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Sida Decentralised Evaluation

Dr Richard Bagine

The Non-State Actors Facility - Pact - Kenya (ACT!) Mid-Term Evaluation Report

Final Report

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September 2013

Dr Richard Bagine

Authors: Dr Richard Bagine

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SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Address: S-105 25 Stockholm, Sweden. Office: Valhallavägen 199, Stockholm

Telephone: +46 (0)8-698 50 00. Telefax: +46 (0)8-20 88 64

E-mail: info@sida.se. Homepage: <http://www.sida.se>

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACT	Act Change Transform
API	Advocacy Progression Index
ASCU	Agricultural Sector Coordination Unit
CFAs	Community Forest Associations
CIWOCH	Centre for Indigenous Women and Children
CRM	Changieni Rasili- Mali
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DfID	Department for International Development
EMCA	Environmental Management Coordination Act
ENRM	Environment and Natural Resources
FOLO	Friends of Lake Ol bolosat Association
FPI	Farm Practice Initiative
GOSw	Government of Sweden
GRADIF-K	Grassroots Development Initiatives Foundation – Kenya
HSHC	Help Self Help Centre
KCCWG	Kenya Climate Change Working Group
KEFRI	Kenya Forest Research Institute
KFS	Kenya Forest Service
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Society
MERL	Monitoring Evaluation Reporting and Learning
MTR	Midterm Review
NCCRS	National Climate Change Response Strategy
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NSAs	Non-State Actors
OCA	Organisation Capacity Assessment
ONA	Organisation Network Assessment
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
WASREB	Water Service Regulatory Board
WRM	Water Resource Management
WRUAs	Water Resource Users Association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Sweden awarded a grant to ACT! (formerly Pack Kenya) in April 2011 to create a new platform for cooperation with non-state actors in Kenya in the natural resources sector. In August 2011 the UKAid provided additional funding to the programme. This has enabled ACT! to use her central role in Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) to create conducive environment to engage Non State Actors as partners to implement the Changieni Rasili-Mali (CRM) facility objectives. The development goal of the programme is: *“Improved participation by citizens, including the poor, in the governance and sustainable utilization of natural resources in Kenya”*.

The mid- term evaluation was carried out between the Month of July and September 2013 and was conducted at four levels (Development partners - donor, ACT! CRM Facility manager, Implementing partners/grantees and beneficiaries - communities) in which data was collected and analyzed. Changieni Rasili-Mali Facility has issued 57 grants to various Non State Actors, ranging from community based organizations, self-help groups, women groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Faith Based organisations (FBOs), private sector organizations and networks spread in 43 counties across Kenya.

The review has noted that the facility has so far influenced NSAs adoption of integrative approach to ENRM through advocacy and increased capacities to undertake well thought-out programmes on specific thematic areas. ACT! Key engagement is on Capacity development of its partners with focus on enhancing their skills on advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, leadership and governance, and finance and grants management. In response to this, the partners ranged their activities from supporting the review, drafting of Bills and legislation to enhance communities’ involvement in various reform agendas at national, county and local levels. The support was by activities of strengthening communities through sensitization and increasing the knowledge of the communities at the local level to engage on specific interventions and working with partners to lobby the County level government agencies and departments for provision of services.

Within the two years of implementation, the facility has achieved some good milestones. The most notable successes of the Facility is the extent at which organizations that have good ideas and connections to the community but lacked institutional capacity have been embraced and grown to a position where they not only impact community’s ENRM issue but also influencing policy. Within the CRM thematic areas of focus, Non-State Actors advocacy efforts and civic engagement has borne fruits in the ongoing review of legislative and institutional frameworks – like the enactment of the Land Acts (Land Act 2012, Land Registration Act 2012, National Land Commission Act 2012), civil society participation in the review of the National Environment Policy, Climate Change Authority Bill and discussions on REDD+; as well as expanded the space

to demand enhanced accountability and transparency on environmental management and governance.

The involvement of NSAs in influencing ENRM policy and legislative frameworks has been successful and progressive. The review observed that a number of counties e.g. Laikipia, Homa Bay etc. have decentralized environment management policies and practices; they have also CRM facility projects at county levels that have innovative ENR management practices including environmental awareness. Similarly, the Non State Actors and the public continue to engage the government on the review of natural resources policies and laws e.g. the EAWLS is engaged parliamentary committee on Natural resources and their comments have been submitted on various environment legislations such as; EMCA, National Environmental policy, Forest and fisheries Bills etc.

Through these, partners working in various thematic areas have been involved in a number of high profile issues at the various levels. A number of standout achievements include policy and legislative front, for example APSEA through a TOO grant developed the Natural resources Development and Management Policy, concept and draft bill. NACOFA through a grant from Changieni Rasili Mali implemented a Target Of Opportunity Project from July November 2012. The main objective of the TOO was to advocate against concession of state forest plantation in Mt. Kenya ,Aberdares, North Rift and Mt. Elgon. Through this intervention the high court issued an order to KFS to suspend the concession. In Laikipia a network called "The Laikipia County Natural Resource Management Network" (LAICONA) started by EAWLS and working with other partners like TILT, RECONCILE and KLA have been advocating for stakeholders to address human - wildlife conflict issues. They are currently working with county government in the development of the Laikipia County Integrated Plan - the NRM framework for the county and reaches out to other stakeholders such as the police and the judiciary. In Nakuru County through SUPPA project interventions farmers have formed SACCOS which aim at marketing their farm produce in order to eliminate the dominance of brokers.

Overall, the programme shows strong impact among different sections of the population where the partners are working. These include impact on rights, conflict mitigation, improvement of livelihoods, health, spurring community actions, among others. The program through partners has led to spurring community actions in places where they never existed. For example, the activities of VFA has inspired people to start environmental initiatives on their own such as Youth Environmental Network in Kakamega which was motivated by JuaTenda Project. These actions have seen increased knowledge among communities to initiate dialogue and engage in advocacy efforts on ENRM and enhanced networking among Non-State Actors in responding to environmental concerns. The grassroots' communities are being empowered to be self-reliance and are adapting new innovations and best practices on ENRM e.g. In Nyandarua county Mwangaza women group supported by TILT formed a revolving fund in which every member is expected to contribute KES 100 per week. The funds are used to purchase

energy saving jikos which are installed for every group member per week. They are also being linked to relevant government ministries and institutions to get resources.

Through the facility, there is gradual shift from service delivery to embracing advocacy on issues affecting ENRM; an effort, which is potential in policy and realizing structural changes. Also there are now better ENRM dialogues between line ministries and community and any conflicts and misunderstands are being resolved e.g. Moiben WRUAs were not in good books with WRMA (conflicts) but after KWAHO intervention through capacity building they were able to adjust and even receive funds from WSTF (KShs. 2M)to implement their activities.

The review has revealed that CRM has facilitated innovations and events such as farming drought resistant crops, use of energy saving stoves and making of organic manure which are geared towards promoting appropriate technologies and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The partners such as IEWM, APSEA and KCCWG have been involved in the finalization of climate change Authority Bill which provides for the establishment of a Climate Change Authority; to provide a framework for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change on various sectors of the economy. Through the facility, there is a growing level of representation in addressing ENRM issues. The facility provides a strong nexus between donors, NSAs actors of different shades, and target communities.

Gender mainstreaming has been achieved as a result of the CRM activities, women in the grassroots have been able to get their voices in relation to ENRM where none existed for example in Kajiado County, CIWOCH engaged to speak for themselves on land matters involving Oldonyonyokie group ranch . However, women still face challenges in engaging fully in activities. In areas such as costs where cultural practices are interwoven between tradition and religion, there is more work that need to be done. The review suggests that the facility consider extending grants to the partners who have been achieving their outcomes in order to build on some of the gains realized so far. Also, working with some of the current partners will minimize the needs for capacity building in the initial stages and ensure that the organizational development that has been achieved is optimized. Leveraging of resources for ENRM at partners level is yet to be explored and capacity strengthening for the same is required.

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND INTRODUCTION

This section provides the background information and introduction to the Mid Term Evaluation as well as pertinent information on the implementation of the four-year environment and natural resource management programme in Kenya implemented by Act!.

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This report presents findings from a Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) that was commissioned by the Government of Sweden (GOSw) and the UK-Department of International Development (DfID) and conducted by Africa Energy and Environment Consultants (AFREEC) on the Non-State Actors (NSAs) Facility managed by Act Change Transform (ACT!). ACT! is using her over-arching position as a national level NGO in the Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) sector with grants management and capacity development advantage to create conducive environment to engage Non State Actors as partners to implement the Changieni Rasili-Mali (CRM) facility objectives. The MTE report provides an independent assessment of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, , sustainability and external utility of the programme that has been going on since 2011. It is expected that findings and recommendations from this evaluation will contribute to the Government of Sweden and United Kingdom in making informed decisions and recommendations on deepening the platform for cooperation with Non-State Actors (NSAs) in Kenya within the natural resources sector.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

Act Change Transform (ACT!), formerly PACT Kenya is a leading Kenyan Non-Governmental Organization that is implementing a 4 year Natural Resources Management Programme in Kenya that is supported by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom. The programme, branded Changieni Rasili-Mali Facility, is a mechanism to support Non State Actors through Grants, Capacity Building, Networking and sharing of best practices in order to improve NSAs capacity to engage in policy and legislative reforms, enhance citizen's voice and participation in governance and management of natural resources in Kenya. CRM Facility is anchored within ACT!'s Environment and Natural Resources Management platform.

ACT! is the Facility manager. The Government of Sweden competitively selected ACT! to host and manage the Facility due to its strategic fit, its past experience in the areas of environment and natural resources management, democracy and governance, peace building and renowned capacity in Grants management and Capacity building of the Non State Actors (NSAs) partners, as well as working with Government. The four-year programme (2011- 2015) seeks to complement and support the already on-going cooperation with the Government of Kenya in the natural resources sector and

contribute to the achievement of Kenya's Vision 2030, Kenya's constitution 2010, the Swedish strategy for cooperation with Kenya, as well as United Kingdom's development strategy for Kenya.

Changieni Rasili–Mali Facility has issued 57 grants to various Non State Actors, ranging from community based organizations, self-help groups, women groups, Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), private sector organizations and networks spread in the 43 counties across Kenya as shown on the map below.

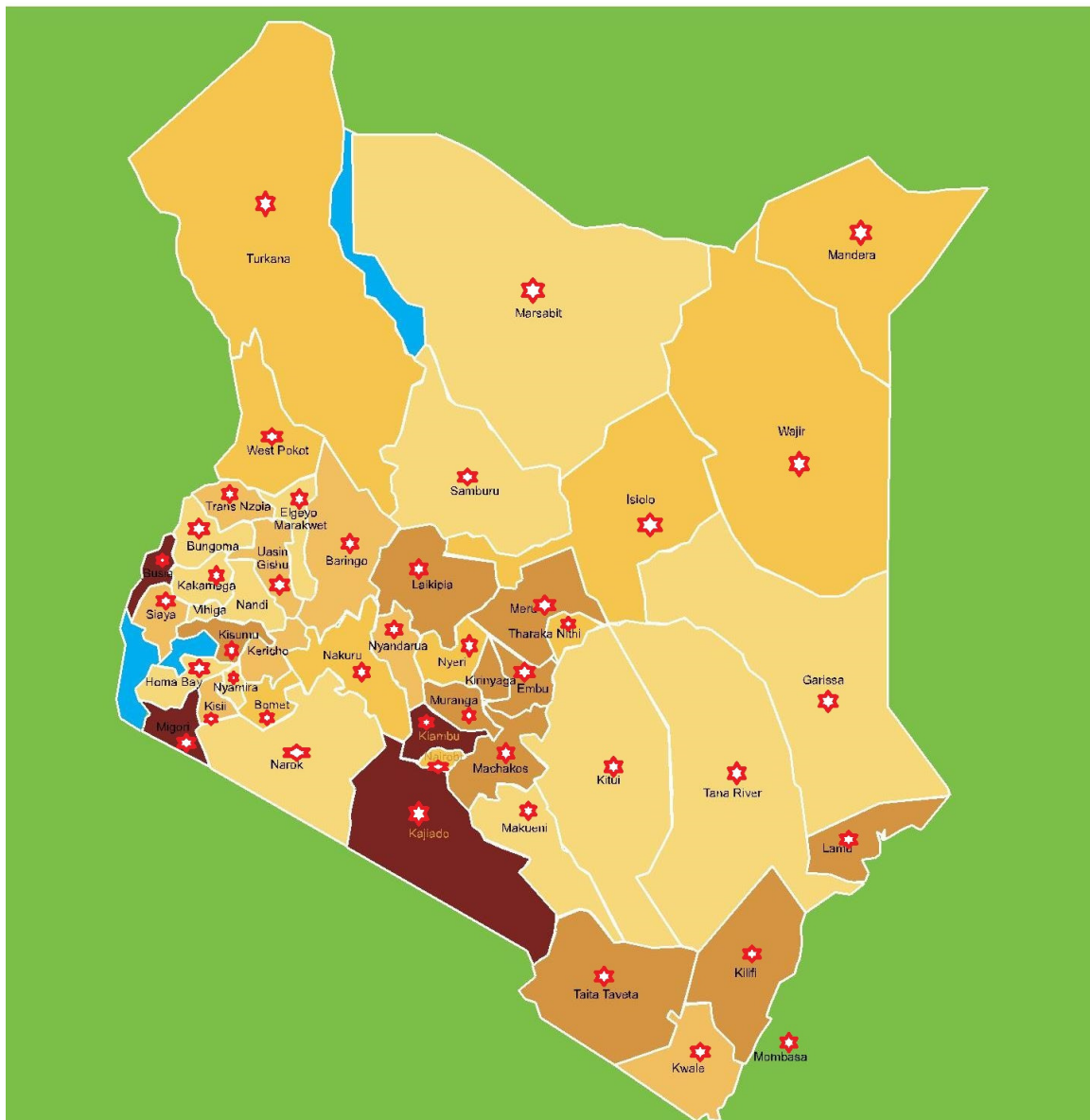


Figure 1: Map of Kenya showing distribution of partner organizations in Kenyan Counties

The goal of CRM facility is “to improve participation of citizens, including the poor, in the governance and sustainable utilization of natural resources in Kenya”. More specifically, the programme seeks to achieve the following objectives by the end of the four years:

- Improve organizational capacity of Non-State Actors to deliver their mandates in environment and natural resources sector.
- Improve participation of citizens and marginalized groups in governance, management and utilization of natural resources.
- Improve policy and legislative environment for sustainable natural resources management at national and decentralized governance structures.

1.3 CRM THEMATIC AREAS

The CRM identified the five key sectors in Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) also referred in this report as thematic areas. The facility focuses on five thematic areas namely: agriculture, environment, climate change, land and water acknowledging the diversity of NSAs players, need to an integrated approach to addressing policy and legislative reforms in ENRM and unique contributions of non-traditional actors. More details on each of this thematic areas is provided below:

1.3.1 Agriculture and rural development

Kenya struggles with food security and according to the Kenya National human development report 2012 38 million people are facing food insecurity. This situation can be improved with increased competitive agricultural production. Hence, the role of NSAs in food security and agriculture productivity is critical, especially relating to improved production strategies in a harsh climate conditions undertaking advocacy for policy and legislative framework that is supportive to farmers. The investment in agriculture sector takes into account the role of climate change as a critical factor in influencing productivity. Despite the visible and ever changing climatic effects to agriculture production, there lack clear mechanism for examination of the impact and adaptation measures of climate change and climate variability on agriculture, policy makers and producers alike. Civil society has a key role to play not only in influencing productivity but also in getting more attention to this issue. Market access and trade can be harnessed to improve efficiency in the sector and production to alleviate food insecurity. The market mechanisms of agricultural produce within the nation, and regionally, are highly imperfect. Non-state actors can provide services for information circulation and watchdog functions, to reduce imperfection in markets. A need for a critical discourse around research and development in agriculture has also been identified and influenced the investment in the agriculture sector by the ACT! Facility.

1.3.2 Environment

Although the environmental legislation (EMCA) was enacted in 1999, huge gaps in terms of its implementation and enforcement have been noted. This is partly being attributed to lack of knowledge at citizens' level. The EMCA is administered through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and its processes are relatively participatory. However, the quality of this participation and interaction with citizens has been wanting. Therefore improving the quality of popular participation in environmental management is a key issue in the sector. NSAs have a decisive role in this through capacity building and advocacy.

1.3.3 Climate Change

The need for more attention in the public debate on climate change mitigation and adaptation has been noted. NSAs can contribute to increase in participation and engagement of stakeholders at all levels in discussions and activities related to climate change. Engaging citizens and local communities in the management and conservation of key ecosystems is important and more sustainable. NSA's involvement in capacity building, advocacy as well as activism and environmental awareness constitute some of the responses. On the whole, NSAs play a role in reversing the top-down approach that is still dominating the environmental management in Kenya.

1.3.4 Land Management

In land management, the most critical roles of NSAs include Land Reform, and particularly in the adoption and implementation of the new National Land Policy, 2009. These include the final adoption of the Policy as a Sessional Paper in parliament, its subsequent translation into land legislation, and the launching of a new devolved government structure to administer the policy and legislation. Throughout these key processes, it has been necessary to hold government accountable on what it promises to deliver, and to ensure that the implementation and enforcement of the institutional framework becomes non-discriminatory and upholds the interests of the disadvantaged and the poor. In addition, non-state actors have an important role in capacity building and dispute resolution that concern land as a resource at local level.

1.3.5 Water

Many NGOs and CBOs are involved in service delivery in the water sector including addressing some critical issues in the sector mainly through advocacy, raising the voice of the customers and civil society organisations in the sector reform. Water resources management (WRM) is also important in a water-scarce country like Kenya. WRM constantly gets too little attention compared to water supply. NSAs have the ability to get the necessary attention of policy makers through advocacy and public debate. The balance between services in urban and rural areas has also received little attention.

Most donors have been found to have an urban focus and funds therefore tend to go to urban areas. Through advocacy, the role of NSAs in giving rural water services the attention it deserves, considering that two thirds of the population still reside in rural areas. NSAs are also instrumental in bringing about increased accountability and efficiency in the sector through watchdog functions and resources tracking exercises. Finally, the facility attempts to integrate non-state actors, including the private sector participation in service delivery to make their strategic contribution in this sector reform.

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REVIEW

As spelt out in the Terms of Reference (ToRs), the purpose of the Mid--Term Evaluation (MTE) was to review and validate the extent to which projects and activities are contributing to the overall Facility goal and objectives. In particular, how the grant mechanism and capacity development is working for the NSA;, to what extent the facility is achieving or likely to achieve the overall objectives and goals; and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Facility.

The findings and recommendations of the evaluation are meant to inform the Embassy of Sweden and UKaid as the funding partners and Act! the Facility Manager on any required adjustments and refinements at the operational , tactical and strategic levels required to better contribute to the constraints facing NSAs in the ENRM sector during the second half of the four-year programme.

The consultant worked with a core team that had been set up to lead in the MTE. The process entailed the following:

- Review of the relevant programme documents at the Embassy of Sweden and Act! Levels including Programme Document, Programme Performance Management Plan (PMP), programmes/projects reports, and Partners Reports.
- Meeting, consultations and interviews with the technical, grants and finance staff from the facility;
- Meeting with key stakeholders in the Agriculture, Land, Water, Climate Change and Environment thematic sectors;
- Meeting with programme staff at the Embassy of Sweden and UKaid;
- Field visit to 24 implementing partners' offices and project areas, their beneficiaries and key collaborators in **30** counties;
- Interviews with key stakeholders at Nairobi and in selected project sites;
- Data analysis and preparation of the draft and final review report.
- Feedback/validation meetings on the evaluation's findings and recommendations.

3 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This section describes the approach and methods that were used for the review work.

3.1 SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION METHODS

A sampling method was adopted taking cognizance of key main factors related to the CRM facility namely: thematic areas, geographical distribution of the project sites, area of focus, and type of the organization and networks. In addition, the five thematic areas - Agriculture, Climate Change, Environment, Land and Water were considered. Given the projects distribution in counties around the country and logistics of data collection, the projects were divided into clusters summarized in the tables below:

3.1.1 Clusters for Sampling

Cluster Area	Counties	Sampled Areas
Cluster A	Laikipia, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Meru, Isiolo, Garissa, Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana	Laikipia, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Meru, Kajiado ¹
Cluster B	Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, Taita Taveta, Nairobi, Kajiado, Nairobi,	Mombasa, Kilifi, Kajiado Machakos, Makueni, Kitui,
Cluster C	Nakuru, Narok, Bomet, Bungoma, Elgeyo Marakwet Kisumu, Kakamega, Trans-Nzoia,	, Nairobi, Nakuru, Narok, Bungoma, Kisumu, Kakamega

3.1.2 List of organizations Sampled

Thematic Area	Organization	Project Title	Area
Land (2)	Centre for Indigenous Women and Children (CIWOCH)	Securing Natural Resources Rights Through, Land Use Planning and Climate Change Mitigation	Magadi, Kajiado County
	National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK)	Sustainable Land Management in the Mara Ecosystem (SULAMME)	Narok, Bomet and Nakuru Counties

¹ Initially, the review team was supposed to visit a project in Isiolo. But the visit coincided with the Idi Mubarak celebration, which made it difficult for the beneficiaries (who are mainly Muslim) to be available. An alternative partner in Kajiado was subsequently settled on.

	Groots	Participatory land mapping in Lari Constituency, Kiambu County	Kiambu
Water (2)	Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO)	Promoting Sustainable Governance in the water sector using Human Rights Based Approach	Bungoma and Elgeyo Marakwet counties.
	Water and Livelihoods Reforms Network (WLRN)	Engaging citizens in water sector reforms	Nairobi and Mombasa
	Centre for Social Planning and Administrative Development (CESPAD)	Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management in Kenya: A Kenya Water Partnership Stakeholder engagement Initiative	Kajiado, Machakos, Makueni Counties in Athi Basin; National
Agriculture (2)	Farm Practice Initiative (FPI)	Pamoja Tuangamize Njaa (Working together to have a hunger free society)	Makueni, Machakos, Kitui
	Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI)	Empowering people and nature in Lake Victoria	Homabay, Siaya, Kisumu, Busia
	Ziwani Mugiko	Investing in Women – Women Socio-economic Empowerment	Nyandarua County
Environment (4)	Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE)	Governance, Environment and Development – Kenya Programme (GED- Kenya): Promoting citizens' participation in natural resource governance for sustainable development	Yala Wetland (Siaya County and Lake Naivasha Basin (Nakuru County)
	East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS)	Strengthening CSOs/Private Sector County Government Legislative Engagement Process Support Project	Kwale, Laikipia, Samburu and Nakuru Counties
	Friends of Lake Ol Bolossat Association (FOLO)	Friends of Lake Ol Bolossat Association (FOLO) Capacity Building Project	Nyandarua
	CETRAD	Promotion of conservation networks and expansion of tourism investment infrastructure in greater Mount Kenya regions of Kenya	Laikipia, Nyandarua, Nyeri and Meru

	Volunteers for Africa and MEDEVA	Jua Tenda' Media & Environment Project	Nairobi, Nakuru, Kakamega, Nyeri, Kisumu, Embu, Garissa and Mombasa Counties
Climate Change (4)	Oxfam GB and KCCWG	Improving Climate Change adaptive capacity and mitigation in Kenya through local and national level measures.	Kajiado, Turkana, Wajir, Tana River, West Pokot, Isiolo, Kitui, Laikipia Counties
	The National Alliance of Community Forest Association (NACOFA)	Supporting Community Participation In Forest Management For Increased Benefit	National
	Help Self Help Centre (HSHC)	Mount Kenya West climatic change program.	Nyeri
	EcoHealth Company Limited	Private Sector Involvement and contribution in Natural Resources Management: Lessons from Tigania West Natural Resources management and climate change mitigation and adaptation project .	Meru County
	Tree is Life Trust (TILT)	Adaptive climate change mitigation for improved livelihoods in Laikipia and Nyandarua counties	Laikipia, Nyandarua Counties
	Institute of Environment and Water Management (IEWM)	Institutional capacity strengthening for integration of gender in to climate change	National
	Building Eastern Africa Community Network (BEACON)	Food security proposal	Kakamega, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Kisumu
	Sustainable Practical Programs for Africa (SUPPA)	Nakuru County food security and climate change project	Nakuru County

3.2 MID TERM REVIEW APPROACH

Data collection embraced participatory techniques; gender and human rights approaches anchored on rights based approach to programming and to ensure quality of the information. This review exercise was conducted at four levels in which data was collected and analysed using multiple methods. These levels include; development partners - donors (Embassy of Sweden and UKAid), ACT!'s CRM Facility manager as the implementer, the partners/grantees (organizations that have received grants from the Facility and target beneficiaries (communities and other entities that are working with the partners).

3.2.1 The Development Partner (Donor)

At the donor level, the review sought to establish the extent to which CRM programme has promoted and contributed to Embassy of Sweden and UKAid framework, the effectiveness and efficiency of the funding mechanism, the nature of the facility timeliness and quality of reporting process and communication between the donor and programme activities.

3.2.2 ACT!/CRM Facility Manager

At the implementer level, the review looked at four areas including the grant mechanism for NSAs, the capacity development component, the strategic development component and the management of the facility. The grant mechanism evaluation centred on the effectiveness of the grant evaluation criteria, balance and equitable distribution of resources in relation to the envisaged impact scenarios and expected outputs. The capacity development evaluation component examined the extent to which the program is working to develop NSAs professional skills, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The strategic development component evaluation examined the extent to which the facility's activities have developed new methods of cooperation with NSAs. Tools and means established to cooperate with non-traditional partners, private learning institutions and other not-for-profit sectors such as media were reviewed. Finally, the review looks into how ACT! as the host organization for the facility has undertaken various functions including administration, control, monitoring and reporting in order to deliver results and provide administrative control.

3.2.3 Partner Organizations/Grantees

The partners constitute the 45 organizations that have received funds from ACT! to implement various activities in the five thematic areas. At this level, the review assessed, among others, the extent to which the grantees activities are contributing to the formulation and implementation of relevant NRM policies, sustainable management of NRs, capacity strengthening, public and community involvement, and reporting to the CRM facility.

3.2.4 Target Beneficiaries/Communities

The activities conducted at the above three levels were to crystallize at the grassroots level where the beneficiaries are located. To establish the overall level of project efficiency and effectiveness and eventually the impact, this review looks at the extent to which the projects responds to local problems, level of community involvement and participation in planning, implementation and monitoring, perceived benefits, and impacts.

3.3 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

The review used a range of tools to access primary data/information about the program, which is mainly qualitative while the literature, and document review provided both qualitative and quantitative data. These tools included:

- Structured questionnaires which were used to lead in-depth interviews with programme staff of UKAid and the Embassy of Sweden in Nairobi, GoK ministries, and ACT!/CRM officers.
- Semi-structured questionnaire was also used to collect Information from the implementing partners who were interviewed during the field site visits. One partner who could not be met filled in an electronic version of the questionnaire.
- Discussions with the target beneficiaries were conducted through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) guides and community participatory meeting guide to collect information at the community level. Respondents included those who have interacted directly with the project activities implemented through the partner.

3.4 FIELDWORK

Three teams conducted the fieldwork, each handling a cluster. The team comprised of a consultant and CRM Facility officers. Mr. Nicholas Ngece from the Embassy of Sweden also joined team A.

TEAM A - Cluster A	TEAM B – Cluster B	TEAM C – Cluster C
Dr. R Bagine -(Consultant), Nathaniel Mtunji - ACT! - CRM, Felesia Muya - ACT! and Anthony Kariuki-ACT!	Dr. George Gathigi- Consultant, Ben Omondi- ACT! - CRM and Rosinah Mbenya- ACT! -CRM	Mary Kiome (Consultant), Mary Nderitu- ACT!- CRM, Leonard Oduor-ACT and Nicholas Ngece-Embassy of Sweden

4 RESULTS AND KEY FINDINGS

This section underscores the outcome of the assessment made to the performance of the CRM facilities during the first two years of implementation. To establish the level of performance, the review examined a number of areas. First, the review examined the level of program relevance in relation to its contribution to Government of Sweden and UKAid country strategic framework; the extent to which the CRM has helped to respond to NRM-NSA issues and the level of complementarity and benefits of joint strategic framework.

The second area of review centred on programme implementation process by the facility, and the level of adherence to timelines and quality of reporting by the Facility and partners. The next area of review is on project efficiency and effectiveness by examining the level of resource utilization, level at which the objectives have been achieved, the strengths that have emerged and constraints experiences so far in the implementation process.

The review looks at the impact and external utility of the CRM activities. Evaluation of impact concentrates on three areas including impact in the thematic areas, on target population; it's overall contribution in NSAs coordination, advocacy and representation. The programme impact on gender mainstreaming and crosscutting issues was also examined. The review also looks at the programs sustainability and indicators of partner's capacity to continue with the programmes work beyond the funding period.

Finally, the review examines key lessons learned, makes a number of conclusions and finally recommendation for the next phase of the project. These are explained in depth in the following sections.

4.1 PROGRAMME RELEVANCE

In order to determine the level of programme relevance, this review examined a number of areas including the extent to which the program is contributing to the Embassy of Sweden and UKAid strategic framework in Kenya, the extent to which the programme is responding to the strategic issues and NRM-NSA and the complementary role and advantage of joint CRM/ENRM program financing by Swedish government and UKAid.

4.1.1 Program contribution to Government of Sweden and UKAid Country Strategic Framework

The CRM Facility funded by Government of Sweden and UK governments is relevant to the country for Government of Sweden and DFID and making significant contribution in influencing policy and legislative reforms in Environment and Natural Resource Management. The overall impression of donor representatives interviewed indicated that the programme is on course and responding to set objectives.

The Programme interventions must have impacts on community livelihoods, sustainable conservation and management of natural resources. For example mainstreaming of gender issues in all thematic areas through dialogue is critical in ensuring that all stakeholders are involved in decision making. The overall impression of donor representatives interviewed indicated that the programme is on course and responding to set objectives.

4.1.2 Responding to NRM-NSA Issues

The CRM Facility has significantly addressed the five thematic areas that were identified: land, water, agriculture, environment, and climate change in a balanced manner. The overall impression from this review is that the CRM has responded to the key issues in the thematic area and with a good level of success through its partnership approach with NSAs and the private sector. Responses from different stakeholders show that most of the CRM Facility projects at the partner and local community level are timely and highly relevant to their needs. The facility has provided partners with relevant platforms and progressive opportunities to be involved in influencing legislative and policy legal frameworks. Partners are therefore making positive progress in influencing and contributing to the realization and review of legislative and institutional frameworks for example the enactment of the Land Acts (Land Act 2012, Land Registration Act 2012, National Land Commission Act 2012), civil society participation in the review of the National Environment Policy, Climate Change Authority Bill and discussions on REDD+; as well as expanded the space to demand enhanced accountability and transparency on environmental management and governance. There are also numerous cases where partners have become critical in the new county administration and are highly involved in shaping the new structures for ENRM at the county levels. They are implementing advocacy initiatives and engaging with county leadership and engaging in dialogue around natural resource management. For example in Laikipia, Citizens are now participating in the development of the county integrated development plan. Similarly, networks in Laikipia, Nakuru, and Meru are engaging in the development of policies and laws at their county level.

Most beneficiaries interviewed indicated greater level of involvement in the project activities. They registered high level of appreciation of their local partners for making timely interventions in natural resources management issues with some having made significant efforts in mainstreaming conflict management and good governance. For example, CIWOCH, a partner working in Magadi is such an organization. According to a community Group Ranch member of Oldonyonyokie Mr. Stephen Lalamal the mainstreaming of conflict management has borne fruits in addressing disputes over land resources in his community. He says, “We had issues with land. We were in conflict because some wanted to subdivide the land and sell the land and we ended up in court. CIWOCH came and started educating us on the importance of land. They did not take sides with anyone. When they educated us, we all cooled down because we realized that conflict is not useful. We came together as a community”.

4.1.3 Complementary Role and Benefits of Joint CRM/ENRM Financing

Both the Embassy of Sweden and UKAid through DFID have committed their funds to support the CRM facility and are keen to see it realize its set objectives. They also assert satisfaction with the processes and procedures through which the facility is being implemented. The progress and results being obtained by the CRM facility partners and beneficiaries on the ground are very encouraging particularly at the devolved levels of governments. The review showed that the finances and other resources are properly utilised to their intended course. The donors feel that the CRM is on track and has demonstrated that it is a viable model for implementing ENRM activities

4.1.4 Allocation of Funds Across thematic Areas

The allocation of funds across the five thematic areas was evaluated. Overall, environment and climate change received the bulk of finances with 29% and 28% respectively. Land and Agriculture had 15% each while land accounted for 12%. The capacity building as a cross-cutting activity by the facility accounted for one per cent (1%). Overall, there is a good balance in the five thematic area. Climate change and environment received the higher proportion because they were DFIDs central areas in environment. Also, the capacity building amount versus the results shows very efficient utilization of the allocation.

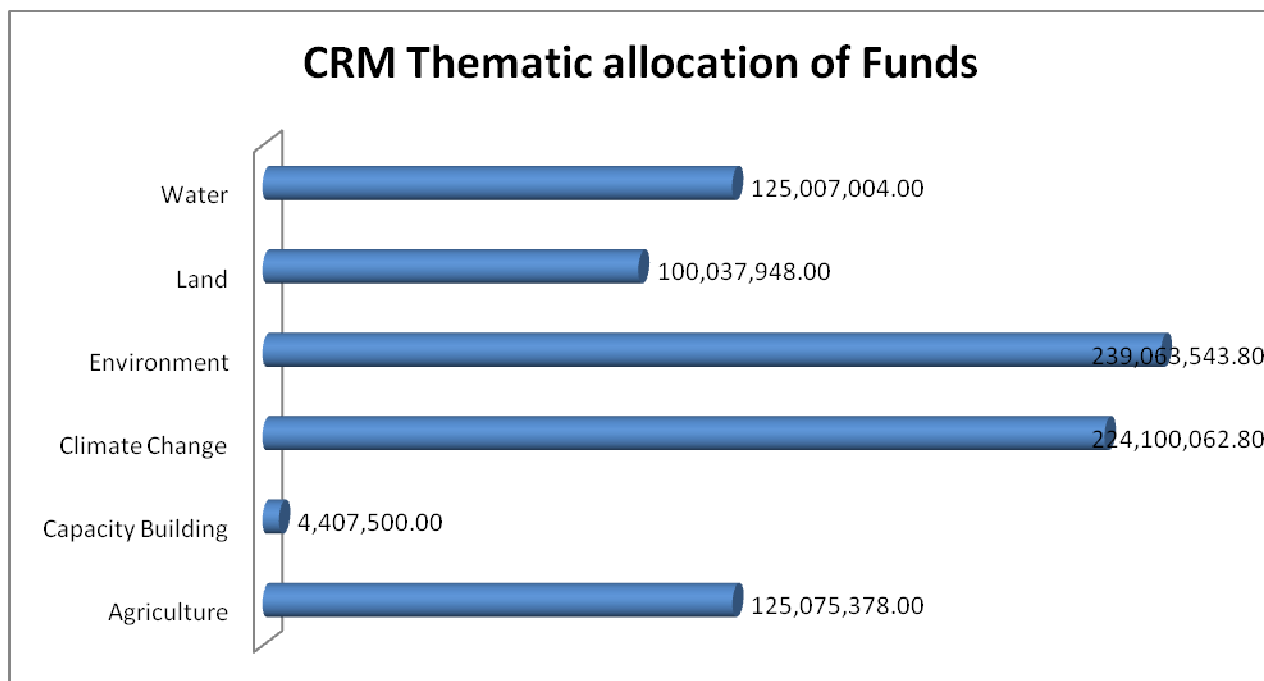


Figure 2: CRM Thematic Allocation of Funds in actual figures.

The funds disbursed to partners to carry out activities in specific thematic areas are indicate in the pie chart below:

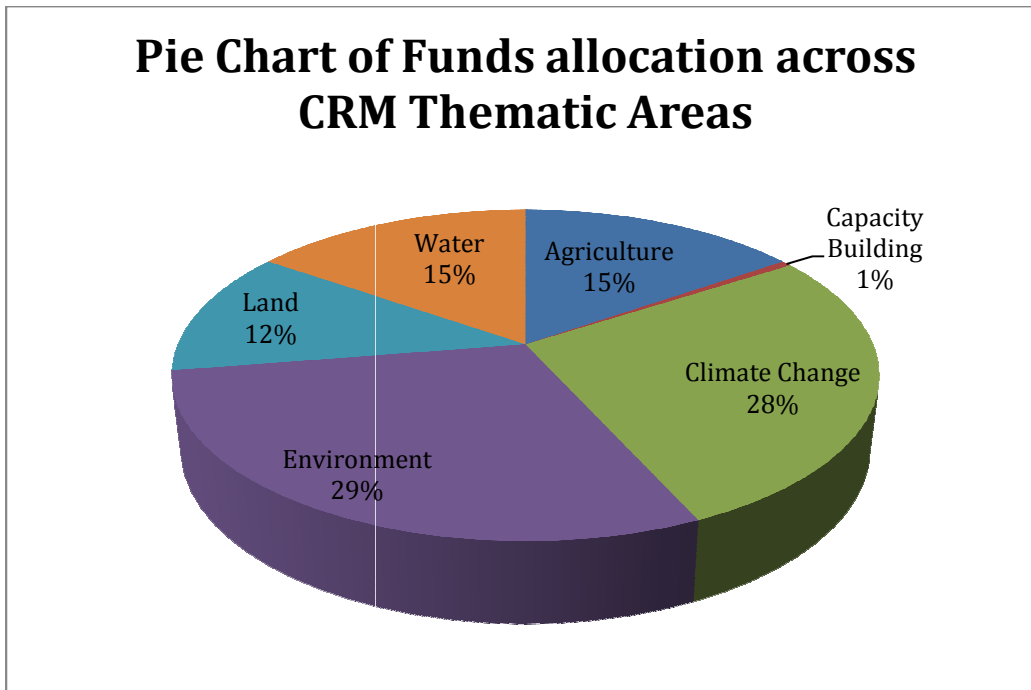


Figure 3: Percentage Allocation of Funds across thematic areas and capacity building a

4.2 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS, TIMELINES AND REPORTING

In regard to implementation process of the programme, the extent to which the timelines envisaged, and adherence to Government of Sweden/UKAid reporting procedures for the facility and partners' adherence to facility's guidelines were reviewed. These are discussed in the sections below:

4.2.1 Facility Implementation Process

his reviews indicates that in the first two years, the CRM, working with partners, has been able to develop new cooperation agreement with NSAs that are working at the grassroots level. This has been mainly achieved through non-profit organization, CBOs and some for-profit partners. The non-governmental organizations show higher level of success and deeper engagements that has resulted in more outputs in their respective thematic areas and jointly in an integrative approach. Despite major successes recorded this far, the cooperation with learning institutions is yet to be fully realized. Engagement with other for-profit sectors such as media has been initiated. Performance as it related to the for-profit institutions is not strongly visible as compared to the non-profit organisations hence need to be strengthened to move forward at the same level with other NSAs currently involved. Similarly, engagement with other non - traditional partners like private sector need to be supported and strengthened. As the host organization for the Facility, Act! has performed extremely well in undertaking various

functions including administration, quality control, monitoring and reporting in order to deliver results. The administrative system that has been set is working and has displayed capacity to deliver the facility with limited challenges. Continuous monitoring of the facility progress and partners capacity strengthening is extremely critical to its success.

The review shows that the granting process has allowed the Facility to engage players in the core ENRM areas identified and resulting in representation across the country. The granting process was not only competitive but through Act! capacity support, nascent organisations were able to successfully put through their applications. The process is collaborative and gives partners, who under normal circumstances would not even access grants, an opportunity to access such resources. In return, most partners are achieving the Facility outcomes as is discussed in a different section in this report.

Moving forward and with the increasing number of partners, the review suggests that the Facility consider extending grants to the partners who have been achieving their outcomes in order to build on some of the gains realized so far. Also, working with some of the current partners will minimize the needs for capacity building in the initial stages and ensure that the organizational development that has been achieved is optimized. The facility could also try to create more opportunities for private sector actors whose role in ENRM is critical. Strategic partnerships with NSAs with capacity to make strategic contributions in similar thematic areas like energy sector and others are also recommended to bridge some observed gaps.

4.2.2 Adherence to Implementation Timelines

The working mechanism of the Facility that involves different players at different levels including donors, the Facility itself and the partners necessitates strict adherence to timelines to ensure smooth operation of the project. Among the key areas where adherence to timelines were identified includes disbursement of funds, granting mechanism, CRM capacity building activities, and partners planned activities implementation. Generally, the partners and the Facility have been able to adhere to the timelines. But many cited delay in disbursement of funds that resulted in a ripple effect across the Facility and partners. As a result, the review noted that a number of organizations have requested for a no-costs extension after the end of the project to address the time gap. One possible suggestion is the need for facility to hire a consultant to support the existing staff in monitoring and reporting of outputs as this seems to be lacking.

This review also notes that close relationship between capacity building and implementation timelines especially for the nascent organizations need to be synchronized. Capacity building activities are aimed at improving organizations performances, the working of the project demands a linear approach to engagement with partners. For example, the Organization Capacity Assessment (OCA) would be

most effective if it is conducted at the early stages of the project. However, partners noted that the timing for such activities has not been appropriate in some cases such as when conducted long after the partners have embarked on their activities. Therefore, organizations miss on learning opportunities about their gaps earlier on before or during the project inception; and hence late in implementing the institutional capacity strengthening plan. The Facility should therefore consider the timing of capacity building activities to ensure concordance with the partners needs. Perhaps prioritization of such activities in the implementation work plan would be ideal.

In a few instances, implementation timelines have been affected by external factors such as politics interference and insecurity experienced before and during the concluded general election conducted in March 2013. Most partners' advocacy activities in particular have been affected by the change to the devolved governance and administrative structures that provide for county and national government.

4.2.3 Programme Reporting

The reporting processes can be viewed at two levels. One is the CRM reporting to the donors and two, the partners reporting to the Facility. However, these two reporting processes feed into each other. The overall impression from the donors, Swedish Embassy and UKAid/DFID is that CRM was able to meet the reporting requirements agreed upon in terms of both financial reporting and progress reporting. There have been formal and informal regular person to person contacts between the donor and the Facility manager in tracking progress. Partners reporting constitute a key component of the Facility management activities. It is through reporting that the Facility is able to follow up on the myriad of activities that are implemented country wide. The overall performance of reporting from the partners can be described as mixed with some challenges experienced as the beginning of the project but with marked improvement as the projects progressed. It was noted that most partners struggled to adhere to the Facility laid up reporting procedures through the template provided. This was attributed to capacity issues more notable with the nascent organizations, which were in the process of setting up their monitoring and reporting systems. Despite these challenges, the Facility support mechanism through the field officers and open communication channels, the partners were able to come up to speed with the reporting requirements.

CRM facility obligated the grants to partners for a year and initially the disbursement was on monthly basis but was revised to quarterly basis for ease of managing the funds, however the partners are mandated to report on monthly basis against the cash requests raised. Despite receiving quarterly disbursements based on their work plan projections, most of the nascent grantees reviewed have struggled with keeping within their work plans which has affected how they burn the advances held by them. The schedule for reporting being by the 15th of the next month, few of the partners have kept with this schedule though measures have been put by the CRM Facility manager in place to send early reminders to all the grantees before the deadline date. Late

reporting affects the burn-rate since expenditures for the previous month are not reflected in the figures leaving a false impression that the grantees are holding money yet they have no funds to implement their activities.

Partners are of the opinion that the reporting templates are comprehensive and user friendly which allows them to capture project activities. Despite the high level of success in the use of the template capturing partners activities, those working in what can be termed as non-traditional ENRM areas such as media implemented by partners such as VFA are not well catered for. It would therefore be helpful for the Facility to embrace some level of flexibility to ensure that each partner's activity is accounted for adequately and within their unique context. The reporting mechanisms that the Facility uses allows for necessary controls that ensures that partners are able to utilize the resources on their planned activities. Also the Facility manager will need to consider a more friendly and efficient oversight role over reports that are received to improve promptness in feedback. Given the number of partners on the ground, the feedback time was identified as a challenge. It is evident that the MERL and technical staff is thin to accommodate the 57 grantees effectively, thus the staff is not in a position to address the needs that arise at the reporting duration. Measures to address this implementation capacity issue such as increase technical capacity need to be considered.

4.3 PROGRAM EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

The extent of utilization of the programme's resources and the performance levels in relation to the set out objectives was reviewed.

4.3.1 Utilization of Resources

This review team is of the opinion that the resources that have been committed to the Facility have been satisfactorily utilized for the intended purpose at all levels.

At the Facility level, the implementation process of the project has largely benefited from the Act! cross-sectoral structures. The facility has also been able to achieve a lot without a large number of human resource although more staff are needed to address capacity building issues and general monitoring and reporting aspects of the facility.

Despite this, the review team is of the opinion that the human resource needs to be shored up to ensure the successes realized in the first two years are built upon with greater impact. To ensure the facility performance is enhance and have checks and balances, the ACT! developed a tool (grantees performance risk rating tool) to evaluate all partners on reporting compliance, programmatic effectiveness, financial accountability and capacity development. This effort was commendable on the part of Act! and more needs to be done to cushion the partners towards a harmonious exit strategy upon conclusion of funding opportunities.

This tool is helping the partners to achieve their expected results and increase their visibility and effectiveness on the ground. For partners, the ability to engage the citizenry at the grassroots level, working with the networks, utilizing institutional

structures, identifying stakeholders on the ground and innovation has contributed to optimum resource utilization. There are a lot of synergies that are evident in the partners working mechanisms such as working with networks, county government, public institutions, and community based organizations, associations such as WRUA, CFAs, and WAGs.. This was evident in Laikipia, Nyandarua, Bungoma, Mombasa and Machakos counties

4.4 LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT OF CRM FACILITY OBJECTIVES

The program sought to meet a number of objectives whose level of achievements is examined below:

4.4.1 Improving organizational capacity of Non-State Actors to deliver their mandates in environment and natural resources sector

The outcome of the capacity building initiatives for the partner is evaluated through tracking improvement of institutional implementation plan which sets the benchmark of standards. One of the most notable successes of the Facility is the extent at which organizations that have good ideas and connections to the community but lacked institutional capacity have been embraced and grown to a position where they not only impact community's ENRM issue but also influencing policy. Through various capacity building activities such as Advocacy training, MERL training, Finance and grants management training, and governance and leadership training , the partners that CRM has engaged with are now able to push forward with their roles of delivering critical services to poor communities, empowering communities through Capacity Development and facilitating government-citizen interaction as well as economic development.

The partners have worked to build grassroots institutions that have in turn taken the ownership of various ENRM activities. The capacity strengthening of partner organisations have in turn increased knowledge among community structured groups like WAGS, WRUAS, CFAs farmers groups, pasture committees and the local ENRM CBOs has been noted as a big success. Impacts at the grass root level is being witnessed in all thematic areas with indications of improved livelihoods.

4.4.2 Improving participation of citizens and marginalized groups in governance, management and utilization of natural resources

The grassroots' communities are being empowered to be self-reliance and are adapting new innovations and best practices on ENRM. They are also being linked to relevant government ministries and institutions to get resources. Through the facility, there is gradual shift from service delivery to embracing advocacy on issues affecting ENRM; an effort, which is potential in policy and realizing structural changes. It was noted that the potential for improved capacity and governance, increased investment and more sustainable utilization of natural resources that the Non-State Actors hold. However, Partners engagement at the grass root level has resulted in communities drawing up action plans towards lobbying initiatives. Many beneficiaries at the community level have incorporated marginalized groups and people living with disabilities including those with

health challenges into their projects and in decision making level; examples of such action were seen in Gitaru Community Based Organisation (CBO supported by Ecohealth, Laicon and Nguruman networks etc. The Facility has been able to attract additional funding from UKAid, which is a strong indicator of capacity of the Facility to receive funding from external sources and it is also deepens its workings with partners (grantees) and other stakeholders; an initiative which presents new window for resource mobilization. Potential for leveraging of resources for ENRM at partners level exist and capacity strengthening to catalyse for the same is required.

4.4.3 Improving policy and legislative environment for sustainable natural resources management at national and decentralized governance structures

The involvement of NSAs in influencing ENRM policy and legislative frameworks has been successful and progressive. The review observed that a number of counties e.g. Laikipia, Homa Bay, Meru etc. have or are in the process of decentralizing environment management policies and practices; they have also CRM facility projects at county levels that have innovative ENR management practices including environmental awareness. The notable results of the period under review is key policy engagements that has focused on the water reforms, land Acts, the National Environment Policy, the Climate Change Authority Bill and the Action plan of National Climate Change Response Strategy.

4.4.4 CRM Facility Strengths and Constraints

The review examined the strengths and constraints the Facility is experiencing as it continues with the implementation and its engagement with NSAs. The CRM Facility was designed to take a holistic approach to address the ENRM issues using an integrated approach i.e. cross-sectoral approach. Therefore, the influence at local and national level on ENRM is significant and Act! considers partners (NSAs) as a catalyst for change and potential contributors to informing policy and legal frameworks for environment and NRM. However, it was noted that the implementation of the Facility revolve around the devolved governments at National and county levels and this may experience unnecessary delays, particularly in the engagement with duty bearers e.g. DCs ,governors, commissioners, committees etc. as some of their functions are not clear. This challenges the effeciency of the Facility to deliver its manandate as it seeks to establish new grounds for collaboration with County goverments and get a buy in to its integrated approach to ENRM. The table below futher expounds on the facility strengths and constraints:

4.4.4.1 Key strengths and Constraints Noted:

FACILITY STRENGTHS	CONSTRAINTS
Existing ENRM expertise in NSAs and their alliances among themselves, donors and governments	Implementation capacity issue: Limited number of staff managing the facility against the demand for mentorship and technical support required by the grantees which has been overstressing Act! capacity to respond effectively.
ACT!s Organization structure, coordination role, monitoring and evaluation systems including elaborate capacity development approaches are unique and effective. This helps them to gain favour among other NSAs	Delays in fund disbursement from donors to the facility manager then to partners in the initial period of programme implementation affected the delivery of planned outputs. Perhaps this is an indication of donor timeliness and sensitivity to work plan.
Focus and choice of the thematic areas for CRM facility encompasses strategic environmental and natural resources management (ENRM) sectors	Well developed organization (CSOs) do not buy into capacity development trainings as they consider their institutions to be proficient in such areas
The mechanism for enhanced sustainability is embedded on CRM facility and it is captured in capacity building model for grantees	In Arid areas e.g. Mandera, Turkana etc., there is limited programme implementation due to insecurity issues. There is also very low outreach of women in projects due to social cultural orientation. Similarly Political campaigns related to March 2013 elections interfered with CRM projects implementation
The granting mechanism is effective as it involves all stakeholders in all stages of grant cycle - from design to monitoring to close - out.	Low involvement of the youth as target audience by the partner organizations in ENRM activities this was observed particularly in agriculture sector thro. This could be addressed through a response with an attitude change mentorship programme for the youth within CRM.

4.5 PROGRAM IMPACT

The review has noted that the Facility has so far influenced NSAs adoption of integrative approach to ENRM through advocacy and increased capacities to undertake well thought-out programmes on specific thematic areas which impacts on target beneficiaries at the grass root level. Capacity development and formation of networks have had remarkable impacts on people's livelihoods e.g. communities have come up with ways of adapting to climate change e.g. water conservation saving technologies such as the drip irrigation, high value crops, rain water harvesting carbon trading joint marketing of farm produce etc.

4.5.1 Programme impact in thematic areas

The CRM facility has responded to ENRM challenges and opportunities through its thematic programmes and strategic engagement dialogues between States and Non State Actors. The five thematic areas have had significant successes in meeting their desired results.

4.5.1.1 Land

The National Land Commission Act provides for the establishment of the National Land Commission and provides rules for the management and administration of land as per the Constitution, 2010 and the National Land Policy, 2009. The Land Act provides for the mechanisms to revise, consolidate and rationalize land laws and sustainable administration of land and land based resources. The Land Registration Act, 2012 on the other hand establishes mechanisms for the registration of land titles for effective land registration.

Through its partners, the CRM Facility has significantly contributed to the realization of these legislative frameworks. The community voices on land are bearing fruits. For example Protection of minorities rights through bodies such as the National Land Commission leading to inclusion of the Communities views in the policies and laws through taskforce is well provided for. The Taskforce have also started to engage with members of communities to ensure that their views are considered in subsequent decisions. It was also noted that the development of community land legislation calls for accountability and participation of all stakeholders as well as drawing from international best practices. There is Gender mainstreaming in land ownership and leadership this was observed in Shompole Group Ranch in Kajiado County for example, the was notable increase in protection of land from encroachment; while farmers in other counties are also adopting to new farming technologies and innovations e.g. in Kakamega farmers are shifting from mono-cropping of sugarcane to mixed farming providing for food crops and with more clear land use plan.

4.5.1.2 Agriculture

Agriculture relies on one major natural resource that is land and being able to train farmers to understand that this is the future of production and basis for food security and source of livelihood is of great importance. Farmers have been trained on the best

farming and agricultural practices; and how to make agriculture a profit making business and to bring farmers together for purposes of value addition through the projects. Marketing and value addition are perhaps some of the areas that require further attention by development partners and the CRM Facility. Partners have continued to engage with the governments and communities to ensure public participation and strengthen their capacity to engage in critical agriculture bills and policies promoting food security. Communities have become more responsive in caring for their natural resources for example Usoma Beach Management Unit in Lake Victoria have banned car washing on the shores of the lake which was previously very rampant in the area and the network has been able to curb the use of illegal fishing nets to a great extent

4.5.1.3 Water

CRM partners are working in partnership with regional WRMA offices to address key action towards mainstreaming community engagement with the water reforms agenda and ensure better coordination and management of water resources. Similarly, there are efforts to ensure that the WRUA formation and alignment is in line with WRMA framework of regulations. There is increased knowledge among citizens about their rights. There has been institutionalization of consumer organizations that did not exist or were docile before the partners' activities. For example, the Water Action Groups have been revived to ensure that they continue working for the interests of the communities. NSAs are also strengthening the water committees and there is increased participation in the new structures of governance at the county levels. According to CESPAD staff, *About two months ago, the Machakos Governor created a Governors' Taskforce on Sand Harvesting that included CESPAD and community members.*

There are now better water dialogues between line ministries and community and any conflicts and misunderstandings are resolved e.g. Moiben WRUAs were not in good books with WRMA (conflicts) but after KWAHO intervention through capacity building, they were able to adjust and received funds from WSTF (KShs. 2M).

4.5.1.4 Environment

The Non State Actors and the public continue to engage the government on the review of natural resources policies and laws e.g. the EAWLS is engaged parliamentary committee on Natural resources and their comments have been submitted on various environment legislations such as; EMCA, National Environmental policy, Forest and fisheries Bills etc. Peoples livelihoods (both economic and none-economic benefits) have improved as a result of adopting and implementing ENRM sector related policies.

While various environmental statutes are reviewed to align to the constitution and address devolution, there have been growing concerns on how natural resource management will be undertaken in the devolved government systems. In Laikipia a network called "The Laikipia County Natural Resource Management Network" (LAICONA) started by EAWLS and working with other partners like TILT, RECONCILE and KLA have been advocating for stakeholders to address human - wildlife conflict issues. They are currently working with county government in the development of the Laikipia

County Integrated Plan - the NRM framework for the county and reaches out to other stakeholders such as the police and the judiciary.

4.5.1.5 Climate Change

The review has revealed that CRM has facilitated innovations and events geared towards promoting appropriate technologies and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The partners such as IEWM, APSEA and KCCWG have been involved in the finalization of climate change Authority Bill which provides for the establishment of a Climate Change Authority; to provide a framework for mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change on various sectors of the economy and to provide for the development of response strategies to the effects of climate change and for connected purposes. Similarly the CRM Facility through its partners has been able to review the finalization of the Kenya Climate Change Action Plan. At the grass root level CRM facility partners such as TILT, HSHC, NACOFA etc. have been able to train communities to adapt to new technologies e.g. use of biogas, solar cookers, energy saving stoves (*jikos*), drip irrigation and planting drought resistant crops.

4.5.1.6 Energy

The review reveals that although attempts are being made to address energy issues, there is a need to have more partners engaged in this critical area. The connection between climate change and energy cannot be assumed and therefore some emphasis on this need to be considered in the post-review period.

4.5.2 Programme Impact on Target Populations

Overall, the programme shows strong impact among different sections of the population where the partners are working. These include impact on rights, conflict mitigation, improvement of livelihoods, health, spurring community actions, among others. The programme has impacted on populations' rights especially among the marginalized groups. These includes enhancement of right to land and water. For examples, WALINETs (WLRNs) activities working with WAGs have amplified the consumer voices.

The programme has increased citizens involvements in ENRM issues through different mechanisms that are driven by partners. These include direct participation in legislative and policy issues, protection and conservation of natural resources, grassroots mobilization, rehabilitation of natural resources, shaping of the new County system, among others. In areas such as water management, it is notable that instead of citizens talking about water when they lack supply, they are now engaging in improvement of service delivery. The programme has contributed to mitigation of conflict. Competition for natural resources has been a cause of conflicts at different levels. Land has been a source of conflict among different ethnicities as well as inter-ethnic such as that between clans. Competition of water resources have also led to conflict including between service providers and citizens. This evaluation has identified instances where the partners activities have largely contributed in helping to mitigate conflicts e.g.

CIWOCH work in Magadi, CESPAD work in Makueni, WALINET in Kwale, EAWLS in Laikipia and RECONCILE in Nakuru, among others.

The programme has made a strong contribution in improving communities livelihoods. Partners such as FPI, Ziواني, SUPPA etc. working with farmers have increased agricultural productivity that has resulted in increased incomes where farmers have been able to afford their needs and improved their health. Farmers are also beginning to market their produce widely including to Uganda. There are many emerging structures for governance in the ENRM. Partner's work has led to the establishment of various structures in the thematic areas. including networks established for information sharing, learning and advocacy. Examples include the strengthening and formation of new CFAs, WAGs, and WRUAs in different parts of the country. Other activities have seen the strengthening of traditional system such as Group Ranches in Kajiado, Narok and Laikipia Counties. These developments have improved community governance structures, participation and gender mainstreaming. The program through partners has led to spurring community actions in places where they never existed. For example, the activities of VFA has inspired people to start environmental initiatives on their own such as Youth Environmental Network in Kakamega which was motivated by JuaTenda Project. This has seen the youth conduct a weeklong clean-up event in Kakamega town.

4.5.3 Programme impact on innovations and entrepreneurship

This was mainly realized in agriculture value chain as well as renewable energy sector. There is need for CRM to continue enhancing these sectors that will improve the local communities livelihoods and ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources..

4.5.4 Programme Contribution in NSAs Coordination, Advocacy and Representation

One of the expectations for the Facility from the inception of the project was that Act! would use its linkages as part of NSAs to coordinate, advocate and promote representation in addressing ENRM issues. In the first two years of implementation, Act! has been successful in addressing the three aspects. This is particularly notable in the ability to work with nascent organizations which have allowed to address ENRM issues at local, regional and national level. The nascent partners such as FOLO, CESPAD, ZIWAN MUGIKO , and WLRN among others are working together building collaborations across thematic areas. Partners have also built networks and platforms at the county and national levels. Through the Facility, a number of partners such as WWF, EAWLS and Oxfam are working across the County and enriching the programme with their East African regional experience.

This evaluation also shows high level of achievements in the Facility's contribution to advocating for ENRM issues. A number of Target of Opportunity (TOO) have been granted to strategically address emerging and pressing issues that would have had far reaching implications in ENRM issues. Through these, partners working in various thematic areas have been involved in a number of high profile issues at the various levels. A number of standout achievements include policy and legislative front, for

example APSEA through a TOO grant developed the Natural resources Development and Management Policy, concept and draft bill. NACOFA through a grant from Changieni Rasili - Mali implemented a Target On Opportunity Project from July 2012. The main objective of the TOO was to advocate against concession of state forest plantation in Mt. Kenya ,Aberdares, North Rift and Mt. Elgon. In June 2012 KFS, through an advert in the daily nation, invited individuals and interested institutions to apply for concessions in the state forests plantations, for parcels of between 4000 to 20000 hectares each. NACOFA quickly realised that this was to result in hundreds of thousands of forests land being allocated to individuals and companies for a period of 30 years and more. NACOFA and its members took action to safeguard the forests and avert environmental disaster from such an undertaking. They filed a petition for immediate suspension of the then current KFS concession, which was granted by the High Court.

Through the Facility, there is a growing level of representation in addressing of ENRM issues. The Facility provides a strong nexus between donors, NSAs actors of different shades, and target communities. The facilities has provided 57 grants to 45 partner organizations which have demonstrated strong connection with the communities across the country and working in different thematic areas. This is a strong achievement in representation.

4.5.5 Gender Mainstreaming and Other Cross-Cutting Issues

Gender mainstreaming has been achieved as a result of the CRM activities, women in the grassroots have been able to get their voices in relation to ENRM. For example, in Magadi Division, women have joined membership of the group ranches and also participation in the leadership which in turn is protecting the community from losing their land. In Lari Division, Groots mapping activities are leading to protection of vital public land. Women have been empowered to speak and to perform the mapping process. Also the partner FOLO developed a constitution that provides for the mainstreaming of gender and provides for 1/3 of either gender representation in all it committees and networks and targets marginalized groups such as person's livings with HIV and the elderly in the implementation of its project activities.

In water management, gender disparity is significantly evident; with Water Action Groups being male dominated. The few Women who are in management positions are relegated to lower positions. For those who attend water forums, they are passive participants. However, women still face challenges in engaging fully in activities. In areas such as costs where cultural practices are interwoven between tradition and religion, there is more work that need to be done. The WAGs are mainly male dominated. Most females have challenges in going to communities and giving their opinions. In Mombasa, there are only four (4) women in Water Action Groups and One in Nairobi. But they are represented in the lower level. In the community, more women attend the forum because most are not working; it's also their duty to look for water. In Likoni, women rarely talk, and they write their names last. They also sit separately during meetings. .

4.5.6 Programme's Sustainability

Programme sustainability is an important component for moving forward with the programme. Sustainability is examined at the level of the facilities, partners and communities.

4.5.6.1 Facility

The structure of sustainability embedded in CRM is captured in ACT's experience in coordinating NSA actors, capacity building and elaborate implementation procedures. The Facility has contributed in deepening partnerships and networks among partners and communities and this presents new window for resource mobilization. Overall, Act! has also built a strong goodwill among partners and communities. The CRM Facility strategically fit within the new structure of government at national and county level; but more specifically ACT! has the opportunity to make available capacities in ENRM through county governments. This opportunity is ~~and~~ considered to be of great value in demonstrating the value and sharing the lessons learnt at county level.

The elaborate implementation mechanisms that have been developed so far have allowed the Facility to retain and work with committed partners from NSAs, Non-traditional partners and community groups. The Facility has been able to attract funding from UKAid, which is a strong indicator of capacity of the Facility to receive funding from external sources and deepens its contribution in ENRM

4.5.6.2 Partners Capacity to Continue Program Work Beyond Funding Period

The partners implementing Facility activities must embrace community participation and contributions in terms of resources and ideas in moving forward. Networking and partners- at different levels should be seen to work. Capacity building partners and communities emerged as a strong indicator for sustainability hence needs continuity. Community have been trained and are in turn trainings others which builds capacity to sustain programmes/projects- For example, in Nyahururu farmers working with TILT have demonstrations plots, where they train others in new technologies and hold open days demos and meeting, diffusing knowledge.

Viable structures have also been created. These include cooperatives, CFAs, WRUAs, Ranches, networks that have constitutions and with registration is ensuring sustainability. There is also increase in awareness which is important in influencing continued work. Communities have demonstrated that they understand the complex relationships between natural resources, climate change and livelihoods. For example in Makueni a statement by one WRUA member was very encouraging "For a long a time, people used to tell us that when we harvest our sand we were harvesting our future. We could not make connection between sand harvesting and our dwindling rivers."

Overall, the partners that the CRM has been working are well primed for more activities in the future.

4.6 EXTERNAL UTILITY

Most of the projects the evaluation team assessed can be replicated in other areas and counties, for example TILT activities have been replicated in the area by communities (especially energy savings mechanisms) using their own resources and this can therefore be done in other areas. Groups from outside the project area are also visiting TILT to learn about climate change adaptation and mitigation. Also Ziwani has worked with TILT for linkage on service providers to plant trees and FOLO for construction of a green house. Communities that are not involved in CRM Facility activities have started to ask for similar project to be carried out in their areas e.g. What CIWOCH is doing many want their land protected. There is also a lot of cross-learning across the partnership - WRUAs visiting each others, etc.

5 KEY LESSONS LEARNED

There are several lessons that have been learned, most which reflect positively towards programme implementation.

- Looking at the funding mechanism, it is evident that it is feasible and effective. It is possible to have seamless cross-cutting involvement from Donor, Partners, NSAs, governments and community
- In order to address the ENRM, it is important to look at cross-cutting issues in the five thematic areas. Also provide for people with disability, youth and children in this analysis and future interventions cross cutting issues within ENRM such as market and trade of agricultural produce, democratic governance in managing natural resources, sustainable management and development of natural resources, and conflict over natural resources need to be addressed to achieve sustainable management of natural resources.
- The facility activities are impacting the populations and penetrated to the lowest level of beneficiaries.
- It is important for NSAs to plug in their effort in these formative stages of the new devolved administrative system. Most leaders are willing to engage. Another lesson learnt is working with county leadership, creating buy in and letting them run with the initiative. Related to that, there are ENRM capacity gaps in the new system that can be filled by the expertise that is available among NSA actors. It is also important to engage representatives from governments give networks more impetus and acceptability.
- Clear reporting and budgeting guidelines are important in ensuring project efficiency and adherence to project timelines and budget.
- At the community level, working with champions to influence advocacy has a strong impact because it allows for wider involvement and allows for capturing of the different nuances at the lowest level. There is also thirst for involvement in the communities as illustrated by the vigour with which communities have taken up the

various activities. Community participation has come out as being very key in serving as entry points in target communities e.g. opinion leaders and community groups

- Community members have proven that they are able to eternalize, engage and speak out about ENRM issues almost at the expert level. This includes legislative and policies issues, technical issues, etc
- It's also notable that livelihoods and conservation cannot be separated. Rather they need to be linked and complemented and understood and supported by the community. After achieving the goals, the question of livelihoods is emerging in all settings.
- Cost sharing as a mechanism that yields good results and creates a sense of ownership other than when giving free items/handouts and inputs.

6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following sections includes the conclusion to the MTE and makes a number recommendations.

6.1 CONCLUSION

The Act! Changieni RasiliMali facility is designed to support NSAs in the ENRM sector by availing funds through grant making, capacity development and a market-driven approach to exploitation of ENRM resources for economic benefits. The partners activities ranged from supporting the review, drafting of Bills and legislation to enhancing communities' involvement in various reform agendas at national, county and local levels. Support to livelihoods through innovation, appropriate technologies etc is appreciated and gaining grounds within communities. The mid -term evaluation assessed progress of CRM Facility, partners and *beneficiaries* in meeting the facility objectives.

A sample of 22 partners in various counties were visited to ascertain the level of implementation on each thematic sector they are involved in. The overall performance at every level is satisfactory and encouraging. However, as the facility moves forward there will be need to look at the service delivery with value chain addition in order to sustain and improve community livelihoods, strengthen the organization linkages to make Facility interventions more focused and enhance cooperation with local administration to ensure support. Overall the Facility is on track and its gaining acceptance among the partners, networks and beneficiaries. Additional financial and technical resources will be needed to address gaps related to the vastness of the project interventions within the counties and to have awareness creation activities beyond advocacy reaching the grassroots level. There is a need for the facility to start focussing in the new phase the operationalization of the gains made from advocacy and governance, by now supporting more demonstration based projects, where a mix of advocacy and governance and hardware support to the ENRM is considered. A need to

consider private sector in the support needs to be considered. Finally, ACT! displays elaborate institutional and technical capacities and good will from NSAs hence can serve as an umbrella organization for other NGOs in Kenya particularly, in the implementation and coordination of ENRM sector.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the MTE exercise, the following is recommended:

6.2.1 Funding

- There is need to balance the support among thematic areas, for example a lot of emphasis in climate change. Perhaps this is due to the interest of donors. New thematic areas such as Energy can be included as a standalone component- solar, biogas, energy saving cookers etc. Act! should give more focus on energy (interface household needs and technology). Absence of alternative and new sources of renewable energy will continue to diminish the gains of ENRM best practices as people revert to traditional sources of energy which contribute to rapid deforestation, enhance negative impacts of climate change and slow down economic growth due to production and manufacturing energy inefficiencies. Possibility to work with other NSA's in the private sector need to be considered. especially if they have innovative ideas that address emerging issues in the areas of agriculture, climate change, water and energy sector. Enterprise based ideas could make some great impact to showcasing the impact of the facility.
- Funding mechanism for the organizations that are doing well need further support to continue with in - depth interventions that will eventually yield long lasting impacts. Also bring on board other strategic institutions capable of complimenting some sectors including climate change and energy sectors for balancing . It is necessary to provide more resources to address resource gaps related to the vastness of the project interventions within the counties and to have awareness creation activities reaching the grassroots level.
- More funding need to be allocated to support the next level of beyond advocacy and governance. By focussing more on advocacy (software), and less physical structures (hardware) it will be difficult for the facility to showcase tangible outputs when the funding period comes to an end. A need for the new phase/period to focus on tangible outputs need to be considered. Meetings and especially those targeting devolution and established networks/cross-sectoral efforts are essential.

6.2.2 Managing the Facility

- While it is notable that the Facility has done impressive work in the first two years in managing the programme, it is important to strengthen the Facility human resource capacity to address the rising workload of supporting 57 grantees. Part time technical consultants can be used to fill these gaps.

- An introduction or enhancement of balance score card to review organization performance in terms of capacity building and gauge the effectiveness of the Facility implementation could be considered.
- Linkages with research and academic institutions need to be rethought to ensure value addition in information, strategies and best practices adaption so that the current knowledge and innovations can filter into the beneficiaries.

6.2.3 Capacity Development

- The organization capacity development training that is carried out by the facility manager for grantees need to be planned in advance or before the start of the programme by partners to take account of the budget allocation that will cater for this activity.
- There is a need to carry out needs assessment to tease out those issues that are still a challenge to poor communities and similarly assess or calculate impacts of efforts put onto various thematic sectors e.g. climate change.
- There is need for proper stakeholder analysis in which champions can be identified both at county and national level who can support and influence adoption of policy and legislative frameworks
- Capacity building by ACT! Should go beyond project staff, for instance the county liaison officers could benefit from direct capacity building from ACT!

6.2.4 Knowledge Management, Learning and Communication

- Reporting and communication- Telling stories about the facilities activities as a tool for awareness and advocacy and develop a communication strategy be cascaded to other institutions to be applied as a common instrument and avoid duplication. Communication needs to be given the necessary attention and there is no better place to start than the NR users and regulators. It is also good to conduct media and communication training among partners to strengthen reporting procedures and documentation.
- Exchange learning across county should be formalized and diversified. Most of the beneficiaries who had gone for a tour were full of praises of the things they learnt from their tour.
- There is need to prioritize and document success stories because most of the stories sited by the beneficiaries were not recorded in their monthly reports

6.2.5 Engaging with State Actors and New County Administration

- Communities should be empowered to demand for more participation of government leaders in project activities to address the challenges of government officials requesting for high transport reimbursement
- ACT! CRM Facility to engage with the government in the sector of climate change programme and align CSO's activities with the climate change national action plan and identify areas that CSOs and government can engage/work together particularly at the county level where intervention are needed.

7 ANNEXES

7.1 SAMPLED PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

Thematic Area	Organization	Project Title	Area
Land (2)	Centre for Indigenous Women and Children (CIWOCH)	Securing Natural Resources Rights Through, Land Use Planning and Climate Change Mitigation	Magadi, Kajiado County
	National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) + TOO	Sustainable Land Management in the Mara Ecosystem (SULAMME)	Narok, Bomet and Nakuru Counties
	Groots (TOO)	Land mapping in Lari Constituency, Kiambu County	Nairobi
Water (2)	Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO)	Promoting Sustainable Governance in the water sector using Human Rights Based Approach	Chwele, Kuywa, Khalaba and Moiben --Bungoma and Elgeyo Marakwet counties.
	Water and Livelihoods Reforms Network (WLRN)	Engaging citizens in water sector reforms	Nairobi and Mombasa
	Centre for Social Planning and Administrative Development (CESPAD)	Promoting Integrated Water Resources Management in Kenya: A Kenya Water Partnership Stakeholder engagement Initiative	Kajiado, Machakos, Makueni Counties in Athi Basin; National
Agriculture (2)	Farm Practice Initiative (FPI)	Pamoja tuangamize njaa (Working together to have a hunger free society)	Makueni, Machakos, Kitui
	Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI)	Empowering people and nature in Lake Victoria	Homabay, Siaya, Kisumu, Busia
	Ziwani Mugiko	Investing in Women – Women Socio-economic Empowerment	Nyandarua County
Environment (4)	Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE)	Governance, Environment and Development – Kenya Programme (GED- Kenya): Promoting citizens'	Yala Wetland (Siaya County and Lake Naivasha Basin (Nakuru County)

		participation in natural resource governance for sustainable development	
	East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS)	Strengthening CSOs/Private Sector County Government Legislative Engagement Process Support Project	Kwale, Laikipia, Samburu and Nakuru Counties
	Friends of Lake Ol Bolossat Association (FOLO)	Friends of Lake Ol Bolossat Association (FOLO) Capacity Building Project	Nyandarua
	CETRAD	Promotion of conservation networks and expansion of tourism investment infrastructure in greater Mount Kenya regions of Kenya	Laikipia, Nyandarua, Nyeri and Meru
	Volunteers for Africa and MEDEVA	Jua Tenda' Media & Environment Project	Nairobi, Nakuru, Kakamega, Nyeri, Kisumu, Embu, Garissa and Mombasa Counties
	APSEA (TOO)	Natural Resources Development and management policy, concept and draft bill	Nairobi
Climate Change (4)	Oxfam GB and KCCWG	Improving Climate Change adaptive capacity and mitigation in Kenya through local and national level measures.	Kajiado, Turkana, Wajir, Tana River, West Pokot, Isiolo, Kitui, Laikipia Counties
	The National Alliance of Community Forest Association (NACOFA) + TOO	Supporting Community Participation In Forest Management For Increased Benefit	National
	Help Self Help Centre (HSHC)	Mount Kenya West climatic change program.	Nyeri
	EcoHealth Company Limited	Private Sector Involvement and contribution in Natural Resources Management: Lessons from Tigania West Natural Resources management and climate	Meru County

		change mitigation and adaptation project.	
	Tree is Life Trust (TILT)	Adaptive climate change mitigation for improved livelihoods in Laikipia and Nyandarua counties	Laikipia, Nyandarua Counties
	Institute of Environment and Water Management (IEWM)	Institutional capacity strengthening for integration of gender in to climate change	National
	Building Eastern Africa Community Network (BEACON)	Food security proposal	Kakamega, Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Kisumu
	Sustainable Practical Programs for Africa (SUPPA)	Nakuru County food security and climate change project	Nakuru County

7.2 EVALUATION TEAM COMPOSITION

Team A, B, C (comprised of managers, officers, consultants, random participation by the donors, Act! CEO)

Item no	TEAM A - CENTRAL	TEAM B – EASTERN	TEAM C – WESTERN
1	Nathaniel Mtunji (T. L)	Ben Omondi (T. L)	Mary Nderitu (T. L)
2	Felesia Muya	Rosinah Mbenya	Leonard Oduor
3	Anthony (Laikipia, Meru)	Elizabeth/Hosborn (Machakos)	Nicholas Ngece (NACOFA/NCCK)
4		Nicholas Ngece (IEWM/APSEA)	
5	Consultant Dr. R Bagine	Consultant - Dr. George Gathigi	Consultant Mrs. Mary Kiome

7.3 REVIEW TOOLS

7.3.1 Staff/Officers at SIDA and DFID (Donors) Level

Programme Relevance

To what extent does the program contribute to SIDA's Country Strategic Framework for Kenya?

To what extent is the programme responding to the strategic issues in NRM-NSA?

What is the complementary role/advantage of the joint CRM/ENRM program financing by SIDA and UKaid?

Programme Efficiency

How has the project performed in relation to adhering to the envisaged timelines for project implementation?

To what extent has the programme adhered to Sida/UKAid reporting criteria? What are some of the constraints in the project reporting? How are these being addressed?

To what extent have the allocated resources been used effectively?

With particular reference to the resources employed, what is the level of performance in relation to quantitative objectives?

With particular reference to the resources employed, what is the level of performance in relation to qualitative objectives?

Program Effectiveness

To what extent have the outputs defined in the project plans been achieved?

What internal factors and constraints have affected programme implementation at the technical, managerial and organizational level?

What are the external factors and constraints that were unforeseen during the programme design that have come into play during the implementation? In what ways have they affected the implementation?

7.3.2 Staff/Officers At ACT! Facility Level

Programme Relevance

To what extent has the programme responded to ENRM issues?

How relevant are the programmatic activities compared to the original program initial ideas?

What is the value added with the inclusion of “non-traditional” actors to the program

What is the experience so far (good or challenging)?

What influenced the choice of the 5 thematic focus of the CRM facility? Would you consider any other thematic additions for inclusion in the program? Any emerging issues?

In view of the program progress so far, are the 5 thematic areas in ENRM receiving attention, visibility and performing on equal scale/measure? Explain?

Programme Efficiency

How has the programme performed in relation to adhering to the envisaged timelines for project implementation?

If there are any challenges in the meeting the timelines envisaged,

How are [have] these challenges been addressed?

To what extent has the programme followed the project reporting guidelines [both to the donor and grantees reporting to facility]? What are some of the constraints in reporting? How have these constraints been addressed?

To what extent have resources been used for the intended purposes?

With particular reference to the resources employed, what is the level of performance in relation to quantitative objectives?

With particular reference to the resources employed, what is the level of performance in relation to qualitative objectives?

Programme Effectiveness

To what extent have the outputs defined in the project plans been achieved?

What internal factors and constraints have affected programme implementation at the technical, managerial and organizational/grantee level?

What are the external factors and constraints that were unforeseen during the programme design that have come into play during the implementation? In what ways have they affected the implementation?

To what extent are financial resources (from Sida and DFID) sufficient to meet the CRM facility needs?

Programme Impact

To what extent has the programme contributed to its long-term outcomes and goals?

How has the programme impacted on each of the thematic areas?

How has the programme work impacted the target population?

7.3.3 Questionnaire for Implementing Partners (Grantees)

Relevance

To what extent does the project responded to the ENRM – thematic issue situation at the community/national level?

How has your organisation benefited from Act! capacity building component so far?

How effective is it?

Project Efficiency

How has the project performed in relation to adhering to the envisaged timelines for project implementation?

If there are any challenges in the meeting the timelines envisaged,

How can/have these been addressed?

To what extent has the project followed the programme reporting guidelines? What are some of the constraints in the project reporting? How can they be addressed?

To what extent have resources been used for the intended purpose?

With particular reference to the resources employed, what is the level of performance in relation to quantitative objectives/targets?

With particular reference to the resources employed, what is the level of performance in relation to qualitative objectives?

Programme Effectiveness

To what extent have the outputs defined in the project plans been achieved?

Is the funding received from Act sufficient to respond to the issue(s)?

What internal factors and constraints have affected project implementation at the technical, managerial and organizational level?

What are the external factors and constraints unforeseen during the project design that have come into play during the implementation? In what ways have they affected the implementation?

Programme Impact

How has your project impacted on (thematic area) of ENRM?

How has the project work impacted the target population? Who specifically?

What are some of the concrete changes that have been realized at the community level as a result of this project so far?

What livelihood aspects of communities in your project site(s) are likely to be improved by your project intervention? And how?

What gender and cross-cutting issues on ENRM are mainstreamed in your project?

Project Sustainability

What is the capacity (technical and financial) of your organisation to continue this work after the funding period?

What are some of the sustainability mechanism/components? What does your organisation provide for in the project?

External Utility

What are the unique lessons learned from other grantees tapping from the CRM facility/Act that could have improved on your project work?

Are the project interventions/initiative you are implementing replicable?

7.3.4 A Guide to Focus Group Discussion: Project Participants/Beneficiaries at the Community Level

Project Relevance

What are the community problems/issues the project is trying to address?

Why is it important for this project to address these problems?

Project Composition

Who are stakeholders involved in the implementation of this project?

As a community, do you feel adequately involved in the implementation of this project?

Programme Impact

What are the main achievements of this project in your community so far?

How will this project (once completed) contribute to the community livelihoods? (*Probe for any current contributions*).

How are women, men, youth and children involved in this project?

Project Sustainability

How are you organised/ mobilized to participate in this project?

What is your capacity as a community to continue undertaking same/similar community-led initiatives when the funding period ends?

How can project delivery at the community level be improved?

7.4 KEY REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

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The Non-State Actors Facility - Pact - Kenya (ACT!) Mid-Term Evaluation Report

The mid-term evaluation of the Changieni Rasilimali Facility programme in Kenya (2011 to 2014) aimed at reviewing and validating the extent at which the over 70 organizations supported under the facility implemented their projects and activities; and to find out how they are contributing to the overall Facility goal and objectives. In Particular, it aimed at finding out how the grants mechanism and capacity development is working for the NSAs, and to what extent the facility is achieving or likely to achieve the overall objectives and goals, and; the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Facility. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation informed the Embassy of Sweden and UKaid and also Act! on any required adjustments or refinements at the operational, tactical and strategic levels required to better contribute to the constraints facing the NSAs in the ENRM sector during the second half of the 4 year programme.

The review noted that the facility has so far influenced NSAs adoption of integrative approach to ENRM through advocacy and increased capacities to undertake well thought-out programmes on specific thematic areas. The most notable successes of the Facility is the extent at which organizations that have good ideas and connections to the community but lacked institutional capacity have been embraced and grown to a position where they not only impact community's ENRM issue but also influencing policy. The involvement of NSAs in influencing ENRM policy and legislative frameworks has been successful and progressive. Overall, the programme shows strong impact among different sections of the population where the partners are working. These include impact on rights, conflict mitigation, improvement of livelihoods, health, spurring community actions, among others. The review revealed that CRM has facilitated innovations and events such as farming drought resistant crops, use of energy saving stoves and making of organic manure which are geared towards promoting appropriate technologies and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Gender mainstreaming has been achieved as a result of the CRM activities, women in the grassroots have been able to get their voices in relation to ENRM where none existed.