



Environmental, Social and Cultural Issues Affecting ESDM In the East Africa Region and Kenya



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Introduction – Collaborative Initiatives in the E.Africa Region

The East African Community Treaty

- The EA Community Treaty - Signed on November 30th, 1999 and into effect on July 7th 2000. Amended twice (14th Dec 2006 & August 2007).
- The EA Community Countries comprise Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. Kenya, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania are founding members; Burundi and Rwanda ascended to the EAC Treaty in 2009.
- EAC Summit in March 2016 approved admission of South Sudan as a party to the EAC.
- USAID E.Africa portfolio also covers countries that are not part of the EAC – South Sudan, Somali & Ethiopia.

The EA Community Treaty - Overview on Sustainable Development Principles

Article 5 of the objectives of the Treaty, Paragraph 3 commits to the following:

- (a) Ensure the attainment of Sustainable development;
 - (b) Strengthen & consolidate cooperation in agreed fields that would lead to equitable development;
 - (c) Promote sustainable utilization of natural resources of partner states by taking measures that effectively protect the natural environment;
 - (d) Consolidate the long standing political, economic, social, cultural & traditional tiesAnd ensure people centered development
 - (e) Ensure gender mainstreaming
- *under the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 151 of the Treaty, the Partner States undertook to conclude such Protocols as may be necessary in each area of co-operation*

Promoting Sustainable Development in the EA Community Partner States

Several protocols are in place that promote sustainable development. These Include:

- Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources (all aspects including transboundary resources management);
- Protocol on the Sustainable Development of Lake Victoria Basin, signed on 29th November 2003;
- Convention for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, signed on 30th June 1994;
- The Regional Trans Boundary Environment Assessment Guidelines for Shared Ecosystems in East Africa (Adopted by the 9th Council of Ministers Council meeting);
- EAC Climate Change Policy, Strategy and ... E Africa Climate Change Master Plan (2011 – 2030). The Vision of the Master Plan is that Partner states economies' and people are climate resilient and adapt accordingly to climate change.

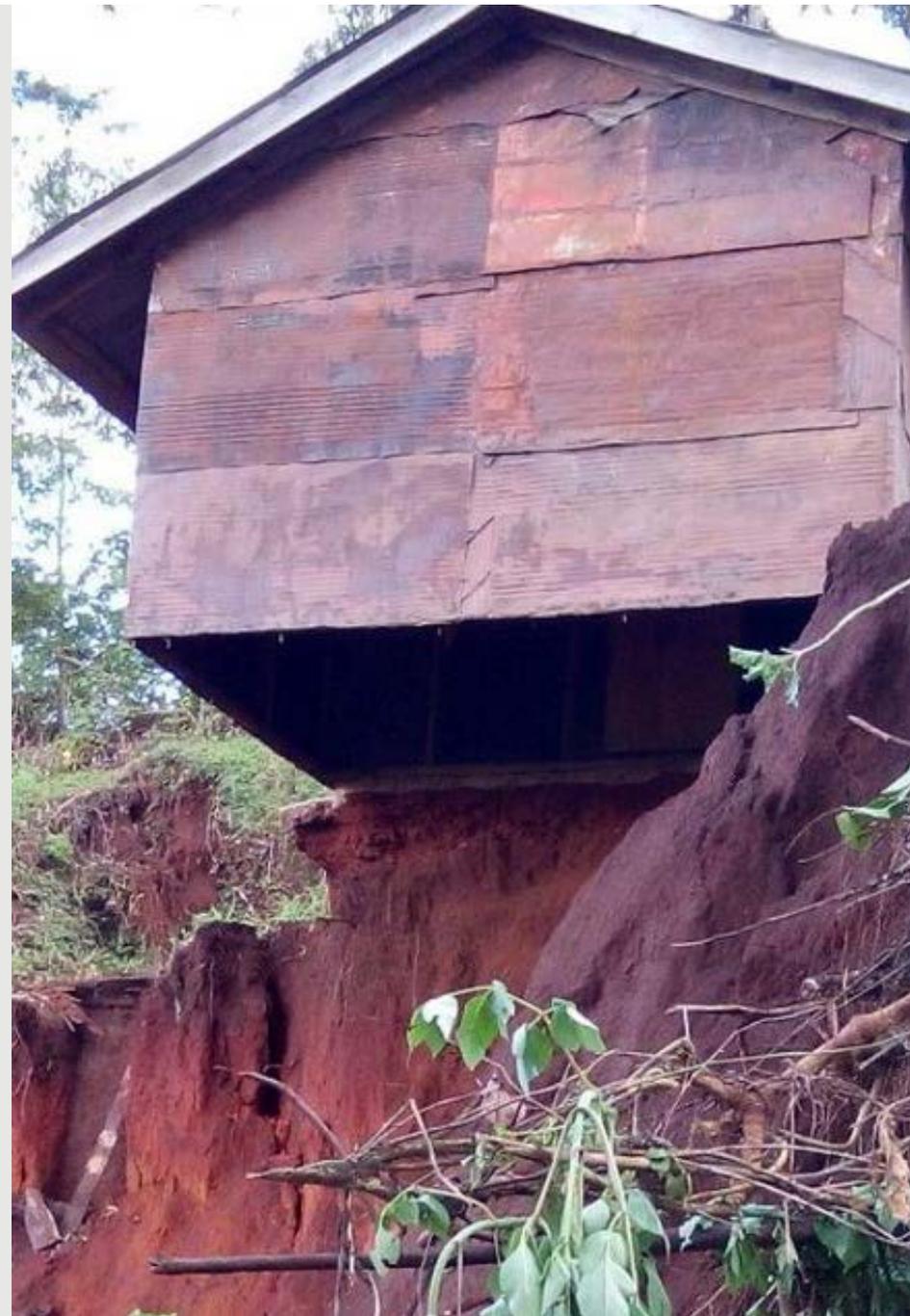
In general, these protocols/conventions are guided by principles such as the right of the people to live in a clean and healthy environment, poverty eradication & food security, precautionary principles, public participation, information sharing, and strategic environmental assessments/EIA, among others.

Examples of ESDM Deficits and Social/Cultural Linkages



Unsustainable agricultural Practices & settlements

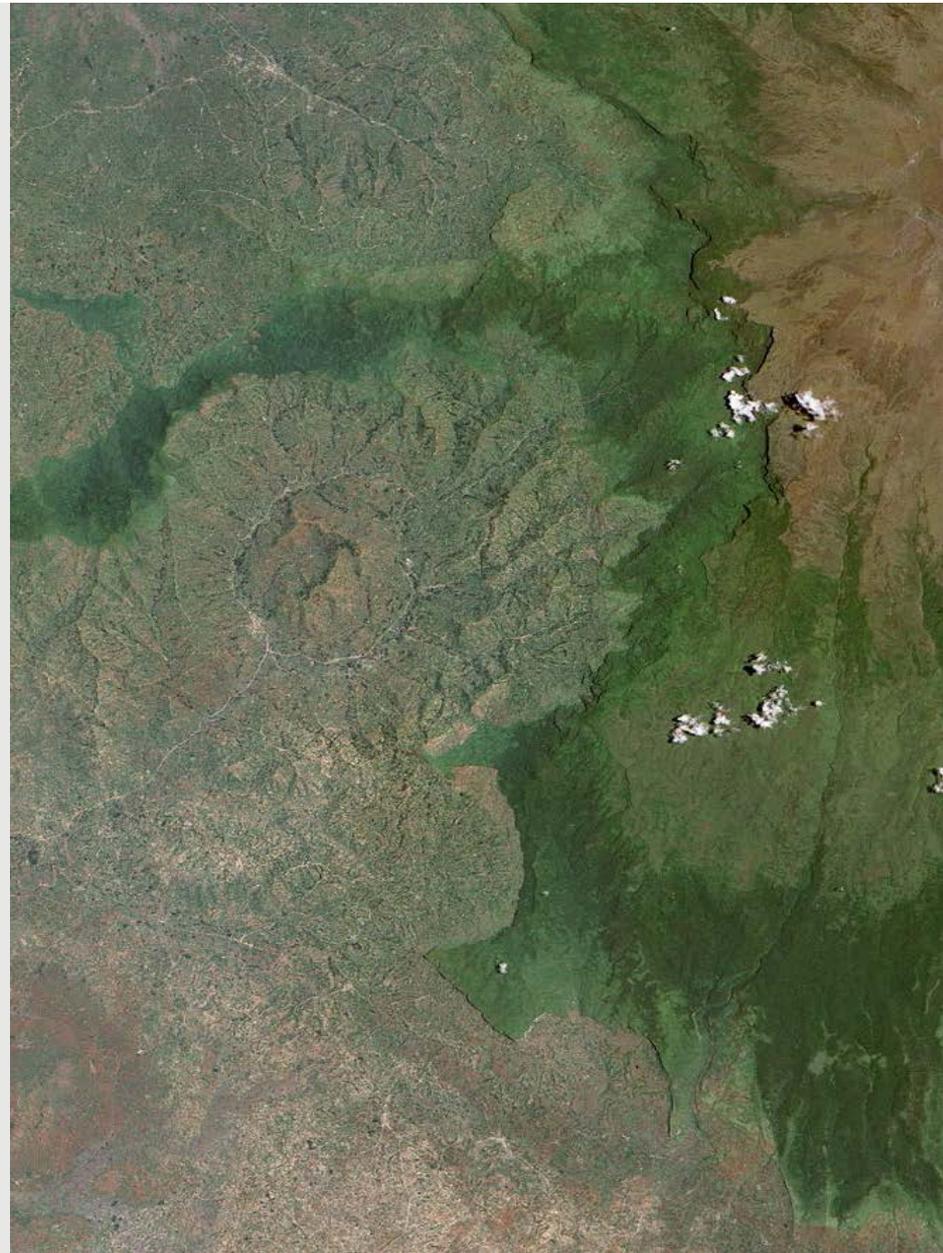
- Flooding & land slides/mudslides leading to loss of life, homes, livelihoods.
- **Examples:**
- Feb, 1994: 5 communes in Bujumbura, Burundi affected by flooding and mudslides
- 2016: several villages in Marakwet & Muranga counties of Kenya affected by landslides/mudslides
- Feb, 2010: Bududa on the slopes of Mt Elgon, Eastern District of Uganda – with a death toll of over 300
- *Photo – Muranga County in Kenya, 2016*



Contributing social/cultural factors

- Causes/triggers – burgeoning population growth, especially in the more arable lands, leads to encroachment of forest/water catchments, wetlands & settlements in flood plains
- Lack of alternative means of livelihood increasing dependency of land
- Poverty

Photo: Satellite image of Bududa, Uganda. The slide area is below the green belt, which is forested and devoid of human settlements



Degradation of Natural Resources (Fisheries, Wildlife, forests & Water)

Over the years, natural resources in the region have degraded due to the following reasons:

- People's dependency on land for livelihoods (farming), which is compounded by a rapidly increasing population;
- Encroachment into forests/catchment areas;
- Lack of skill to manage resources sustainably (for example, furrow irrigation is quite common);
- Community needs for energy contribute to degradation of forests & woodlands;
- Lack of stakeholder participation in NRM that leads to lack of ownership of the resource by the community;
- Local peoples' orientation that hinders them from embracing new, more sustainable methods – for example in the fisheries sector.

Photo of degraded Mau forest, an important catchment area for Kenya, Tanzania & countries downstream of Lake Victoria. Source: www.plant-talk.org



HIV & AIDS

- HIV & AIDS is a common problem in the EAC partner states and seriously hinders socio economic development:

Impacts of HIV & AIDS

- Reduction of a productive labour force
- Poverty (when those in the productive age get sick or die and their children are left under the care of elderly parents)
- More vulnerable children, which further increases the risks
- High cost of treatment, which further impoverishes families
- Increases country's health burden

HIV & AIDS Prevalence (%) within the EAC Partner States

Partner State/YRs	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Burundi	4	4	3	3	3	1	1	1	-	-
Tanzania	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5
Uganda	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7
Kenya	6	5	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	6
Rwanda	3	11	9	11	8	10	10	10	10	-
E.Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: EAC Secretariat (2014): EAC Facts & Figures

Social/cultural factors affecting HIV prevalence

- Using the example of Kenya, 65% of the new HIV infections occur in 9 out of the 47 counties alluding to social cultural issues.

These include:

- Gender inequalities
- Polygamy & widow inheritance
- Vulnerability of young girls especially in areas where traditional early marriages are practiced
- Poverty and food insecurity
- Literacy levels
- Widespread use of alcohol and substance abuse.

Poor Access to Water and Sanitation

- While investments in the provision of access to safe drinking water may be a constraint, there are environmental, social and cultural issues that hinder improvements to access. These include:
- Pollution (including siltation);
- Over-extraction for uses such as agriculture upstream leaves downstream communities with no water, especially during the dry season;
- Open defecation, still common in parts of the region, contaminates water with disease pathogens;
- Implementing water & sanitation projects without an understanding of the social cultural issues have led to some of the facilities being disused;
- However, distribution of surface and ground water resources are skewed, thus affecting access (e.g., in the arid and semi arid regions).

Status of Access to Safe Drinking Water (%) - Overall (Urban & Rural)

Partner State/Yrs	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Burundi	67	67	72	72	72	75	75	79	79	79
Tanzania	68	68	68	68	74	74	74	74	74	74
Uganda	68	68	68	68	68	74	74	74	73	-
Kenya	57	57	57	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Rwanda	47	57	63	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
E.Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: EAC Secretariat , 2015: EAC Facts and Figures

Disaggregated data indicates that access to safe drinking water is much lower in rural areas as compared to urban areas with Kenya and Tanzania having a coverage of 53% and 59% respectively.

Gender Issues

- Non-inclusion of women in key decision making, including NRM (in Kenya, the Constitutional requirement of 30% of each gender is yet to be realized).
- Land ownership (only 5% of women own land in Kenya – women have access but not control, over land thus affecting their ability to make certain decisions).
- Gender gap is much wider among pastoral communities.
- Programming that is not informed by gender considerations may lead to failed projects.

(Discuss – what is the gender situation in the other countries within the EAC partner states as well as in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Somali)

More men growing trees than women, says study



A team of researchers have found out that gender, age, and level of education are the main factors that influence an individual's decision to venture into commercial forestry or not.

In a study recently published in the *International Journal of Research in Business Studies and Management*, scientists found that not as many women as men were venturing into commercial tree growing due to social biases, economic exclusion and lack of equality. Women constitute less than a third of commercial tree growers in Kenya.

The researchers, led by Dr Benson Kanyi, Director, Tree Biotechnology Programme Trust, sought to determine factors that influence a farmer's decision to invest in improved eucalyptus tree varieties for commercial purposes.

Besides gender, the scientists also found that age was an important factor in determining whether an individual will invest in commercial tree growing or not.

years and only 2 per cent below 25 years.

The level of education is also likely to determine whether an individual invests in commercial tree growing or not. While entrepreneurship requires general knowledge, formal education normally increases the knowledge.

In the study, 47 per cent of the commercial tree growers had attained secondary education level, 34 per cent had primary level of education, 16 per cent tertiary level, 2 per cent were university graduates and only 1 per cent had not gone to school.

Kanyi explains why very few graduates venture into commercial tree growing. "University graduates have more chances to become wage earners and/or entrepreneurs and more so, if they are women. The more the women become educated, the more they likely to become wage earners."

Interestingly, access to financial services was not a factor in influencing farmers' decision to invest

Sub-standard urban settlements, proliferation of informal settlements

Social cultural causes

- Absence of Strict Planning Regulations/Zonation and their enforcement
- Weak enforcement of building standards/codes & monitoring of compliance during construction
- Use of personnel with no technical capacity
- Corruption
- Greed
- Poverty

(Photo of a building that collapsed in Huruma, Kenya in April 2016, killing about 50 people after a heavy downpour)



Conflict and Violence

Conflict and violence significantly affects some of the countries under the USAID Portfolio in East Africa (Somali, South Sudan and Burundi)

Some of the factors that lead to conflict are:

- Poor governance
- Limited resources (water, oil, pasture and land)
- Lack of economic opportunities
- Inter clan rivalries/ethnicity
- Cattle rustling

Conflict & Violence (cont'd)

Impacts

- Hunger
- Poverty
- Lack of access to education & health
- Gender inequalities
- Child & maternal mortality
- Lack of access to water and basic sanitation
- Deforestation
- Destruction of infrastructure

Conflict and ESDM

Indicators for some of the listed parameters are worse for Somalia and South Sudan than for the other EAC partner states.

However, conflict can uncover some environmental gems. For example, the migration of the Tiang & White eared kob, which was found to be intact after 22 yrs of conflict, as were elephants in the Sudd wetlands.

Success Story of Integrating Social Cultural Issues in NRM



The Case of Wildlife Conservation in Kenya

A historical Perspective of Wildlife Conservation in Kenya

- During colonial period, strict protectionist principles were used in Kenya.
- After independence, the governments pursued the same protectionist philosophy of the colonial governments.

Problem

- Conservation philosophy alienated the local communities, thus contributing to resource degradation.
- In the 1980's, initiatives to involve local communities started.
- In 1991, there was a complete paradigm shift: The Kenya Wildlife Policy Framework of 1991 acknowledged that, for wildlife to survive, it had to contribute to the social economic development of the local communities.

USAID involvement in Community Participation in Wildlife Conservation

- 1992- 1997 USAID funded KWS implementation of a 5 year program - Conservation of Biodiverse Resource Areas (COBRA).
- Conservation of Resources through Enterprise (CORE) project followed to consolidate the gains of COBRA was implemented by various actors in wildlife conservation.
- Key aspects of the programs included community mobilization, organization into forums, capacity building including exposure trips.
- Today, community conservation is an integral part of wildlife management.

The Situation Today

- Over 140 community conservancies have been established;
- Local communities managing their own resources;
- Over 2,000,000 beneficiaries;
- 7.5M acres (5%) of the country's land area protected through community initiatives;
- 2,500 community scouts engaged (policing for wildlife as well as people security);
- Traditional livelihoods integrated into conservation & tourism;
- Local decision making structures (community elders) integrated into decision making;
- Enhanced peace and security in some of the regions that were previously volatile.

(Photo: landowners meeting while having roast meat)



Way Forward in Achieving ESDM

- Strengthen short & long term planning and integration at the national level;
- Implement national land use plans (where they exist);
- Strengthen EIA and Strategic Environmental Assessments processes;
- Build stakeholder capacity to implement ESDM throughout the project cycle;
- Strengthen monitoring and enforcement of laws, regulations and codes of practice that enhance ESDM;
- Promote activities that provide alternative livelihoods to ease dependence on land & land based resources;
- Strengthen transboundary management of shared resources;
- Continue to raise awareness about ESDM principles.

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