

PELUM KENYA

Three Years of Great Success



Networking for a greener Africa.



**Strengthening Community Engagement in
Governance and Management of Natural
Environmental Resources Project**

January 2012 to March 2015

Disclaimer:

The views presented herein are not necessarily the official opinion of PELUM Kenya's funding partners

Design and Layout:
Job Mainye

Printing:
Thinkomm Communications

© **PELUM Kenya**

ABOUT PELUM KENYA

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Kenya is a national network which currently comprises of 44 member organizations based in 19 Counties and operates in 42 Counties countrywide. PELUM Kenya works with member organizations to promote ecological land use and management practices for improved livelihoods among small holder farmers. PELUM Kenya is mandated by its members to promote Ecological Land Use Management (*elum*) practices and principles in Kenya through networking and capacity building, information sharing and advocacy.

The members of PELUM-Kenya are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other networks working with small scale farmers. PELUM Kenya's Country Secretariat is based in Thika at the SACDEP Training Centre.

OUR VISION

Empowered and prosperous communities deriving their livelihoods from sustainable land use.

OUR MISSION

To promote participatory ecological land use management practices for improved livelihoods among smallholder farmers in Kenya.

OUR CORE VALUES

1. Innovativeness and Creativity
2. Equity and Justice
3. Gender Sensitivity
4. Transparency and Accountability
5. Commitment to partnership and action for result and impact

Three Years of Great Success

Strengthening Community Engagement in Governance and Management of Natural Environmental Resources Project



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Act!	Act Change Transform
ADS Eastern	Anglican Development Services Eastern
ADS MKE	ADS - Mount Kenya East
ADS Western	Anglican Development Services Western
ADS-Kenya	Anglican Development Services
ARDP	Agriculture and Rural Development Program
ARDP	Agriculture and Rural Development Program
ASDS	Agriculture Sector Development Strategy
BAC	Baraka Agriculture College
BERMA	Busia Environmental Resource Management
BIDII	Benevolent Institute of Development Initiatives
BIOGI	Bio- gardening Innovations
CAFA	Community Access Forest Advocacy
CBO	Community Based Organization
CFA	Community Forest Association
COSDEP	Community Sustainable Development Empowerment Program
CRM	Changieni Rasili Mali
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ENRM	Environment Natural Resources Management
FAN	Forest Action Network
GBIACK	Grow Bio-intensive Agriculture Centre of Kenya
ICE	Institute of Culture and Ecology
KDC	Kitui Development Centre
KICIP	Kima Integrated Community Initiatives Program
KIOF	Kenya Institute of Organic Farming
KOAN	Kenya Organic Agriculture Network
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MERL	Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Learning
MHAC	Manor House Agriculture Centre
MO	Member Orgnaization
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NECOFA	Network for Eco Farming in Africa
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIA	Neighbors Initiative Alliance
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PMC	Pasture Management Committee
SACDEP	Sustainable Agriculture Community Development Programe
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SHA	Self Help Africa
SMART	Sustainable Mobilization of Agricultural Resources Technologies
WRMA	Water Resources Management Authority
WRUA	Water Resource User Association
YARD	Youth Action for Rural Development

Foreword

Although Kenya is not very rich in mineral resources, its environment is endowed with other unique natural resources and ecosystems which underpin the subsistence and commercial economy in the country and are vital for the country's economic development. In the last 25 years, the government has formulated many policies, programmes, plans and projects aimed at providing solutions to environment and natural resource management. Despite these efforts, environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources have continued thereby threatening the livelihoods of millions of people.

Over the past three years, PELUM Kenya has played a key role in promoting the sustainable management and governance of Environment and Natural Resources in Kenya. This has been possible through support from Act! Changieni RasiliMali (CRM) Facility. Through the project, participation of member organizations and the communities that they work with has been enhanced to tackle issues of natural resource management, mobilize resources needed to carry out initiatives planned while also engaging with actors in the sector to take into consideration community views and concerns for any projects affecting their environment.

The organization has also benefited from institutional capacity development support from Act! An Organizational Network Analysis was undertaken by Act! which was used as a benchmark to identify the key strengths of PELUM Kenya as well as look in to areas of improvement for improved organizational performance. This has seen PELUM Kenya strengthen further its systems, structures and policies.

I thereby express my sincere gratitude to Act! for walking with us throughout the journey and offering their financial and technical support towards the implementation of the project. I wish also to congratulate the PELUM Kenya Member Organizations and the Country Secretariat Team for working tirelessly towards the success of the project. Last but not least, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders past and present who include individuals, institutions, development and funding partners, member organizations, the PELUM Kenya Board members, community groups for their strong support and mentoring. We all recognize that the growth and present status of PELUM Kenya is as a result of concerted efforts of all.



Zachary Makanya
Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Zachary Makanya', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zachary Makanya,
Country Coordinator, PELUM Kenya.
March 2015

A brief about the project

Strengthening Community Engagement in Governance and Management of Natural Environmental Resources was a project implemented by PELUM Kenya. It was funded by Act! For three years. The project started in January 2012 and wound up in March 2015. The project was implemented in five Counties (Nakuru, Kakamega, Kitale, Kiambu and Trans Nzoia Counties). The project focused on strengthening the involvement and participation of PELUM Kenya Member Organizations on addressing issues of advocacy in governance, management and sustainable utilization of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). This was an advocacy project which targeted local community groups, small holder farmers, fisher folk, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and other key stakeholders in strengthening governance systems and management of Environment and Natural Resources in Five (5) selected Counties in Kenya. The project was implemented through an integrated approach that ensures total participation and inclusion of community groups and other key stakeholders who have an influence in policy, laws, and management of Environment and Natural Resources.

Project Goal

Improved involvement of smallholder farming communities in governance, management and efficient utilization of Environment and Natural Resources in Kenya.

Anticipated project results:

- Strengthened citizenry participation in governance, management and utilization of Environment and Natural Resources
- Increased engagement of stakeholders in policy and legislative processes for Environment and Natural Resources at National and County levels
- Strengthened PELUM Kenya Institutional Capacity

Key Project results

- a) **Formation and strengthening of five County ENRM platforms namely Kajiado, Kiambu, Nakuru, Trans Nzoia and Western platforms**

Nakuru ENRM Platform

The platform has a representation of five PELUM Kenya member organizations namely ARDP, MEAP, SHA, BAC and NECOFA. The platform has contributed immensely to the development of five forest management Plans to guide in the proper utilization of forest resources in the Mau Ecosystem. In addition to this, mechanisms have

been put in place to enable enforcement of laws through the CFAs so that those who encroach the forest land can be prosecuted.



One of the platform members (Mr. Stanley Bii) plant a tree during the World Environment day 2014

In Njoro sub-county, due to scarce pasture available, there has been the formation of pasture management committees (PMC) formed by the three communities in this region – the Maasai, the Kalenjin and the Kikuyu. These committees set boundaries beyond which each community is not to cross with its livestock without facing a penalty. This enables the use of the pasture and prevents the spread of cattle diseases such as foot and mouth disease. The PMC are also useful in the resolution of any conflict in the area. The platform members in Nakuru County, through lobbying and advocacy, were able to engage the governor of Nakuru on the relocation of the Kyoto dumpsite in Kiamunyi area with the governor promising to look into this and relocate the dumpsite.

Kiambu ENRM platform

The Kiambu platform is represented by eight PELUM Kenya member organizations namely; ICE, YARD, SACDEP, FAN, KIOF, COSDEP, GBIACK and KOAN. The platform has been in the fore front in terms of advocacy and lobby efforts towards the improved management and governance of the Mt. Kenya Ecosystem. In collaboration with Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA), they established two new WRUAs and facilitated their training on management of the association.



Participants during an exchange visit on best agricultural practices at NECOFA



Some of the key advocacy initiatives by the platform are as discussed below; the Gatuanyaga community in the lower part of Kiambu County were able to participate in enforcement of environmental policies by demanding that quarrying activities be stopped until the quarry owners are issued with official letters of EIA from NEMA. An advocacy network was also formed by the elders in Lari with facilitation from community champions to address issues related to the expansion of Ruiru dam in Kamburu. A Stakeholders' forum was held to emphasize the need for community engagement in policy development and implementation in sectors of agriculture and water. As a result Kiambu platform members contacted the Member of Kiambu County Executive Committee in charge of Environment, Water and Natural resources to strengthen the engagement with County government. The platform members also paid a courtesy call to Kiambu County Assembly to discuss key environmental issues affecting the communities such as pollution of Athi River and the

expansion of Ruiru dam. Also, following complaints by residents about quarries in their area, the NEMA officer closed the quarries in Gatuanyaga as there was no EIA done to show how adverse environmental impacts would be mitigated. This alerted all potential investors on the need for compliance to NEMA regulations to ensure environmental protection.

Trans Nzoia ENRM Platform

The PELUM Kenya member organizations in the Trans Nzoia platform are VI Agroforestry, MHAC, SMART Initiatives and KWDGP. This platform has undertaken a number of tree planting initiatives to restore the environment and natural resources in the Mt. Elgon Ecosystem. For instance, through the Sirgoi WRUA, the platform planted over 40,000 tree seedlings in the sub-catchment while the Machinjoni WRUA planted 3,000 trees along Shimala Bandu stream and Sango site.



Students recite poem during 2013 World Environment Day in Kitale



A team from PELUM Kenya conducting a site visit in Trans Nzoia Platform

The increased participation in governance, management and utilization of natural resources was noted in Trans Nzoia County where PELUM Kenya through its member organizations had undertaken the following activities; supporting one community champion to participate in an exchange/learning visit, carrying out public education on environmental conservation in groups and churches and holding consultative meetings with various stakeholders in environmental conservation. Some of the results contributed to by the activities of PELUM Kenya were; increased leverage to the environmental conservation as a result of UNEP support to a group known as Community Access Forest Advocacy (CAFA) to establish community seed bank for trees and food, increased engagement in livelihood support projects such as poultry keeping, apiculture, sweet potato growing and indigenous vegetables production by MHAC, efficient milk value chain activities.

Kajiado ENRM Platform

Kajiado platform is spearheaded by PELUM Kenya member organizations namely NIA, KCDC, INADES Formation and BIDIland has been advocating for the proper management and governance of the Semi-Arid and arid lands of the South Rift and the Lower Eastern region. The platform has successfully contributed to the development of an agreement reached on the modalities for disseminating information to the public regarding sand harvesting and charcoal burning.

WRUAS in Kajiado are used as champions on basis of understanding environment issues. The WRUAS have also created a link between different community groups, NEMA and county forest department.

During the 2014 World Environment Day, through support from PELUM and the county government of Kajiado, a successful celebration was held at Maparasha at an area that had previously had environmental degradation and an unprotected spring. Following the successful protection of the spring, the site proved a learning point to the county residents and schools present at the celebrations on the importance of environmental protection and conservation. The event was attended by the deputy governor of Kajiado. Funding from PELUM enabled the platform to carry out nature resource management activities such as training of water resource users associations (WRUAs) and carry out consultations needed among stakeholders prior to the development and review of various policies.

Western ENRM Platform

This platform has been advocating for the proper management and governance of the Epanga Valley and kakamega rainforest. The PELUM Kenya members for this platform are; BIOGI, KICIP, BERMA and WRCCS.

After training on rights based approach to management of natural resources and conservation, four community champions shared their experiences with participants on conservation matters while encouraging more farmers to protect conservation of biodiversity. In Western Conservancy a Community agreement on conservancy guidelines was established with active participation of local administrators. Twenty members from the Epanga valley catchment supported conservation activities by being enlisted to benefit from renewable energy project by BIOGI.

As a result of identification of the community champions; the Ebuhando Hangai Environment Self Help Group has been registered with Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Services on the 11th November 2014 to address environmental matters; two (2) village elders have been included in Epanga valley conservancy, Magada (Vihiga) MCA representative has been actively supporting dissemination of food forest farming information. Sustainable methods of sand harvesting are being practiced; the Local Administration has engaged the neighboring Location (Maragoli) in addressing the environmental degradation on the upper side of the hill so as to complement the conservation efforts downhill.

b) Advocacy engagement for proper management and governance of Environment and Natural Resources

At the national level the PELUM Kenya Secretariat engaged National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) report for agricultural sector development support programme (ASDSP) by the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries: State Department of Agriculture where an omission was realized as the report had not been uploaded on the website where interested parties were directed to access it. However after intervention by PELUM Kenya the report was uploaded and could now be accessed. As PELUM Kenya pointed out the omission, there was also concern raised over the introduction of exotic plants and cultivars which were feared could turn invasive like the prosopis juliflora in parts of the country. The effects of Ariel application of chemicals was

also not clearly addressed especially when it comes to interference with farmers whose farmlands are intended to be chemical free. Winds would blow and may cause drift of chemicals to unintended zones thus causing contamination.

On genetically modified organisms, PELUM Kenya reacted to a news article carried in the “top Farmer Magazine” which is published by-monthly in which Dr. Margaret Karembu through her article “Anti-GMO Activists Should Give Us A Break’ argued that all that is contained in the protests is “hot air” and nothing substantial. The reaction by PELUM Kenya set the record straight and readers got the correct position as all the issues raised by the writer were conclusively addressed in the reaction while providing the correct position and basis for the objections.

At the national level, PELUM Kenya submitted its comments on the Crops Act 2013 and Agriculture Fisheries and Food Authorities Act 2013 in October 2013 to the Cabinet Secretary, Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries. PELUM Kenya called for adequate public participation in the process of review of the Acts and expressed concerns on the burden lumped to the citizen in clearance of noxious and invasive weeds and issues of use of seed amongst small scale farmers amongst other comments.

The member organizations have also undertaken advocacy initiatives. For instance, through the Kajiado ENRM platform, the member organizations have had their capacities on advocacy build. This resulted in to an opportunity for the member organizations to meet the Kajiado Executive Committee and lobby for the efficient

burning of charcoal. This resulted in to construction of improved charcoal kilns in the region by the County executive and training to the locals on how to use the kiln. This has so far resulted in to efficient charcoal burning as fewer trees are used and there is also less environmental destruction.

c) **Strengthened PELUM Kenya Institutional Capacity**

There has been capacity built for the communities to engage with relevant actors in matters of environmental conservation, pollution reduction and collective action of key actors. There were various methods used to build the capacity of PELUM Kenya staff, member organization staff and the stakeholders from the community to county government levels. The organization has been able to develop a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy and a communication strategy.

The following are some of the trainings that have been carried out to PELUM Kenya staff:

1. Advocacy - advocacy strategy, risk management and development of advocacy messages
2. Monitoring, evaluation, review and learning (MERL)
3. Grant management
4. Financial systems

The Member organizations have also been trained on the following aspects

1. Rights based development approach
2. Organic farming
3. Group mobilization and organization
4. Advocacy

Community organizations have also been trained on the following;

1. Community mobilization and engagement
2. Management of WRUAs
3. Strategic planning – development of catchment management plans, community action plans
4. Organic farming/sustainable agriculture

Following exchange visits organized for the project stakeholders, there has been positive learning exchanges. One such learning exchange was an exchange visit undertaken by the Kajiado ENRM platform to Machakos. The platform members learnt about the importance of sand dams in water resources management. The Kajiado team was able to replicate the construction of Sand dams at Enkorika and so far the community has benefited from the improved access



Improved charcoal kiln in Kajiado County



A completed sand dam holding water at Enkorika, Kajiado County



to water throughout the year. A cattle water point has also been built and this has enhanced the quality of water for domestic and animal use.

There is power in numbers!

Management of wetland areas has been a challenge in central region of Kenya, especially the engagement of community members. In lower Kiambu, community members living along Athi River have been suffering particularly after rainy seasons due to solid wastes from Nairobi. This makes the community members and their livelihoods vulnerable due to use of polluted water for agriculture and also affecting the environment as a whole.

This problem has been coupled up by lack of a local network such as Water Resource Users Association (WRUA), whereby community members can lobby and advocate for their rights to clean water, environment and issues related to management of wetland areas.

To address this, the Kiambu ENRM platform, a network of four CSOs namely G-BIACK, COSDEP, YARD and ICE through a project dubbed “strengthening community engagement in governance and management of natural resources” with support from PELUM Kenya linked Kiambu Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA) with 70 Gatuanyaga community members through a one day workshop. As a result of this linkage, WRMA organized and supported four days’ workshop for 200 community members, who represented five regions in the area; Gatuanyaga A (Munyu and Magana), Maguguni,

Kayata, Kyeleni and Gatuanyaga B (Komo and Juja farm). Participants were trained on how to protect water catchment areas and benefits of forming a WRUA.

This led to the formation of a WRUA in the region named lower Athi Kilimambogo Water Resources Users Association (LAK-WRUA) with 47 registered members. Currently the WRUA has mobilized more members both individuals and institutions in the locality and has a membership of 300.

The WRUA has played a critical role in lobbying with county governments and relevant departments to address pollution of Athi River among other issues leading to degradation of the River. In December, 2014, LAK-WRUA presented a memo to department of Environment and Natural Resources and county assembly committee for Environment, water and Natural resources Kiambu county and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) seeking for urgent actions on pollution.

The WRUA has also gone along in sensitizing fellow community members on best agricultural practices among farmers such as organic farming, agro-forestry and use of soil conservation techniques to protect Athi River ecosystem. The member groups of WRUA have also been conducting tree planting events along riparian of Athi river.



Mr. Nzioka of WRMA, Kiambu facilitating during the workshops

In 2015, WRMA through ministry of Environment and Natural Resources launched a national programme dubbed Athi River Restoration Programme that aims at engaging all relevant stakeholders in addressing the challenge.



Mr. Nzioka of WRMA, Kiambu facilitating during the workshops



The cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Mrs. Judi Wakhungu launching Athi River Restoration Programme on 9th March, 2015



Mr. Samuel Wathome, Chairperson LAK-WRUA reads a speech during the programme Launch.

Light at the end of the tunnel

Kwa Mukaa Women self help group located in Makueni County, Mukaa sub- county , Kiima Kiu location has been involved in tree planting activities to improve tree cover in the area and also generate income from sale of the surplus tree seedlings. The group faced a challenge of drying of the seedlings raised and planted due to water scarcity since the area is semi arid and the only dam which was their source of water had been silted and dried.

During a sensitization meeting held by BIDII in the area on natural resource management, the issue of rehabilitating the dam was raised by the community to avail and enhance the management of water resources. Later a planning meeting with the group committee and other stakeholders from the area was held to strategize on how to rehabilitate the dam and during which a proposal to construct a weir across the stream to help retain more water was agreed upon.



Silted dam at Kiima Kiu Location before scooping



Construction of the weir in progress (Machakos County)

The dam was scooped and a weir constructed in the area and now it is able to hold water through out the year. The water is used by the group to raise more seedlings and also by community members for domestic purposes by approximately 500 Households from two villages and neighbouring institutions who used to go for about 4- 5 kilometers in search of clean water. The dam has helped the community reduce long distance travelled in search of clean water to now 1 kilometre radius and hence save time to engage in other productive activities. The dam has led to environmental regeneration around the stream and improved vegetation.



After Construction of the weir (Machakos County)



After Construction of the weir (Machakos County)

Livelihood Diversification changes the life of Fred Sabai



A section of Sabai farm showing his banana farm and poultry project

Started three years ago, the ENRM Trans Nzoia Platform has helped build the capacities of local farmers in the area to increase their produce in the changing environmental conditions as well as effectively address key value chain issues like quality production, value addition, marketing and competitive pricing for their farm produce. One of the farmers who has greatly benefited from these trainings and exposure visits on best farming practices is Fred Sabai also the chairman of MEBOT dairy cooperative society which is helping members in marketing milk.

Through his newly found venture, his income has doubled compared to what he used to get. Mr. Sabai's farm is diversified with food and income generation activities to address food and income security issues for his family Mr. Sabai is involved in growing diverse crops especially indigenous vegetables using farm yard and compost manure. He is a bee keeper, has 4 fish ponds Fish ponds where he harvests over 600 fish. He is also a prounder fruit producing farmer with pawpaws. In a settlement scheme where forest was cleared for farming and threatened with land degradation, he has planted trees on 1 acre portion of his 10 acre piece of land and farmers of his group have taken up. He earns income from his agricultural enterprises.

He has inspired other farmers who have emulated him in many ways e.g. in beekeeping, his neighbors have ordered hives from Manor House Agriculture Centre, the platform member who makes beekeeping equipment.

Sabai says he is a happy man with food security and income benefits from improving his livelihoods through self-employment. Sabai is greatly indebted to the Trans



Farmers visit Fred Sabai beehive farm

Nzoia ENRM platform for helping him better his farming skills which has greatly improved his livelihood.

Since the inception of the project by the Trans Nzoia ENRM platform through PELUM Kenya support, there has been an increase in the number of farmers who have ventured in farming activities. With demand growing every day, it seems there is no turning back.

Plant a tree for the future generation

Cheptuech is located at the heart of Mau complex in Kiptagich ward, Kuresoi south. The area has high agricultural potential and normally receives a high amount of rainfall. It is located at an altitude of 2,800m above sea level. With time a lot of deforestation has taken place leading to climate change. After a baseline survey, which showed a lot of change in agro forestry, agriculture systems and forest cover the member organizations decided to sponsor a tree planting and environmental conservation awareness activity at Cheptuech youth polytechnic, targeting youths and larger community.

The community and the students were engaged in a tree planting exercise, visited a demo garden promoting sustainable agricultural systems and environment conservation awareness session and this happened during the world environmental day on 5th June 2014.



Students plant trees during the world environment day 2014



Participants during world Environment Day 2014

The project was made possible
through financial support of;





PARTICIPATORY ECOLOGICAL LAND USE MANAGEMENT (PELUM) KENYA

Physical Address: SACDEP Training Centre, Upper Hill Road

P.O. Box: 6123-01000 Thika, Kenya

Telephone: +254 202622674

Website: www.pelum.net

Email: pelumkenya@pelum.net

Twitter: @pelum-kenya

Facebook: PELUM Kenya