



Findings and recommendations from the Kenya REDD+ Corruption Risk Assessment

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**Inaugural meeting of the Kenya Task Force on
Anti-Corruption for REDD+**

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The Kenya REDD+ Corruption Risk Assessment (KRCRA)

- 2013 assessment
- Participatory process
- In close partnership with the Ethics and Anti Corruption Commission and Transparency International – Kenya Chapter
- (30) interviews, workshop and anonymous online survey

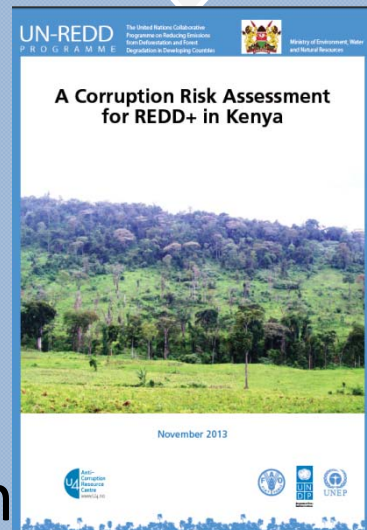


Framework to promote REDD+ integrity



Existing corrupt practices that enable/enhance deforestation and forest degradation

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



Perspectives on governance opportunities and corruption risks of REDD+ activities

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

Policy recommendations



When and how corruption contributes to forest degradation



1. Illegal logging (degradation)

➤ Timber

- Domestic use
 - Traffic police extracting bribes
 - Organized criminal activity with involvement of senior officials
 - Complicity of some CFAs
- Cross border trade (imports)
 - Convoluted rules allow fraud (false documents and underreporting)

When and how corruption contributes to forest degradation



1. Illegal logging (degradation)

➤ Charcoal

- Domestic use

- Oversight and accountability of CPAs is weak
- KFS has capacity constraints to provide effective oversight
- Conflicts of interest
- Cases involving high level officials

- Imports

- Some CPAs issue false certificates of origin
- Information on import permits issued by KFS hard to access

When and how corruption contributes to deforestation



2. Plantations (deforestation)

- Tendering process subject to manipulation and fraud
- Collusion between companies and officials in charge of forest inventories

3. Construction and extractive industries

- Contentious decisions on allowing construction and extractive industries in community and (perhaps less so) public forests



Perspectives on governance opportunities and corruption risks for REDD+



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

Transparency and Access to information

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Strengths

KFS new Information Centre
KFS provides regular reporting aggregate income and expenditure

Information and issues of transparency also with county governments, CPAs and CFAs
KFS does not provide regular reporting on revenues and expenditures at district levels

Weaknesses

No dedicated personnel on A2I at KFS or county governments

Opportunities

Draft Bill on Public Access to Information and provisions in draft Forest Act

REDD+ Registry plans a process to determine what information, when and by whom

Summary of information on safeguards mandated by UNFCCC

Draft Climate Change Bill

Wording of Draft bill still ambiguous

Threats

Accountability and oversight

PROGRAMME



Strengths

Provisions in the Forest Act have reduced the ability of irregular excisions of public forests

KFS has made improvements in internal measures

KFWG hotline

KEACC trainings to KFS focused on financial accountability; no follow up reports

Capacity of KEACC top handle vast case loads is limited

KFS hotline not deemed fully functional by all users

Weaknesses

Opportunities

CSO capacity to demand accountability has increased

Strengthened role of NEMA on independent evaluations

Justice obstruction by senior level to resolving land issues

Threats



Kenya REDD+ Corruption Risk Assessment Recommendations

On processes, partnerships, tools, and
capacities



Recommendations from the KRCRA : Processes and partnerships



- Secure **citizen participation and consultation** in REDD+ process by the government
- Strengthen **transparency and access to information rules** for the KFS
- Increase **awareness at the local level** on what REDD+ is
- Enhance **regional collaboration** in law enforcement and anti corruption
- Clarify potential **benefit sharing policy**



Recommendations from the KRCRA : Tools



- Create an online/application “**REDD+ registry**” in Kenya, with comprehensive information on REDD+ projects, activities and revenue management
- Establish a transparency portal that tracks the **movement of REDD+ funds and benefits**
- Establish or strengthen a **grievance and complaints mechanism** at the local level
- Introduce and implement a **code of conduct** for those who work on REDD+
- Develop **national guidelines on free informed and prior consent** for forest carbon projects
- Create a mechanism to map **forest land ownership and potential conflicts** in Kenya

Recommendations from the KRCRA: Capacities



- Enhance the capacity of the **Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission** on REDD+
- Increase understanding on REDD+ and corruption risks at the **county level** in government
- Increase capacity of **civil society/media** in Kenya to undertake monitoring of REDD+
- Train the **judiciary** to better understand possible REDD+ related conflicts
- **Awareness raising campaign** on corruption risks in REDD+

