

Virtual stakeholder workshop Report for the Kenya GCF Concept Note *Source to Sea: Enhancing blue carbon ecosystems and community resilience in Kenya*

Date: 12th May 2021

Background

An online stakeholder workshop was completed for GCF Concept Note development of the *Source to Sea: Enhancing blue carbon ecosystems and community resilience in Kenya* project. The main goals of the workshop were to 1) present to international, national and sub-national stakeholders the overall project concept and draft components, and 2) receive feedback from stakeholders on the existing iteration of the concept, including the climate rationale, project components and outputs and site selection criteria. A list of participants and their respective organizational affiliations is included below.

Min 01: Workshop Introduction

The workshop commenced with Dr. Jared Bosire's (UNEP) opening remarks and a brief introduction of the project. Jared indicated that this project had been requested for by the Kenyan Government through Treasury, which is the GCF National Delegated Authority for the country. He presented apologies on behalf of the NDA (Peter Odhengo) who was held up in other official functions and thus wasn't able to attend the meeting. Jared emphasized that the project team would like feedback from stakeholders on the climate rationale and proposed project interventions, as well as comments as to how the project feeds into Kenya's national priorities. Following the workshop completion, Jared indicated that he will be meeting the NDA to discuss workshop outcomes and additional steps needed to further project development. This was followed by a brief discussion of the Nairobi Convention in terms of mandate, partnerships and COP Decisions on climate change interventions including support in implementation of the regional Climate Change Strategy. Jared further informed the meeting that the development of this GCF project for Kenya is also supported through a COP 9 Decision.

Jared then invited and introduced Dr. Pacifica F.A. Ogola, Director Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Pacifica presented on Kenya's climate change policy environment and planning framework. She first discussed Kenya's initial ratification of the UNFCCC in 1992 by Kenya's cabinet and then went on to discuss the country's National Climate Change Action Plan. The plan has seven priority areas: Disaster Risk Management, Food & Nutrition Security, Blue Economy, Forests and Wildlife Tourism, Health, Manufacturing and Energy and Transport. Every priority area identified via the Action Plan has an annual report. Dr. Pacifica then discussed Kenya's recently updated NDC and mitigation commitments. In the latest version of the NDC there are six priority areas: energy, transport, forestry, manufacturing, waste management and climate smart agriculture. Additionally, Dr. Pacifica noted that the utilization of mangroves and locally led climate actions are included in the latest NDC. In order to implement

the NDC, Dr. Pacifica noted that Kenya would require approximately USD 62 billion, of which most of the allocated funding would go towards adaptation efforts. Dr. Pacifica also indicated that oceans and coastal zones will play a role in Kenya's long-term GHG strategy for 2050 and concluded that the Kenyan government will work more closely with research institutes in order to produce and utilize correct data.

Mr. Mohamed Pakia (WWF) asked Dr. Pacifica about the role of seagrass in the NDC. Dr. Pacifica indicated that the role of seagrass was included, and additionally added that more work needs to be done on understanding the role seagrass and mangroves play in carbon sequestration.

Min 02: Presentation of Preliminary Project Structure and Components

After the introductory remarks and discussion, the Nataij Group consulting team presented the draft project structure to stakeholders. The presentation detailed the differences between the GCF and GEF projects in terms of focus and application procedures, Kenya's national context and priorities, the project's climate rationale (including the source to sea approach), potential target sites for project interventions, draft Theory of Change diagram, project outcomes and components and the next steps for Concept Note development following the stakeholder workshop. Dima leading the Nataij Group emphasized that the main focus of the consultations at this stage is on finalization of the climate rationale. The draft project components for the proposed project and their respective budget percentage include the following:

- **Component 1.** Upstream sources of climate-induced erosion and increased sedimentation are addressed to support downstream coastal habitat health and resilience [25% budget]
- **Component 2.** Vulnerable coastal communities supported to reduce or avoid negative impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions/EbA [40% budget]
- **Component 3.** Climate change mitigation promoted through enhanced coastal carbon sequestration {within Kenya's national Blue Economy priorities} [30% budget]
- **Component 4:** Capacity and knowledge of target communities and agencies increased to implement and manage effective nature-based climate responses in Kenya's coastal areas [5% budget]

Dima indicated that once the climate rationale is finalized and agreed upon, this will then form the foundation of the subsequent intervention strategy including site selection.

Min 03: Feedback and Questions from Stakeholders

Initial feedback from the presentation included a comment from Dr. Pacifica in which she asked when potential sites for project intervention would be determined as it is important for setting up a carbon baseline for the mitigation component of the project. Dr. Pacifica went on to say that she did not see any inclusion of fisheries and gaps in alternative livelihoods (especially in terms of avoiding mangrove harvesting) in regard to the draft project design. Dr. Jeremy Hills (Nataij

Group) responded that for the Concept Note stage, the team would likely need to identify more general areas for project intervention. Then, under the full proposal development, a more granular site selection of communities and particular sites could be identified.

Dr. James Kairo then raised the point that the project team should utilize the National Mangrove Management Plan and sea grass strategy to identify management challenges and priorities. Dr. Kairo also indicated that the updated NDC has targets to develop blue carbon initiatives, and stresses adaptation more than mitigation. Dr. Kairo went on to indicate that the project should prioritize the most vulnerable communities, such as those living in coastal lowlands and threatened by sea level rise.

Jared asked stakeholders to advise in the identification of sites based on the following selection criteria: sites having a combination of critical ecosystems, those most affected by climate change related impacts, where community independence on these ecosystems is obvious and highest, most vulnerable communities and where GCF investments will make the most impact.. He stressed that site selection should be identified through the expertise of on-the-ground stakeholders to ensure that the project is country driven, and that the Ministries of Environment and Treasury should play an important role in project administration. Dr. Kairo then responded that the project should look at how people and communities are interacting with ecosystems and how these ecosystems are contributing to people's livelihoods. Dr. Pacifica noted that Dr. Kairo's ideas could be added to site selection criteria.

Continuing the topic of site selection, Jared mentioned that the project should be aligned with sub-national documents to give further guidance to the draft criteria, including MPA management plans, county level policy documents on CC. Jared further noted that the consultanting team should work bi-laterally with project stakeholders to flesh out the selection of sites. Dr. Kairo later responded that degraded ecosystems are not performing their core functions and that he would be happy to include written responses to the draft Concept Note. He additionally added that the Tana and Sabaki rivers are the main river systems in Kenya, which mediate huge impacts from upstream processes.

Min 04: Closing Statements and Next Steps

The stakeholder workshop concluded with the understanding that the project team will need input on the draft Concept Note from stakeholders. Dr. Pacifica indicated that she would bring attention of the project to her colleagues at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Jared indicated that the project timelines may be revised, and that the next iteration of the Concept Note will be shared with workshop participants for review.

Main takeaways from the workshop by the consultant team include the following: the Concept Note should include (i) a more explicit reference to fisheries and fisheries management; (ii) alternative livelihoods should be integrated deliberately into project design; (iii) site selection criteria and sites narrowed for further analysis during full project development; and (iv) alignment with sub-national plans (i.e., MPA management plans). The MEF noted as well that project administration should be further discussed and thought through at this stage of project development

Participating Stakeholders

No	Stakeholder	Affiliation
1.	Dr. Jared Bosire	UNEP
2.	Dr. Pacific F.A. Ogola	Kenya Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF)
3.	Dr. Joseh Indo	County Government of Kwale
4.	Alex Kubasu	Circular Economy Initiative, WWF Kenya
5.	Mohamed Pakia	Coastal Kenya Programme Coordinator, WWF Kenya
6.	Dr. James Kairo	Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute
7.	Lily	WWF Kenya
8.	Benjamin Mwadeghu	Taita Taveta- County
9.	Mohamed Omar Said	Tana County
10.	Stephen Katua	NEMA
11.	Zena	Kilifi County
12.	David Ouma	UNEP
13.	Dr. Joseph Indo	Kwale County
14.	Gabriel Grimsditch	UNEP
15.	Jane Njeri Ndungu	UNEP
16.	Nancy Soi	UNEP
17.	Nathan Ouma Majwa	UNEP
18.	Rose Bahati Machaku	UNEP
19.	Dima Reda	Nataij Group
20.	Dr. Jeremy Hills	Nataij Group
21.	Andrew Hume	Nataij Group
22.	Max Russer	Nataij Group
23.	Mohamed Omar	Kenya Wildlife Services