Annual Progress Report to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for Kenya
for the period 1 January – 31 December 2020

United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers a global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The Participants Committee (PC) at its ninth meeting in June 2011 approved UNDP to serve as Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund. The Transfer Agreement was signed between the World Bank, acting as the Trustee of the FCPF, and the UNDP on August 9, 2012.

To ensure a uniform set of safeguard standards, the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners was also approved at the ninth FCPF PC meeting. The Common Approach was designed to provide the World Bank and the Multiple Delivery Partners with a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process. The Common Approach is aligned to the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures on environmental and social safeguards, disclosure of information, and grievance and accountability mechanisms.

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The report has been prepared by UNDP and solely reflects the perspectives of UNDP as a Delivery Partner.

Summary

Country:	Kenya
Project Title:	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grant
Project Number:	00099178
Implementing Partner:	Ministry of Environment and Forestry and UNDP Kenya
Responsible Parties:	Kenya Forestry Service (KFS), National Land Commission (NLC), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Council of Governors (CoG), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet
Implementation Modality:	Country Office support to NIM

Project Timeline			
FCPF PC Resolution Approving R-PP	**Resolution PC/24/2017/10**	Transfer of Funds to Country Office	USD 3,600,000 (Exclusive of GMS)
Preparatory Grant		Inception Phase	Launch: 6 September 2018 PMU Staffed: Yes First Board Meeting: 20 December 2018
Project Appraisal Committee	24 May 2018	Mid-term Review	To be undertaken in 2021
Project Signature	6 July 2018	No-Cost Extension:	☐√ Yes ☐ No
Duration of Project	2 years	New End Date:	December 2021

Approved by:	
Tim Clairs,	**Walid Badawi,**
Principal Policy and Technical advisor UNDP Climate and Forests	UNDP Resident Representative UNDP Office in Kenya
Tim Clairs	[signature]
Date: 02-Jun-2021	Date: 01-Jun-2021

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1. Summary

This annual report gives an overview of project achievements made during the implementation period January-December 2020. It provides insights into the activities carried out and the results achieved during the reporting period. Over this period, UNDP assistance revolved around the strengthening of the policy, legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable natural resource management leading to delivery of key legal frameworks. The REDD+ project provided technical support to the national government for the review of the National Forestry Policy 2016. The revised National Forest Policy will play a fundamental role in guiding the management and sustainable utilisation of forest resources. The policy is an affirmative action towards Kenya's commitment and responsibility to achieve and maintain a 10% forest cover, emphasizing on productive, ecological and environmental services of forest to humanity[1][2]. Through partnerships with county governments, UNDP Kenya further provided technical support to the Council of Governors in the development of the Model Law on Forestry (policy and bill) that will be domesticated by counties to address forestry conservation, protection, and management in Kenya. This will also support the county governments to implement the national policies on forests conservation, management, and the Climate Change Act 2016 and obligates counties to develop county specific policies and legislations on adaptation and deepen the participation of indigenous and local communities in the management of the forest resources[3].

To enhance the county government capacity to conserve, protect and manage forest resources, the REDD+ project supported the development of Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill and Policy, 2020. The bill and policy have been assented by the Governor. The REDD+ project also supported the finalization and printing of the Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy[4]. The REDD+ project supported the Gender Inclusion and Vulnerability Assessment for Forest Dependent Communities in Kenya, whose findings will inform the development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan (NRS-IP).

The REDD+ project further supported the mainstreaming of the Human Rights Approach into forest conservation, protection and management. To this end, the project in partnership with Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) supported the development of the training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in forest conservation, protection, and management for the Kenya Forest Service. The manual has been approved by the Kenya Forest Service Board of Directors and adopted as part of the Kenya Forest Service college course for a certificate in forestry.

Environmental and social safeguards guidelines for Kenya Forest Service projects and programmes were developed. These will go a long way in enhancing social safeguards and institutionalizing the common approach principles propagated by REDD+ in conservation and management of forests. Further, the project supported the strengthening of gender and women engagement in the forest resources conservation,

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[1] http://www.environment.go.ke/?p=7733
[2] FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grant 2020 Q2 Report
[3] Report on the UNDP technical support to Council of Governors during the drafting of the Model Law on Forestry
[4]   https://www.ke.undp.org/content/kenya/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2020/statement-by-walid-badawi--undp-res--rep---at-the-launch-of-elge.html

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protection and management. The project further supported the Greening Kenya Initiative as a strategy towards enhancing tree growing in Kenya and as a contribution towards meeting the target of 10% tree cover in Kenya.

2. Background and Country Context

In 2009 Kenya signaled its willingness to embark on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and applied for Readiness planning funds from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to support the implementation of REDD+ readiness activities under a REDD+ readiness project. The REDD+ project seeks to achieve four main goals: (i) Achieve the Constitutional and *Vision 2030* objectives of increasing national total forest cover to a minimum of 10%; (ii) Support the National Government's efforts to designing policies and measures to protect and improve its remaining forest resources (iii) Achieve the National Climate Change Response Strategy goals; and (iv) Contribute to global climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. In 2016, the World Bank provided Kenya with a REDD+ Readiness grant of USD 3.88 million from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The REDD+ project was planned to run from 01 June 2018 to 30 October 2020. However, following the approval of a No Cost Extension (NCE) the project will run until 31st December 2021. The REDD+ 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 REDD+ 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 sustainable development. This will be achieved through four outcomes, namely:

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

To deliver the project UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry sought collaboration with local and indigenous communities and the national partners including the Kenya Forestry Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), National Land Commission (NLC), Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR), National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC), the Academia, Youths, the Indigenous People's representatives and the private sector through the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA).

As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Over the course of 2020, travel to and from Kenya has been restricted as various times with full lockdowns and curfews imposed between 7 pm to 5 am. This presented an unprecedented challenge to the REDD+ project implementation, slowing down the project delivery and achievement of planned results. Meetings that required face to face participation were

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suspended and the Project team had to adopt new project implementation modalities through virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams where possible. This curtailed most stakeholders' face to face consultations activities which were programmed to happen through physical meetings. Engagement through virtual platforms presents further risks of leaving out forest dependent and indigenous communities most of whom have weak or no access to internet. The government has been gradually relaxing some of these restrictions, by allowing some restricted meetings with limited number of participants and observing safety guidelines as provided by the WHO and the Ministry of Health.

During the reporting period, the REDD+ project was implemented in a context of devastating climatic conditions. In 2020 the effects of climate change continued to be felt across the entire East African region with Kenya experiencing higher than normal rainfall across the country causing floods, landslides, rising water levels in lakes and rivers. In Baringo county, the rising water levels displaced more than 5,000 people in 2020, submerging homes, schools, roads, hospitals, farmlands, and even entire islands[5]. Floods left sixteen people dead in Elgeyo Marakwet and over 2,000 families displaced in the counties of Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Laikipia, Nyeri and Kiambu. In the north of the country, flooding from the Tana river in Garissa and Tana River counties caused major floods after heavy rain in river attachments in the highlands of Ethiopia[6]. In Busia county over 800,000 people were displaced by flooding[7], while in West Pokot county a landslide struck Weiwei, destroying roads, limiting access, and burying at least five houses with two people dead[8].

Despite the challenging context, UNDP developed strategic and innovative approaches that helped to mitigate the negative effects on implementation. Some of the mitigation measures to address the above challenges included:

i)   ***Collaboration with other UN agencies***: UNDP leveraged on its comparative advantage and core competencies of other United Nations agencies such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and other key stakeholders and partners to strengthen and enhance its mandate on delivering the project, especially on the human rights-based approach and delivery of the report of the Ogiek Taskforce.

ii) ***Partnership Building***: UNDP involved the National Land Commission (NLC) and the National Gender and Equity Commission (NGEC) to facilitate dialogue platforms with the minority and marginalized communities on historical injustices on land tenure. This facilitated efforts to clarify the perceptions by communities on the role of REDD+ process and the historical land injustices claims.

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[5] https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/8/30/why-kenyas-rift-valley-lakes-are-going-through-a-crisis.
[6] http://floodlist.com/africa/kenya-floods-north-central-regions-may-2020
[7] http://floodlist.com/africa/floods-on-record-high-lake-victoria-expose-need-for-water-cooperation

[8] (http://floodlist.com/africa/kenya-landslide-westpokot-october-2020

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iii) ***Capacity building****:* UNDP continued to strengthen capacity building interventions for key stakeholders as part of the REDD+ readiness process through information sharing and knowledge management on REDD+, policy and legislation development.

iv) ***Focus on consultation and project activities with minorities and communities***: UNDP ensured that the implementation of the project included a broad stakeholder's consultation, engagement and outreach aimed at integrating minorities rights (land, natural resources access and benefits).

v) ***Political Support****:* The Ministry of Environment and Forestry continued to play its mandate as the Implementing Partner (IP) for the project which allowed high level ministerial coordination and buy-in from all stakeholders including forest dependent communities. In addition, high-level engagement during project implementation between the UNDP Resident Representative's office and the Kenyan Government's leadership was secured. This included engagement of the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Ministry of Planning and Devolution, the National Museums, National Land Commission, the Gender and Equality Commission, and the Human Rights Commission. Participation of these institutions and community representatives in the REDD+ process assured the political goodwill and support required for the REDD+ process both in the readiness phase and at implementation.

3. Project Partners and Stakeholders

The following are the implementing partners for the REDD+ project:

i) Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)
ii) Kenya Forestry Service (KFS)
iii) Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)
iv) Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
v) National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC)
vi) National Land Commission (NLC)
vii) Council of Governors
viii) County Government of Elgeyo Marakwet
ix) National Alliance of Community Forest Associations (NACOFA)
x) The Private Sector – Kenya Private Sector Alliance and Kenya Association of Manufacturers
xi) Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples

4. Progress of implementation of the 2020 work plan

4.1 Achievements during 2020

4.1.1 Development of County Model Laws and Regulations

During the reporting period, the REDD+ project supported the Council of Governors in the development of the model law on forestry (Bill, Policy and accompanying regulations) for domestication and customization by counties to address forestry conservation, protection and management in Kenya. The model laws will guide the devolved forestry functions which are fundamental in forest conservation in Kenya, and which constitute a fundamental part of the National Climate Change Action Plan, the National Climate Change Response Strategy, National

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REDD+ Process and the Kenya National Forest Programme 2016-2030. Specifically, the model law aims at providing a framework for the implementation of forestry and tree growing functions at county level, mainstreaming of Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in the design and implementation of sustainable forest conservation, protection and management; putting in place mechanisms for public participation of communities, land owners, and enhancing investments in the forestry sector with the participation of communities, development partners, private sector in tree growing activities at county level. Further, the model laws and regulations seek to provide a framework for the counties to mobilise resources for their forestry and free growing programmes and mainstreaming climate change interventions and other relevant climate change mitigation initiatives into county-based programmes. The model law will also supports the county governments to implement the national policies on forests conservation, management and Climate Change Act 2016 which obligates counties to develop county specific policies and legislations on adaptation and mitigation which will incorporate the participation of communities in the counties including the indigenous and local communities in the management of the forest resources.

4.1.2 Development of REDD+ Anti-Corruption Guidelines.

Led by the Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), the Council of Governors (COG) and implementing partners, the REDD+ project facilitated and provided technical support for the development of Ethics and Integrity (anti-corruption) guidelines for application in forest governance. The development of these guidelines involved in-depth consultations with various stakeholders including the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Wildlife Service, Transparency International, various community-based organization (CBO)s, the private sector, and indigenous people through consultative meetings. The development of the guidelines drew from international best practice in line with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The anti-corruption guidelines outline principles and strategies for REDD+ implementing partners towards eradication of corruption throughout the REDD+ programme cycle. The guidelines 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.

4.1.3 Gender Inclusion and Vulnerability Assessment for Forest Dependent Communities in Kenya.

The REDD+ project facilitated and provided technical support to the gender inclusion and vulnerability assessment aimed at assessing 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; including analyzing the perceptions of communities on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; examining 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.

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The findings from the gender inclusion assessment revealed that the lack of a comprehensive and collaborative approach in gender inclusion in the forest sector is a barrier to women's full participation in forest resources conservation, protection, and management. The assessment revealed that local and indigenous communities have a wealth of knowledge on forest resources and its management, and that both men and women perceive and use forest resources differently. The study further revealed that various forest resources are the basic sources of livelihood for forest dependent communities with women livelihoods closely associated with forest resources such as water, fuelwood, herbs and vegetables, fruits, grass for thatching and special soil for aesthetics to meet household needs. However, men looked at forest resources from a commercial and cultural use perspective, such as grazing land, timber and poles for construction, beekeeping, burning of charcoal, space to brew alcohol, sacred sites to perform ritual and cultural ceremonies, water for animals and farming, and wild animals.

The findings, lessons learned and recommendations from the Gender Inclusion Assessment for Forest Dependent Communities in Kenya will be used to inform the development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan (NRS-IP) that will guide the implementation of REDD+. Recommendations from the assessment also informed the gender provisions and policy recommendations in the National Forest Policy 2021 draft, and the Environmental and Social Safeguards Guidelines for Kenya Forest Service projects and programmes.

4.1.4 **Mainstreaming of Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in forest conservation, protection and management report.**

During the reporting period, the REDD+ project supported the development of the training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) into forest conservation, protection, and management for the Kenya Forest Service Board of Director. The training manual was developed through a highly consultative process led by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) in close collaboration with the Kenya Forest Services. With the technical support from KNCHR and in collaboration with KFS, the HRBA manual on forest conservation, protection, and management has been adopted by all forest conservation and climate change actors to enhance the mainstreaming of the human rights in the REDD+ process to enable communities to know their rights but also understand their responsibilities and the obligations of the government. This has helped boost the element of sustainable peace between the indigenous people and the national government. The training manual aims to enhance awareness of the county and national governments officials, the CSOs, indigenous people and the private sector on the link between forest conservation and human rights protection. The Human Rights-Based Approach to conservation and protection manual provides an opportunity to better understand the linkages between human rights and forest conservation and protection. It provides opportunities to enhance capacity building support for national and local officers, CSOs and local media on the linkages between climate change, forest protection and human rights.

In mainstreaming human rights in forest conservation, the training manual is rooted on the fact that every person in Kenya has the right to a clean and healthy environment which includes the

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right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations. It is aligned with the Constitution of Kenya 2010 in Article 69 which seeks to ensure the sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources. It affirms that the State shall work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least 10% percent of the land area of Kenya.

The integration and mainstreaming of the HRBA manual in forest conservation, protection, and management was achieved through enhancing capacity building, knowledge development, and skills enhancement of KFS officers. The strategic approach was to sensitize and build capacity of climate change actors in Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in forest conservation, protection, and management. The mainstreaming of the human rights in forest conservation through HRBA places emphasis on the Kenya Constitution and other legal frameworks in forest conservation, protection, and management.

To mainstream the HRBA to forest conservation, protection, and management UNDP supported the Training of Trainers (TOT) (10 females and 22 males). The training targeted the lecturers at the Kenya Forest College, conservancy commanders and the senior management of Kenya Forest Service. The Kenya Forest Service Board has since approved the manual curriculum and the guidelines that have now been institutionalized in the Kenya Forest Service and the Kenya Forest College.

4.1.5   Development of National Forest Policy

In partnership with UNDP, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry commissioned the review of the draft 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, enhancing private sector investment in the forest sector.

One fundamental achievement through the review of the National Forest Policy 2016 is the establishment of the National Forest Regulatory Authority which will be charged with regulating the forest sector and setting standards in Kenya. This is the first time since 1957 (since independence in 1963) that Kenya has established a National Forest Regulatory Authority. The establishment of the regulatory authority came through the recommendation that was made during the development of the new National Forest Policy.

The new 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 of the national forest initiatives to enable the sector to contribute to the achievement of the country's growth and poverty

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alleviation goals within a sustainable environment. The new Forest Policy is designed to mainstream forest conservation, protection and management into national land use systems. It outlines the reconfiguration of forest governance and management arrangements for efficient running of the forestry sector, clarifying the division of responsibilities between public sector institutions where the ministry responsible for forestry provides an oversight role in national forest policy formulation, and oversight function of the sector, thereby allowing the implementing agencies to focus on the management of forests on public and community lands; and the role of the County governments in implementing national policies, county forest programmes including the delivery of forest extension services to communities, farmers and private land owners, and management of forests other than those under state agencies. It articulates the devolution of community forest conservation and management, deepening community participation in forest management through elaborate strategies and financing, and provision for benefit-sharing and power sharing arrangements.

The new Forest Policy will guide the 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 will enhance the competitiveness of Kenya's commercial forestry sector with the aim of securing increased investment in forest plantations, wood processing and value addition. It will ensure adoption and adaptation of an ecosystem approach in the management of forests, and recognition of customary rights, the vulnerable and marginalized groups, and user rights that support sustainable forest management and conservation. The new Forest Policy will strengthen the incorporation of natural capital and green accounting into the computation of the gross domestic product through the valuation of ecosystem services including climate change adaptation and mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

The new Forest Policy is designed to enhance the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in forest management through Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) to minimize the impacts of climate change and contribute towards achieving forestry related NDC Targets. It will support the establishment of national programmes to support community forest management and afforestation/reforestation on community and private land while building a framework for national standards for forest management and utilization, and the development of codes of conduct for professional forestry associations. It aims to introduce a chain-of-custody system for timber and wood products, and legal origin and compliance certificates for exporters of timber and wood products.

4.1.6 Development and assenting of the Nyeri County Forest Management and Conservation Bill and Policy

The REDD+ 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

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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 has been assented to by the Nyeri County Governor. The Policy will facilitate legal and regulatory reforms that promote sustainability of the environment and forest resources, facilitate transition to green growth and chart ways of mitigating and adapting to climate change. More specifically, the Policy shall: (a) protect and restore the community forests for the benefit of the present and future generations; (b) increase forest and tree cover in Nyeri County to enhance social-economic benefits of Nyeri people and a healthy environment; (c) promote innovation and appropriate technologies for sustainable utilization of forest resources; (d) strengthen the institutional framework for efficient management of forest resources and effective service delivery; (e) promote research and innovations in forestry for enhanced environmental sustainability; (f) promote participatory methods to enhance sustainable management of forests.

4.1.7 Finalization and printing of the Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy

The REDD+ project supported the finalization of the development of Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy and its printing. The Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Management Policy seeks to provide the legal and institutional framework for the sustainable management of forest resources and trees outside forests. 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. The policy provides mechanisms for expansion of forestry and tree growing on public, private and community land and enhances integration of forestry and tree growing into rural and urban land management. It ensures soil and biodiversity protection during land use activities, promotes the development of the socio-economic and environmental value of forests and contributes to the constitutional obligation for Kenya to maintain a minimum national tree cover of 10% of the land area. The policy entrenches public participation in decision making, and for connected purposes.

On the other hand, the Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act will govern all plans, measures, and activities to enhance the ecosystem services available from land, forests, and trees within the county; and provide a county-level framework to guide and govern the implementation of the sustainable forestry and tree growing policy, including through the County Integrated Development Plan, Sectoral Plans with meaningful public consultations and awareness. It will seek to establish an institutional mechanism to exercise oversight over all forestry and tree growing activities in the Elgeyo Marakwet while enhancing the mainstreaming of a human rights approach in the design and implementation of sustainable forestry and tree growing activities in the county. The act will establish mechanisms for the County to fully engage with, and support indigenous peoples in realizing their community land rights, and promote mechanisms for local communities and landowners to participate in forestry and tree growing in a sustainable manner. The act will enhance the establishment and strengthening of institutional structure at the county

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level to support coordination, mainstreaming and implementation of forest and tree growing planning, measures, and activities. It will put in place strategies, actions and interventions to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity, enhancing climate change resilience through forestry and tree growing activities. It will provide mechanisms to catalyze the County's transition to cleaner energy sources to lower pressure on forests and trees and provide incentives for the public, communities and private sector involvement in taking up forestry and tree growing activities including investments.

The **Elgeyo Marakwet County Forest Management and Conservation Act** promotes participation, ownership and oversight of the County's forestry and tree growing activities and integrate implementation of meaningful public consultation and awareness in all elements of forestry decision by the county government and provision of feedback to the public on the impact the consultation had on decision making. The Act will provide a framework for the County to mobilize resources for its forestry and tree growing actions and ensure effective and transparent utilization of the resources while integrating the mainstreaming of gender considerations across all aspects of the County's forestry and tree growing actions, including specific roles for women; provide mechanisms for engagement of youth, and the role of children as the bridge between generations, in sustainable forestry and tree growing actions. It seeks to enhance research and use of science and technology in policy decisions and sustainable management of resources. It will ensure the preservation and utilization of indigenous and traditional knowledge to inform decision making, and support the collection of scientific and other information, data, impacts, actions, mainstreaming, effect of climate change interventions and other relevant aspects to inform county decision making, and for sharing with the national government.

4.1.8   Engagement of Youth on REDD+ Readiness and Nature Based Entrepreneurship

The REDD+ project supported the organization of a meeting of 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 discussed their role in contributing to REDD+ readiness process, the national 10% tree cover and opportunities available for youth engagement and participation. The youth shared share 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 team of 70 participants were selected from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya Forest Service, National Gender and Equality Commission, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, National Environmental Trust Fund, Youth Enterprise Fund and other youth projects across the country. The youth made different innovative climate change related presentations to showcase their involvement in the REDD+ process in Kenya, as follows:

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- The role of the youth in forest protection, conservation and management, and the constitutional target of 10% tree cover by 2022.
- 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. They learned how actor's relationships with each other affect their roles in the value chains.
- 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.
- 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.
- Youth and Environmental Entrepreneurship, a youth Enterprise Fund perspective.
- Sustainable employment through paper recycling - The youth learned about how decent employment can be created through recycling industry.
- 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.
- Turning trash into treasure continuum programme - A youth lead organization that works with the youth to recycle waste materials for income generation.
- 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.

4.1.9   Fostering stronger partnerships and sustainability

Fostering improved relationships between government institutions and forest dependent communities regarding forest management was enhanced through the engagement of more than 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 through community consultative forums in various community stations. 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 REDD+ Strategy as well as the safeguards information system. These deliverables 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

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January 2020.[9] UNDP provided technical support to a multi-stakeholder engagement forum led 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.

UNDP was instrumental in building working and harmonious relationship between forest dependent communities, Kenya Forest Service (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 an 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.

4.1.10 Greening Kenya Initiative

[10]. In support to this initiative, the REDD+ project engaged the public through a media campaign as a means to sensitize the general public on the importance of increasing the national 10% tree cover to curb deforestation[11]. In addition, the REDD+ project 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[12].

The REDD+ project 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[13]

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[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

[10] Readiness 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

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

[13] 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

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4.1.11 Challenges

- On the 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Travel to and from Kenya has been restricted since 6 April 2020 with full lockdowns and curfews imposed between 7 pm to 5 am up to 1 August 2020. This presented an unprecedented challenge to FCPF REDD+ project implementation, slowing down the project delivery and achievement of planned results. Since then, PMU have been working remotely. Meetings that required face to face participation were suspended and the PMU adopted new project implementation modalities through virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams where possible.

- With the national government and its multilateral and bilateral development partners facing challenges of revenue flow due to COVID-19, there are possibilities of donors cutting down on their foreign aid programmes budget and FCPF REDD+ process could be negatively affected. This has the potential to negatively affect the project sustainability by rolling back the gains made during the implementation of the REDD+ project. The PMU has scaled up resources mobilization to enhance project sustainability including cost sharing modalities to ensure commitment by the national government for the budgetary allocations for the FCPF REDD+ process.

- The technological applications for data collection and lessons learning are within the existing needs of the people. The use of social media like twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, and e-mails to pass advocacy messages and convening meetings remain widely acceptable to the REDD+ project stakeholders. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has witnessed the REDD+ project embracing new technology to conduct project implementation, monitoring and evaluation through virtual platforms like Zoom and Teams. However, the challenge lies in areas without internet connectivity, marginalized groups without telephone handsets and those without skills to operate android phone or computers have remained marginalized. This mode of operation 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 and consultations process. Whenever the government scaled down COVID-19 measures the PMU ensured all laid down preventive measures were followed whenever physical meetings were held.

5.0 Kenya's Progress Towards REDD+ Readiness

During the year, Kenya made significant progress towards REDD+ Readiness. The progress made under each of the components is summarized below:

Sub-component	Status as at December 31, 2020
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation	
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	**Completed** A National REDD+ Coordinator has been designated by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and supported by the UNDP FCPF REDD+ Readiness project with IT equipment for office and communication. The REDD+ Readiness Project Steering Committee has been operationalized. The REDD+ Readiness Project PMU has been 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. A TWG with three subcommittees has been established to support the PMU in implementation of the project.
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	**Completed** One dialogue with communities on land rights, land tenure claims was held during the year 2020. Stakeholder engagement was 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 total of 17.9K through twitter, over 25 million on radio and television. Articles are also posted on UNDP and Ministry of Environment websites.
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation	
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan	

Sub-component	Status as at December 31, 2020
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	**Progressing well but further development is required:** A review of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land and environmental governance related to REDD+ implementation in Kenya was initiated. Further an assessment of all REDD+ related laws was conducted, and 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 recommendations in these two processes will be included in the REDD+ National Strategy and further inform the Investment plan.
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	**Progressing well but further development is required:** National Gender assessment has been completed. The assessment covered 27 counties and have identified various recommendations for inclusion in the REDD+ National Strategy and design of various policies and programmes in the forestry sector to improve the participation of women and youths in the management and conservation of forests. Analytical studies on private sector engagement and nesting, REDD+ finance, benefits sharing, integration of land use planning in county integrated development plans, review of the drivers of deforestation, issues and options, and stakeholder engagement have been initiated. Further drafting of the REDD+ National Strategy and Investment Plan have been initiated. The REDD+ National Strategy is expected to be completed in the month of June 2021.
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	**Progressing well but further development is required:** Review of the National Forest Policy has been initiated and approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. A key significant policy recommendation in the revised forest Policy is the forest Regulatory Authority proposed to facilitate standards setting for payment of ecosystem services among other functions. The policy is scheduled for submission to Cabinet. The draft policy has been developed through a participatory process. Further a Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 draft has been developed for submission to Parliament.
Sub-component 2d:	**Further development is required:** A Summary of safeguards Information (SoI) and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will be conducted, accompanying the development of

Sub-component	Status as at December 31, 2020
Social and Environmental Impacts	the REDD+ National Strategy options and incorporated in the National REDD+ Strategy. Procurement of a firm has been initiated.
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	**completed** The Forest Refence Level was finalised and published by UNFCCC on 23rd December 2020[14]. The FRL was developed with support from Japan-funded CADEP. The project management unit and the climate and forest team provided technical review support. This FRL was informed by extensive interaction with the Technical Assessment Teams, which identified key issues to be included in the FRL.
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	**Further development required:** A draft National forest monitoring system 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 will support stakeholder's consultation and technical review through the technical working group.
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	**Further development required:** Benefit Sharing Mechanism study is conducted as part of the development of the REDD+ National Strategy and this will contribute to the SIS. Terms of Reference for development of a REDD+ SIS and procurement is ongoing. The development of the SIS is expected to be completed in Q3 of 2021.

6.0 Risks, issues and responses

The following risks were identified both during the design and implementation of the project. They have been closely monitored and mitigated appropriately.

Issues/risks	Mitigation Measures	Proposed Date of	Responsibility

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[14] https://unfccc.int/documents/267566

		action	
Resistance of marginalized communities/ indigenous people to the project citing fear of evictions	Build ownership of recommendations by indigenous communities and their representatives through sustained dialogue with the Ministry of Environment and independent commissions	Project period (continuous)	PMU, KNHRC, NLC, ME&F
Plans to build new infrastructure that may threaten forest areas	The project has engaged with the National Treasury, Ministry of Water, and county governments in discussing the planned projects, EIAs and alternatives. The project and the Country Office maintain close liaison with the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Environment to raise this agenda with the Presidency and enable dialogue regarding the above.	January 2019 – December 2021 Ongoing	PMU, ME&F, Council of Governors
Corona Virus pandemic occasioned delay in project implementation	The pandemic may hamper physical engagement with stakeholders, thereby derailing key activities planned under the project. Government has restricted public gatherings, dawn to dusk curfew and cessation of movement from 5 main COVID 19 infected counties making program implementation difficult (Nairobi, Kwale, Kilifi, Mandera and Mombasa). The project will i) monitor development around the pandemic, ii) identify activities which can be undertaken through virtual channels, Iii), facilitate stakeholders with data bundles to enable participation in project activities, and iv) institute weekly meetings to review progress.	January – December 2020	PMU, ME&F
Poor quality data for National Forest Monitoring System, National Forest Reference Emission Levels and general monitoring of	Undertake robust data quality control through the PSC and stakeholder consultative meetings. The Project and the Ministry have also established a National Expert Group to crate linkage with other REDD+ and carbon projects and national institutions with reporting mandate	September 2019 – December 2020	PMU, ME&F

REDD+ activities	to facilitate the quality reporting.		
Exclusion of potentially affected stakeholders, marginalized groups and women in the design of policies and measures on the broader forestry sector	Partnership building with National Land Commission and National Gender and Equality Commission. The project has also established a working group to review all products and policies supported by the project.	September 2019 – December 2021	PMU, ME&F
Coordination gaps among government agencies	High level engagement between the Resident Representative and leadership of KFS, KWS, MEF, NLC, NGEC, EACC and KNCHR. A working group of County Committee on Environment and Forestry matters have also been recommended in the county Model law drafted in partnership with COG and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.	September 2019 – December 2021	PMU, ME&F
Elite capture of forestry processes	Grievance and redress mechanisms developed and included in the TORs of the project steering committee. Regular rotation of representatives of local communities and marginalized groups through inclusive self-selection processes. Information is shared widely to stakeholders, feedback to queries and grievances are discussed during the TWG and with IPLCs representatives	September 2019 – December 2021	PMU, ME&F
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 leadership.	September 2019 – December 2021	PMU, ME&F

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7.0 Progress in addressing key capacity issues of the Programme Management unit (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this project.

The project management unit is fully constituted with the recruitment of the Project Associate in April 2020 and replacement of the Technical Specialist and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists in October 2020. This has enhanced implementation of the project.

8.0 Progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the project. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach? Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

In line with the common approach, the stakeholder's engagement guidelines and the free prior and informed consent guidelines developed previously with support of the UN-REDD programme, have been applied in the development and implementation of the project. Relevant stakeholders' constituencies, including local communities and indigenous peoples, were involved in the implementation of the project and the project steering committee. The guidelines and elements of the common approach have been adopted within the Kenya Forest Service for the first time. This is a key success towards sustaining the safeguards approach for REDD+ implementation in Kenya but also implementation of all other programmes in the forestry sector.

9.0 Progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, and disclosure of information and the FGRM, related to this project

All information generated within the Project have been uploaded onto the UNDP website. These documents are available for public scrutiny. The existence of these documents is reiterated to participants in all events and meetings related to the project. Social networks are also used to disseminate the activities carried out within the project, in coordination with the counterparts.

10.0 Financial Delivery

The table below provides cumulative financial progress of the project on planned, committed and disbursed funds, including all cumulative disbursements for the year 2020.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS				
OUTPUTS	Amount Transferred by UNDP	Cumulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2020		
		Commitments (B)	Disbursements (C)	Total Expenditures* (D) = B + C
Output 1 - National REDD + Strategy and investment plan	1,568,000	28,850	1,022,052	1,050,902.64

Output 2 - Capacity for effective efficient implementation of REDD+ Strategy	515,663	0	535,663	535,663
Output 3: An Operational SIS, SESA, ESMF	250,000	0	28,849.94	28,849.94
Output 4 - Technical Advisory support to consolidate and refine FREL/FRL and MRV +	140,000	0	119,297.54	119,297.54
Project implementation	1,042,838	0	627,948.91	627,948.91
Monitoring and Evaluation	83,500	0	0	0
Total	**3,600,000**	**28,850**	**2,333,811.**	**2,362,661**

*Note: GMS not included

11.0 Project in pictures

Plate 1: Launch of the Elgeyo Marakwet Forest Policy- UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Walid Badawi presents the policy to Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Nr. Alex Tolgos

Plate 2: Youths taking part of the experiential leaning at the Kasigau REDD+ project initiative in Voi; Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Communications

Plate 3: Participants of the women training workshop in Voi. Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Team

Plate 4: Participant at the stakeholder meeting in Voi giving a presentation on the importance of stakeholder engagement. Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Tea

Plate 5: Chief Conservator of Forests Kenya Forest Service – Mr. Julius Kamau with the media personnel at the Media training session; Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Communications

Plate 6: Review of the HRBA Manual and Curriculum by the team from Kenya Forest Service and Kenya National Human Rights Commission in Mombasa; Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Communication

Plate 7: Council of Governors Chief Environment Members are the review of the County Model Forest Policy; Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Communications

Plate 4:The Permanent Secretary Dr. Chris Kiptoo and Chief Administrative Secretary Mr. Mohamed Elmi of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry at the review of the National Forestry Policy; Photo credit – REDD+ Readiness Project Communications

Photo credits: REDD+ Team