

## Key benefits to surrounding communities

- Benefit sharing through the Maasai Mau Forest Trust
- Negotiation power through producers' organizations
- Increased income from beekeeping, timber, goat and fuel briquette production
- and tourism income potential
- Maintaining of ecosystem services (water, shade, biodiversity, food)

## Key outputs

- Management and development plan for Maasai Mau forest
- Maasai Mau Forest Trust
- Community tree planting networks
- 100 operating community nurseries
- 1,500,000 trees planted
- Clearly marked forest boundaries
- Carbon-project approved by a carbon fund
- Fuel briquette manufacturing, timber production, beekeeping and goat rearing organisations
- Operating school tree nurseries and wood plots
- Lessons learnt case study document

## Project Facts

**Funding:** Government of Spain

**Location:** West Kenya, Maasai Mau Forest

**Implementation period:** July 2007- December 2009

### Contact details for Implementing and supporting Organizations:



UNEP: Project Manager,  
Niklas Hagelberg,  
Tel: 020-7624840,  
E-mail: [niklas.hagelberg@unep.org](mailto:niklas.hagelberg@unep.org)



Ewaso Nyiro South Development Authority  
Project Coordinator, Peter Bw'Ogero  
Tel: 050 222392,  
E-mail: [ensda@kenyaweb.com](mailto:ensda@kenyaweb.com)



Kenya Forests Working Group  
Project Coordinator, Michael Gachanja  
Tel: 020 3874145,  
E-mail: [mgachanja@kenyaforests.org](mailto:mgachanja@kenyaforests.org)



Green Belt Movement  
Field based Project Officer, Charles Mwangi  
Tel: 020 3873057,  
E-mail: [chapemwa@yahoo.com](mailto:chapemwa@yahoo.com)



Narok County Council  
Admin. Officer, Edward Tikani  
Tel: 050 22220  
E-mail: [info@narokcountycouncil.org](mailto:info@narokcountycouncil.org)



Kenya Forest Service  
District Forest Officer, Solomon Mibey  
Tel: 050-22304  
E-mail: [mibey@yahoo.com](mailto:mibey@yahoo.com)

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# COMIFORM

Community based  
integrated forest resources  
conservation and management

## Maasai Mau Forest



**The COMIFORM project**  
funded by the Government of Spain,  
works with communities surrounding the  
Maasai Mau Forest and Narok County  
Council, the holder of Maasai Mau forest,  
to introduce a shift from unsustainable  
land practices to sustainable  
management supported by forest  
conservation, payment for ecosystem  
services and income generation through  
organized alternative livelihoods on both  
public and private land. Thereby providing  
means for successful poverty alleviation  
and conservation of biodiversity.

## Background

In the last 30 years the population of Kenya has increased threefold, with an estimated 80% relying heavily on the country's natural resources for its energy and food needs. During the same time period, the indigenous closed forest of Kenya has been under ever growing pressure to meet the resource demands while the closed-canopy forest cover of Kenya has dropped to less than 2% of the surface area. The Maasai Mau and its surrounding area have in this time lost 32,000 hectares, which is 39% of the forest cover in the project area.

As a result, farmers and major tourism attractions, like Lake Nakuru, have seen a continuous decrease in water levels in lakes, rivers and wells. This has led to a decreased carrying capacity of the land, reduced farmer's income and increased poverty.

The Maasai Mau forest (46,278 hectares) is located in west Kenya, 17 km north-west of Narok town and is comprised exclusively of indigenous forest. It is a critical natural asset, in terms of micro-climate regulation, biological diversity and tourism development. Maasai Mau forest is also part of one of the five critical "water towers" in Kenya.

The forest hosts wildlife such as the spectacular and rare Bongo, the yellow-backed Duiker; the Golden Cat, the Leopard and the forest elephant. The forest comprises large stands of cedar and podocarpus with scattered natural glades.

The COMIFORM project activities are based on surveys of the area and on stakeholders' recommendations from past workshops.

## Project outline

The specific objective for the project is to halt further deforestation and promote reforestation primarily within and around the Maasai Mau Forest and the water catchment areas of Lake Natron, and rivers Mara and Ewaso Ngiro. This will be reached through decreasing the pressure on the remaining indigenous forests by providing alternative livelihoods and resources to the forest adjacent communities and through restoration of the forest cover within the project area.

The project will provide the communities and local stakeholders with a Management and Development plan and establish a Trust for the management and benefit sharing for the income the forest generates. The forest adjacent communities will also be assisted to develop producers' organizations focusing on tree nursery management, fuel briquette and timber production. Through this project, some 1500 hectares will be reforested on both private and public land. The project will also establish a carbon offset project and facilitate tourism development in the forest as new income sources.

## Target groups and key beneficiaries

- Forest adjacent communities
- Communities within the Mara and Ewaso Ngiro rivers catchment area
- Women and youth groups
- Narok County Council, KFS and KWS
- Kenyan tourism and agricultural sectors

