

Corruption Risk Assessment for REDD+ : Kenya's experience

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How this work is important and relevant for Kenya's readiness



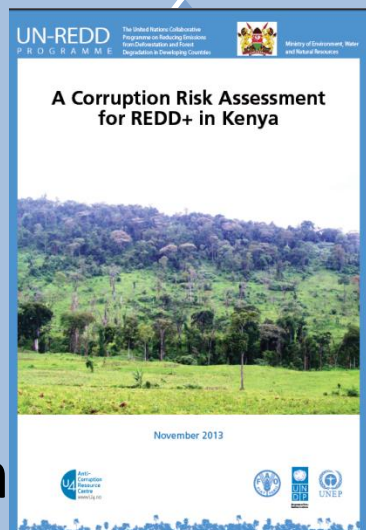
- Advance knowledge base, national dialogue and capacities;
- Support to policy formulation for effective forest sector governance and REDD+;
- Support to the strategy formulation process and its implementation framework;
- Development of appropriate benefit sharing and benefit distribution mechanism.

Framework to promote REDD+ integrity



Existing corrupt
practices that
enable/enhance
deforestation and
forest degradation

Assessment of historical
trends and priority
governance and corruption
issues in the forest sector



New corruption
risks brought
about by REDD+

Assessment of the priority
governance and corruption
risks emerging with REDD+

Policy
recommendations

Methodology



- Guided by the UNDP's approach ; Institutional Context Analysis
- Extensive desk top research
- In close partnership with the Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission and Transparency International – Kenya Chapter
- Participative (over 30 interviews with state and non-state stakeholders)
- Consensus
- Confidentiality (survey)

How corruption contributes to D&D in Kenya



Stakeholders have reported significant improvements in Kenya's forest governance and transparency

Yet some issues remain:

- Collusion and bribe payments facilitate illegal logging and other forest crimes
- Conversion of forest lands to other uses through political interference
- Efforts to regularize charcoal production and trade through the new Charcoal Rules (2009), are creating new issues of accountability and fraud including among the new Charcoal Producer Associations
- risks remain that the procedure for issuing licenses, setting prices, undertaking inventories and collecting revenue is undermined by lack of transparency, favouritism, conflicts of interests and frauds
- issues related to the process of assigning plots through a ballot system in the Plantation Establishment and Livelihood Improvement Scheme (formerly shamba)
- Some 'Community Forest Associations' have been criticized as undemocratic, unrepresentative and prone to elite capture and poor financial accountability

Key findings



Policies to address corruption in the forestry sector :

1. Transparency and access to information
2. Strengthening accountability and oversight mechanisms
3. Deepening decentralization

Perspectives on corruption risks of REDD+ activities in Kenya



1. Positive views on governance implications of REDD+ in Kenya
 - REDD+ is viewed as an important way of generating improved knowledge on drivers and therefore to have a beneficial impact on forest stewardship at all levels of government, including at the county and local level
 - The process of developing, designing and implementing REDD+ activities is considered an important locus of improved citizen participation in forestry.
2. However, risks are expressed regarding
 - Integrity of benefit -sharing within voluntary market projects
 - Independent validation of MRV needs to ensure the integrity of third party organizations
 - Land use planning, land allocation & free prior informed consent
 - Integrity of forestry sector NGOs, who are assumed to offer the dual role of oversight and implementers of REDD+ activities

Policy implications



- Clarity and planning for a benefit-sharing policy
- Establish policy and mechanisms on transparency and access to information
- Participatory monitoring of REDD+ MRV
- Strengthening participation in REDD+ activities and improving knowledge
- Supporting independent oversight for REDD+ activities
- Harmonizing and strengthening mechanisms for public reporting of corruption in REDD+ activities
- Strengthening government capacity to detect and redress corruption in REDD+
- Establishing a code of ethics for REDD+ activities in Kenya
- Enhancing regional collaboration in law enforcement and anti-corruption

Challenges & opportunities



- Kenya's forest governance has seen undeniable improvements and the country's Anti-corruption framework is strong and evolving
- To enhance these and prevent, detect and sanction corrupt practices in REDD+, capacities of a number of stakeholders and information- holders need strengthening
- This includes developing not only **transparency tools** but also **collaborative** capacities

Using the results



- The information generated through this assessment will :
 1. Support a policy dialogue that will feed into the REDD+ strategy
 2. Inform the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) associated with the Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA)
 3. Help the Ministry anticipate the kind of grievances that can emanate from REDD+

Next steps



UN-REDD Targeted support 2 includes:

- Policy Dialogue
- Creation of a Task force with Ethics and Anti corruption Commission to lead on REDD+ Integrity issues and implement “quick win actions”, including targeted awareness raising campaigns
- Establishing a REDD+ registry as a transparency tool (informing SIS)
- National FPIC Guidelines
- South South exchanges

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Thank You

