up in the Office. The institutional arrangements for REDD+ that were set up since 2012 were also revived where needed and include the National REDD+ Steering Committee and three Technical Working Groups (TWG)s (Consultation and Participation; Methodology and the Policy and Institutions group). With an ongoing engagement capacity building and awareness raising, there has been growing of interest and increasing of participations at both national and subnational level. These components of the institutional arrangements provide the strong leadership and provide multiple platforms of engagement to support the transition to REDD+ implementation phase in Kenya. The composition of these groups further allow scrutiny and operate in an open and transparent manner through meetings which are documented, and minutes shared. Like other countries, the REDD+ management arrangements in Kenya will require extra support as funding is not currently predictable or adequate in the long term. To ensure operational continuity and smooth transition to REDD+ investment phase, some functions of the PMU will continue to be in place after the project comes to an end on 31 December 2021. The REDD+ National Strategy has been finalised and proposes institutional arrangements, defines the mandates, roles and responsibilities of the different institutions responsible for REDD+ implementation at the different implementation scales, as well as the coordination, monitoring and reporting lines between the different institutions at the different levels. The REDD+ Strategy was validated in a meeting by key
	N/A		

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Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
			stakeholders on 17 Dec 2021 and is currently awaiting official launch by the stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF).
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Complete	X	One dialogue with communities on land rights, land tenure claims was held in 2020. Stakeholder engagements were accelerated towards consultations on the National Forest Policy, design of the county model Law, as well as in the drafting of the Nyeri and Elgeyo Marakwet forests and Tree growing polices and Bills. Both virtual and physical meetings were held drawing participation of both national and county governments, national government institutions, independent commissions, private sector, academia, civil society organisations, indigenous and local communities. The media (television, newspapers, and radio) was targeted to especially reach out the information about the project, the policies review process, and the call for action for forest conservation and management. Publications on these platforms as well as social media reached a 17.9K on twitter, and over 25million on radio and television. Articles are also posted on UNDP and Ministry of environment website.
	N/A		

R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Sub-component	Progress rating		Narrative assessment
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest	Complete	X	A review of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land and environmental governance related to REDD+ implementation in Kenya has been finalised. Further an assessment of all REDD+ related laws was conducted in 2015. This process identified opportunities and gaps in legislations under review to align with the Kenya Constitution of 2010. As a result, a review of the National Forest Policy (2016) and Forest conservation and management Act of 2016) was initiated. The studies on drivers of forest degradation identified key national and county levels policies, laws, regulatory frameworks, land tenure, land use change, land use planning, governance, risk management, resource access and use rights, information technology,

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Law, Policy and Governance	🟥		opportunities for revenues, benefits and livelihood improvements, financial instruments including microfinance and cooperatives. The recommendations in these two processes have been included in the National REDD+ Strategy and will further inform the development of the Investment Plan.
	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	Complete	X	Four (4) analytical studies have been conducted on: 1) Natural resource management and policy; 2) private sector engagement in REDD+ implementation; 3) assessment of financing, incentives, and benefit sharing opportunities, and 4) enhancing participation of the marginalized and forest dependent communities in the development and implementation of REDD+ in Kenya. Five (5) strategic options were identified and validated in a multi-stakeholder engagement process. The following strategy options were identified:
	🟩		
	🟨		1) Scaling up afforestation, reforestation and landscape restoration programmes for livelihood improvement
	🟧		• Incentivize tree growing investments on private land.
	🟥		• Create mechanisms for afforestation in community lands to enhance cultural, environmental and biodiversity benefits
			• Increase afforestation and reforestation activities through landscape restoration in drylands
			• Promote PES systems including carbon by the private sector
			• Improve productivity of agricultural value chains.
			• Enhance protection of existing forest resources
	N/A		2) Enhance governance and policy implementation to prevent conversion of forests to other land uses
			• Support implementation of the national values and principles of good governance
			• Enhance capacity of County Governments, private sector and Communities to implement the devolved forestry functions

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
			• Review and harmonize policies, laws and institutions relating to forest management • Support implementation of management plans for all forests 3) Increase productivity of public plantation forests • Efficient and effective management of public forest plantations. • Support participation of non-state actors in public plantation programmes. • Enhance transparency in management including information sharing 4) Enhance efficiency, effectiveness and skills throughout forest related value chains • Promote cost-effective technologies to achieve high emission reductions at large scale. • Improve the forest resource value chain 5) Mobilise Finance for implementation of REDD+ in Kenya. • Strengthen national capacity for mobilization of local and international funds • Establish a multi partner trust fund for forestry development. Build capacity of local experts to certify and monitor REDD+ projects
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete [green] [yellow] [orange]	X	Through the forest policy review process, the ministry has initiated an all sector working sessions of the leadership of all institutions within the forestry sector led by the Principal Secretary. One of the key achievements of this forum has been the endorsement of the National Forest Policy currently under review for submission to the committee of Principal secretaries. One of the proposed institutional arrangements therein is the recommendation for establishment of a forest sector regulatory authority which will in among other duties set standards for application in the forestry sector.

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	(red)		Given the country's participation in multiple forest carbon schemes at multiple scales and following different standards, a Framework will be crucial to set clear rules that will guide how various actors operate and report to the government, thus the Ministry has established a national expert group to guide the design of the nesting approach for REDD+ in Kenya.
	N/A		The Project is being implemented in an environment supported by fundamental legal, legislative, policy instruments and guidelines which guide the REDD+ readiness process. These include REDD+ National Implementation Strategy, Climate Change Act, Climate Action Plan, Forest Conservation and Management Act, National Environment Management Act, National Forest Land Rehabilitation Action Plan and National Forest Policy 2020, Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA) in Forest Conservation - Curriculum and Training Manual and the Kenya National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030.
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete	x	A Social and Environmental Screening was conducted for the Project and updated. This was used to inform strategic options. Social and environmental guidelines for application in both REDD+ activities and other forest conservation efforts have been developed as part of the efforts to institutionalize the safeguards approach.
	(green)		
	(yellow)		A national safeguards approach and design of a safeguards information system (SIS) and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) was completed, accompanying the development of the National REDD+ Strategy options and incorporated in the National REDD+ Strategy. The SIS was validated in a meeting by key stakeholders on 17 Dec 2021 and is currently awaiting official launch by the stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF).On the other hand the project adopted UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) .
	(orange)		
	(red)		
	N/A		

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Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels			
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete	X	A Forest Reference Level was finalized and submitted to UNFCCC in January 2020. Through JICA technical support and extensive interaction with the Technical Assessment Teams, that included FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project, (which identified key issues to be included in the FRL) the final FRL was developed. Following comments, feedback from UNFCCC, and further engagement at the national level, response was provided to UNFCCC in January 2020. The technical assessment was received in August 2020. The various building blocks for establishing the FRL were comprehensively discussed and agreed by a Technical Working Group that was established to offer technical guidance for FRL development under the CADEP project. The REDD+ project supported the consultations. The scale is national and the scope (activities) includes Reducing Emissions from Deforestation; Reducing emissions from forest degradation; Sustainable management of forest and Enhancement of forest carbon stocks; Gases cover only CO2 and Pools are Above Ground Biomass (AGB) and Below Ground Biomass (BGB). The Reference period is 2002-2018 the proposed reference level is 52,204,059 t CO2/year.
	(green)		
	(yellow)		
	(orange)		
	(red)		
	N/A		
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards			
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete	X	A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has been developed with the support of Japan-funded CADEP, under the leadership of Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Kenya Forest Service. The FCPF project has supported stakeholder's consultation and technical review through the technical working group and UNDP technical team. The NFMS was validated in a meeting by key stakeholders on 17 Dec 2021 and is currently awaiting official launch by the stakeholders under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF).
	(green)		
	(yellow)		
	(orange)		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	(red)		
	N/A (black)		
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete (blue)		Terms of Reference for development of a REDD+ SIS and procurement is ongoing. The development of the SIS is expected to be completed in December 2021. The REDD+ analytical studies have been concluded and effective benefit sharing arrangements were identified which have potential to create incentives for different stakeholders (national and sub-national governments, communities, and businesses). The analytical study on assessment of financing, incentives, and benefit sharing opportunities elaborates on the carbon rights and benefit sharing and recommends that efforts should be taken to introduce legislative frameworks for carbon rights and benefit sharing arrangements for emission reductions under FCPF's requirements for REDD+ implementation. One of the key recommendations of the National Forest Policy 2020 is that national and county governments should develop and implement an equitable benefit sharing scheme in the forest sector. It is proposed that this is among the standards to be set by the regulatory Authority.
	(green)		
	(yellow)		
	(orange)	X	
	(red)		
	N/A (black)		

2. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to <u>sustain and enhance livelihoods</u> (e.g. one of your program objective/s is <u>explicitly targeted at livelihoods</u>; your approach to non-carbon benefits <u>explicitly incorporates livelihoods</u>)?

Yes	

(delete as appropriate)

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

To sustain and enhance livelihoods, the development of National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan has five strategic options. Strategic option 1: Scaling up afforestation, reforestation, and landscape restoration programmes for livelihood improvement has identified Improved productivity of agricultural value chains and one of the key investment areas. The improved productivity of agricultural value chains will be achieved through specific targeted activities;

- Implement the National Agroforestry strategy
- Create mechanisms that support sustainable management of livestock grazing
- Support growing of tree crops that provide wood resources (besides livelihood benefits)
- Support commercial Bamboo production
- Introduce credit facilities for farmers to plant trees
- Promote tree farmer cooperatives
- Support domestication of high value trees on farms

3. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to <u>conserve biodiversity</u> (e.g. one of your program objective/s is <u>explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation</u>; your approach to non-carbon benefits <u>explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation</u>)?

Yes	

(delete as appropriate)

> **If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach**
>
> Strategic Option two of the National REDD+ strategy is "Enhance governance and policy implementation to prevent conversion of forests to other land uses)". This includes actions by the National Government, County Governments to strengthen conservation efforts that promote environmental conservation, enforcement of regulatory instruments and forest protection through:
>
> - Develop, adopt and enforce anticorruption policies and guidelines (e.g. REDD+ anti-corruption guidelines.
> - Support public participation in matters pertaining REDD+
> - Adopt and domesticate international guidelines on FLEGT.
> - Promote advocacy for national values and principles of good governance.
>
> The Strategy encourages actions to respect and promote local initiatives ensuring that county, local and sub-county level planning are built and based on integrated planning that prioritise community conservation areas. The strategy aims to provide sustainable financial and technical support to communities in their conservation efforts.

5. Compliance = with FCPF Common Approach for Multiple Delivery Partners.

The project complied with FCPF Common Approach for Multiple Delivery Partners. The project developed a social and environmental screening process which will be expanded to a SESA. The SESP (attached as a separate document) is the preliminary version of the ESMF. The ToRs are developed and the process of hiring SESA consultant initiated. SESA will be conducted based on the REDD+ strategic options identified. The project adhered to stakeholder engagement guidelines and had a project Grievance Redress Mechanism in place.

Stakeholder engagement

On 13 June 2014, a Widening Informed Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+ workshop was held to broaden and strengthen informed stakeholder engagement in National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation. It also aimed at enhancing the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stock (REDD+) readiness program, by supporting the government to implement the stakeholder engagement component of the FCPF Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) and Emissions Reductions Programs (ERP).

In order to improve the participation of Indigenous Peoples and other actors in the consultation processes during the implementation of the REDD+ readiness, the National guidelines for REDD+ Stakeholder Engagement was developed in December 2016.

In December 2019 a multi-stakeholder forum held to identify the need to build the capacity of CSOs working on land, climate change and water and sensitize them on REDD+ and the readiness process in Kenya and how they can have meaningful engagement in the strategy development; identify the need to review the REDD+ corruption risk assessment, which was undertaken in 2013; review the progress of the project during 2019, and to propose activities for 2020. The planning and implementation of activities contributing towards REDD+ readiness process involved county staff, communities, and vulnerable populations. This resulted to several multi-stakeholder engagements leading to collective ownership of the REDD+ readiness process. Stakeholders are well versed with REDD+ and can meaningfully participate in the REDD+ National Strategy and Investment Plan development process and can influence and effectively contribute to REDD+ decision-making processes. The media (television, newspapers, and radio) was targeted to especially reach out the information about the project, the policies review process, and the call for action for forest conservation and management. Publications on these platforms as well as social media reached a 42.2K Twitter, over 25million on radio and television. Articles are also posted on UNDP and Ministry of environment website.

The use of stakeholder engagements guidelines has enhanced the involvement of the indigenous people at the local level in the planning, implementation and decision making has been a key element in the project sustainability. The REDD+ project acknowledges that indigenous populations are sources of local ecological knowledge about environmental dynamics that influence forest sustainability. From a rights-based perspective, greater indigenous self-determination in the management of their traditional lands is a matter of respecting international laws on indigenous rights. This is based on the ability for use, ownership, management, and control of their traditional lands and resources as described by the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principle, is recognised as a basic international right of indigenous populations. This approach potentially secured indigenous peoples' rights to their land giving rise to higher levels of biodiversity at lower overall cost. The inclusion and involvement of the indigenous forest dependent communities in the REDD+ planning and implementation enhanced their capacity in forest management, enhanced dialogue with local communities, improved stakeholder equality, identification of community priorities, and place-based decision making.

Disclosure of information

All the information generated and used within the framework of the project inception, project document development, implementation, and validation spaces have been hosted in the web pages of both Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), Kenya Forest Services (KFS), UNFCCC and UNDP. The project adopted various communication platforms like Twitter, Facebook, electronic and print media to strengthen stakeholder engagement, increase project visibility at the international, national, county, and community levels. The project adopted these

communication platforms to update stakeholders on milestones and to share highlights on various strategic partnerships and achievements reached.

IV.   Project Risks and Issues

Risks or issues	Mitigation measures
Marginalized communities and some stakeholder might be left out of the REDD+ process	Representative of civil society, indigenous communities, forest-dependent communities and private have been included in the project board.
	Continuous stakeholder engagement and public awareness
Poor quality data for National Forest Monitoring System, National Forest Reference Emission Levels and general monitoring of REDD+ activities	Data quality control through the PSC or consultative meeting
Technological changes especially for safeguards information system	Consider open source, easily up-gradable software for SIS
The project period may be extended to 2022 with additional funding	Follow up with Ministry and KFS for a firm position on the extension
Exclusion of potentially affected stakeholders, marginalized groups and women in the design of policies and measures on the broader forestry sector	Develop and implement a robust stakeholder management plan
	Develop a gender action plan and an indigenous peoples action plan
Coordination gaps among government agencies	The Ministry of Environment and Forest to be IP for project
	High level engagement between the RR and leadership of KFS, KWS, MEF, NLC, NGEC, EACC and KNCHR
Delay implementation of key initiatives towards Kenya's REDD+ Preparedness process	Generate REDD+ Q2 workplan to reflect activities which can be implemented remotely
Covid-19 and associated protocols and measures.	Identify activities which can be undertaken through virtual channels

	Undertake virtual weekly update meetings to review progress
	Engage partners on remote platforms
	Revised government number in adherence to prevention protocols (30 maximum)
	Use of virtual platforms for consultations and M&E
Insecurity around the forest areas may impede participation of some community members	Project spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry with participation of the County Government leadership
Delay in finalization of the Mid-Term Review.	Monitor procurement process for the consultant
	Inform FCPF, regional and global offices on impending delay in submission of MTR
Elite capture of forestry processes	Grievance and redress mechanisms will be developed and included in the TORs of the project board
	Draft grievance and redress mechanisms developed.

V.　　Lessons Learned

The following lessons learned were drawn from the findings of mid-term evaluation:

Lesson 1: There is need for a more targeted and focused messaging and awareness about the REDD+ Readiness process, deforestation, and forest degradation among the youth. The youths can be more engaged and can play an effective role in REDD+ Readiness process; hence there is need for more involvement of youth in the project activities.

Lesson 2: The REDD+ Readiness Project demonstrated that the conflict, suspicion and mistrust between national government, county government, civil society organizations, independent commissions and the indigenous people can easily be managed through consultations and dialogues regardless of their nature and degree of divergence.

Lesson 3: The project demonstrated that the two models of skills (external expertise and local skills) can be integrated to achieve the required results in forest management and skills transfer. This was evident in the use of external expertise, while appreciating existing country institutional expertise and building on the indigenous and local knowledge relevant to the REDD+ Readiness process.

Lesson 4: The multi-stakeholder approach proved to be the best strategy for REDD+ Readiness Project delivery. The involvement of stakeholders with a wide range of expertise and experiences in different thematic areas helped in developing a strong network of stakeholders focusing on the delivery. Multi-stakeholders approach leveraging on the comparative strengths of the individual partners was a good signature for the project as it enhanced cross pollination of technical skills in the various REDD+ Readiness process dimensions. The application of gender lens, the adoption of human rights approach, youth engagement, the private sector involvement to REDD+ Readiness process and forest resources management provided opportunities for lessons learning, knowledge sharing and livelihoods enhancement. The wider consultative process provided a platform for stakeholder agreements, collective responsibility, and reaffirmation allowing understanding and consensus building among stakeholders on contentious issues.

Lesson 5: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines plays a key role in the success of the Kenya FCPF REDD+ Readiness process as it requires the National Government and its development partners to recognize rights of indigenous people and local communities to FPIC, including REDD+ related programs. Further, when done in time, Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and awareness creation at community level present opportunities for greater project acceptability and sustainability as it is a motivation mechanism that encourages indigenous communities buy-in and full participation in the project.

Lesson 6: The absence of legal, legislative and policy guidelines for benefit sharing and distribution is a potential source of conflict between the national government, the county government, and the indigenous people and forest communities. Such provisions would help to respond to questions on how to regulate access to forest resources - who gains access to such

resources, how such access is made available, how the benefits accrue to those who depend on the forest resources, and how the benefits will be shared among the users of the resources.

Lesson 7: When conflicts appear, they can be turned into positive outcomes that help project success. There were conflicts between the KFS and indigenous communities (Sengwer Community of Embobut in Cherengani and Ogiek of and Elgon) arising from land right claims. These conflicts have been scaled down through dialogues (with Ogiek of Elgon and the Yaaku community of Mukogodo forest in Laikipia county) to understand the concerns and fears of the forest communities as the project pursued other options.

Lesson 8: The capacity for the country to reduce deforestation largely depends on people's livelihoods. Tapping into nature-based enterprises created job opportunities for the youth and other communities through, for example, tree nursery establishment. This has the potential to further create job opportunities through carbon trade market for the youth and indigenous communities, as well as investment opportunities in climate smart agriculture for green markets.

Lesson 9: Involvement of independent commissions - National Commission on Human Rights, National Gender and Equality Commission, Commission for Administration of Justice, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and National Land Commission - has contributed to steering the project towards compliance with state commitments both at the international, and national levels e.g. 10% forest cover as provided for in the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010 and UNFCCC Agreement.

Lesson 10: Through the REDD+ Readiness Project KFS is now viewed as a key stakeholder and partner rather than a paramilitary, competitor, and the enemy within forest resources management and conservation. The project created many opportunities for KFS to network with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) around the spheres of forest conservation and its potential benefits.

Lesson 11: The project has proved wrong the perception that the indigenous people and local communities have no knowledge in forest conservation and management. The indigenous people and local communities have proved to have knowledge and skills in forest resources management and conservation. Further the project has proved that through dialogue, mistrust between the different stakeholders with competing interests can be resolved and the partners can foster collaboration in forest conservation, protection, and management.

VI.   Conclusions and Way Forward

The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project was effective in contributing to understanding of issues relevant to addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya and has been a catalytic instrument in Kenya's ambitious plans to restore degraded forest areas. It has also led to creating learning and knowledge sharing between government, indigenous peoples, local communities, private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya. The project has played a key role in policy and legislative guidelines for forest resources management in Kenya. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project management structure has been effective in enhancing delivery of project outcomes. It has successfully built and strengthened an enabling environment for systems, policies, and stakeholder's engagement.

The project has also met its objectives, of getting Kenya ready for implementation of REDD+. The REDD+ Warsaw framework is now in place in Kenya enabling the country to effectively participate in REDD+. While the project was very ambitious, project delivery was equally good, and its effectiveness can be deemed satisfactory. Among a raft of other key documents, the REDD+ project supported the development and finalization of Kenya's National REDD+ Strategy (NRS). The project also supported the development of a REDD+ annex to Biennial Update Report (BUR) that was submitted by the country to the UNFCCC in 2019. The data and information provided in this annex, which covers the 2014-2015 period, was deemed compliant by the UNFCCC, which allows PNG to be eligible for Results-based Payments, for example under the GCF. The project supported the review of its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2016 which aimed to reduce GHG emissions by 30% relative to the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario expectation of 143 MtCO2eq by 2030. In December 2020, Kenya submitted its updated NDC that commits to abate GHG emissions by 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario. It also supported the development of the *National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)*, for which a web portal has been established, further facilitating preparation of the Summary of Information (SOI) on safeguards, together with a National Safeguards Information System (SIS).

In addition, the project supported policy, regulatory instruments reforms and guidelines at Kenya's national and county levels. These include; *1) National Forest policy; 2) County model forest policy and model laws on forest conservation and management by the 47 County Governments; 3) Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill and Policy 2020; 4) Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy; 5) County model forest policy and model bill on forest conservation and management developed; 6) Training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in forest conservation, protection, and management; 7) County Ethics and Integrity guidelines in forest governance; 8) Gender Action Plan; 8) Indigenous People's Action Plan.*

In terms of stakeholder engagement, the project facilitated the participation of forest dependent communities in forest conservation and management by engaging and educating communities that live adjacent to major forests in Kenya. This resulted in formation of about 100 CFAs

distributed across the country. To strengthen and streamline the coordination of CFAs, the National Alliance of Community Forests Associations (NACOFA) was established as an umbrella network or alliance of Community Forest Associations (CFAs) in Kenya, with a membership of over 100 CFAs spread across Kenya. The network started, with the key aim to adopt a common approach to Participatory Forest Management (PFM) as stipulated in the new forest Act 2005. The networks links CFAs to each other, and to NGOs and research institutions at the national and international level, thereby promoting improved access to information, sharing of experiences and joint action on issues of common interest.

VII.   Financial Status[10]

After the summary, Insert the Interim Financial Donor Report (IDR) or Cumulative Financial Donor Report here. Include the disclaimer below in the note. If the Cumulative Financial Donor Report is used, include the second disclaimer as well

Summary

Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:

Amount (US$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
3,888,000.00	FCPF	08/2018		

Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you have secured in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

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[10] *Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.*

Disclaimer: UNDP adopted IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) on 1 January 2012, cumulative totals that include data prior to that date are presented for illustration only.

| Amount

(US$) | Source

(e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department) | Public or private finance?

(Delete as appropriate) | Grant, loan or other?

(Delete as appropriate) |
|---|---|---|---|
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Financial Report

OUTPUTS	Amount Transferred by FCPF (USD)	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grant (2018 – 2021) – project 00099178					
		Cumulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2021					
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total Expenditures
Output 1: National REDD+ Strategy and Investment plan.	1,568,000	4,367.46	299,928.21	698,925.96	510,561.48	24,241.86	1,538,024.97
Output 2: A functional multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building approach in REDD+	515,663	4,655.29	268,302.02	262,705.69	-20,000		515,663
Output 3: An operational safeguards information system for REDD+;	250,000		11,263.08	17,586.86	181,149	40,000	249,999.31
Output 4: Technical support provided for improvement	140,000		116,870.45	2,426.88	20,702.67		140,000

of National Forest Monitoring System and Forest Reference Level.							
Project implementation	1,042,837	21,656.72	258,765.05	366,137.11	396,277.87		1,042,836.75
Monitoring and evaluation	83,500				83,498.5		83,498.5
GMS (8%)	288,000	2,454.36	76410.3048	107822.60	101,312.62		287,999.88
Total	3,888,000	33,133.83	1,031,539.11	1,455,605.10	1,367,720.31		3,858,022.41

Annex 1 – Further Background Information

Kenya is implementing the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness Project with support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serving as the delivery partner and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) serving as the Implementing Partner. The project is also being carried out in coordination with other relevant entities such as the independent constitutional commissions, the Kenya Forest Services (KFS), indigenous communities and civil society organizations (CSOs). It aims to support the Government of Kenya (GoK) in the completion of the readiness phase of REDD+, so that the country can implement and access results-based payments (e.g., from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or other schemes).

Although REDD+ readiness work has been on-going in the country since 2009, funding was only available from 2018-2020 to continue and build on the efforts to advance on a REDD+ National Strategy and other readiness outcomes with FCPF funding[11]. Key project outputs are the development of a REDD+ National Strategy and Investment Plan and a Safeguards Information System. During this timeframe, financing was available from JICA, USAID, UN-REDD to continue some elements of financing. For instance, the Forest Reference Level (FRL) and the NFMS were funded through the JICA funded CADEP programme. Kenya submitted FRL in December 2019 to the UNFCCC. The Project has supported stakeholders' discussions on both these processes including submission of the FRL.

Kenya submitted its first NDC in December 2016 with the ambitious plan to reduce GHG emissions by 30% relative to the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario expectation of 143 MtCO2eq by 2030. The FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project has supported the submission of Kenya's revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC and ensured that the REDD+ work is aligned with the NDC Implementation Framework. The FCPF readiness project provided information on national targets to increase forest cover and reduce GHG emissions from the forest and land use sector. In December 2020, Kenya submitted its updated NDC that commits to abate GHG emissions by 32% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario.

In 2016, the World Bank provided Kenya with the REDD+ Readiness grant of USD 3.88 million from its Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The project was planned to run from 01 June 2018 to 30 October 2020. However, following the approval of No Cost Extension (NCE) the project will run until 31st December 2021. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in partnership with UNDP as the delivery partner, and in collaboration with a number of responsible parties in delivering key result areas through the National Implementing Modality (NIM). The aim of the project is to put in place mechanisms to enable Kenya to reach its overall REDD+ goal of improving livelihoods and wellbeing, conserving biodiversity, contributing to the national aspiration of a minimum 10% forest cover, and mitigating climate change for

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[11] *See Annex 1 for a chronology of events during that period which eventually led to the signing of the project document for the FCPF Grant in late 2018.*

sustainable development.

This will be achieved through four outcomes, namely:

i)   An operational national REDD+ strategy and investment plan;
ii)   An operational safeguards information system for REDD+.
iii)   Functional multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity building for REDD+; and
iv)   Technical support provided for improvement to the National Forest Monitoring System and Forest Reference Level.

The project is supporting the development of the Safeguards Information Systems (SIS), including the Summary of Information (SOI), which will allow Kenya to manage and reduce environmental and social risks, while ensuring that long term benefits, and safeguards are embedded in the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy. Further, the project contributes to the National Forest Programme (NFP) and the National Forest Policy, 2020 by drawing the relevant provisions into the REDD+ work.

A work schedule was defined for the preparation of the FCPF project document (PRODOC), a process that was shared with stakeholders involved in the R-PP preparation process. In July 2018, the PRODOC was signed. This document was based on information from the R-PP process compiled from the different actors consulted during this process.

After a long starting period, the REDD+ Readiness project was finally launched at the Great Rift Valley Lodge on 6th and 7th September 2018.

Key decisions included:

- Inception of the Project: 16th of September 2018.
- Letter of Agreement: Signed between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) and UNDP, which allowed UNDP to procure activities in the annual workplan on behalf of the MEF and further engage with Responsible Parties outlined in the Project Document for delivery of the various components in line with their mandate and establishments. These are National Land Commission, National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenya National Commission on Human Right, Council of Governors, Elgeyo Marakwet County and any other county and stakeholder as agreed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- Composition of the Project Steering Committee (PSC): The Principal Secretary formally appointed the members in line with decisions made. The first PSC meeting was held in the first week of December 2018.

Annex 2 – Document Links

Please see pertinent links and documents referred to in the Final Report below

- Mid-term evaluation; Based on UNDP evaluation criteria:

  FINAL- MIDTERM EVALUATION FOR FC

- Mid-term review: Based on FCPF assessment criteria: https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/kenyas_mid-term_report_final_1.pdf

- National REDD+ Strategy and Investment plan: 84447504-c9ab-428e-ae17-05dc3fb5937e.docx (live.com)

- Safeguarls Information System: SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM | KENYA (cloudhub.co.ke)

- Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM): SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM | KENYA (cloudhub.co.ke)