

<b>Name:</b>	<b>17. KIKUYU ESCARPMENT FOREST</b>		
<b>Region</b>	Africa	<b>Country</b>	Kenya
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Forest & woodland		
<b>Nature of approach</b>	Implementation of EBA measures (natural resource management, diversifying livelihoods, changing management practices)		
<b>Description of approach</b>	<p><b>Objective/Expected outcomes</b> Kenya's Kikuyu Escarpment Forest in the country's central highlands provides water, fuelwood, herbal medicine and building materials for more than 200,000 local people. The impacts of climate change are already being felt including through recent extended dry periods, resulting in reduced crop yields. An increase in unsustainable activities, such as illegal timber harvesting, overgrazing and charcoal burning, is thought to be a direct result of reduced crop yields. This has serious consequences, including resource conflicts between communities linked to reduced water levels.</p> <p>The project set out to prevent further forest loss and associated degradation of the services provided by the forest, by helping communities to diversify their livelihoods and in parallel, reducing their vulnerability to climate change.</p> <p><b>Actions</b> Through activities to increase community awareness, and training and support to develop more diverse strategies for coping with periods of drought, the communities considered alternative livelihood options including agroforestry, crop diversification, eco-agricultural practices such as bee-keeping, grazing management, and keeping livestock that are better adapted to the harsher climate.</p> <p><b>Results achieved</b> Residents have embraced sustainable activities that conserve and create diverse ecosystems, and, in turn, improve water conservation and filtration. The forest is also easily accessible from Nairobi, and has excellent potential for ecotourism.</p> <p><b>Lessons learned (particularly highlighting the benefits and challenges related with ecosystem-based approach)</b> Agroforestry is often considered more acceptable to communities than large scale reforestation, because traditional agricultural commodities can continue to be produced through modification of existing farming practices.</p>		
<b>Type of organisation</b>	NGO; Government	<b>Name of organisation:</b>	Nature Kenya (BirdLife in Kenya), Kenya Forest Service
<b>Further information and contact details</b>	<p><a href="http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/casestudy/281">http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/casestudy/281</a></p> <p><a href="#">Birdlife 2009 Partners with Nature: How healthy ecosystems are helping the world's most vulnerable adapt to climate change. Netherlands: Birdlife.</a></p> <p>David Kuria , BirdLife African Partnership Secretariat, <a href="mailto:Resource.Centre@Birdlife.or.ke">Resource.Centre@Birdlife.or.ke</a></p>		